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ACS rank for 6 Odisha cadre IAS officers

Bhubaneswar: The state government Saturday promoted six senior IAS officers of Odisha cadre to additional chief secretary (ACS) rank, as per a notification issued by the General Administration (GA) department. While two IAS officers of 1990 batch, who are on Central deputation, have been given proforma promotion, four 1991-batch IAS officers serving in Odisha were given in situ promotion. The officers are: Anu Garg, Madhu Sudan Padhi, Satyabrata Sahu, Vijaya Arora, Gudey Srinivas and Arti Ahuja. Notably, Srinivas and Ahuja are now on central deputation. These officers serving in the state are promoted to ACS rank and will continue in their respective assignments, the notification of the GA department said.

Virat steps down as Test captain

Cape Town: The inevitable came a bit early as Virat Kohli Saturday quit as India's Test captain, saying he did his job with "absolute honesty" and time was right to quit the leadership role. Kohli's announcement came a day after India suffered an embarrassing Test series defeat against South Africa. Kohli was dealing with one controversy after another as he was recently removed as ODI captain by the BCCI after he decided to step down at Twenty20 captain. His decision to quit as Test skipper has come at a time when his relation with the BCCI is so strained that he preferred to announce MORE P12 his decision on social media.



12 PAGES + SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00

EC bans rallies till January 22

The EC decides that no roadshow, padyatra, cycle, bike or vehicle rally of any political party or candidate or any other group related to elections shall be allowed till Jan 22, amid raging Covid-19

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 15: The Election Commission of India (ECI) Saturday extended the ban on physical rallies and roadshows till January 22. However, it has allowed the political parties to hold indoor meetings of maximum of 300 persons or 50 per cent of the hall capacity or the prescribed limit set by State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA).

The decision came after the EC held separate virtual meetings with the Union Health Secretary, Chief Secretaries and Health Secretaries of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, as also the Chief Electoral Officers of these five poll-bound states



sequently review the situation and issue further instructions accordingly after the said date. Earlier, the EC had banned these

activities till January 15. The political parties have been asked to ensure the compliance of

Covid appropriate behaviour and guidelines and Model Code of Conduct at all occasions

Political during the activities conparties are nected with elections, allowed to hold the ECI said, adding that indoor meetings of all remaining restricmaximum 300 tions as contained in the esons or 50% of Revised Broad Guidelines hall capacity for Conduct of Elections,

2022 issued January 8, 2022 shall continue to operate. All concerned state and district

PARTIES RELEASE FIRST LIST OF CANDIDATES

Bengal allows fairs,

marriage functions

KOLKATA: The West Bengal govern-

ment Saturday extended the ongo-

ing Covid-19 restrictions till January

31, allowing fairs on open grounds in

a very restricted manner with strict

adherence to safety norms, an offi-

also allowed marriage functions

whichever is lesser, it said.

cial order said. The WB government

with a maximum of 200 attendees or

authorities shall ensure full com-

Election Commissioners Rajiv Kumar

and Anup Chandra Pandey accom-

panied by Secretary General and con-

Commissioners held a comprehen-

sive review of present status and projected trends of Covid pandemic with

special focus on the poll-bound states.

Election

cerned Deputy

CEC Sushil Chandra along with

pliance of these instructions.

50 per cent of the venue's capacity.



■ *An altercation that broke* out near a food stall at Press Chowk turned violent as Chintu was stabbed to death by a gang of youths

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 15: Tension ran high in Capital city after a youth was stabbed to death at Press Chowk under Saheed Nagar police limits Saturday evening. The deceased was identified as Niranjan Parida alias Chintu of Gadakana area.

Three of Chintu's friends-Vishal Patra, Vivek Patra and Sritanu Mishra - also sustained severe injuries. The injured are undergoing treatment at a private hospital in

Locals block the road near Press Chowk in Bhubaneswar following the gruesome murder of Niranian Parida (Inset)

Acharya Vihar area. Soon after the incident, some local youths staged a protest blocking the road at Press

some lewd comments on a girl working at the nearby vehicle shop at Press Chhak

Later, the girl informed some of her friends from Behera Sahi in Nayapalli about the incident following which six accused persons reached the spot on two motorcycles and started arguing with Chintu. The heated argument soon took a violent turn as the accused attacked Chintu and his friends with sharp knives.

Police, however, said there was tiff between the two sides over eating cake at a restaurant a few minutes before the incident. Police have detained an eyewitnessand were questioning him. They have also identified the accused from the footage of a CCTV camera installed near the crime scene.

Chowk demanding immediate arrest of the accused Local sources said Chintu passed



The Commission has decided that no roadshow, padyatra, cycle, bike or vehicle rally, procession, physical rally of any political parties or candidates (including probable) or any other group related to election shall be allowed till January 22, and the Commission will sub-

New Delhi: The BJP and Congress Saturday released their first list of candidates for Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The BJP released 107 candidates for the UP polls. The saffron party fielded Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Gorakhpur Urban seat and his deputy Keshav Prasad Maurya from Sirathu in Kaushambi as it expressed confidence of retaining power with a big majority. Likewise, the Congress also released its first list of 86 candidates for the February 14 Assembly elections in Punjab, fielding Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi from Chamkaur Sahib and PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu from Amritsar East. P8



Army jawans showcase their war skills during Army Day Parade at KM Cariappa Parade Ground in New Delhi, Saturday

Man held for ₹3cr fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 15: Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested a fraudster who allegedly duped at least 10 people including two siblings of around ₹3 crore promising high returns on their investments in his business. The accused was identified as Prabhakar Jena, a resident of Deulatara under Rajkanika block in Kendrapara district.

Jena is the owner of 'Disha Enterprises' located at Anand Vihar in Gothapatna area here which manufactures eco-friendly paper bags and aluminium foil.

The incident came to the fore after Somyadipta Nayak of

AGENCIES Satvavihar area under Mancheswar

New Delhi, Jan 15: Nearly 300-400 police limits lodged a complaint accusing Jena of duping him and terrorists in training camps across his brother of ₹1.30 crore. The comthe border are waiting to intrude plainant, a native of Rajkanika into India, Army Chief General MM Naravane said Saturday. area, was known to Jena. The ac-In his address at the Army Day cused asked Navak and his brother

Parade here, Gen Naravane also said to come to Bhubaneswar and invest the Indian Army's message is clear in his businesses as partners. that it will not let any attempt to uni-Jena promised lucrative returns on the investments made by the laterally change the status quo along the country's borders succeed. siblings. Jena also told Nayak that Referring to eastern Ladakh he has been doing several businesses in and outside Odisha.

standoff, he said to keep the situ-Nayak family invested ₹1 crore ation under control, the 14th round military-level talks were held bein Jena's businesses within a span of one year. The total amount intween India and China recently. He said joint efforts at various cluding the interest stands at₹1.30 crore till the registration of the

levels have led to disengagement in many areas which in itself is a



'300-400 ultras waiting to intrude into India'

Army Chief General MM Naravane

constructive step.

Gen Naravane said that on the basis of mutual and equal security, efforts would continue to find a solution to the current situation. He asserted that the morale of the soldiers deployed on snow-capped

mountains for the country's security was sky-high.

"Our patience is a sign of our selfconfidence, but no one should make the mistake of testing it," said the Army Chief. "Our message is clear, Indian Army won't let any attempt to unilaterally change status quo along country's borders to succeed," he stated. Gen Naravane said that the situation on LoC (Line of Control) is better than the previous year but Pakistan is still harbouring terrorists.

Nearly 300-400 terrorists in training camps across the border are waiting to intrude into India, he said, adding a total of 194 terrorists were killed in counter-operations in the last one year.

"Attempts to smuggle arms across the border through drones continue," he mentioned.

Draft quota list for ULB chief posts out

The state govt issues a draft reservation list for chairperson posts in 107 municipalities and notified area councils ahead of the upcoming ULB polls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 15: Moving a step forward in conduct of urban local body (ULB) polls, the state government Saturday issued the draft reservation list of chairperson posts in 107 municipalities and notified area councils (NACs).

As per the notification issued by Housing & Urban Development (H&UD) department, chairperson posts in 9 ULBs have been reserved for SC (woman), five for ST (woman) and 40 for women.

Similarly, chairperson posts in eight other ULBs have been reserved for SC candidates while three have been reserved for ST. However, chairperson posts in 42 other civic bodies have been kept

unreserved. The department has sought ob-

jections/suggestions from interested persons on the draft reservation list within 15 days. "Any objection/suggestion which

may be received by the director municipal administration (DMA) from any person interested on or before the expiry of the period so specified above shall be considered by the state government,' read the notification.

The state government had January 12 this year issued a notification on reservation of Mayor's seat for Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) and Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC). In the draft list, the government has reserved the mayor post for BMC and BeMC for women candidates while CMC has been kept unreserved

The department had invited objections and suggestions from all concerned on the reservation for Mayoral posts in the three corporation towns within 15 days from the date of issuance of the notification. Notably, the state government has amended the Odisha Municipal Rules, 1994, to hold direct election for the posts of Mayors of municipal corporations and chairpersons of municipalities and NACs.

WEATH	IER			
	BHUB	CTK		
<mark>e</mark> MAX	25.6°C	26.2°		
	16.4℃	15.8°	Forecast	
Humidity	78%	80%		-
Rainfall	Trace	Nil	Partly cloudy sky	

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Well, I haven't yet decided who I will vote for. You see, I am a minister in the UP govt

'Punjabi Lehr' reunites 200 Indo-Pak families

■ YouTuber Nasir Dhillon says the channel's aim is to bridge the gap between the people of East and West Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

complaint.

Lahore, Jan 15: Much like the landmark Kartarpur Corridor that connects India and Pakistan, Punjabi Lehr, a Pakistan-based YouTube channel that brought together two brothers separated by Partition after 74 years and got many a little teary-eyed, has reunited over 200 friends and families across the border.



A video of the tearful reunion, showing the elderly brothers, one from India and another from

Pakistan, hugging each other at the visa-free Kartarpur Corridor this week, has gone viral.

The emotional meeting of 84year-old Saddique Khan from Pakistan's Punjab and his brother from Indian Punjab, Habib alias Sikka Khan, lasted more than an hour before the brothers returned to their respective homes.

Nasir Dhillon, who runs his YouTube channel with over 5,31,000 subscribers, says the channel's aim is "to bridge a gap between the people of East and West Punjab, created by Partition.

With the help of the people of both sides of Indian and Pakistani Puniab, we have reunited over 200 friends and families across the bor der," Dhillon told PTI.





leisure



BALDWIN HANDS OVER PHONE TO AUTHORITIES FOR PROBE

Almost a month after investigators obtained a search warrant to seize Hollywood star Alec Baldwin's phone with regards to the fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the sets of Rust, the actor surrendered his device to law enforcement authorities in Suffolk County, New York.

HEIDI KLUM: STRIPPING OFF IS EASIER THAN SINGING

Model Heidi Klum has teamed up with rapper Snoop Dogg for her first single, Chai Tea With Heidi, but admitted it was completely beyond her comfort zone. "I've done lots of catwalks and shoots without my clothes on, but this is probably the most daunting thing," she said.



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES

Today will be as agreeable as any day can be. You are satisfied with what you

have, says Ganesha. Besides, you have already planned on what you desire and are moving towards it. A date of romantic nature may turn out to be interesting or it may lead to a controversy; you have to decide on it.

TAURUS

Be careful, says Ganesha All your calculations and conclusions, plans and

moves are likely to go haywire. Time and again, you could fail and, ultimately, get frustrated. Even simple and obvious things are likely to get you worked up. Knowing that you are basically gentle, benign and large hearted, your friends and elders will rally round and provide you the help and advise you need. Things will finally get sorted out.

GEMINI

You face a hectic and demanding day today. You will spend your entire day wondering how best to channelise your energy and enthusiasm. You may be prone to extreme mood swings as well. Meditative techniques should help you keep your mind calm, says Ganesha

You will tend to try new recipes at home. Family members will take advan tage and enjoy it. You will indulge in pastimes. Arrival of quests will bring in an air of festivity and happiness, says Ganesha.

LEO

You will be filled with extraordinary self-confidence and will be able to take on huge risks. Sportspersons will be able to make a lot of progress in their fields. You will square off against any obstacles in your way using your entire might. While it is a good day for you, keep a curb on your speculations, says Ganesha

A la Sisyphus, you may realise the futility of your efforts and constant failure in achieving success. But do not despair, says Ganesha. Recharge your imagination, inquisitiveness and intelligence and focus on your long-term goals, says Ganesha.



try to be adept in your favorite subject. Today you will be buying antique artistic things too. If there are any legal proceeding going on then the results will be in your favor. You shall be a success in everything that you touch today. Your artistic streak will come to the fore today and you will develop an interest in the fine arts.

Dancing is more than an art for Tamannah

NEW DELHI: Baahubali actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who has been garnering a lot of positive responses for her performance in the just-released special dance number Kodthe from the Telugu sports drama Ghani, has said that more than art, dancing is a form of expression for her

While sharing her excitement, the actress said: "For me, dancing is more than an art. It is a form of expression.

I enjoyed the entire process of shooting Kodthe for Ghani because it has an upbeat and unique vibe to it. It gives a great commentary on the film.

Summing up her experience of working on the track, she said: "I had an incredible time bringing the vision of choreographers Piyush and Shazia alive on screen. I am sure the dance number will compel the audience

NickYanka open to start a family

Los Angeles: Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Nick Jonas, popular as Nick Yanka to their fans, are open to starting a family in the future. People magazine obtained quotes of Priyanka from her recent interview with Vanity Fair, in which she opened up about her and Nick's interest in having a baby together: "They're a big part of our desire for the future.

By God's grace, when it happens, it happens, Priyanka said. Despite how busy the pair is in their respective careers, the actor joked that they're "not too busy to practice" making a baby. She added

Naveen Chandra

to groove.'

Ghani is a boxing drama writ-

ten and directed by Kiran

Korrapati and produced by

Renaissance Pictures and Allu

Bobby Company. The film also

stars Varun Tej as the titular

character alongside Saiee

Manjrekar, Jagapathi Babu,

Upendra, Suniel Shetty and

Tamannaah also has a few

Hindi films - Plan A Plan B and

Yaar Dost -

lined up for re-

lease, IANS

said, "She can come across as so regal and

that way. I'm more of a reserved person at first, and I open up with friends and people as I get to know them better, but she can make you feel like you are in the family and a part of the inner circle right away," he added. IANS

Richa: OTT has added years to the lives of good actors

MUMBAI: Richa Chadha, who's now seen in the cricket drama Inside Edge 3, is happy that OTT platforms have changed the rules of the game for actors as they can now work across a diverse range of characters without any boxoffice pressure.

She said in a statement that nothing pleases her more than hearing actors say that all their fingers are in the pie because of the sheer volume

work enabled by the rise of OTT. The Gangs of Wasseypur actor stated: "The advent of OTT and its exponential growth in the last three or four years has really added years to the lives of many, many accomplished actors such as Prateik Gandhi, Jaideep Ahlawat, Shefali Shah and Priyanka Bose, to name a few.' She added: "There are going

to be a lot more and I feel delighted when I get to read the interviews of these actors when they say that they don't have dates that they are unable to accommodate other shooting commitments because they are so busy.

Chadha concluded by saying that OTT platforms have raised the bar for the film industry in general. "I think this has injected new life into talent and raised the bar for performances." she said IANS

Uttar Purush's 3-day theatre fest begins

BHUBANESWAR: Nataka Parikrama-2022, the three-day drama festival of Uttar Purush, one of the oldest theatre troupes of the City, began here at Rabindra Mandap, Saturday.

The group presented the play Sabuthu Udas Kabita on the first evening of the festival. Written by Hindi playwright Swadesh Deepak and translated by Odia poet Bharat Maihi, the 1 hr and 45 min-long play was directed by Debadutta Pati, the secretary of Uttar Purush. Nishikanta assisted him in the production.



A scene from

formers were Chakradhar, Nishikanta, Laxmi Narayan Jagannath, Pratima and Debadutta. The dignitaries present included Kadambini editor Itirani Samanta storvteller

Pihu played Apurba's character with flair and managed to hold viewers' interest. The other per-

that they're "both okay" with the busy pace in their professional lives and will slow down when the time calls for it. Nick, speaking specifically of his wife, refined, which she certainly is. But she's also got this carefree joy about her and she just exudes it." 'She's an incredible host in

SCORPIO

A series of events at work front may keep you busy throughout the day. You may be unable to manage the clutter and confusion created by too many things at the same time. However, you emerge a fighter because of your power of resilience. Ganesha advises to go slow. yet steady; take one problem at a time and sort it out.

SAGITTARIUS

You rule your hear today, predicts Ganesha. You are likely to become an expert in reading people's mind. Everything is fair in love and war, is what you believe! Win over your sweetheart and set out on a journey toward destination unknown. says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

By and large, your life today will be dull. But, there isn't something unfavourable or negative about it, assures Ganesha, as the planetary movements signal a change, probably a positive one, happen ing in the near future. So, keep your chin up and get ready for a better tomorrow.

You are armed with good

communication skills, and like always, it will come to your aide today, too. There is one problem though. You are not clear about your emo tions and it may make your arms blunt, foresees Ganesha. Make sure that you are able to identify your feelings and don't make any disastrous decisions based on that confusion.

PISCES

Your energy and enthusiasm will know no bounds today. as everything seems to fall into place, seemingly on its own. You will blaze a new trail at the work-place. Certain tough calls may leave you off-balance momentarily, but you will come out of it with flying colours. For those who are in artistic professions, fame could come knocking on your door, says Ganesha.

The plot revolves around Apurba, the female protagonist of the play. Though Apurba loves to immerse herself in the beauty of nature, she

often gets disturbed by the pain of system. But Apurba has to give in the working class. This compels her to wage a war to change the

at the end and she surrenders herself before the system

SHOULD'VE

PLAYED

NUTSIDE, HUH?

Biyot Projna Tripathy, poet Bharat Majhi and noted director Manoj Patnaik. PNN

FUN



PEANUTS





CALVIN AND HOBBES





BREVITY

YES, WE BELIEVE WEVE APPREHENDED THE GANG'S RINGLEADER.







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

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



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





downtown



INFRA BOOST

The construction work for an oxygen plant begins at Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	32,47,83,996	26,56,47,310	55,49,721
lia	3,68,50,962	3,49,47,390	4,85,752
isha	11,22,735	10,55,615	8,478

3 GHASTLY MURDERS SEC seeks info on poll readiness **IN 16 DAYS JOLT CITY** WE'VE SOUGHT OPINIONS & SUGGESTIONS OF DISTRICT COLLECTORS & SPs. BASED ON THEIR **INPUTS. WE'LL REVISE OUR COVID GUIDELINES AHEAD OF RURAL POLLS: ADITYA PRASAD PADHI** POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 15: The Capital city has witnessed a spate of crimes including four ghastly murders in last 16 days bringing to question the efficiency of the police to maintain law and order in the capital. Though the Commissionerate Police has managed to arrest some of the ac cused, many others are still at large A man was hacked to death by his

brother-in-law over some familial disputes at Dhirkuti slum under Mancheswar police limits here in the wee hours of December 31. The deceased identified as Sushant Ghadei was sleeping in his house along with his wife and daughter when the accused, Bapuni Nayak, and two of his friends attacked Ghadei with swords and iron rods. Police have arrested all the three accused involved in the incident.

Youths from Kapileswar village brutally killed Deepak Kumar Rout, 55, a resident of Nua Sahi of Sundarapada area under Airfield police limits, over a dispute related to argument with the deceased's co-villagers during the intervening night of December 31 and January 1. Three accused, Bickey Mallia, Sujit Panda and Gunu Mallia surrendered before the SDJM court here



murder of a youth from their area. Saturday OP PHOTO

injured lady was rushed to Capital January 5 while the Airfield police arrested two others January 12. hospital where doctors referred Surekha Palei, 23, ended her life her to SCB Medical College and January 10 following an alterca-Hospital at Cuttack.

In the latest ghastly crime in the tion with her boyfriend who was held for abetting Palei to commit city, a youth was stabbed to death suicide and trying to destroy evifollowing a dispute between two dence after they found her dead groups at a cake shop in Gajapati in her boyfriend's drawing room. Nagar under Saheed Nagar police Biswajit Jena alias Chotu, the limits here January 15 evening. The deceased was identified as bovfriend of Palei, and two of his friends including a minor, were Niranjan Parida alias Chintu of arrested. Unknown miscreants at-Gadakana area on the city's outskirts. Three friends of the detacked a woman, 27, and reportedly decamped with her ornaments ceased - Vishal Patra, Vivek Patra and mobile phone at Lane-IV and Sritanu Mishra-also sustained Jagannath Nagar area under severe injuries. The injured are Saheed Nagar police limits here undergoing treatment at a private January 5 afternoon. The seriously hospital in Acharya Vihar area.

Election Commissioner (SEC) Aditva Prasad Padhi Saturdav held a meeting with top officials of the state government to review the preparation for the upcoming threetier panchayat election which would be conducted with strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols.

Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra, DGP Sunil Bansal, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Health, RK Sharma, ACS, Home Sanjeev Chopra and other senior officers attended the meeting here while District Collectors and SPs joined the meeting virtually.

District Collectors and SPs were asked to prepare a master plan and submit it to the SEC within three days of publication of the final list of contesting candidates.

The meeting was held in two phases. In the first phase, a detailed discussion was held on enforcement of Covid-19 guidelines at every stage of the poll. The officials discussed the measures required for enforcement of Covid guidelines during filing of nominations, scrutiny, campaigning and counting, Padhi said.

"We have sought opinions and suggestions of District Collectors and SPs. Based on their inputs, we

Bhubaneswar, Jan 15: State

(L-R) Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra, SEC Aditya Prasad Padhi, DGP Sunil Bansal and other top officials at the meet

will revise our Covid guidelines,' Padhi added.

The second phase of discussion was held in the presence of DGP and ADG (law & order) with the Collectors, SPs, IGs, DIGs and RDCs. The officials discussed various measures for smooth conduct of the rural polls, Padhi said.

'We discussed various measures for proper enforcement of the Model Code Conduct for the panchayat election. Since the election is being conducted amid the Covid-19 pandemic, it has posed a unique challenge for the police administration," Bansal said.

Stating that the Collectors and SPs spoke about practical difficulties being faced by the officials at the ground level, the DGP said, "Some steps have already been taken for enforcing the Covid protocol along with the Model Code of Conduct. The meeting also put the emphasis on the strategy to ensure that the candidates should not face any difficulty during the poll." The Collectors were further

in consultation with district police and by taking into account the past incidents/law and order situation. They will submit the list of such booths to the SEC.

The commission has decided to opt for CCTV coverage of hypersensitive booths while one/two videographers will be engaged in a block on the day of the poll.

in five phases between February 16 and 24. The counting of votes and declaration of results will be done asked to identify sensitive/hyperat the block levels for three days starting February 26.

Mask up, write tests, says OPSC

COMMISSION CONFIRMS THERE WILL BE NO POSTPONEMENT OF OCS MAIN EXAM



POST NEWS NETWORK Cuttack, Jan 15: The Odisha Civil

Several candidates had earlier de manded postponement of the exam in view of the increase in Covid-19

Temperature to drop by 3 to 4°C

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 15: Cold wave is likely to return to the state after a brief pause as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted a fall in the minimum (night) temperature starting from Saturday.

As per the IMD's weather bulletin, the minimum temperature in different parts of the state is likely to plunge by 3 to 4°C. The gradual fall in minimum temperature will persist for almost three days. Meanwhile, Keonjhar recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 13.8°C Friday night. It can be men-



several parts of the state experienced rainfall triggered by the western disturbance over past few days. The



sensitive booths at the district level NORMS FLOUTED

The panchayat poll will be held

Services (OCS-2020) Main examination will be held as per the schedule and there will be no postponement of the exam, said the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) here, Saturday.

The Commission, through a press release, confirmed that the exam will be conducted with strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols. So, the Main examination will now be conducted as per the earlier schedule from January 20 to February 6. The Assistant Surgeon examination will be held January 23.

cases in the state. They had sought the intervention of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to postpone the exam till the situation improves.

In a letter, the candidates had expressed apprehensions that some of them may miss the scheduled Main exam due to the prevailing Covid pandemic.

Meanwhile, the Commission has advised candidates to wear N95 masks while coming to the exam centre and said that seperate room facility will be there for candidates having any Covid-19 symptoms.

adversely affected standing crops The IMD also

predicted that light to moderate rain or thundershower activity will occur at a few places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam and Nabarangpur in 24 hours.

A 'Yellow Warning' for dense fog has been issued for the districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Sonepur, Boudh, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nayagarh, and Cuttack from January 17 to January 19, 2022.

NGT stays Adarsh Vidyalaya in Nayagarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Jan 15: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has put an interim stay on the construction of an Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya after an application filed before the green body alleged that the construction is being done on a forest land.

A bench of Judicial Member B Amit Sthalekar and Expert Member Saibal Dasgupta directed the District Magistrate (DM) and Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Navagarh to determine whether the land was at any point of time prior to October 1980 recorded as the Kisam Jungle. The green body asked the DM and DFO to submit their reports within two months.

"We make it clear that if the said area falls within the purview of Kisam Jungle or Kisam Ghancha Jungle then a clearance



under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will have to be taken. We also direct that respondents shall maintain status-quo in respect of the land in question till such a decision is taken by the DM and DFO," the tribunal said. Significantly, the order of the tribunal came responding to an original application filed by several applicants alleging illegal felling of trees from the forest land to construct the Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya in Nayagarh.

However, Navagarh DFO submitted in the counter affidavit that the land had shrubs and weed growth and not a single tree had been felled

The applicant had also placed on record the letter of the Commissioner-cum-Secretary to the Odisha government dated October 2011 and addressed to all District Collectors. The letter mentions that for all lands which are recorded as non-forest Kisam in Record of Rights published after October 1980 but carry an entry of Sabik Kisam Jungle in the remarks column, the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 would be applicable to any type of forest land including land recorded as non-forest land in Hal records published after October 1980 which was of Kisam Jungle in its respective Sabik record as on October 1980.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED POSSESSION Corporate Office : 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No. 2, N. S. C. Bose Road, Chennai - 600 001 Chola NOTICE Branch Office : Annapurna Complex, 559, Lewis Road, Cuttack-Puri Road, Bhubaneswar - 751014 Under Rule 8 (1)

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited ,under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13[12] read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued demand notices on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrowers, to repay the outstanding amount with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described herein below on the respective dates mentioned against each account in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13[4] of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.

The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned herein below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned against each account along with interest and other charges

Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale

SI. No.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER	DETAILS OF PROPERTY POSSESSED	A) DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE B) OUTSTANDING AMOUNT C) DATE OF POSSESSION
1.	Loan Account Nos : X0HEBHU00002234179 and X0HECUK00003446393 1. Binodini Routray 2. Jitendra Routray 3. Sasmita Routray 4. Liza Routray 5. Yummi Foods All are residing at : Plot No. EB - 373, Badagada, Brit Colony, Bhubaneswar -751018	All that piece and parcel of the property situated at District -Khurda, Tahasil - Bhubaneswar SRO - Bhubaneswar Sahar, Under Baragarha Housing Accomodation scheme of BDA, BDA allotted House Plot No. EB-373, Area - 805 Sq. Ft. (35 x 23) as per Drawing No. B-342 corresponding to Revenue Khata No.1611/757, Revenue Plot No. 4402/7462, Area Ac.01018 Dcml. status Pattadar, Kisam - Homestead bounded on the North by EB 376, South by Road, West by EB 374, East by EB - 372.	Rs. 10,05,091.05 totaling to Rs. 43,53,059.49 (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Fifty Nine and paise Forty Nine Only) as on 10-06-2021 and interact themese themese
	te : 16.01.2022 ce : Bhubaneswar	Cholamandalam Ir	Authorised Officer nvestment and Finance Company Limited

GREATEST DISTANCE ON WHEELCHAIR ODIA MAN AIMS TO BREAK **GUINNESS WORLD RECORD**

WHILE THE PREVIOUS RECORD IS HELD FOR 184 KM, KAMAL, 28, WILL ATTEMPT 200 KM IN A TO AND FRO JOURNEY BETWEEN MASTER CANTEEN AND RAJ MAHAL SQUARE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 15: With an aim to break a Guinness World Record for 'greatest distance covered in 24 hours on manual wheel chair,' Kamal Kanta Nayak, 28, began his 200-km journey at 3 pm Saturday from Master Canteen square here.

Nayak, a noted wheelchair athlete, will go for the record attempt completing his journey by 3 pm January 16. While the previous record is held for 184 km, Nayak will attempt 200 km in a to and fro journey between Master Canteen and Raj Mahal square. Sources said the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs and Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) are trying to make the event a success

A native of Puri, Nayak suffers from a spinal cord injury that has paralyzed him waist down. His unending quest to resurrect his life brought him across Dr PP Mohanty at National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Olatpur. During his days at NIRTAR,



Nayak bloomed and developed a keen interest in athletics. He has risen as a paraathlete and has never looked back.

To this day, he is the only Indian who completed a wheelchair ultra-marathon of 139.57 km in 15 hours. A 16-time half marathon runner (21 km), 13 times full marathon runner (42 km), and Captain of Odisha Wheelchair Basketball Team, Nayak will be the first Odia physically challenged athlete to attempt the wheel chair marathon.

'Odisha Wheelchair Basketball Team Association's sole aim is to make wheelchair independent. In the initial days, we introduced wheelchair basketball to wheelchair users as part of their rehabilitation. We could foresee a promising future for Kamal Kant. In the next three years, we plan that all physically able Odia players get resources like active wheelchairs and well-trained coaches so that they can give their best at national and international level," Durga Prasad Pattnaik, Secretary of Odisha State Wheelchair Basketball Association, said.

He also mentioned that the association will permanently employ at least three para sportspersons as peer mentors who can support and guide rehabilitators and budding wheelchair basketball players.

downtown

PANGS OF PANDEMIC

With 32 new cases, state's **Omicron positivity rate 76%**

The 32 new Omicron cases were detected from genome sequencing of 42 samples

Delta variant was the dominant

variant in the state, but Omicron

sub-type BA.2 was fast replacing it

the state where genome sequenc-

ant of coronavirus was first de-

tected in Odisha on December 21.

Mishra said that 1.100 coronavirus

patients, comprising less than two

per cent of the active cases, are hos-

pitalised currently, out of which

Meanwhile, Odisha's Covid-19

caseload mounted to 11,22,735

Saturday with 10,856 fresh

infections, while two more fatali-

ties pushed the death toll to 8,478,

around 350-360 are in the ICU.

ing facility is available.

The ILS is the lone laboratory in

The highly transmissible vari-

Public Health Director Niranian

in the state.

in a bulletin.

the bulletin said.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 15: Odisha reported 32 new Omicron cases taking the tally of the new strain of coronavirus in the state to 202, a Health department official said Saturday.

The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar, informed the state Health and Family Welfare department about the detection of the new Omicron cases after genome sequencing of the samples.

The 32 new Omicron cases were detected from genome sequencing of 42 samples, indicating a positivity ratio of the new variant at 76 per cent.

During the last genome sequencing of samples, drawn from nine districts between December 29 and January 9, 74.5 per cent of the samples were found infected with the Delta variant while the remaining 25.5 per cent were of the Omicron strain.

ILS Director Ajay Parida had earlier told journalists that the

NCC to present NoK

Republic Day fete

Bhubaneswar. Jan 15: The

National Cadet Corps (NCC) will

celebrate the nationwide

campaign of 'Shaheedon ko Shat

Shat Naman' throughout the

nation including in Odisha in

concert with the Republic Day

of martyrs at

POST NEWS NETWORK

celebrations.

LS Director Ajay Parida had earlier told journalists that the Delta variant was the dominant variant in the state. but Omicron sub-type BA.2 was fast replacing it in the state

> During the last genome sequencing of samples, drawn from nine districts between December 29 and January 9, 74.5 per cent of the samples were found infected with the Delta variant while the remaining 25.5 per cent were of the Omicron strain

he Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar, is the

lone laboratory in the state where genome sequencing facility is available

Public Health Director Niranjan Mishra said that 1,100 coronavirus patients, comprising less than two per cent of the active cases, are hospitalised currently, out of which around 350-360 are in the ICU

Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported over a quarter of the new cases at 3,087, followed by 1,943 in Sundargarh, 909 in Cuttack, and 500 in Sambalpur.

As many as 1,021 children tested positive for the infection out of the 74,936 samples tested in the past 24 hours, the Health bulletin said.

the state Health department said Odisha now has 61.809 active The coastal state's daily test cases, while 10.52,395 patients have positivity rate (TPR) jumped to recovered from the disease so far, 14.49 per cent from 13.57 per cent including 2,216 since Friday, the bulletin said. Fifty-three other the previous day, when 10,273 coronavirus cases were reported, Covid-19 patients so far have died due to comorbidities in the state. Khurda district, of which state

A SIGH OF RELIEF

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY



Members of the SUCI (C) stage demonstration near Master Canteen Square of Bhubaneswar Saturday protesting alleged police brutality on people of Dhinkia villege of Jagatsinghpur district

No walk-in OPD at City AIIMS from Jan 17

COVID RESTRICTIONS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 15: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar, has decided to stop walk-in OPD temporarily from January 17 after several of its staff tested positive for Covid-19. Many faculties, resident doc-

The number is gradually increasing tors, staff members and students day-by-day of the health institute have tested positive for the virus within a week. The number is gradually increas-The routine check-ups will con-

ing day-by-day sources said. tinue through AIIMS Bhubaneswar Because of this, the AIIMS, Swasthya App and telemedicine Bhubaneswar, is compelled to stop (WhatsApp call) services. All the the walk-in OPD services of all telemedicine numbers used earspecialties and super specialties lier are fully functional. All departments at AIIMS have departments temporarily from January 17 till further orders, said been directed to limit the physical

the institute's medical superinvisits of patients to the OPD unless tendent SN Mohanty here Saturday. it is deemed necessary. The patients However, the patients who have should be advised to avoid frequent made online registration can visit revisits, added the official. Telemedicine services will be their respective departments by

available from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm

any faculties, resident

M doctors, staff members

institute have tested positive

and students of the health

for the virus within a week.

BPSPA best police training hub in country

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 15: The Biju Patnaik State Police Academy (BPSPA) bagged the Union Home Minister's Trophy as the Best Police Training Institution in the country in the gazetted officers' category for 2020-21

The BPSPA will get ₹20 lakh as reward from the Union overnment "The academy was continuously winning the Union Home Minster's Zonal Level Trophy in previous years for the Best Police Training Institution at Eastern Zonal level for the years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2018-19 and 2019-20 in different categories. It is first time that it got recognition as the best police training institution of the country," informed the BPSPA. The BPSPA was established in 2005.

Because of this, the AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, is compelled to stop the walk-in OPD services of all specialties and super specialties departments temporarily from January 17 till further orders

owever, patients who have made online registration can visit their respective departments by producing their online booking numbers at the entrance

> Saturday. Similarly, the Swasthya App will be operational from 8.30am to 5pm from Monday to Friday and 8.30am to 1pm Saturday. However, emergency services like day-care, radiotherapy, dialysis, trauma & emergency, emergency & life saving surgery, tele-medicine & tele-consultation service. IPD service. Covid vaccination, immunization for old registered patients (Wednesday & Friday) and yellow fever (Thursday), pulmonary and anaesthesiology will remain functional as before. If a doctor feels that the patient is

in critical condition and should be attended physically, then the patient concerned can make an appointment either through telemedicine or the mobile App services. At the enttrance, the patient will have to produce the appointment slip and the double dose vaccination certificate.

All elective surgeries will be curtailed while emergency surgeries will be taken up following all Covid protocols, said the official.

Similarly, all inpatients waiting for surgery in different surgical wards are to be operated in a staggered manner with all safeguards in a limited number of OTs in addition to labour OT, Covid OT, T&E and emergency OT, Mohanty said.

No emergency case will be denied timely medical care in the name of Covid restrictions. At the time of IPD admission, RT-PCR negative report for both patient and attendant are mandatory. Only one attendant is allowed with the IPD patients, he informed.

73 Odisha cadre officers get poll duties in 5 states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar. Jan 15: At least 73 officers of Odisha cadre have attended a virtual training programme conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for their deployment as central observers in upcoming assembly polls in five states, an official said Saturday. These officers will be p

The Assembly polls in Goa, Manipur, Punjab, UP and U'khand will be held between February 10 and March 7 with counting of votes slated for March 10

the officers to ensure all Covid protocols are followed during the polling

the Health bulletin added.

producing their online booking numbers at the entrance, he said.



Navy and Air Force will be visited by NCC officers, permanent instructor staff and cadets

The next of kin (NoK) of all

martyrs of Odisha. from Army

NoK will be presented the 'Plaque of Gratitude' January 26, 2022 coinciding with the PM paying homage to martyrs at the National War Memorial. NoK of 26.466 martyrs who have their names engraved in National War Memorial at New Delhi will be presented with the plaque.

The official journey of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' which commenced March 12 last year for a period of 75 weeks will end August 15, 2023.

The Mahotsav is a government of India initiative to celebrate and commemorate the 75th year of India's independence, glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

Myself SK Jakir, S/o - SK Safiulla, Umamaheswarpur, Nuapatna, Puri, PIN-754004, I have lost my Sale Deed No. 631 Dt.21.03.1989, when travelling from Umamaheswar to Nimapara. If anybody found please contact my advocate - Adv Deepak

Kumar Sahoo, 9937058785.

perts believe that new vaccines that can prevent infection and transmission are needed. All major Covid-19 vaccines have been developed against the original strain of SARS CoV-2. While these have proved to be highly effective, they need to be reinvented to combat newer variants like Omicron which have the potential

to escape vaccine immunity. A booster dose every six months may not be a sustainable idea, the experts contended.

The current vaccines do protect a person from severe illness and death, but we need to update the vaccines so as to protect people from getting infected as well as reduce

lthough current Covid vac-

cines provide a high level

▲ of protection against severe

disease and death caused by vari-

ants of concern (VOC), health ex-

the chances of transmission. Since the virus mutates very frequently and there is the presence of many strains, we cannot rely on the same vaccine as a booster dose, Akshay Budhraja, Senior Consultant, Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, at Aakash Healthcare, told media. In the wake of the Omicron vari-

ant, several vaccine makers including Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca said they are making variant-specific vaccines that can be used as booster doses.

According to Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla, its Omicron specific vaccine will be ready by March, while Moderna CEO Stephane Bancel said the company will soon enter clinical trials for Omicron vaccine.

The development of boosters is based on several studies which showed that two-dose vaccines may not be enough against newer variants, while third doses may help prevent severe infections. The rise of Omicron has only increased the demand for booster

shots. India has also rolled out booster doses for people over the age of 60 and healthcare workers. There have also been calls for a

second shot of boosters, as the booster dose's effectiveness may also wane. While Israel started it,

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.

OR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STAT

We can't vaccinate the planet every four-six months. It's not sustainable or affordable. In the future, we need to target the vulnerable

SIR ANDREW POLLARD | CHIEF INVESTIGATOR OF ASTRAZENECA TRIALS, DIRECTOR OF THE OXFORD VACCINE GROUP

other countries including the UK. Germany, and France are lining up.

But, the World Health Organisation (WHO) called the vaccine manufacturers to work towards creating longer-lasting Covid vaccines that are effective against future strains, instead of focusing on rolling out regular boosters, the Guardian reported.

The agency's Technical Advisory

Group on Covid-19 Vaccine Composition (TAG-CO-VAC) released a report this week saying that planning to regularly roll out Covid boosters is not sustainable.

Oxford vaccine expert Sir Andrew Pollard also echoed the concern and recently said that regular booster doses every four-six months to fight Covid may not be a sustainable way to prevent Covid infections.

Administering booster vaccines to everyone every six months was 'not sustainable', Pollard was quoted as saying to the Daily Mail. 'We can't vaccinate the planet every four-six months. It's not sustainable or affordable. In the future, we need to target the vulnerable,' said Pollard, who was chief investigator of the Oxford Covid vaccine trials and director of the Oxford Vaccine Group, which developed AstraZeneca's jab

According to Pollard, future immunisation drives should target the most vulnerable, rather than all adults.

"The existing vaccines can be improved in a variety of ways and adapted to what the needs are. Within three to five years, scientists will be looking at developing vaccines that cover and protect against multiple variants of SARS CoV-2, and even against multiple coron-aviruses," Alpana Razdan, Microbiologist, Vice President and Head of Lab Services, Genestrings Diagnostic, told media.

"With improved vaccines, we may be able to improve the effectiveness of global vaccination and make sure that people everywhere in the world, including children and those who are clinically vulnerable, are protected," she added.



ACP Manasa Garnaik hands over the recovered mobile phones to their rightful owners at the Capital Police Station compound, Saturday

Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the upcoming assembly elections. The assembly polls in the five

states are scheduled to be held between February 10 and March 7 with counting of votes March 10.

Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra. Election Commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Anup Chandra Pandey were present at the programme. They urged

The commission also emphasised on the importance of central observers in the commencement of free and fair elections the official said.

The poll panel asked the officers to be impartial and help local administrations to ensure smooth conduct of the elections. Senior EC officials made presentations on different aspects of elections during the pandemic situation.

COVID-19 Vaccine

Vaccines must be updated to combat variants: Experts





state

SHORT TAKES

488 exotic birds visit Satkosia

Nayagarh: This year, 488 exotic birds of nine species visited the Satkosia gorge and other water bodies in the Satkosia sanctuary that is spread across Nayagarh, Boudh, Cuttack and Angul districts. A five-day-long bird census was conducted by Mahanadi Wildlife Division



from Chhamundia in the area from Gania block to Mahanadi in Aida. According to the Wildlife Division, a total of 2,120 domestic and migratory birds of 55 species were sighted, including 488 birds from different countries. Indian skimmer is the most loved birds among the tourists visiting the region. Importantly, Indian skimmers were sighted in winter in Badamula area near Mahanadi. But this year. these birds were sighted in Sunakhania area. In all, 141 India skimmers visited Satkosia this year. DFO of the Mahanadi Wildlife Division. Samir Satpathy said that the arrival of foreign birds here was delayed a little this year.

Illegal mining takes toll on ecology

Boudh: Illegal stone mining and explosions in the mines are taking a heavy toll on the environment in Gundulia tehsil of Boudh district. Locals here are upset over blasting in the mines and alleged that such activities have been damaging the trees. "Big stones and splinters disintegrated due to blasts fall on our houses. As a result our houses have developed cracks," locals lamented. According to reports, a patch of 13 acres has been leased out an agency for stone mining since 2017. As its lease term will expire in a few months from now, the agency has intensified mining activities day and night. Dusts emanating from the mines settle on houses, trees and water bodies, causing health hazards, they added. Locals who have been at the receiving end had lodged complaints with the Boudh tehsildar in 2021. However, no

She demanded the immediate arrest of all involved

Kujang, Jan 15: The Dhinkia village under Ersama tehsil in Jagatsinghpur district was Saturday converted into a virtual fortress following a violent clash between people protesting against a proposed project of JSW Steel and the A large contingent of security personnel was deployed in the village, Saturday, as tension prevailed in the region. The village road wore a deserted look with security personnel patrolling the area. The land acquisition process by the district also came to a halt

the villagers. Later, a fact finding team led by Bibhu Prasad Tarai of BJP Anusuchita Jati Morcha visited Dhinkia in the afternoon and conducted a review of the police atrocities on locals, the previous day.

Dhinkia refuses entry to outsiders

Police arrested six leaders while a large contingent of security personnel was

deployed in the village Saturday amid heightened tension in the region

When contacted, Tarai said that the police have unleashed a reign of terror on the local people by becoming a pawn in the hands of the industrial firm. He demanded that the state governvisited Dhinkia to take stock ment should call an all-party meet-

ing to resolve the impasse.

Meanwhile, reports said that tension is running high in the village following the arrest of some villagers who had confronted the police during the eviction of betel vine plantations. Most of the villagers are staying indoors fearing arrests.

A villager Yudhistir Jena said that they will not allow their betel vines to be demolished and if necessary will lay down their lives for their land

Tribals lock panchayat offices in Bolangir over quota issue

POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 15: The

family members of Sanjay

Ray, whose body was recov-

ered from under a bridge a

few days ago in Bargarh dis-

trict, alleged that the Bargarh

Town police are trying to

suppress the alleged mur-

der case. Sanjay was a resi-

dent of Gumadore in

deceased, alleged before IG

(Northern range) Deepak

Kumar that the Bargarh po-

lice are trying to hush up

the 'murder' of her husband.

Sanju Devi, wife of the

Jharsuguda district.

the violent clash.

POST NEWS NETWORK

police, Friday

Bolangir/Deogan, Jan 15: Tribal people in Bolangir district are upset over seat reservation for Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the upcoming rural polls in the state. Associations

Saturday. Six persons who were

detained Friday were arrested and

Meanwhile, local youths were

seen guarding the three entry points

to the village and refused the entry

of leaders of various social out-

fits who went to visit the village after

Environmentalist and social

activist Prafulla Samantara ac-

companied by several leaders also

Saturday but were turned away by

produced in court, Saturday.

and rallies in the district seeking proper reservation of seats for

them in the panchayats. Saturday, members of Deogaon Adivasi Sangh launched 'Tala bandh' agitation and locked the offices of five panchayats in the area. Hundreds of tribal men and

the government and sought justice for tribals vis-à-vis reservations in the Panchayati Raj Institutions. They locked the gates of Ladapadar, Dhandamal, Brahmaniihora, Bandhapada and tribals have already locked offices

Police fail to file charge sheet; 4 smugglers get bail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Jan 15: Amid widespread drug smuggling in Bhadrak district, four drug smugglers have secured bail after police failed to submit charge sheet against them. Many believe that this has sent a wrong signal for the law enforcing agency

According to reports, Bhadrak rural police had arrested four drug smugglers hailing from Jaleswar area in Balasore, July 17, 2021, while they were transporting narcotics in an auto rickshaw on the NH-16. Police seized 1 kg 90 gm of brown sugar from them and arrested Kunilata Sarangi, her brother Ajay Sarangi, Manoj Das and Sk Abdul Hamid. Addressing a press conference, SP Charan Singh Meena had then spoken highly about his colleagues for the arrests and seizure.



In this case, police were supposed to file charge sheet within 189 days of the arrest, but they failed to do so. As the charge sheet had not been submitted, the district judge granted bail to all the four accused Thursday.

Various quarters have decried the lapses on part of the police which led to accused securing bail easily. Hence, the role of police has come under scanner when allegations of poor conviction rate in such cases are being made.

1945 map of Odisha backs state's claim on Kotia panchayat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Jan 15: Former Collector of Koraput, Gadadhar Parida has recommended that the authorities use the map prepared by the British government in 1945 that shows Kotia panchayat within the territorial boundary of Odisha to end the border dispute between the state and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

The map not only presents Kotia

panchayat within the territorial

boundary of Odisha, but also shows

the Pottangi-Tadibalsa heritage

road that passes through Kotia

Kotia panchayat as it amply demon-

strates that entire Kotia panchayat

is within the territorial boundary

of Odisha and not Andhra Pradesh,

as claimed by the neighbouring

He added that in the light of this

revelation, the state government

should make serious efforts to pres-

ent this map as proof to the Andhra

Pradesh government claiming our

jurisdiction on Kotia panchayat

and to stop unauthorised entry of

its officials and public represen-

Recently, Chief Secretaries of

both the states participated in a

meeting to discuss bilateral vari-

ous issues, including the dispute

concerning the Kotia panchayat. It

was decided at the meeting that a

joint committee of both the states

will demarcate the borders at the

state," said Parida.

tatives into the area.

"This backs of our claim on

panchayat as part of Odisha.



The map not only presents Kotia panchayat within the territorial boundary of Odisha, but also shows the Pottangi-Tadibalsa heritage road that passes through Kotia panchayat as part of Odisha

Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra had said after the meeting. Mohapatra added that the borders will be identified and demarcated where the map of the area is not controversial.

Buoyed by the declaration of the state Chief Secretary, the former Collector of Koraput has advised the state government to present the 1945 map as proof to identify and demarcate the border.

Moreover, Parida has advised taking help of an expert team to review the available map and data on the border before a joint team of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh undertakes the demarcation of the Kotia area and other border re gions in the district.

Arjunpur panchayat offices. The women shouted slogans against of 12 panchayats in the block. Bargarh police accused of यूनियन बैंक 🕥



SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES

(E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Movable/ Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Union Bank of India (e-AB) & Union Bank of India (e-CB) (Secured Creditor), will be sold on"As is where is" and "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 17.02.2022, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

BHADRAK BRANCH - 3, BANKA SAHI, DIST.: BHADRAK - 7 Ph. No.: 7327930772, Email: cb3356@unionbankofindia.	
Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantors:	Amount Due
Borrower: Late Kamala Kanta Mishra, At: Nua, PO: Antara, Via: Simulia, Dist: Balasore - 756134/ Guarantors: 1) Mrs. Sasmita Mishra, W/o: Late Kamala Kanta Mishra, 2) Shri Sandeep Kumar Mishra, 3) Shri Sanjeet Kumar Mishra, Both are S/o: Late Kamala Kanta Mishra, All are At: Nua, PO: Antara, Via: Simulia, Dist: Balasore - 756134	as on
Property No.1: A) Land and Building - Residential belonging to Late Sadananda Mohanty & Late No.: 375, Plot No.: 924, Measuring Area: Ac.0.10 dec., At: Nua, P.O.: Antara, Via: Simulia, Dist.: Ba the name of Late Kamala Kanta Mishra, bearing Khata No.: 431/212, Plot No.: 167/1948, Meas Gharabari Kissam, At: Nua, P.O.: Antara, Via: Simulia, Dist.: Balasore Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹34,22,357/- / Earnest Money to be de	lasore, B) Land and Building ir suring Area: Ac.0.20 dec. with
Name & Address of Borrower, Co-Applicant & Guarantor:	Amount Due

Borrower: M/s. Maa Budhi Jagulai Variety Store, Prop .: Mrs. Sasmita Mishra, At: Nua, PO .: ₹ 11,11,243/-Antara, Via: Simulia, Dist.: Balasore - 756134 / Co-applicant/Guarantor: Madhusudan Moharana, on 31.03.2021 with



phone that they would be

back home by the evening.

However, when she called

unanswered.

Man trampled to death

Mayurbhanj districts. The herd active in Raibania,

Jaleswar: A 68-member herd of elephants from Jharkhand and 21

other pachyderms from Similipal area have unleashed a reign

of terror after straying into the fringe areas of Balasore and

Rasagobindpur, Betanoti and Jaleswar areas has robbed the

people of their sleep as the jumbos are destroying properties and killing people. A tribal man was trampled to death by a

tusker which strayed into Bajarsola village under this police

limits in Balasore district from Similipal wildlife sanctuary in the

Raipur, December 16, 2021. Her husband had taken Subhrant Bhoi and the latter's family in a vehicle bearing registration No. OD 15-C-9192. The last time she had contacted her husband on phone was in the evening of December 18. He told over

panied her husband to

Sanjay's body with multiple injuries was found from under a bridge near Panichhatar. The deceased's post-mortem report.

passed since then, but police are yet to take any action in this regard. Even the postmortem report has not come. It was a pre-planned murdered and the vehicle owner is involved in it." Sanju Devi

of tribals had earlier staged protests

hushing up 'murder' case former said that the vehicle had met with an accident. On the following day,

family had filed an FIR at the Bargarh police station alleging murder of Sanjay Ray. In response, police told the family to wait for the

"Nearly, a month has

direction. Now they have warned of an agitation to put an end to mining activities in the region.

action was taken in this

in the crime. In her complaint, Sanju said that one Subhrant Bhoi

him at 8 pm December 18, it went Subsequently, the vehicle of Gumadore had accomowner was contacted, but the

alleged. The IG has taken the issue seriously and directed the SP to look into the matter, it was learnt

Jumbo carcass spotted 10 days after death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sajanagad, Jan 15: The Forest department has recovered a decomposed carcass of an elephant in Kuldiha sanctuary in Balasore Saturday. According to sources, Forest officials have allegedly burnt the carcass in a hurry.



According to reports, the carcass was spotted in the Mangalpur beat of Hatikulia section of the sanctuary. On being informed, Balasore DFO carcass. Bimal Prasana Acharya, ACFO

Sushant Jena and Kuldiha ranger Ananta Kumar Jena rushed to the spot and started an investigation into the death

wee hours of Saturday. The deceased was identified as Fagu The Forest officials said they Hansda, 76, a native of Srikanthapur village under Srirampur burnt the carcass after conpanchayat, but was residing in Bajarsola village. ducting a post-mortem on the The DFO said that the cause of animal's death will be known

are yet to be ascertained. He said that some samples of the after the post-mortem report is dead animal have been sent to made available. The age and Bhubaneswar for tests gender of the dead elephant However, various outfits

wondered as to why despite patrolling by the Forest officials in the sanctuary area, the death of the animal came to the fore after 10 days.

Balimunda airstrip project takes off



Administration has assured the displaced to provide 10 decimal of land, financial assistance for construction of a house under govt-sponsored housing schemes to each family

POST NEWS NETWORK

Padmapur; Jan 15: Construction of a proposed airstrip at Balimunda under Basudevpur block in Bhadrak district took off after the district administration assured the displaced persons of fulfilling their demands, Saturday.

District Collector Trilochan Majhi,

Sub-Collector Manoj Kumar Patra and SP Charan Singh Meena held a meeting with the people displaced by the project and assured them to fulfill their demands.

Kamal Lochan Bhuyan, DSP (DIB), Prabhas Chandra Pal, SDPO, Asit Kumar Das, representative of local MLA, Susant Kumar Sutar, tehsildar, Chandbali, Susant

Kumar Mishra, IIC Nayakanidihi police station, Tapan Kumar Bhuyan, representative of local sarpanch, Madhabananda Mallick, BJP leader and Ashok Kumar Das, Congress leader, also participated in the discussions with the displaced persons.

The administration assured the displaced to provide 10 decimal of land to each family, financial assistance for construction of a house under governmentsponsored housing schemes, and financial assistance for livelihood generation for the affected families. The administration also appointed Chandbali tehsildar Susant Kumar Mishra as the nodal officer to oversee the work of the airstrip and its proper management.

The district administration also urged the local residents to cooperate with the construction works of the airstrip for the greater interest of the district and for the development of the locality.

S/o: Bhikari Charan Moharana, At: Nua, PO: Antara, Via: Simulia, Dist: Balasore - 756134	interest, Cost and expenses
Property No.2: Land and Building - Residential belonging to Madhusudan Moharana,	S/o: Bhikari Charan Moharana,
bearing Khata No.: 320, Plot No.: 1634, Measuring Area: Ac. 0.08 Dec., Plot No.: 1636, Me	easuring Area: Ac. 0.02 Dec. and

bearin Plot No.: 1637, Measuring Area: Ac. 0.08 Dec. (Total Area: Ac. 0.18 Dec.) at Mouza: Nua, P.O.: Antara, Via: Simulia, Tahasil: Khaira, No.: 153, Dist.: Balasore Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹22,05,179/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹2,20,517.90

JAJPUR ROAD BRANCH - 1, Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN - 755019, Email: jajpur@unionbankofindia.con Ph. No.: 9777267390,

Borrower: Mehek Car Fashion, Prop.: Abdul Basir Khan, S/o.: Ibrahim Ali Khan, At: Dala Chhak, Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN - 755019/ Co-applicants/Guarantors : 1) Ibrahim Ali Khan, S/o.: Safiruddin Khan, 2) Azhar Ali Khan, S/o.: Ibrahim Ali Khan, At: Fajalamahala, Binjharpur, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN - 755019	Name & Address of Borrower, Co-applicants & Guarantors:	Amount Due
	Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN - 755019/ Co-applicants/Guarantors : 1) Ibrahim Ali Khan, S/o.:	31.03.2021 with

Property No.3: Residential Land and Building - Residential belonging to Ibrahim Ali Khan, S/o.: Safiruddin Khan, situated at Dala Unit- 6, Plot No.: 467/1572, Khata No.: 239/346, Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jajpur under Tahasil: Vyasanagar, Area: A.c. 0.050 Dec., Kissam: Homestead, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 467, South: Plot No.: 468, East: 20 Kadi Road, West: Plot No.: 614

Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: <13,63,973/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: <1,3	6,397.30
BHADRAK BRANCH - 2,	
Dist.: Bhadrak, Ph. No.: 06784-241120, Email: bm1812@unionbankofindia.com	m
Name & Address of Borrowers, Co-applicants, Guarantors & Mortgagors:	Amount Due
 Borrowers : 1) M/s. JDP Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd., Rep. by it's Managing Director: Mr. Sachidananda Pati, S/o: Laxmikanta Pati, At: Gudupal, P.O.: Arasa, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak, PIN-756139, 2) Sachidananda Pati (Managing Director), S/o: Laxmikanta Pati, At: Jhinkiria, P.O.: Arasa, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139, 3) Sabita Routray (Director), W/o: Pratap Chandra Routray, At: Panda Colony, Berhampur, P.S.: Baidyanathpur, Dist.: Ganjam-760003, 4) Jubaraj Mahala (Director), S/o: Late Dharanidhar Mahala, At: Jhinkiria, P.O.: Arasa, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139, 5) Manoj Kumar Sahu (Director), S/o: Surendra Kumar Sahu, At: Kalimegha, P.O.: Bidyadharpur, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139 / Co-applicants, Guarantors & Mortgagors: 1) Surendra Kumar Sahu, S/o: Late Margasira Sahu, At: Kalimegha, P.O.: Bidyadharpur, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139, 2) Rama Krushna Pati, S/o: Pratap Chandra Routray, At: Panda Colony, Berhampur, P.S.: Baidyanathpur, Dist.: Ganjam-760003, 4) Mrs. Basantilata Sahu, W/o: Surendra Kumar Sahu, At: Kalimegha, P.O.: Bidyadharpur, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139, So: Surendra Routray, At: Panda Colony, Berhampur, P.S.: Baidyanathpur, Dist.: Ganjam-760003 	as on 04.12.2018 with further interest, Cost and expenses

Property No.4 : A) Factory Land & Building at Khata No.: 462, Plot No.: 425, Area: Ac.0.820dec., Plot No.: 424/3601, Area: Ac.0.120dec., Total Area: Ac. 0.940dec., at Mouza: Gudupal, Via/P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak, standing in the name of M/s. JDP Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd., Rep. by it's Managing Director: Mr. Sachidananda Pati

B) Plant and Machinery of Factory.

Reserve Price: ₹6,30,17,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹63,01,700/-

KEONJHAR BRANCH - 3,

Dist.: Keonjhar, Ph. No.: 7978738752, Email: cb2970@unionbanl	kofindia.com
Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantor:	Amount Due
Borrower : Mrs. Ranjita Prusty, D/o: Jugal Kishore Prusty, At: College Road, Lectures Colony, Baniapat, Keonjhar, PIN-758001 / Guarantor: Mr. Chandan Arabinda Panda , Jagannathpur, Keonjhargarh Town, Dist.: Keonjhar, PIN-758001	
Property No.5 : Residential Land and Building over Plot No.: 231/1513, Area: Ac.0.12 Dec., Plot Khata No.: 136/481, Mouza: Baniapat Khuntapada Unit No.: 10, P.S.: Sadar & No.: 143, Tahasil: S in the Name of Chandan Arabinda Panda (Total Area: Ac.0.19 Dec. i.e. 8276.4 Sq.ft), Bounded by Pati, South: Road, East: Dillip Kumar Pati, West: Dayanidhi Pati Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹1,30,00,000/- / Earnest Money to be BID INCREMENT AMOUNT FOR EACH PROPERTY : ₹10,000	adar & No.: 04, Dist.: Keonjhar, / North: Property of Dillip Kumar deposited: ₹13,00,000/-
DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 17.02.2022 between 01:00 P.M. to 05 (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extention), e-Auction Website : www.mstc	:00 P.M. ecommerce.com
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement	nt of E-Auction
For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit: https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/inde	ex.jsp
For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link prov	vided in

https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/tendelViewAllAuction.aspx

Place : Balasore, Date: 15.01.2022

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India







FOCUS FOOD-PRICE INFLATION

There is no greater pride and glory than to be a perfect instrument of the Master SRI AUROBINDO



Security Volte-face

akistan has released its National Security Policy 2022-2026, a document co-authored by the National Security Advisor Moeed Yusuf but acknowledging input from several government entities. The policy articulates what it sees as Pakistan's vision and priorities and provides a detailed implementation framework. About half the document was released to the public and half kept classified. The document emphasises economic security and says that traditional security is only a means to achieving economic prosperity. It speaks of health security, climate change and water stress, food security and gender security. It refers to terrorism with these words: "the most acute form of efforts to undermine stability and national harmony of a society is terrorism.

The internal security policy objectives are "ensure writ of the state in all parts of the country to guarantee security of life and property of all citizens. Prioritise combating terrorism, violent sub-nationalisms, extremism, sectarianism, and organised crime. Ensure Pakistan remains a secure destination for intellectual activity, businesses, investors, and visitors." Externally it says it will "seek regional peace through normalisation of relations in our immediate neighbourhood on the basis of mutual respect and sovereign equalitv.

Pakistan is on the threshold of change because of a corridor China is building connecting China with the Arabian Sea through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. This will help connect Pakistan to Central Asia, especially if Afghanistan is stable. Our government should be studying the document (and also trying to access those parts which are classified) to see if it needs responding to and whether our national security policy is affected by this.

Unfortunately, for this to happen we must first have a national security policy which we do not. Former General Prakash Menon has noted that, for several decades. India's

political guidance to the military had been oriented towards Pakistan as the immediate threat. But now that the Chinese threat was at the doorstep, this has changed. The political objectives expected to be achieved by the military resided in a 2009 document called the 'Raksha Mantri's Directive'.

That directive, Gen Menon wrote, "continues to lack parentage for the lack of a coherent National Security Strategy. The Defence Planning Committee, headed by the NSA, was assigned this task two years ago. Nothing has emerged so far." He adds that "in essence, the Directive is shaped by inputs not flowing from requisite logic and awareness. Only the adoption of and adherence to the dictates of a politico-strategic approach can provide the desired inputs.

In 2018, the government created the Defence Planning Committee. This was to be chaired by Ajit Doval and include the foreign secretary, defence secretary, chief of defence staff, three service chiefs and secretaries of the Ministry of Finance. It had the enormous tasks of looking after 'national defence and security priorities, foreign policy imperatives, operational directives and associated requirements, relevant strategic and security-related doctrines, defence acquisition and infrastructure development plans, national security strategy, strategic defence review and doctrines, international defence engagement strategy,' and so on. It met once, May 3, 2018, and does not appear to have met after that. Our national security advisor is not a scholar like Moeed Yusuf but a man of action and a man of the field. This is true of the rest of the government also.

In January 2021, a think-tank put out a paper by a retired general. He wrote that the changes introduced in the military gave an opportunity for the government to display its strategic and military acumen. Unfortunately, the report concluded that the Chief of Defence Staff was 'vet to articulate a defence strategy'

In 2020, India was compelled by China to change its national security strategy. From counter-insurgency, which the Army has been focussed on for y



Aakar Patel

In 2020, India was compelled by China to change its national security strategy. From counter-insurgency, which the Army has been focussed on for years, we shifted to conventional war

SPIRALLING WOES

The question of how best to control inflation is back on the economic policy agenda, and opinion is divided about how to address it. The mainstream view emphasises the need for tighter monetary policies and regards higher interest rates and reduced liquidity provision as justified, even if they dampen the fragile economic recovery now underway in many countries. Others argue that today's inflation is transitory, reflecting temporary supply bottlenecks and labour-market shifts, and will soon correct itself.

In rich countries, policymakers still rely mainly on macroeconomic tools to tackle inflation. But one set of price increases is different from the others: food-price inflation. Not only does this phenomenon have a much greater direct impact on people's lives, especially in developing economies; it also reflects more complex causes, and addressing it effectively requires a completely different set of strategies. Unfortunately, governments are not discussing them sufficiently. This neglect is deeply troubling. At the end of 2021, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) food price index was at its highest level in a decade and close to its previous peak of June 2011, when many were warning of a global food crisis. Moreover, last year's increase was sudden: from 2015 to 2020. food prices had been relatively low and stable, but soared by an av-

Jayati Ghosh

THIS LETHAL

OF MORE

EXPENSIVE

FOOD AND

INCOMES IS

CATASTROPHIC

INCREASES IN

HUNGER AND

MALNUTRITION

LOWER

FUELING

COMBINATION

erage of 28% in 2021. Much of this surge was driven by cereals, with maize and wheat prices increasing by 44% and 31%. respectively. But prices of other food items also shot up: prices for vegetable oil hit a record high during the year, sugar was up by 38%, and price increases for meat and dairy products, though lower, were still in the double digits.

Food-price inflation currently exceeds the increase in the overall price index, and is even more alarming given the significant decline in workers' wage incomes during the COVID-19 pandemic especially in low- and middle-income countries. This lethal com-



Food-price inflation has more complex causes than other price increases, and addressing it effectively requires a different set of strategies. But rich-country governments are not sufficiently discussing them, and the world's poor are continuing to suffer as a result

undermined output.

In March 2021, the FAO warned

that increasingly frequent climate-

related disasters were affecting

agricultural supplies. Droughts

are the single greatest threat, ac-

counting for more than one-third

of crop and livestock losses in

low- and lower-middle-income

countries. But floods, storms, pests,

diseases, and wildfires have also

become more intense and wide-

spread, as was evident last year.

mate-related pressure on food pro-

duction in the coming years, with

developing regions in Asia and

Africa likely to be hit hardest. The

threats to food production from

climate risk underscore the need

for greater international cooper-

ation to tackle global warming

and its consequences. Sadly, such

But some of the other factors

contributing to food price increases

are the direct result of policy and

regulatory changes. These include

the significant increase in stock-

piling by governments and con-

sumers, driven by fears that new

waves of the COVID-19 pandemic

collaboration seems unlikely.

We can expect much more cli-

bination of more expensive food and lower incomes is fueling catastrophic increases in hunger and malnutrition.

There are many possible reasons for the spike in food prices. Some are systemic. Supply-chain problems – especially regarding transportation - have been a major factor driving price increases for a wide range of commodities. Thus, grain prices rose rapidly in 2021, despite record global output of nearly 2.8 billion tonnes.

Energy prices also are important in determining the cost of producing and transporting food. The large increase in oil prices in 2021 obviously affected the food prices faced by consumers.

In addition, more frequent extreme weather events make crop output more volatile and reduce yields. Some have argued that prices of agricultural commodities as disparate as Brazilian coffee. Belgian potatoes, and Canadian yellow peas (now widely used by the food industry to produce plantbased meat substitutes) rose sharply last year after weather events induced by climate change

will put further pressure on food supplies. The expectation of future food price increases then becomes self-fulfilling, owing to higher current demand.

Last November, the FAO estimated that the global food import bill in 2021 would be the highest ever, at more than \$1.75 trillion, a 14% increase from 2020 and 12% higher than the FAO's forecast just a few months earlier. This is bad news for lower-income economies, which may have more pressing food import requirements than other countries but could be squeezed out of global markets because of increased demand.

The other important factor is financial speculation in food markets, which has recently experienced a revival. Food commodities became an asset class after fi nancial deregulation in the United States in the early 2000s, and there is significant evidence that this played a major role in the destabilising food-price volatility of 2007-09. In recent years, these commodities had become less attractive to investors, but that changed during the pandemic.

Despite high volatility, long positions in major food commodity markets were significant and positive for most of 2021, suggesting that financial investors were expecting prices to increase. The volume of such investments grew substantially last year, enabled by persistent regulatory loopholes and the availability of cheap credit to financial institutions.

Unlike some of the more systemic forces affecting food supply and prices in the medium term, policymakers could easily address the issues of stockpiling and speculation. But that requires governments to accept that these are problems, and to muster the will to address them. Until they do, food-price inflation will continue to hit the world's poor the hardest.

The writer, Executive Secretary of International **Development Economics** Associates, is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM EDTECH COMPANIES

Shift from caveat emptor to caveat venditor

ter said during an online 2021. Several of them have started

The Union education minis- were operating in India as of April Here the customer is not just a companies? Last year, as reported consumer of product, but a future

by Bloomberg ministry created a dedicated division to oversee all private education platforms for the first time and imposed a plethora of restrictions, including restriction on fees which firms can charge and also mandated that online tutoring firms must turn not-for-profit. No, we don't want India to follow the Chinese strategy in handling EdTech companies. Let the companies work as social enterprises in association with established academic institutions. It may not be a bad idea to encourage EdTech companies to operate in public private partnership mode. Let the companies contribute towards knowledge-dissemination and leave knowledge-creation and knowledge-certification to universities. We agree with the Union education minister that we cannot allow EdTech companies to exploit students. It is heartening to note that the minister has asked all departments to issue strict advisories in this direction. Hope this time the advisories will make the customers (students) aware and the sellers beware.

we shifted to conventional war.

The late Chief of Defence Staff General Rawat (who along with the current Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane was a counter-insurgency expert) accepted in June 2021 that China was now India's primary threat: "When you have a larger neighbour, which has got a better force, better technology, you obviously prepare for a larger neighbour." This has upended what is called the Doval Doctrine, which posits that terrorism is India's primary national security threat and that Pakistan is the primary adversary. In February this year, India and Pakistan made a surprise joint announcement that they would 'strictly' observe a ceasefire at the Line of Control. This was a surprise because earlier the Indian government and its ministers had made aggressive statements against Pakistan. It was clear that events in Ladakh had done two things. First that India would shift focus away from the Line of Control on the West to the Line of Actual Control on the East. Before Galwan, of the Army's 38 divisions, 12 faced China, while 25 divisions were deployed on the India-Pakistan border with one division in reserve. After the reassignment, 16 divisions would face China. A total of 200,000 Indian troops were now on the China border, fully stretching the Army and reducing India's military options. Secondly, India has been forced to shift its resource from the navy to the land border. This has been accompanied by a demotion of the so-called Quad alliance with Japan. Australia and the United States and the militarisation of another alliance (AUKUS) against China between the traditional allies Australia, United Kingdom and America.

All these changes have come because of external pressure and not because of a national security policy. Meaning that we are being compelled to act in a particular way rather than being in control of things and anticipating them. These are the things to think about when we look at Pakistan and its new National Security Policy 2022-2026.

WISDOM CORNER

- We are what our thoughts have made us: so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far. SWAMI VIVEKANANDA
- The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our MICHELANGELO mark
- Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver BOB MARLEY or gold.

WORDS**WORTH**

Retort

he origin of this word is the Latin torquere, a verb meaning to twist. (We owe several other words to the same source, such as torment, torture, torque, extort, and torsion, all of which have in them the idea of something being twisted). The distillation vessel was so called because it had a curved or spiral neck with which to condense the vapour, a device that was therefore re-twisted - retorta in Latin. The other sense implied a reply that was likewise twisted, a sharp rejoinder to some comment that was returned to the original speaker. It seems to have been first used by Shakespeare, in As You Like It, though it became common only in the nineteenth century.



DV Ramana

PROVIDING **EDUCATION IS A RESPONSIBILITY. NOT JUST A BUSINESS TO BE DRIVEN BY THE** COMMERCIAL **OBJECTIVES OF** MAXIMISING **RETURN ON**

INVESTMENT

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

Orissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

event of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE): "We have found that some EdTech companies are exploiting students in the name of loan-based courses... The companies are welcome to do business in India, but they cannot exploit students." It is a welcome statement by the minister which conveyed the message that the governments believes in caveat venditor (let the sellers beware).

But what confused citizens in general and parents in particular was the advisory issued by the Ministry of Education in December (2021), warning parents and students to be careful while buying courses offered by EdTech companies. The minister asked the sellers to be beware (caveat venditor). whereas the department advised the buyers to be beware (caveat emptor). Are such opposite views by choice or by chance?

EdTech companies leverage technology to enhance the reach of education and also claim to improve the quality of education. The pandemic turned out to be a blessing in disguise for EdTech companies. According to the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), 4530 EdTech companies

their operations during the last two years. Some of the well-known companies in this sector are Byju's. CollegeDunia, EduKart, UnAcademy and Vedantu. They are big and are becoming bigger with each passing day. For example, Byju's despite being only 11-year-old is already a \$18 billion company.

EdTech companies have enormous power and reach to completely change the ecosystem of education. Asking parents to exercise necessary caution before signing up for any course is like ask ing patients to check the credentials of their doctor. Moreover, expecting parents and students to do the due diligence is a futile exercise particularly when these companies unleash flambovant advertisements and celebrity endorsements. Caveat emptor is not an appropriate model for the education sector.

There are several anecdotal reports of parents and former employees sharing the negative side of EdTech companies on social media and newspapers. It is time for the government to strengthen the policies to put the philosophy of caveat venditor in practice. Enrolling for a course is not same as buying a soap or a cellphone.

citizen. Providing education is a responsibility, not just a business to be driven by the commercial objectives of maximising return on investment. One of the statutes that provide some protection to consumers of educational services is the Consumer Protection Act. But even that Act is embedded in the principle of

caveat emptor. Similarly, there are concerns about data privacy and safety of children using EdTech platforms. According to a report in a national daily, due to a server vulnerability of an EdTech company, the personal data of more than 2 million users was publicly exposed in September 2020. We expect personal data protection laws will put necessary controls in place and define clearly the responsibilities of EdTech companies in protecting the privacy of users, students in general and minors in particular and strictly follow the principle of caveat venditor in letter and spirit. It is time to shift from caveat emptor to caveat venditor and make the seller responsible for selling

wrong products.

Does that mean we need to do what China did to control EdTech

The writer is a professor at XIMB. Views are personal.

Undependable opportunists

Sir, This refers to 'Akhilesh takes a swipe at Yogi,' Orissa POST, January 15. In a major political churning in poll-bound UP, scores of leaders including ministers and legislators from the ruling BJP are making the beeline for the Samajwadi Party. While this is seen as a sample of the political deftness of Akhilesh Yaday, the real test for his political acumen will come into play in handling the possible disruption that the new political alliances can cause within the party ranks. Going forward, realising the limitations of its Yadav-Muslim vote bank in a scenario where BJP is consistently polling 40 per cent of vote share, Akhilesh is plotting a new course this time. SP revived alliance with Jat-dominated RLD amid the western UP farm agitation. A split in the Yadav vote was averted by mending fences with his estranged uncle Shivpal Yadav. However, it is not that BJP has been inactive. Akhilesh's gambit of playing up the caste census demand was deflected by BJP with a major Union Cabinet reshuffle last year in which 27 OBC and 12 Dalit MPs benefited, with strong UP representation. The extension of OBC reservation to the NEET all-India quota ensued. With 303 MLAs, BJP can shrug off the Maurya loss but ticket distributions can trigger more showdowns given the party's track record of denying seats to unpopular incumbents. However, the BJP will be comforted by the unwieldy ticket demands Akhilesh will now face, having embraced a large number of allies. Furthermore, the current political situation in UP is reminiscent of last year's influx into BJP in West Bengal before the state elections. Barring three, almost all turncoats nominated by BJP bit the dust and many chose to return to the old nest TMC. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Ordinary show

Sir, The South African side deserves praise for scripting a come-from-behind 2-1 series triumph against India. Written-off after the opening Test, the Proteas came back spectacularly in the next two, chasing down fourth innings targets of over 200 with ease - they won by seven-wicket margins in both Tests. Skipper Dean Elgar led brilliantly from the front and marshalled his troops admirably. India had a good chance of conquering the 'final frontier' but was let down by ordinary batting. Apart from some outstanding performances by our speedsters and tons from the blades of KL Rahul and show

NJ Ravi Chander; BANGALORE





national



Cases are rapidly increasing and there are no two ways about it. We all know that the Omicron variant is quite transmissible and infectious ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CM

COLD WAVE CONTINUES

Intense cold wave continued in J&K and Ladakh Saturday as morning fog covered most parts of Jammu city and its adjoining areas



long meeting at the Singhu bor-

der campsite on the outskirts of

Delhi. SKM, a consortium of 40-odd

farmers' organisations, had on

December 9 declared to suspend

their 15-month-long agitation that

had started to protest the three

contentious farm laws passed in

2020. Lakhimpur Kheri was the

place where on October 4 half-a-

dozen people, including farmers

and a journalist, were mowed down

by a speeding vehicle, allegedly

belonging to the son of Union

Minister of State for Home Affairs,

Ajay Mishra Teni. The farmers

have demanded action

against Teni and his

son, but no step has

been taken yet.

The SKM

also declared

to extend sup-

port to the all-

India strike

by labour or-

ganisations

on February

23 and 24 as

their demands in-

clude MSP and



Children in the age group of 15-18 years who are not vaccinated against Covid will not be allowed to enter schools, when they reopen

ANIL VIJ HARYANA HEALTH MINISTER

The government has been selective in its demolition drive targeting only Guijar Bakarwal families in Jammu. The presence of these families has always irked the BIP & clearly the administration is targeting the Guijars & Bakarwals at the behest of their political masters

OMAR ABDULLAH NC VICE PRESIDENT

The political machinations the BJP adopted in Puducherry last year have now been boomeranging on the party in UP where legislators and some of the Ministers of Yogi Adityanath- headed BJP government in that state are saying adieu to the saffron party V NARAYANASAMY CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

IED defused

Srinagar: An improvised explosive device (IED) was detected and defused Saturday in J&K's Bandipora district. Police said a 10-kg IED was detected by police and 14 Rashtriya Rifles in orchard area of Bandipora Saturday. "Bomb disposal squad of the army was called in and the IED was defused", police said.

Curbs extended

.....

Kolkata: The West Bengal government Saturday extended the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions till January 31, allowing fairs on open grounds in a very restricted manner with strict adherence to safety norms, an official order said. The state government also allowed marriage functions with a maximum of 200

FEAR OF DEFECTIONS HAUNTS CONG, BJP IN UTTARAKHAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Jan 15: As the BJP and Congress are set to announce their list of candidates for the Uttarakhand Assembly polls, the fear of desertions by disgruntled aspirants is looming large over the two giants.

Both parties are working on strategies to keep their flock together by promising to suitably compensate the left out aspirants with important positions in the party and in various commissions and committees in case they form the government.

Both parties began experiencing desertions a few months ago when cabinet minister Yashpal Arya and his MLA son Sanjiv Arya quit the BJP to join the Congress. Congress MLA Rajkumar returned to the BJP while two independent MLAs Pritam Singh Panwar and Ram Singh Kaira, too, joined the saffron party

The possibility of ticket aspirants in both parties switching loyalties after the announcement of candidates cannot be ruled out, political observers said. If that happens, the stakes will be higher for the BJP, which had won 57 of the total 70 Assembly seats in 2017. The party has been constantly assessing performances of its

MLAs and those faring poorly in the party's internal surveys may not be repeated, a party leader

The Congress does not have

said

Raian



Both parties are working on strategies to The possibility of ticket keep their flock together by promising to aspirants in both parties suitably compensate the left out aspirants switching loyalties after the with important positions in the party and announcement of candidates in various commissions and committees cannot be ruled out, political

in case they form the government observers said

much to lose as tickets to its sitting MLAs are almost certain. However, the possibility of former MLAs and potential candidates, who have joined the party expecting a ticket, may spring a surprise if not fielded. The two parties that are likely to be locked in straight contests in majority of the seats are in the final stages of deciding their candidates.

While the Uttarakhand Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) has prepared its list of candidates for all the 70 constituencies, the BJP's first list of 27 candidates is almost final, insiders in the two camps said.

Congress campaign head Harish Rawat clarified that the PCC has prepared its of candidates for all the 70 seats. On the other hand, state BJP president Madan

Kaushik said final touches are being given to the list, which will be presented before the party's central parliamentary board to take a final call.

The party is likely to issue two lists of candidates separately. One before the nomination begins on January 21 and the other by January 25, BJP sources said. The party's central parliamentary board is likely to meet on January 18 or 19, they said.

There are more than two claimants in both parties for several seats, party insiders said. For example, there are seven seats in Udham Singh Nagar district alone, and both parties have at least two claimants for each of these seats, followed by Haridwar and Dehradun -- both districts have six constituencies each.

SIX TERRORIST **ASSOCIATES HELD IN J&K**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Jan 15: Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested six terrorist associates of the proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Sopore and Bandipora in north Kashmir, and recovered incriminating materials including arms and ammunition from their possession, officials said Saturday

"During checking, it was noticed that three persons coming from Gund Brath village towards Bomai village were roaming in suspicious conditions, and were subsequently asked to stop, but they tried to flee. However, they were apprehended by the vigilant security forces," a police officer said

The arrested individuals have been identified as Arafat Majeed Dar, Tauseef Ahmed Dar, and Momin Nazir Khan

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including two pistols, two pistol magazines, 13 pistol rounds and a hand grenade were recovered from their possession

They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

"Preliminary investigation has revealed that the arrested terrorist associates were providing logistical and other materialistic support to the terrorists. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Bomai police station, and further investigation is underway,' the police said.

'Mission UP' if demands not met

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 15: The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) said Saturday that it will hit the ground again from February 1 by launching a 'Mission UP' movement if the government does not relent to their demands.

Led by SKM leader Rakesh Tikait, a team of farmers would embark on a three-day tour of Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh from January 21 and meet the families of the victims of the October 4 violence.

If things are not found to be satisfactory, Tikait and the SKM team will camp There there and start the has been no 'Mission UP' progress. No committee from has been formed on Minimum February 1. **Support Price. There is only some** "There has

action on withdrawing cases been no against farmers in Haryana, but not progress. much progress on that count in No comother states, including Delhi. There mittee has has been no discussion on our been formed demand in connection on Minimum with power bills Support Price

YUDHVEER SINGH I SKM LEADER (MSP). There is only some action on withdrawing cases

against farmers in Haryana, but not much progress on that count in other states, including Delhi. There has been no discussion on our demand in connection with power bills," SKM leader Yudhveer Singh told a media conference. "That leaves us with no option but

to launch Mission UP from February 1," Singh told the media in the presence of other SKM leaders, including Tikait, after a day-

also because the labour organisations had supported the farmers' agitation. Another important decision taken in the farm ers' review meeting is that the SKM will continue to be an apolitical forum. "Those organisations that have declared to contest polls will not be part of SKM," Tikait said.

Scores of organisations from Punjab that were part of SKM have declared to form political party/parties and contest polls in that state.

Army unveils new JALLIKATTU WINNER TO combat uniform **GET A CAR**

shirt inside. The pattern is a digital disruptive one and more like a pixelated design.

The officer said that it has been designed keeping comfort levels in mind. The new combat uniform has been designed in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT). An eight-member team comprising students and professors worked the design of the new uniform



attendees or 50 per cent of the venue's capacity, whichever is less, it said.

Three killed

Amaravati: Three people were killed after two motorcycles collided head-on in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district police said Saturday. The accident took place later Friday night near Madanapalle town

27-year-old gored to death

Chennai: A 27-year-old man was gored to death by his own bull at the 'Jallikattu' event held at Periya Suriyur in Tamil Nadu's Tiruchi district Saturday morning. This is the second death caused during the bulltaming competition in the state. Addressing the media, the Jallikattu organisers said that the victim, Meenakshisundaram, was guiding his bull to the entrance of the event when the bull gored him on his thigh. When he started bleeding, he was taken to Tiruchi Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead.

Liquor, drugs worth ₹40 cr seized

Chandigarh: Enforcement teams have so far seized liquor, psychotropic substances and unaccounted cash worth Rs 40.31 crore after the model code of conduct came into force in Punjab, a poll official said. The Election Commission had January 8 announced the poll schedule for the elections in Punjab and four other states, and these recoveries were made till January 14.

winner of the Jallikattu festival with the second prize winner getting a two-wheeler sponsored by the DMK youth wing leader and Chief Minister's son. Udavanidhi Stalin. At least 700 bulls and 300 tamers are participating in the event held in strict adherence to Covid-19 pro-

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 15: The Palamedu

Jallikattu in Madurai was flagged

off by Tamil Nadu ministers, P.T.R.

Thiagarajan and P. Moorthy

Saturday at 8 a.m. in presence of

Madurai district collector, Aneesh

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.

Stalin has sponsored a car for the

tocols. The bulls and tamers were selected through randomization and issued a slip containing a QR code.

There will be 10 rounds in the competition with one hour for each round and 50 tamers who have taken double dose vaccination and an RT-PCR negative certificate are participating in each round. Four people were injured including two bull owners and all were taken to the nearby hospitals and given preliminary medication. After seven rounds, the bull owners and tamers were awarded gold coins, home appliances, bicycles, clothes, sweet boxes, and cash prizes. More than a thousand police personnel are

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 15: Indian Army unveiled its new combat uniform at the parade on the occasion of Army Day Saturday.

The new combat uniform for army personnel is aimed to provide more comfort and sustainability.

In a first, the Army Day parade witnessed the new uniform and weapons of different era. The troops will also march donning the same uniform during the Republic Day parade this year. The new uniform is of digital pattern like the troops of the US Army. "The camouflage of the changed uniform is better than its previous one," said a senior Indian Army officer. The Army has always objected

over other paramilitary forces wearing combat dress of similar pattern. "Many a times we had flagged deployed for the Palamedu Jallikattu it," said the officer. Interestingly, the festival at various points to prenew combat uniform does not have tuck-in dress and there will be a T-

The NIFT team went through four different fabrics, eight different designs and almost 15 patterns before locking it all down

The NIFT team went through four different fabrics, eight different designs and almost 15 patterns before locking it all down. The new uniform has a mix of colours, which include olive green and earthen shades, keeping in mind the different terrains and areas of deployment of troops as well as the extreme weather conditions.

The new combat uniform has eliminated the need to have different uniforms for different terrains - earlier there were uniforms for jungle warfare, dessert warfare etc.



A farmer prepares an agricultural field for paddy cultivation in Nadia, West Bengal

CBI books GAIL director, carries out searches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 15: The CBI has booked E S Ranganathan, director (marketing) of GAIL, along with several suspected middlemen and businessmen in an alleged case of bribery of over Rs 50 lakh from private companies buying petro chemical products marketed by the Maharatna PSU, officials said Saturday

Following the registration of the case Friday, the CBI conducted

searches at about eight locations in Delhi-NCR including the office of Ranganathan at Bhikaji Kama Place in Delhi and his residence in Sector 62, Noida.

Besides Ranganathan, the agency has also booked middlemen Pawan Gaur and Rajesh Kumar, N Ramakrishnan Nair who had allegedly collected bribes, businessmen Saurabh Gupta and his Panchkula -based company United Polymer Industries and Aditya Bansal and his company Karnal-

based Bansal Agency, they said.

It is alleged that Ranganathan was "indulging into corrupt and illegal activities in criminal conspiracy" with Gaur and Kumar, who is also director of Rishab Polychem Pvt. Ltd based at Bahudargarh Road, Delhi.

Kumar and Gaur allegedly acted as Ranganathan's middlemen, by obtaining bribe from the private companies buying petro chemical products marketed by GAIL, the FIR alleged

Crores change hands as cockfights held in AP despite ban

LIKE EVERY YEAR, THE ORGANISERS MADE SPECIALLY-BRED ROOSTERS FIGHT WITH SMALL KNIVES OR BLADES TIED TO THEIR LEGS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

vent any untoward incident.

Vijayawada, Jan 15: Crores of rupees changed hands as cockfights were organised in many parts of coastal Andhra Pradesh during Sankranti celebrations Saturday despite ban and the cur-

rent surge in Covid-19 cases. Hundreds of people thronged at the cockfights organised in towns and villages across Krishna, Guntur, East Godavari, West Godavari districts. In blatant violation of court orders passed earlier and poking fun at law-enforcing agencies, the cockfights were organised on a birds

Like every year, crores of rupees changed hands as the organisers made specially-bred roosters

fight with small knives or blades tied to their legs. The organisers made special seating arrangements for those participating in betting and for spectators.

Backed by powerful politicians and businessmen, the organisers made all the arrangements by erecting huge tents, barricades and supply of food and liquor. People, including women and children, thronged the arenas in large numbers to watch the cockfights which they consider a part of the harvest festival. The fight often ends with the death of one of the two

Hundreds of people were seen flocking to the cockfight venue at Edupugallu in Krishna district. Huge tents were pitched in the



agriculture fields to organise the cockfights. It was a huge fair as people in cars and on two-wheelers were seen heading to the venue. From few hundreds to lakhs were bet on roosters.

The cockfights were organised at various places in and around Vijayawada. Similar events were organised in Gudiyada, Kaikaluru, Jaggyapeta, Nuzvidu, Nandigama, Chanderlapadu, Mopidevi,

Avanigadda and other places in Krishna district. At few places MLAs and local public representatives attended the events. The organisers set up VIP galleries for politicians, businessmen and other VIPs.

Punters from not just neighbouring villages and districts but even Telangana and other states participated in the betting. There was no impact of the police warnings on the ground as the organisers faced no hurdle in making all the arrangements.

The organisers even deployed bouncers and erected fencing to control the crowds. At many venues it was not just cockfights. Other gambling games were also organised and people were seen openly playing these games. Food stalls set up near the venues did brisk business. A Jana Sena leader along with some villagers stopped cockfight in Mandapaka village in Tanaku mandal in West Godavari district. Ramachandra Rao opposed the organising of cockfight in the village and released roosters from the clutches of organisers.

It was in 2016, that the High Court had banned cockfights. The Supreme Court upheld the ban. However, there was hardly any impact of it on the ground as police failed to check the bloody sport.

Animal rights activists point out that as per the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 andthe Andhra Pradesh Gaming Act, 1974, cockfights are illegal.

massive scale.







It's back to 'Mandal' against 'Kamandal' Damage control: BJP gives

All the leaders who deserted the BJP have alleged that the saffron party has ignored the welfare of backward castes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 15: After a spate of resignations from BJP, the narrative of the big battle of Uttar Pradesh has slightly shifted from the Hindutva to Mandal, as the resignees have alleged that BJP ignored the welfare of backward castes and had ignored issue of reservation in the state which the

BJP has denied. Each leader who had quit used the same language in their resignations and it's well though a strategy to corner BJP on the issue of social justice, that is why nobody is talking about minority but of backward class which comprises a large chunk of the population. The exits have created an impression that BJP is ignorant of the issues of backward caste which the party has denied and it believes that the community is in sync with the BJP's social engineering formula which has won three big elections in UP since 2014.



ing to power in 2017 by duping

backward castes. He said that the

BJP had projected Keshav Maurya

as chief minister, but then brought

'someone else from Gorakhpur

like a Skylab'. Maurya said that

all his efforts would be to free Uttar

Pradesh from the misrule of the

BJP. He said that the Yogi

Adityanath government has mis-

Samajwadi Party president

led the people of the state.

BJP Minister Siddharth Nath Singh says, "The biggest OBC face is Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

Delhi based independent analyst Rahul Varma says, "The SP will try to make it forward-backward contest. Will the SP succeed in this – can't say for sure." He adds that the rebels are join-

ing SP because, "other players will be on the margin with very little chance to win."

Former BJP ministers Swami Prasad Maurya and Dharam Singh Saini along with other MLAs, Friday, formally joined the Samajwadi Party along with their supporters. The others are likely to join the party in coming days. Maurya accused the BJP of commade to sit on stools."

The experts differ in opinion that BJP is champion of social engineering but not of social justice as many leaders who quit the BJP have long history and association for struggle against injustice meted out to their community socially and have huge following.

Experts say that BJP has created a winning combination in UP by taking all communities in the state which was once a winning formula for SP & BSP but was disenchanted and now the BJP is facing the same. Still

Yogi at its forefront, BJP will play the Hindutva issue carefully to overcome Mandal.





and threw it in public domain to debate and gave an issue and line to his supporters. While the experts believe that now the situation could reach to 50-50, and BJP will not have the clean sweep it expected.

The experts believe that the real issues are inflation, Covid deaths, stray animals, unemployment and the BJP has not been able to gauge the minds of its own MLAs and ministers.

Damage control: BJP gives tickets to 44 OBC candidates

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 15: In an attempt to control the damage caused by exodus of leaders like Swami Prasad Maurya and others, the BJP has given majority representation to the OBCs in its first list of candidates for the Uttar Pradesh

assembly polls. Of 107 candidates announced Saturday, 44 come from OBC communities. Several OBC leaders including Maurya, Dara Singh Chauhan, Dharam

Singh Saini and others resigned from BJP in the last few days.

A saffron party leader said that extent of damage caused by exit of Swami Prasad Maurya and other OBC leaders is still to be accessed but the list shows that the party tried to keep the backward communities in good faith by giving almost half of the tickets to OBC candidates in the first list.

"Polls results will show the real impact of the recent exodus led



by Maurya but the leadership realised the importance of OBC communities. To win their support, the bulk share of tickets in the first list went to them," he said.

The OBCs play an important role in UP politics and constitute over 50 per cent of the total electorate of the state. While the non-Yadav OBCs constitute around 35 per cent of the state's total electorate. The BJP is eyeing to win the election for a second consecutive term with the support of non-Yadav OBC communities which supported them earlier in 2017 assembly polls and last two

Lok Sabha polls in 2014 and 2019. A BJP leader claims that by giving majority shares to OBC candidates in the first list the party has

OBCs play an important role in UP politics and constitute over 50 per cent of total electorate

tried to send a positive message to the backward communities.

"Political rivals misled the communities by saying that BJP uses OBC votes only to come to power and then ignores them. By giving 44 out of 107 tickets to OBCs, the party has shown that it is with them. Earlier, a strong message was sent to the communities when 27 ministers belonging to backward classes were inducted in the union cabinet in July last year," he said.

THIRD WAVE PEAK HAS ARRIVED IN DELHI: JAIN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 15: Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain Saturday said that the peak of third Covid-19 wave has already arrived in the capital city and now the cases may soon register a decline.

"Covid peak has already arrived in Delhi. Let's see when the cases begin to decline. However, it seems that the cases have begun to slow down in the city," Jain said.

Delhi witnessed a slight dip in the daily cases at 24,383 Friday which is expected to go down further Saturday. The daily Covid cases are expected to reduce by around 4,000 Friday. "Today, Covid-19 cases in Delhi are expected to be reduced by 4,000. However, positivity rate will be around 30 per cent. The hospital admission rate has not risen for last 5 to 6 days," said Delhi health minister.

Talking to media, Jain further said that such a fall indicates that cases are going to be fewer in the coming days. He said that around 85 per cent of total hospital beds



Covid peak has already arrived in Delhi. Let's see when the cases begin to decline. However, it seems that the cases have begun to slow down in the city satyendar Jain I Delhi Health MINISTER

the city has also slightly been reduced. Delhi recorded around 79,578 Covid tests Friday which included



In an advisory issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research earlier this week, ICMR has said that the contacts of confirmed cases of Covid-19 do not need testing unless identified as high risk based on age and comorbidities. The guidelines also said that asymp-



POOR VISIBILITY

are still unoccupied. However, the Covid testing in

61,183 RT-PCR tests and 15,395 Rapid Antigen tests in 24 hours. On tomatic individuals in community settings do not need testing.

Security stepped up at Delhi's Ghazipur after IED recovery

The National Security Guard and the Special Cell of Delhi Police Friday averted a major terror attack by timely defusing a 3-kg IED which was placed in the crowded flower market

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 15: A day after the recovery of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) from the national capital's Ghazipur flower market, the police have tightened the security arrangements in and around the area, an official said here Saturday.

The National Security Guard and the Special Cell of Delhi Police Friday averted a major terror attack in the city by timely defusing a 3-Kg IED which was placed at a crowded market by unidentified anti-national elements.

"We have made proper deployment of the police force in the area and checking is being carried out," Additional DCP (East district) Vineet Kumar told IANS. He informed that the adjacent fruit and vegetable market in the area is open today as it comes under the exempted category while the Ghazipur flower market remains closed due to the COVID curbs placed by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority.



The suspicious explosives-laden bag was first sighted by a local vendor, however, he did not pay any heed to it and left. When he returned after sometime, the bag was still there after which he informed a civil defence volunteer in the area who then ultimately made a PCR call around 10.16 a.m. and the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) department was also informed at the same time. The DFS official confirmed to IANS that they received a call around 10.20 a.m. regarding an unattended bag lying at the Ghazipur flower market in the city after which one fire engine was

rushed to the spot. With things looking very serious, the Delhi Police alerted NSG about the suspicious object around 11 a.m. which sent its bomb disposal squad. The police then cordoned off the entire area for the safety and security of the people. Then the bomb disposal squad with the help of police personnel dug an approximately

eight feet ditch in an open ground where the bag carrying the IED was disposed off.

The NSG conducted a controlled explosion of the recovered IED in that ditch, saving several lives that could have ended if the bomb had not been found and defused in time.

The Delhi Police was yet to make any headway in the investigation into the recovery of the IED, officials said on Saturday. According to police officials, no suspect has been identified so far.

A senior police officer said that at this stage of the investigation, terror angle cannot be ruled out and that investigators are looking into all angles. "Local enquiries could not be conducted on Saturday as the flower market was closed. CCTV footage have been collected on Saturday from all nearby areas and are being examined. Multiple teams of the Special Cell are working on the case. Dump data (of mobile devices) is also being collected," the officer said.

Delhi records 5,104 MW power demand, higher than last winter's peak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 15: Amid plummeting temperatures, Delhi's peak power demand soared to 5,104 MW Friday night and crossed the high of last year's winter, discom officials said Saturday.

The peak power demand in the winter of 2021 was 5,021 MW. The peak power demand reached 5,104 MW at 10.29 PM Friday, State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) data showed.

BSES discoms, BSES Rajdhani Power Limited and BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, successfully met this season's highest peak winter power demand of 2,140 MW and 1,114 MW in their respective areas January 14, a BSES spokesperson said.

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) met the record peak power demand of 1,606 MW without any network constraint and power outage as Delhi witnesses a cold wave, a company spokesperson said.



The highest peak power demand recorded in December 2021 was 4,685 MW. It was recorded December 31, 2021, the officials said.

At 4,685 MW, Delhi's peak power demand for December last year had surpassed that of December 2020, when it was 4,671 MW, they said.

Chandrashekhar rules out alliance with 'anti-Dalit' SP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Jan 15: Chandrashekhar Azad, president of the Azad Samaj Party (ASP), has dubbed Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav as 'anti-Dalit' and made it clear that he is not going to form an alliance with the SP in the upcoming assembly polls.

Chandrashekhar claimed that Akhilesh does not understand the meaning of social justice and accused the SP chief of humiliating him. "Akhilesh has insulted Dalits. He only needs Dalit votes, not leaders. It has become clear from his behaviour that he is similar to the BJP," Chandrashekhar said while interacting with the media in Lucknow Saturday. He also asserted that the BJP will not be allowed to come to power.

"I have had a lot of meetings with Akhilesh Yadav in the last 6 months and we also had many positive conversations, but in the end I felt that Akhilesh does not need Dalits. He does not want Dalit leaders in his alliance. He only wants Dalits to vote for him," Chandrashekhar told reporters. He said that all issues includ-

ing reservation were discussed (with Akhilesh). "Akhilesh assured me he will respond by the evening (on the alliance issue). But he didn't. Probably he doesn't want an alliance." "For nine years, I have been gathering the 'Bahujan' (Dalit) community. Our aim is to stop the BJP. An attempt was made to stop my press conference. My fight is not to become an MLA, but to get social justice,"



Akhilesh has insulted Dalits. He only needs Dalit votes, not leaders. It has become clear from his behaviour that he is similar to the BJP

CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD I PRESIDENT OF AZAD SAMAJ PARTY

Chandrashekhar added.

He added, "If Akhilesh comes to power, then it is necessary to discuss the situation ahead. Intellectuals have warned us of possible violence against Dalits. Akhilesh humiliated us after 40 days. He insulted the people of the 'Bahujan' community."

Chandrashekhar said, "In the past, we were finalising things regarding the alliance. We were constantly talking to the SP and Akhilesh Yadav. From what we understood from his words, it is clear that he does not want Bahujans in the alliance. Several issues needed to be cleared."

PTI PHOTO

"The character of political parties changes after coming to power. Such examples have been seen in the previous government. In such a situation, we are determined to work for the protection of Dalit rights. The SP president remained silent on the issue of our rights."

Chandrashekhar had met Akhilesh Yadav at the SP office-Friday The meeting between the two leaders lasted for about an hour.



national



Modi Government first surrendered our land and has now jeopardised our close neighbours by its inaction in pushing back China. If you don't stand up for yourself, how will you stand up for your friends?

RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

NEW GUIDELINE

International passengers arriving in India will now need to upload their RT-PCR report on the Air Suvidha portal for the test done on the eighth day of arrival



PUNJAB POLLS

SIDHU TO CONTEST FROM AMRITSAR EAST uote

The Indian government had proposed an air bubble to the South Korean government in July last year and the

Centre has been waiting for its

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION OF INDIA

All guides involved in the Delhi government's 'Desh Ka Mentor programme are being made to undertake psychometric evaluation before they

are taken on board MANISH SISODIA DELHI DEPUTY CM



M VENKAIAH NAIDU VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Two shot dead

Porbandar: A former Army man allegedly gunned down two persons during a clash between two groups of a community in Gujarat's Porbandar town, police said Saturday. An offence has been registered against 11 persons, including a local BJP councillor and his son, for the incident that took place on Friday night an official said. The two groups held a grudge against each other over some past dispute about the municipality election held in February last year, Superintendent of Police Porbandar Ravi Mohan Saini said.

Boy drowns

Mandsaur (MP): A 13-year-old boy drowned in a pond while trying to retrieve a kite from it in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh, an official said Saturday. The incident took place in Sathkheda village under Garoth police station he said. The on Frida identified as Shabbir Hussain, spotted a kite with a thread attached to it floating in the nond. In an attempt to retrieve it. he entered the water body. but drowned, head constable Dashrath Malviya said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 15: The Congress Saturday released its first list of 86 candidates for the February 14 assembly elections in Punjab, fielding Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi from Chamkaur Sahib and PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu from Amritsar East.

The party has also fielded Punjab deputy chief ministers - Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa from Dera Baba Nanak and Om Prakash Soni from Amritsar Central, the seats they already represent. Controversial Punjabi singer Sidhu Mussewala, who joined the Congress sometime ago will contest from Mansa and actor Sonu Sood's sister Malvika Sood from Moga

Party's Rajya Sabha MP Pratap Singh Bajwa will contest from Qadian assembly seat in Gurdaspur, which is represented by Baiwa's brother Fatehjang Singh Bajwa. The list was released after the party's central election committee chaired by party chief Sonia Gandhi cleared the names in its meeting held on Thursday.

The first list has as many as nine women candidates, representing around 10 per cent so far. The party has given 40 per cent



seats to women in Uttar Pradesh, where it is going to polls with a focus on women empowerment.

The party has also adopted 'one family, one ticket' formula while distributing the party tickets. Former PCC president and campaign committee chief Sunil Jakhar will not contest the assembly polls and his nephew Sandeep Jakhar will contest the Abohar assembly seat instead.

Similarly, Punjab minister Brahm Mohindra will not contest and his son Mohit Mohindra will contest in his place from Patiala rural assembly seat

All other sitting ministers will

contest from their respective constituencies they currently represent. Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal will contest from Bathinda Urban, PWD Minister Vijay Inder Singla from Sangrur, Water Suppy and Sanitation Minister Razia Sultana from Malerkotla and Industries Minister Gurkirat Singh Kotli from Khanna.

Other ministers like Rana Gurjit Singh will recontest from his Kapurthala assembly constituency, Tript Rajinder Bajwa from Fatehgarh Churian, Randeep Singh Nabha from Amloh, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring from Gidderbaha and Pargat Singh from

Jalandhar Cantt.

Besides ministers like Sangat Singh Gilzian has been fielded from his Urmar seat, Aruna Chaudhary from Dina Nanagar, Raj Kumar Verka from Amritsar West-SC, Sukhbinder Sarkaria from Rajasansi and Bharat Bhushan Ashu from Ludhiana West. Former deputy chief minister Rajinder Kaur Bhattal has been fielded from Lehra constituency which she had lost in the last assembly polls.

CONTROVERSIAL PUNJABI

SISTER MALVIKA SOOD

THE FIRST LIST HAS AS

MANY AS NINE WOMEN

CANDIDATES, REPRESENTING

AROUND 10 PER CENT SO FAR

WHO JOINED THE

FROM MOGA

SINGER SIDHU MUSSEWALA,

CONGRESS SOMETIME AGO

WILL CONTEST FROM MANSA AND ACTOR SONU SOOD'S

Rupinder Kaur 'Ruby', who had switched sides from the AAP to Congress, has been fielded by the party from Malout-Sc seat.



WINDOW TO THE WORLD

Kolkata

Jaishankar holds talks India logs 2,68,833 fresh Covid cases with Lankan minister PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

As close friends and maritime neighbours, both India and Sri Lanka stand to gain from closer

economic interlinkages, the External Affairs Minister conveyed during the virtual interaction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Jan 15: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Saturday held discussions with Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa on projects by India that would strengthen the economy of the island nation and sought an early release of detained Indian fishermen on humanitarian considerations.

During the neeting. Jaishankaı

New Delhi, Jan 15: India regis-

ergy, renewable energy, power and manufacturing. During the "detailed" meeting,

Jaishankar also raised the issue of Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody and urged for their early release as a humanitarian gesture."EAM brought up the issue of

tered 2,68,833 new Covid infections in a day taking the tally to

3,68,50,962, which includes 6,041 Omicron variant cases, according to the Union Health Ministry data on Saturday. With 402 more deaths, the num-

ber of people who have succumbed to the viral disease has risen to 4,85,752. The case fatality rate was 1.32 per cent. A total of 6,041 Omicron cases has been detected so far, an increase of 5.01 per cent since Friday, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The daily positivity rate was 16.66 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 12.84 per cent. Active cases have increased to 14.17.820, the highest in around 223 days, and comprise 3.85 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate has decreased to 94.83 per cent, the Health Ministry said.

In a day, the active caseload in the country has increased by



Government healthworkers collect swab samples of passengers arriving from Mumbai-via-Chhattisgarh for Covid-19 test, amid concerns over rising Omicron cases in Ranch PTI PHOTO

1,45,747. The total number of people who have recuperated from the disease so far has risen to 3,49,47,390. The cumulative Covid vaccine doses administered in the country has exceeded 156.02 crore. India's COVID-19 tally had

crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh

on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 last

With 402 more deaths, the number of people who have succumbed to the viral disease has risen to 4,85,752

year and three crore on June 23, 2021. The 402 new fatalities include 199 from Kerala and 34 from Delhi.

Of the total deaths reported so far in the country, 1,41,756 are from Maharashtra, 50,568 from Kerala, 38,411 from Karnataka, 36,956 from Tamil Nadu, 25,305 from Delhi, 22,949 from Uttar Pradesh and 20,013 from West Bengal.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities. "Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

Woman killed

.....

Korba: A 22-year-old woman was trampled to death by a wild elephant in the forest near her village in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district on Saturday, officials said. The incident occurred around 8 AM when the woman, identified as Paan Kunwar, was grazing her goats and collecting woods in the forest near Ghui village, said BS Bhagat Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Surajpur forest division.

conveyed that India has always stood with Sri Lanka, and will continue to support that country in all possible ways for overcoming the economic and other challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs said.

As close friends and maritime neighbours, both India and Sri Lanka stand to gain from closer economic interlinkages, the external affairs minister conveyed during the virtual interaction. On his part, Rajapaksa recalled India's long-standing cooperation with Sri Lanka and deeply appreciated the gestures of support and welcomed Indian investments in a number of important spheres including ports, infrastructure, en-

Indian fishermen detained in Sri Lanka. He urged the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure early release of the detained fishermen on humanitarian considerations," the MEA said.

Last month, the ministry said that 68 fishermen from Tamil Nadu have been taken into custody by the Sri Lankan authorities between December 18 and 20. While expressing concern over the detention, the ministry asserted that steps were being taken to ensure their early release. The issue of fishermen remains

one of the irritants in India and Sri Lanka ties and there have also been several alleged incidents of Sri Lankan Navy personnel firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Leh, Jan 15: A doppler weather radar was Saturday inaugurated here with Ladakh Lt Governor R

K Mathur requesting for a similar facility at Kargil, an official spokesperson said. Mathur virtually attended the in-

auguration of the four doppler weather radars, including the one at Leh. by Union Minister Jitendra Singh, on the occasion of the 147th Foundation Day of India Meteorological Department (IMD) in New Delhi.

The other radars are stationed at Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai.

IS BOUND TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR SP PRESIDENT AKHILESH YADAV

Thanking the minister of state in the prime minister's office and IMD for providing the facility at Leh, Mathur stated that the radar and the establishment of a meteorological centre at Leh would provide great service to the people of Ladakh.

Doppler weather radar inaugurated at Leh

Mathur stressed the need for decentralised and detailed information for every valley due to the different weather patterns in each valley of Ladakh, the spokesperson said.

He also advocated the need for decentralised weather information covering at least the major aviation routes in Ladakh and timely input by IMD for internal flying of fixedwind planes or helicopters.

He also highlighted the need for more weather forecasts, especially in cases of travel to areas such as Nubra, Kargil and Drass in helicopters, the spokesperson said. The LG informed that the people of Ladakh have confidence in the weather-related information provided by the IMD and appreciated the weather forecasts made by the department for a cold desert and frag-

ile eco-sensitive zone such as Ladakh. He also sought the support from the minister and IMD to provide more decentralised weather information about Kargil where the construction of the Zoji La tunnel is currently underway.

Seven die after consuming spurious liquor

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Jan 15: At least seven persons in Bihar's Nalanda district have died after allegedly consuming spurious liquor following which the authorities have initiated an action, officials said Saturday.

Nalanda District Magistrate Shashank Shubhankar has said a "combing operation" has started in the area around the Chhoti Pahari locality. Shubhankar said he and district Superintendent of Police, Ashok Mishra will lead the combing operation to check and find if any liquor manufacturing units are functioning in the region.

Both Shubhankar and Mishra visited the Chhoti Pahari area on Saturday. "We have taken the statement of the victims' family members. Two of them have claimed that they were having other diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure etc. One of the victims' family claimed that the deceased individual often consumed liquor," Shubhankar said.

'We have sent the bodies for post-mortem to ascertain the cause of the death," Shubhankar said. Meanwhile, the family members of the deceased individuals claimed that the deaths have happened due to the consumption of "poisonous liquor"

Reacting to the deaths, Prem Ranjan Patel, the spokesperson of the BJP Bihar unit, said: "We have a long-standing demand to review the decision of liquor ban in the state. Liquor is not banned in Bihar. It is available everywhere as the liquor mafias are involved in this... and are supported by the officials in the police and excise department. They are responsible for the failure of liquor ban in Bihar. "

Battle for UP: SP faces problem of plenty Five dead Jaipur: Five people, including TOO MANY CLAIMANTS ON EVERY SEAT AND THE THREAT OF THE SEAT GOING TO A NEW ENTRANT

an elderly woman and a boy, were killed and two others injured when a car in which they were travelling collided head-on with a bus in Rajasthan's Nagaur district Saturday, police said. The accident occurred in the morning due to dense fog, they said.

held in Jammu

Jammu: A Pakistani national was arrested shortly after he inadvertently crossed into the Indian side along the International Border (IB) in Samba sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, a senior BSF official said. Deputy Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF), S P S Sandhu said the intruder would be returned to Pakistani Rangers through flag meeting after completion of necessary formalities

Pakistan national

ties, is now facing the problem of plenty. Too many claimants on every seat and the threat of the seat going to a new entrant is bound to create problems for SP president Akhilesh Yadav who will have a

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Jan 14: The Samajwadi

Party, which has been happily in-

ducting leaders from other par-

tough time handling the dissent in party ranks. The eleven legislators who have walked in from BJP, and the nine legislators who came in earlier from BSP and others who have been joining the SP over the past months, are all claimants for tick-

ets. "Till now there are around four dozen leaders from other parties who have joined SP and want tickets. Besides, the party is giving

around 60 tickets to the allies, including Rashtriya Lok Dal. This implies that around 100 tickets are not available to those party leaders who have worked relentlessly in their respective constituencies in the past five years," said a senior party functionary.

The entry of top leaders like Swami Prasad Maurya, Dara Singh Chauhan, Dharam Singh Saini of BJP. Imran Masood of the Congress and Ram Achal Rajbhar and Lalji Verma of BSP, has left the SP workers in their constituencies worried

"Inducting leaders, just weeks or months before the elections, is unethical and unfair for those who have worked on the ground. We toil for five years and then a leader walks in from another party and takes away the ticket. What are we expected to do in such a situation?" asked a SP ticket aspirant



from Ambedkar Nagar. He said that he had met a senior party leader in this regard and was told, 'wait for next time"

"The next time is five years away," he said. Samajwadi Party MLA Manoj Pandey, for instance, is the sitting MLA from the

Unchahar seat for the second consecutive term. He had defeated Swami Prasad Maurya's son Utkasrh Maurya twice-once, when he contested on the BSP ticket and on the BJP ticket.

Pandey has been on tenterhooks ever since Maurya switched to Samajwadi Party this week. Akhilesh will have a tough time taking a call on this seat. Sources said that he has offered a seat to Maurya's son from Prayagraj but the decision is still pending.

In Saharanpur, the SP has two new leaders -Dharam Singh Saini and Imran Masood. Their decision to join the SP has already unsettled few leaders and their supporters in Saharanpur not only from the SP but its alliance partner RLD which wields its influence over west UP.

'The Samajwadi Party has a very committed cadre but if they get upset, it would not augur well for the party. The cadres have faced adverse circumstances in the past five years but have remained loyal to the leadership which will now have to assuage feelings on these 100 seats," said political analyst and senior journalist R K Singh.









uote

human behaviour, in the sense of a

greater responsibility to protect

KLAUS IOHANNIS PRESIDENT, ROMANIA

Education is

one of the

pillars of

response to climate

leads to changes in

society as a whole

India's

Lanka, but they

from the IMF

cannot bail us out.

While we need to

honour the promises

intervention

has helped Sri

made to India to realise the gains. In

the meantime, we need to seek help

WA WIJEWARDENA | ECONOMIST, SRI LANKA

actual numbers of cases leads me to

believe that we are close to the peak

of this wave in terms of cases

PAUL KELLY CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

In terms of the

actual of the

Covid-19

pandemic. there are

signs for hope. Now

forecasting based on

the actual

AUSTRALIA

change, as education

nature and the future of

improving the

international

Single page of

Spider-Man sells for record

\$3.36 million



Dallas, Jan 15: A single page of artwork from

a 1984 Spider-Man comic book sold at auction

Marvel Comics' "Secret Wars No. 8" brings

the first appearance of Spidey's black suit. The

symbiote suit would eventually lead to the

emergence of the character Venom. The

record bidding, which started at \$330,000 and

soared past \$3 million, came on the first day

of Heritage Auctions' four-day comic event

Mike Zeck's artwork for page 25 from

Thursday for a record \$3.36 million.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

in Dallas.

The amassing of **Russian troops and** equipment in and around Ukraine jeopardises security in the entire region. These aggressive actions must be deterred MELANIE JOLY | FOREIGN MINISTER, CANADA

Wolverine.

COMICS CRAZE

The previous record for an interior page

of a US comic book was \$657,250 for art from

a 1974 issue of "The Incredible Hulk" that fea-

tured a tease for the first appearance of

copies of Superman's debut, Action Comics

No. 1, sold for \$3.18 million, putting it among

the priciest books ever auctioned. None of the

sellers or buyers was identified.

Also Thursday, one of the few surviving

SERENDIPITY SAPPHIRE

The massive star sapphire cluster found last year in Sri Lanka has been registered in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest. The cluster weighs around 510 kg or 2.5 million carats and has been named the 'Serendipity Sapphire'



6 shot at outside **Oregon concert**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eugene (US), Jan 15: Six people were shot during a concert at an event hall in Oregon Friday night, and the suspected shooter was not vet in custody, police said. Officers responded to the WOW Hall in Eugene after reports of a shooting around 9.30 pm, police said in a statement.

"What law enforcement found when they came on scene is what you would exactly expect when six people just got shot," Eugene Police Chief Chris Skinner said at a news conference. "People are just trying to get out of here, their friends are on the ground, they're trying to help.'

Six people were taken to the hospital, and at least one of them was in critical condition, Skinner said. The extent of the other injuries was not immediately clear.

The shooting happened in a back parking lot outside the venue, police and WOW Hall leaders said.

A concert featuring Lil Bean & Zay Bang, and other artists, was being held at the hall at the time. Police said no suspect was in cus-

tody. Skinner described "chaos" when officers arrived, and said investigators had not received much information from possible witnesses. WOW Hall released a statement

on its website acknowledging the shooting but declining to speculate on any details.



thank all first responders who came so quickly to ensure everyone's safety and administer first aid,' the message said. "We believe all staff and volunteers are safe and accounted for.'

Investigators have not determined whether the shooting was random or targeted, the police chief said. Eugene is located about 110 miles (177 km) south of Portland, Oregon,

'Expect worse mutants'

Since it emerged in mid-Nov, Omicron has raced across the globe like fire through dry grass. Research shows the variant is at least twice as contagious as delta and at least four times as contagious as the original version of the virus



ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHORT TAKES Russia detains 3 **REvil members**

Moscow: A Moscow court Saturday remanded in custody three more suspected members of the ransomware crime group REvil over illegal trafficking of funds, a day after Russia claimed it had dismantled the group at the request of the United States. The court identified the three men as Mikhail Golovachuk, Ruslan Khansvyarov and Dmitry Korotayev. In a rare apparent demonstration of US-Russian collaboration at a time of high tensions between the two over Ukraine, Russian authorities detained and charged the REVil group's members this week.

US South braces for winter storm

They

Washington, Jan 15: Get ready to learn more Greek letters. Scientists warn that omicron's whirlwind advance practically ensures it won't be the last version of the coronavirus to worry the world.

Every infection provides a chance for the virus to mutate, and omicron has an edge over its predecessors. It spreads way faster despite emerging on a planet with a stronger patchwork of immunity from vaccines and prior illness.

That means more people in whom the virus can further evolve. Experts don't know what the next variants will look like or how they might shape the pandemic, but they say there's no guarantee the sequels of omicron will cause milder illness or that existing vaccines will work against them.

fections that seem to be the most likely breeding grounds for new variants," said Dr Stuart Campbell Ray, an infectious disease expert at Johns Hopkins University. It's only when you have very widespread infection that you're going to provide the opportunity for that to occur.'

Because omicron appears to cause less severe disease than delta, its behaviour has kindled hope that it could be the start of a trend that eventually makes the virus milder like a common cold.

over time.

ple developed mild symptoms ini-

tially, spread the virus by inter-

acting with others, then got very

sick later," Ray explained by way

the virus will evolve to mildness.

But there's no particular reason

for it to do so," he said. "I don't

"People have wondered whether

of example.

ways get less deadly

"A variant could also

achieve its main goal --

replicating -- if infected peo-

The faster omicron spreads, the more opportunities there are for mutation, potentially leading to more variants

LEONARDO MARTINEZ urge PIDEMIOLOGIST AT BOSTON wider vaccination UNIVERSIT now, while today's

shots still work. Omicron is more likely than delta to reinfect individuals who previously had COVID-19 and to cause "breakthrough infections" in vaccinated people while also attacking the unvaccinated. The World Health Organisation reported a record 15 million new COVID-19 cases for the week of

Jan 3-9, a 55% increase from the previous week Along with keeping comparatively healthy people out of work and school, the ease with which the variant spreads increases the odds the virus will infect and linger inside people with weakened immune systems -- giving it more time to develop potent mutations. "It's the longer, persistent in-

UK govt apologises to Queen over party on eve of Philip's funeral



Queen Elizabeth II, after revelations restrictions by partying on the eve of Prince Philip's funeral

"It is deeply regrettable that this took place at a time of national mourning and Number 10 (Downing Street) has apologised to the palace," Johnson's official spokesman told reporters.

after a slew of similar allegations.

Johnson has so far tried to weather the storm of public and political outrage, apologising in parliament this week for attending one of the events in May 2020.

But the two parties April 16, 2021 as the Queen prepared to bury her husband of 73 years -- and revealed by the Daily Telegraph -

takes the scandal to another level. The newspaper, for whom Johnson worked before going into politics, is normally supportive of his Conservative government.

Prince Philip's funeral at Windsor Castle was limited to just 30 guests due to government Covid rules, forcing the Queen to sit alone in a church pew to say her final farewell.

About the same number of

Johnson's staff held separate boozy

bashes the night before, with music

from a DJ, and alcohol bought from

a supermarket and smuggled into

Johnson, who is currently iso-

lating due to a close family mem-

ber contracting Covid, was at his

official country residence,

Chequers, at the time, according

to the Telegraph.

Downing Street in a suitcase.

'We at the WOW Hall want to

Philippines to buy BrahMos N Korea tests railway-bourne missiles from India in \$375mn deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul. Jan 15: North Korea

It's a possibility, experts say, given that viruses don't spread well if they kill their

hosts very quickly. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE But viruses don't al

London, Jan 15: The UK government Friday apologised to that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's staff broke coronavirus

The message to the 95-year-old head of state is understood to have been sent through official channels by telephone, and not personally sent by Johnson, who is under growing pressure to quit

think we can be confident that the virus will become less lethal over time." Getting progressively better at evading immunity helps a virus to survive over the long term. When SARS-CoV-2 first struck, no one was immune. But infections and vaccines have conferred at least some immunity to much of the world, so the virus must adapt.

Atlanta: Forecasts of snow and ice as far south as Georgia have put a big part of the Southeast on an emergency preparedness footing as shoppers scoured store shelves for storm supplies and crews raced to treat highways and roads as a major winter storm approached from the Midwest. In Virginia, where a blizzard left thousands of motorists trapped on clogged highways earlier this month, outgoing Gov Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency and urged people to take the approaching storm seriously. In North Carolina, some store shelves were stripped bare of essentials including bread and milk. Elsewhere, trucks began spraying a briny mixture on hundreds of miles of interstates and other roads to prevent icing across the region.

Kazakhstan ups death toll to 225

Moscow: A top lawenforcement official in Kazakhstan said Saturday that 225 people died during the violent demonstrations that shook the country this month, a significantly higher number than previously announced. Serik Shalabayev, head of the criminal prosecution service in the general prosecutor's office, said 19 police officers or servicemen were among the dead, news reports said. More than 4,300 people were injured, he said. The previous official death toll was 164. The Russian Defense Ministry said Saturday that its troops had returned home, but it was unclear if forces from other alliance countries remained in Kazakhstan.

Manila, Jan 15: The Philippines has finalised a deal to acquire a shore-based anti-ship missile system from India for nearly \$375 million to beef up its navy, the Southeast Asian nation's defence minister said.

REUTERS

The Philippines is in the late stages of a five-year, 300 billion pesos (\$5.85 billion) project to modernise its military's outdated hard-(EEZ) ware that includes warships from World War Two and helicopters

used by the United States in the Vietnam War Under the deal negotiated with the government of India, Brahmos Aerospace Private Ltd will deliver three batteries, train operators and maintainers, and provide logistics support, Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said in a Facebook

post late Friday. It was conceptualised in 2017, but faced delays in budget allocation and due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The new anti-ship system aims



to deter foreign vessels from encroaching on the country's 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone

In 2018, the Philippines bought Israeli-made Spike ER missiles, its first-ever ship-borne missile systems for maritime deterrence.

Despite friendlier ties between China and the Philippines under President Rodrigo Duterte, Beijing has remained adamant in claiming large portions of the South China Sea, a conduit for goods in excess of \$3.4 trillion every year. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have lodged competing claims.

A 2016 international arbitration ruling, however, said the Chinese claims had no legal basis.

Saturday said it test-launched ballistic missiles from a train in what was seen as an apparent retaliation against fresh sanctions imposed by the Biden administration.

The report by the North state media came a day after South Korea's military said it detected the North firing two missiles into the sea in its third weapons launch this month.

The launch came hours after Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry issued a statement berating the United States for imposing new sanctions over the North's previous tests and warned of stronger and more explicit action if Washington maintains its "confrontational stance.

North Korea in recent months has been ramping up tests of new missiles designed to overwhelm missile defences in the region amid pandemic-related border closures and a freeze in nuclear diplomacy with the United States.

Some experts say North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is going back



he missiles fired from rail cars appeared to be a solid-fuel short-range weapon the North has apparently modelled after Russia's Iskander mobile ballistic system

to a tried-and-true technique of pressuring the United States and neighbours with missile launches and outrageous threats before offering negotiations meant to extract concessions.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Friday's exercise was aimed at checking

he North first launched these missiles from a train in September last year as part of its efforts to diversify its launch options

the alert posture of its army's rail-borne missile regiment. The troops swiftly moved to the launch site after receiving the missiletest order on short notice and fired two "tactical guided" missiles that accurately struck a sea target, the report said.

The North's Rodong Sinmun

at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea, said the North likely staged a launch that hadn't been previously planned to demonstrate its opposition toward US sanctions. The North first launched these

newspaper published photos of

what appeared to be two different

missiles soaring above from rail

Cheong Seong-Chang, an analyst

cars engulfed in smoke.

missiles from a train in September last year as part of its efforts to diversify its launch options, which now includes various vehicles and may eventually include submarines depending on the country's progress in its pursuit of such capabilities.

Firing a missile from a train could add mobility, but some experts say North Korea's simple rail networks running through its relatively small territory would be quickly destroyed by enemies during a crisis.

The Biden administration Wednesday imposed sanctions on five North Koreans over their roles in obtaining equipment and technology for the North's missile programs in its response to the North's previous tests this month.

Volcano erupts in Pacific, islanders rush to escape tsunami

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wellington, Jan 15: An undersea volcano erupted in spectacular fashion near the Pacific nation of Tonga Saturday, sending large tsunami waves crashing across the shore and people rushing to higher ground.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or the extent of the damage as communications with the small nation remained problematic. Video posted to social media showed large waves washing ashore in coastal areas, swirling around homes and buildings.

New Zealand's military said it was monitoring the situation and remained on standby, ready to assist if asked.

The Tonga Meteorological Services said a tsunami warning

was in effect for the entire archipelago, and data from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre showed waves of 2.6 feet had been detected.

Residents of American Samoa were alerted of the tsunami warning by local broadcasters as well as church bells that rang territorywide. An outdoor siren warning system was out of service. Those living along the shoreline quickly moved to higher ground.

As night fell, there were no reports of any damage and the Hawaii-based tsunami centre cancelled the alert.

Authorities in the nearby island nations of Fiji and Samoa also issued warnings, telling people to avoid the shoreline due to strong currents and dangerous waves. The Japan Meteorological Agency said there may be a slight swelling



of the water along the Japanese coasts, but it was not expected to cause any damage.

The Islands Business news site reported that a convoy of police and military troops evacuated Tonga's King Tupou VI from his palace near the shore. He was among the many residents who headed for higher ground.

The explosion of the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano was the latest in a series of spectacular eruptions.

Satellite images showed a huge eruption, a plume of ash, steam and gas rising like a mushroom above the blue Pacific waters

A Twitter user identified as Dr Faka'iloatonga Taumoefolau posted video showing waves crashing ashore

"Can literally hear the volcano eruption, sounds pretty violent," he wrote, adding in a later post "Raining ash and tiny pebbles, darkness blanketing the sky."

Earlier, the Matangi Tonga news site reported that scientists observed massive explosions, thunder and lightning near the volcano after it started erupting early Friday. Satellite images showed a 5-kmwide plume rising into the air to about 20 km.

More than 2,300 km away in New Zealand, officials were warning of storm surges from the eruption.

The National Emergency Management Agency said some parts of New Zealand could expect "strong and unusual currents and unpredictable surges at the shore following a large volcanic eruption"

The volcano is located about 64 🛁 km north of the capital, Nuku'alofa. Back in late 2014 and early 2015, a series of eruptions in the area created a small new island and disrupted international air travel to the Pacific archipelago for severaldays. Tonga is home to about 105,000 people.











business



We're officially building an open bitcoin mining system. We want to make mining more distributed and efficient in every way, from buying, to set up, to maintenance, to mining JACK DORSEY | FORMER CEO, TWITTER

JAN 16 TO BE FETED AS 'STARTUP' DAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday announced that January 16 will be celebrated as 'Startup' day. "Small businesses are the spine of India's economy and Startups are the game changers," Modi said as he interacted with Start-Ups via video conferencing as part of the Start-Up India Innovation Week



uote

The telecom industry needs investment in robust and reliable communication infrastructure to meet the rising

demand for connectivity. There is an urgent need to reduce the burden of levies on the sector

SP KOCHHAR DIRECTOR GENERAL, COAI

Sales of passenger vehicles in O3 has been the lowest in five years, while for the two-wheelers it has been the lowest in nine years

RAJESH MENON DIRECTOR GENERAL, SIAM

This acquisition is a perfect fit from Brilloca's standpoint for secure, sustained, and accelerated business performance

SANDIP SOMANY CHAIRMAN AND NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SHIL

SHORT TAKES

MSI hikes prices by up to 4.3%

New Delhi: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Saturday said it has increased prices of its models by up to 4.3 per cent with immediate effect to partially offset the impact of the rise in input costs. The company has enhanced prices across its models in the range of 0.1 per cent to 4.3 per cent owing to increase in various input costs. The auto major has already hiked the vehicle prices three times last year - by 1.4 per cent in January, 1.6 per cent in April and 1.9 per cent in September, taking the total quantum to 4.9 per cent.

Forex reserves dip by \$878mn

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$878 million during the week ended January 7. The Reserve Bank of India's forex

New norms for EV charging infra

The objective is to enable a faster adoption of electric vehicles in India by ensuring safe, reliable,

accessible and affordable charging infrastructure and ecosystem

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 15: The power ministry has unveiled revised norms to support creation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, with an aim to enable a faster adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the country by ensuring safe, reliable ecosystem

The revised guidelines include allowing EV owners to charge them at their residence/offices using their existing electricity connections and de-licensing the setting up of EV charging infra. "The Union Ministry of Power has promulgated the revised con-

solidated Guidelines & Standards for Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles (EV) on 14th January 2022," a power ministry statement said Saturday. An exhaustive list of compli-

ance requirements for Public Charging Station (PCS) have also been outlined. These include norms for "appropriate" infrastructure for civil, electricity and safety requirements. The guidelines have been made further technology agnostic by providing for not only the prevailing international charging standards available in the market but also the new Indian charging standards. In order to address the challenge of making a charging station financially viable in the period

Unilever eyes GSK's consumer goods arm in 50bn-pound deal

of growth of EVs, a revenue shar-

REUTERS

Washington, Jan 15: Consumer goods giant Unilever said it had approached GlaxoSmithKline about buying the pharmaceutical group's consumer goods arm, after a newspaper reported that a 50 billionpound (\$68.4 billion) bid it made had been rebuffed.

Unilever, which has been under fire from some investors over its underperforming share price, confirmed the approach about a potential acquisition of the business in a statement Saturday.

"GSK Consumer Healthcare is a leader in the attractive consumer health space and would be a strong strategic fit as Unilever continues



The tariff for supply of electricity to PCS shall be a ¹/₂ The new norms also provide that any public charging single part tariff and shall not exceed the "Average station/chain of charging stations may obtain electricity Cost of Supply" till March 31, 2025 from any generation company through open access

ing model has been put in place for land used for the same

A model revenue sharing agreement has also been included under the guidelines. Such revenue sharing agreement may be initially entered by parties for a period of 10 vears. The revenue sharing model may also be adopted by the public land-owning agency for providing the land to a private entity for installation of Public Charging Stations on bidding basis with floor price of Re 1/ kWh.

Timelines have been prescribed as per the Electricity (Rights of Consumers). Accordingly, PCS shall be provided connection within seven days in metro cities, fifteen days in other municipal areas and thirty days in rural areas.

The revised norms provide that as electricity is being provided at concessional rates and also considering the fact that subsidy is being provided by the central/state governments in many cases for setting up public charging stations, the state government shall fix the ceiling of service charges to be charged by such charging stations.

The new norms also provide that any public charging station/chain of charging stations may obtain electricity from any generation company through open access. Open access shall be provided for this purpose within 15 days of receipt of the application complete in all respect.

REVISED GUIDELINES

Any individual/entity is free to set

without the requirement of a licence

provided that, such stations meet the

performance standards and protoco

government/public entities shall be

provided for installation of PCS to a

revenue sharing basis for installation

of PCS at a fixed rate of Re 1/kWh

government/public entity on a

up public charging stations (PCS)

technical, safety as well as

Land available with the

No other surcharge or charges shall be levied except mentioned in this provision. It provides that Bureau of Energy Efficiency shall create a Web-Portal/Software/Mobile Application for the database of Public Charging Stations through out the country.

Public charging station will be required to tie up with at least one online Network Service Providers (NSPs) to enable advance remote/online booking of charging slots by EV owners.

DOMINANCE GAMES Google, FB bosses colluded in online advertising sales



The records, part of an

anti-trust lawsuit by a

coalition of US states

targeting Google, make

serious allegations

against Big Tech giants

long accused of

holding monopolies

similar agreements we have with

other bidding platforms, have helped

to increase competition for ad place-

ments," a spokesperson said in

enable Meta to deliver more value

to advertisers while fairly com-

pensating publishers, resulting in

Google referred to the agree-

ment internally as "Jedi Blue,"

the color being a reference to

Facebook's logo, according to the

filing. "No rational developer would

choose to have its auctions rigged

by the market's two largest buyers,"

"So, Google and Facebook swore

themselves to secrecy about the

The US government filed its

66

Industry and Commerce

Minister of Telangana

state in India. Will be

happy to partner Tesla

in working through the

Hey Elon, I am the

blockbuster lawsuit in October of

terms of their agreement."

"These business relationships

reply to an AFP inquiry.

better outcomes for all."

the suit said.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

San Francisco, Jan 15: Top bosses of Google and Facebook were directly involved in approving an allegedly illegal 2018 deal to cement their dominance of the online advertising market, US court documents revealed Friday.

According to the states' accusations, the online search colossus sought to oust competition by manipulating ad auctions -- the ultra-sophisticated system that determines which ads appear on web pages based on the anonymised profiles of internet users

The legal documents filed in a New York court clearly refer to Sundar Pichai, chief of Google's parent firm Alphabet, as well as Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg and CEO Mark Zuckerberg -- even if their names were redacted.

"Google CEO Sundar Pichai also personally signed off on the terms of the deal," the suit said. The documents note that the eco-

nomic terms were emailed to Facebook's CEO and he was advised: "We're nearly ready to sign and need your approval to move forward."

It was the third time the suit was amended, and did not list Facebook or its parent company Meta as defendants

last year, accusing Google of main-"Meta's non-exclusive bidding taining an "illegal monopoly" in onagreement with Google and the line search and advertising.

Musk invited to 'set shop' in Telangana

MUSK THURSDAY TWEETED THAT THE EV-MAKER IS FACING A "LOT OF CHALLENGES" FOR ITS CAR LAUNCH IN INDIA

BHEL inaugurates first CTM plant

Hyderabad, Jan 15: Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey Saturday dedicated India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' (CTM) pilot plant to the nation here, as part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' cele-

Pandey also inaugurated an exhibition on 'Products Developed under Aatmanirbhar Bharat' organised at Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited's (BHEL) Hyderabad unit, it said. "The role of the man-

realising this vision. The government has already highlighted the importance of the manufacturing sector through schemes like Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat", he said. Pandev further said the capital goods industry is the backbone of the manufacturing sector as it provides critical inputs such as ma-

The Union minister goals of PM Modi's vision is to build a

chinery and equipment to a broad set of user-industries.

The 0.25 TPD (tonne per day) capacity CTM pilot plant that has been indigenously designed, developed and installed by BHEL is currently producing methanol with purity of more than 99 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

brations, an official release said.

ufacturing sector will be crucial in

said one of the important

self-reliant nation

from high-ash Indian coal.

reserves decreased to \$632.736 billion from \$633.614 billion reported for December 31, 2021. The country's forex reserves comprises of foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, SDRs, and the country's reserve position with the IMF. On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged lower by \$497 million to \$569.392 billion.

HDFC net profit rises 18% in Q3

.....

New Delhi: The country's largest private sector HDFC Bank Saturday reported an 18.1 per cent rise in its standalone net profit at ₹10,342.20 crore for the guarter ended December 2021 helped by healthy non-interest income and fall in bad loans provisioning. The bank had registered a net profit of ₹8,758.29 crore in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal year. Total income on a standalone basis rose to ₹40,651.60 crore in the October-December quarter of FY22, as against ₹37,522.92 crore in the same period of FY21, HDFC Bank said.

to re-shape its portfolio," it said. "There can be no certainty that any agreement will be reached."

GSK declined to comment on the approach. The group's consumer goods business is due to be spun out into a separate listing in the middle of this year.

Earlier, Britain's Sunday Times said the Unilever bid for the business made late last year was worth roughly 50 billion pounds, and had been rejected as too low by GSK and Pfizer, which owns a minority stake in the division.

The approach by Unilever, which owns brands such as Dove soap and Marmite, for Glaxo's portfolio of household brands including Panadol painkillers and Sensodyne toothpaste was understood to have been unsolicited, the report added.

The offer comes at a time Unilever's CEO Alan Jope is under pressure to turn around its languishing stock price as it struggles to compete in the face of high inflationary costs, especially in emerging markets, its biggest source of revenue. The FTSE-listed conglomerate's stock has fallen 10% over the past year.

10 cos bid for ACC battery storage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 15: RIL subsidiary Reliance New Energy Solar, Hyundai Global Motors, Ola Electric, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) and Larsen & Toubro are among the 10 firms that have submitted bids under the ₹18,100 crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery storage, the government said Saturday A total of 10 bids with capacity

of 130 Gwh -- over twice the manufacturing capacity to be awarded -- were received.

Industries, Rajesh Exports, India Power Corporation and Lucas-TVS have also submitted bids.

in India's stellar progress as a world class manufacturing destination which resonates strongly with Prime Minister's clarion call of Atma Nirbhar Bharat - a self-reliant India," an official statement said. The government approved the

Amara Raja Batteries, Exide

PLI SCHEME

"Industry has reposed its faith



PLI scheme 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage' for achieving manufacturing capacity of 50 Giga Watt Hour (GWh) for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities with a budgetary outlay of Rs 18,100 crore.

Under the scheme, the manufacturing facility would have to be set up within a period of two years. The incentive will be disbursed thereafter over a period of five years on sale of batteries manufactured in India.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 15: Days after Tesla CEO Elon Musk spoke about challenges when asked about the electric car's entry into the Indian market, TRS Working President KT Rama Rao has invited the billionaire businessman to "set shop" in Telangana.

Rao said Telangana is a champion in sustainability initiatives and his government would be happy to partner with Tesla in working through the challenges.

"Hey Elon, I am the Industry and Commerce Minister of Telangana state in India. Will be happy to partner Tesla in working through the challenges to set shop in India/Telangana," Rao said in a reply to Musk's tweet.

"Our state is a champion in sustainability initiatives and a top notch business destination in India." he added.

Musk Thursday informed that the EV-maker is facing a "lot of



lot of challenges with the gov-

Musk was replying to a Twitter

user, who asked: "Yo @elonmusk

any further update as to when

Tesla's will launch in India? They're

pretty awesome and deserve to be

Tesla wants to begin selling im-

ported cars in India this year but

says taxes in the country are among

the highest in the world.

in every corner of the world!"

ernment," Musk tweeted

challenges to set shop in India/Telangana KT RAMA RAO | INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE MINISTER, TELANGANA challenges" for its car launch in With a \$39,990 global price tag, India. "Still working through a

Tesla Model 3 may remain as an affordable model in the US but with import duties, it would become unaffordable in the Indian market with an expected price tag of around ₹60 lakh.

Currently, India levies 100 per cent tax on the imported cars of price more than \$40,000 (Rs 30 lakh) inclusive of insurance and shipping expenses, and cars less than \$40,000 are subject to 60 per cent import tax.

Lenders expected to exhibit strong Q3FY22 results

China's economy grew 8% in 2021

Beijing: China's economy expanded at its fastest pace for 10 years in 2021, according to an AFP poll of analysts, but its strong recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic is threatened by Omicron and a property sector slowdown. The eight percent growth would be well above the government's target of more than six percent, and comes on the back of a strong start to the year as a "zero-Covid" policy allowed the country to lead the global economic recovery.

AS PER THE REPORT. THE REVIVAL IN **BUSINESS MOMENTUM IS LIKELY TO DRIVE A 10.4% YoY LOAN GROWTH FOR THE BROKERAGE HOUSE'S COVERAGE UNIVERSE.** WITH LARGE PRIVATE BANKS AND LARGE **NBFCS CONTINUING TO CLOCK MARKET SHARE GAINS**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 15: Listed lenders in India's equity markets are expected to report 'optically' strong earnings growth for Q3FY22, said HDFC Securities in a report. Accordingly, the brokerage house

expects its coverage universe of

23 lenders to report 51 per cent YoY growth during the period under review. This trend, the report said will come largely on the back of expected normalisation of provisions.

"The pace of collections and re-



coveries continues to improve, which, concurrent with normalised economic activity, is likely to moderate the stressed pool," the report said.

"Disbursements are likely to witness healthy growth, driven by seasonal pick-up in retail loans as large corporate Capex remains elusive.

As per the report, the revival in business momentum is likely to drive a 10.4 per cent YoY loan growth for the brokerage house's coverage universe, with large private banks and large NBFCs (BAF) continuing to clock market share gains.

'The third wave of the pandemic is unlikely to impact Q3 earnings except in underlying sectors like travel and tourism that are already under stress.

"However, we expect most lenders to maintain a surplus provisioning buffer for potential asset quality issues. We tweak our FY22E-FY24E forecasts for select lenders to factor in lower credit growth and marginally higher credit costs.

Besides, HDFC Securities continue to prefer large banks with strong balance sheets and formidable deposit franchises. Furthermore, it cited that business momentum continues to gather pace. "In a quarter relatively unaffected by the pandemic and nearnormal resumption of economic activity. we expect to see strong sequential growth in disbursements, particularly in retail and SME segments, riding on seasonal and pent- up demand.

"Provisional filings suggest that banks within our coverage universe continue to gain market share as reflected in loan growth at 12 per cent YoY compared to system-wide YoY credit growth at 7 per cent.'

At present, the brokerage house has 23 lenders in its coverage universeincluding ICICI Bank, SBI, Bajaj Finance, SBI Cards, and Axis Bank.





SPORTS

End of 'Captain' Virat

Right-hand batter steps down as Test skipper, a day after India's 1-2 series defeat in South Africa marking an end to his captaincy career in international cricket

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 15: A day after India lost the series 1-2 to South Africa with a seven-wicket defeat at Cape Town, Virat Kohli has stepped down as the Test captain.

Kohli, who first captained India at the Adelaide Test in 2014 against Australia, was appointed to the full-time role after MS Dhoni announced his retirement from the format ahead of the fourth Test at Sydney in January 2015. It also means that the Cape Town Test was the last match of Kohli as India captain.

"It's been 7 years of hard work, toil and relentless perseverance everyday to take the team in the right direction. I've done the job with absolute honesty and left nothing out there.

"Everything has to come to a halt at some stage and for me as Test Captain of India, it's now. There have been many ups and also some downs along the journey, but never has there been a lack of effort or lack of belief," said Kohli in his statement posted on his social media accounts Saturday.

Kohli stepped down from Test captaincy as the most successful skipper in the longest format of the game for India and fourth overall. Under his time as the captain,

India played 68 Tests, winning 40, losing 17 and drawing 11 matches, having a win percentage of 58.82 while registering memorable wins in overseas and home conditions. "I have always believed in giving

my 120 percent in everything I do, and if I can't do that, I know it's not the right thing to do. I have absolute clarity in my heart and I cannot be dishonest to my team.

"I want to thank the BCCI for giving me the opportunity to lead my country for such a long period of time and more importantly to all



the teammates who bought into the vision I had for the team from day one and never gave up in any situation. You guys have made this journey so memorable and beautiful," added Kohli.

The most notable victories from the time under Kohli will be the 2018/19 Border-Gavaskar Trophy win, where India won a Test series in Australia for the first time and leading 2-1 in England in the 2021 series apart from reaching the World Test Championship (WTC) final at Southampton in the same year.

He also took the Indian team to the number one ranking in Tests apart from overseeing the development of the pace-attack reaching a world-class level and fitness being given prime importance.

"To Ravi Bhai and the support group who were the engine behind this vehicle that moved us upwards in Test Cricket consistently, you all have played a massive role in bringing this vision to life. Lastly, a big thank you to MS Dhoni who believed in me as a Captain and found me to be an able individual who could take Indian Cricket forward," concluded the 33-year-old Kohli.

In September 2021, Kohli had announced that he would be leaving the T20I captaincy after the Men's T20 World Cup in the UAE. He had also stepped down as the captain of IPL side Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) after the completion of the second half of the tournament in the UAE. Two months later, in December, Kohli was replaced by Rohit Sharma as the ODI captain.

It will be interesting to see who becomes the next Test captain of India. The team's next Test assignment will be against Sri Lanka in a two-match series at home in February-March.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 15: The supremelytalented Punjab batter Shubman Gill will lend solidity to the Indian middle-order when a major reshuffle is expected to force struggling Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane out of the Test team.

The reshuffle is likely to happen in the wake of India's shock 1-2 defeat against an unfancied South Africa. India's next Test assignment is a two-match series against Sri Lanka, starting February 25 in Bangalore and at least two middle-order slots will be up for grabs. Rohit Sharma is expected to be fit for that Test series and will take

fit for that Test series and will take up his opening slot alongside KL Rahul.

Gill has mostly played as an opener but once he recovers from his shin injury and makes himself available, it is expected that both team management and the selectors will pick him as a specialist middle-order batter.

Gill likely to be middle-order enforcer $\stackrel{\leftarrow}{\to}$

Pujara and Rahane's exit from the national side is certain. They can only save their places if coach Rahul Dravid puts his foot down and asks the selection committee to give the out-of-form duo one last chance.

But if that happens, it is understandably going to cause a lot of heartburn to all the deserving youngsters, who might feel severely let-down for not getting the break at the right moment in their respective careers. However team management's school of thought might just be divergent from the legendary former India opener Sunil Gavaskar, who had said that both Pujara and Rahane might be dropped for Sri Lanka series, adding Hanuma Vihari and Shreyas Iyer are likely to be India's No.3 and No.5.

With Rahane and Pujara bringing in the same type of game into play during past two years, where it was more about self preservation and less about keeping the scoreboard ticking (save the second innings at Wanderers), the Indian team will need a free-flowing batter in that middle-order, who has the ability to take the game away in one session.

In terms of skills, technique, temperament, Gill is the solution to the problem. In fact, had KL Rahul not opted out of New Zealand home series due to niggle and fatigue, Gill would have played in the middle-order.

If Gill plays at No.5, he can exploit the conditions when the ball becomes old and the attack is tired. Also, he has the range to take on the bowlers when the second new ball will be in operation.

TWO-WAY BATTLE

The trickier choice is for the other middle-order slot where Shreyas and Vihari will be locked in an intense battle. Both have been impressive – Iyer in his short twomatch career and Vihari giving his all in one overseas Test he has competed in.

Viĥari is a defensive player, who brings in technical solidity and a sense of calm which is a pre-requisite in Test cricket, especially as the conditions and flow of the game keep changing.

It makes him a good choice for number three as Pujara's replacement but if positive intent and x-factor is considered, Iyer is certainly a far better choice.

However the jury is still out on one aspect of Iyer's batting which the selectors as well head coach Rahul Dravid will be keenly assessing – the Mumbaikar's ability to handle short balls.

Lakshya sets up title 5th Ashes Test: Oz in command date with Kean Yew

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 15: World Championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen entered his maiden World Tour Super 500 summit clash Saturday with a come-from-behind win over Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open, here.

Third seed Sen, ranked 17 in the world, will face reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the summit clash Sunday in a repeat of Dutch Open final last year. However, there was disappointment in store in women's singles as top seed and home favourite PV Sindhu lost 14-21, 21-13 10-21 to sixth seeded Thai Supanida Katethong. In the men's doubles, World No.10 pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy cruised to a 21-10, 21-18 win over France duo of William Villeger and Fabien Delrue to make it to the finals. Chirag and Satwik will square off against three-time World Champions Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan from Indonesia Sunday.

move across the court with his returns and used his smashes to good effect to open up a four-point lead at 10-6 after being 2-4 down initially.

at 10-6 after being 2-4 down initially. The Indian entered the interval at 11-8 after Yong went wide. After the break, Sen came up with some stiff smashes to bother the Malaysian but he couldn't sustain the pressure as Yong made it 14-14. The Malaysian left Sen wrong-footed with a precise

net shot to take the lead. Yong then won a video referral



edged the ball, giving a catch to Rory Burns at square leg. Australia skipper Cummins (2) was the next one to get out and it was again a short ball, which brought a wicket for Wood and England.

Australia were eight down for 252 but Nathan Lyon played a counterattacking knock to lead the hosts' innings to 303.

Starting the innings for England, the returning Rory Burns got run out. Burns' opening partner Crawley (18) enjoyed a more positive start before he was dismissed by Cummins. Thereafter, Dawid

SKIPPER YASH HELPS INDIA U-19 POST 232 AGAINST SA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Georgetown, Jan 15: Skipper Yash Dhull (82, 100b, 11x4) helped India recover from a poor start and post 232 against South Africa in their U-19 World Cup opener here Saturday.

The start of play was delayed by around 40 minutes due to rain and amid the prevailing conditions, South Africa decided to put India in to bat.

Left-arm pacer Aphiwe Mnvanda



Sen, the 20-year-old from Almora, notched up a 19-21, 21-16, 21-12 win over the world number 60 Yong in a thrilling semifinal clash.

Loh, seeded fifth, was given a walkover in the other semi-finals by Canada's Brian Yang after developing a sore throat and headache. Sen will be itching to set the record straight after losing the Dutch Open final to Loh. Overall, the duo has a 2-2 head-to-head record with Sen losing two of the

last three meetings. Both shuttlers showed their attacking prowess during the last four clash. Sen made his opponent



to take a two point lead at 16-14. Sen controlled the proceeding thereafter to claw back at 17-17.

However, Yong grabbed two game points when a return of serve from Sen went wide and sealed it comfortably. Yong carried the momentum in the second game, opening up a 4-1 advantage. Sen did well to erase the deficit but Young ensured he had his nose ahead at the break.

Resuming at 9-11, Sen continued his pursuit to turn things around. He drew parity at 13-13 and crafted his way to a 19-16 lead with a powerful drive away from the forehand of his opponent. A net error from Yong gave Sen four game points and he sealed it when Yong again erred at the net.

In the decider, Sen made a confident start, leading 4-1 and then reached 9-5 with another cross court jump smash. He played another precision shot at the baseline and with Yong going wide, Sen entered the interval with a massive

six-point advantage. Sen went on a smash hitting spree thereafter to quickly jump to an 18-12 lead. He grabbed eight match points with a drop and sealed it without much ado after his opponent went to net again. Pat Cummins is ecstatic after dismissing Zak Crawley, Saturday

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hobart, Jan 15: Continuing their domination in the series, Australia retained the upper hand on the second day of the fifth and final Ashes Test, despite England's late fightback, here Saturday.

Ightback, here Saturday. England were bowled out for 188 in their first innings, conceding a lead of 115 runs, but they picked up three Australian wickets – David Warner (0), Usman Khawaja (11), Marnus Labuschagne (5) in the third session to pull things back. Steven Smith (17 batting) and nightwatchman Scott Boland (3 batting)

were at the crease as Australia finished Day 2 at 37/3 in their second innings, leading England by 152

Bhavani Devi's run in singles ends at Fencing World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 15: Indian fencers, including Olympian Bhavani Devi, bowed out of the women's individual sabre event of the World Cup after losing their respective contests in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Bhavani Devi, ranked 55th in the world, had received a bye in the round of 128 but she suffered a 8-15 loss to Spain's Elena Hernandez in the next round to exit the competition.

The 28-year-old from Chennai, the first Indian to participate at the Olympics, secured victories in four matches in the group stage, while lost one. One match was called off. Among other Indians in fray,

Anitha Karunakaran and Josna Christy Jose couldn't cross the round of 128. runs. As many as 17 wickets fell in the day at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart as Australia and England wrestled for control.

Australia didn't have a good start in their second innings as Stuart Broad sent back David Warner for his second duck in the ongoing Test. Chris Woakes and Mark Wood too got into the act, the former dismissing Marnus Labuschagne and the latter getting the better of Usman Khawaja with a snorter to leave Australia reeling at 37/3.

Earlier, resuming the day at 241/6, Mark Wood gave England their first breakthrough of the day. The pacer bowled a short ball to dismiss Mitchell Starc (3), who top-

Malan and Joe Root didn't allow the hosts to take any more wickets before dinner.

Resuming the second session from 34/2, Root and Malan began well. Cummins ended the 49-run stand by strangling Malan down the leg-side before getting rid of Root.

England slid further when Starc dismissed Ben Stokes, leaving the visitors struggling at 85/5. Boland then got Ollie Pope's wicket. Things would have been worse for the visitors had Australia held onto a couple of catches offered by Woakes (36) soon after. He made that count to an extent, putting on a 42-run stand with debutant Sam Billings (29) and then adding another 30 runs with Wood (16).

Brief scores: Australia 303 & 37/3 (Steven Smith 17 batting; Mark Wood 1/9); England 188 (Chris Woakes 36, Joe Root 34; Pat Cummins 4/54, Mitchell Starc 3/53) lead by 152 runs. (2/29) rocked the Indian top-order by trapping in-form opener Harnoor Singh (1) and his partner Angriksh Raghuvanshi (5) in front of the stumps.

Left-handed Harnoor, who was India's leading run getter in the Asia Cup and scored a century in the warm-up game against Australia here, fell to a ball that nipped back in. Raghuvanshi played around Mnyanda's inswinger and was plumb in front, leaving India for 11 for two.

With India in trouble, skipper Dhull and Shaik Rasheed (31)) got together to resurrect the innings. They shared a 71-run stand before Rasheed missed a sweep shot off leftarm spinner Liam Alder (1/40) to be adjudged LBW.

Rasheed, who was dropped on 17 at second slip off Andile Simelane, played some impressive strokes in his 54 ball including an aerial pull and on drive off pacer Matthew

Boast (3/40) to break the shackles. Delhi batter Dhull then shared a 44-run stand with Nishant Sindhu (25) to take the innings forward. It took a brilliant direct hit from Simelane to dismiss him. Kaushal Tamble added 35 valuable runs towards the end of the innings to take the team past 200.

Brief scores: India U-19 232 (Yash Dhull 82, Kaushal Tamble 35, Shaik Rasheed 31; Matthew Boast 3/40, Aphiwe Mnyanda 2/29) v South Africa U-19.

De Bruyne helps City down Blues

Kevin de Bruyne

found the bottom corner with a

on its relentless march toward a

sixth title in 11 years, with third-

place Liverpool now the team

with likely the best chance of

catching Pep Guardiola's side at

14 points behind but with two

It also would have given De

games in hand.

It gave City a 12th straight win

shot from just outside the area.

Bruyne a certain sense of personal satisfaction, being a former Chelsea player — he was sold in 2014 without making a mark at Stamford Bridge — and considering the anguish he suffered by being forced off with a head injury during the Champions League final loss to same opponent last season.

City dominated the majority of an intense game at Etihad Stadium, stopping second-place Chelsea from having a shot in the first half and seeing Jack Grealish squander the best chance before halftime when his shot was deflected behind by the outstretched leg of goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga.

Romelu Lukaku had Chelsea's best opportunity at the start of the second half, but Ederson saved the striker's curling shot after he had been played through. Otherwise, the visitors were penned back inside their own half by City's press and control of the ball.

Garcia named interim head coach of OFC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 15: The Indian Super League (ISL) side Odisha FC Saturday appointed Kino Garcia as the interim head coach after Kiko Ramirez was sacked following a string of poor shows.

Ramirez was shown the door on Friday after the Spaniard was unable to produce desirable results. Odisha have managed just two wins in their last seven matches and slipped to ninth place in the standings.

Garcia, who served as the assistant coach of the club, will be taking over the duties of the head coach from the next game (vs NEUFC) Tuesday. Garcia, who has a UEFA Pro License, comes with a lot of experience in developing players and is a former coach at Valencia CF's youth teams.

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Manchester, Jan 15: Kevin De

Bruvne curled home a brilliant

second-half goal to earn Manchester

City a 1-0 win over Chelsea and a

13-point lead over its nearest rival

The Belgium midfielder collected

in the Premier League Saturday.

a pass from Joao Cancelo deep in

his own half, drove forward, and

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