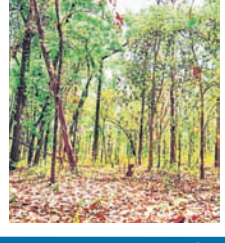




DARING ACT
Actor Deepika Padukone disposes of all body doubles and plunges into her own stunts in SRK-starrer *Pathan*
LEISURE P2



NEW ONLINE SYSTEM
Odisha govt will develop a foolproof online system to deal with forest diversion proposals
DOWNTOWN P4



SHIFTING THE CAPITAL
Indonesia's parl has approved a Bill to relocate the nation's capital from Jakarta to Kalimantan on Borneo island
INTERNATIONAL P10

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Int'l award to Rourkela for urban innovations
New York: The industrial city of Rourkela in India is among the 15 winners, hailing from 13 nations, of a prestigious worldwide innovation competition, which recognised the cities for designing the boldest and most ambitious urban innovations to emerge from the global COVID-19 pandemic. Bloomberg Philanthropies Tuesday announced the 15 winning cities of the 2021-2022 Global Mayors Challenge, the fifth edition of the global innovation competition that supports and spreads cities' most promising ideas. "The yearlong competition launched in 2021 elevates the most promising urban innovations to emerge from the pandemic," said a press release issued by Bloomberg Philanthropies. As many as 631 cities from 99 countries participated in the competition.

Mann AAP's CM face for Punjab Assembly polls
Chandigarh: Bhagwant Mann will be the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) chief ministerial face for the Punjab Assembly polls, party chief Arvind Kejriwal announced Tuesday. The 48-year-old two-time Sangrur MP's name was announced at a public event where Kejriwal declared the result of the AAP's 'Janta Chunegi Apna CM' drive in which it had asked the people of Punjab as to who should be the party's chief ministerial candidate. Mann is the party's state unit chief. The party had received 21.59 lakh responses under its campaign to elect its CM face for the Assembly polls, party leaders said. Kejriwal said, "Out of 21.59 lakh votes received, many people included my name. I had earlier said that I am not in the race. We declared those votes (naming Kejriwal) as invalid. Out of the remaining, 93.3 per cent people named Sardar Bhagwant Mann's name".

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Paralytic mom beaten to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: A man clobbered his paralytic mother, 53, to death over a petty issue at Kalinga Basti under Badagada police limits here Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Rashmita Jena.

The accused, Prashant Jena, 32, and his father Bishnu Charan Jena work as auto rickshaw drivers. The accused is the elder son of the deceased.

Prashant, a drug addict, roams idle without any work. He stayed outside and rarely visited home. However, he picks up fights with his family members whenever he visited home. His two younger brothers stay outside to avoid fights with the accused.

Prashant Tuesday afternoon asked Rashmita to serve him food but the deceased failed as she was occupied with household chores. She reportedly rebuked Prashant over some issues. An angry Prashant attacked the lady with an old radio set kept nearby, leading to her death at the spot. Locals informed police when they saw smoke billowing out of the house.

Badagada police and fire services personnel reached the spot and doused the fire.

Prashant was trying to burn the body. The police have seized the charred body and arrested the accused. A few months back, police had arrested him for attacking his parents. The couple was advised by their other children to avoid staying with the accused.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL
Fewer security personnel is fine but there should be enough teleprompters for backup!

RESCUE OPERATION



Indian Army and GREF rescue 30 civilians stuck on Chowkibal-Tangdhar road near Tangdhar pass in Kupwara district of J&K. (REPORT P7) PTT PHOTO

Will ask state govt to resume 'Ashirbad': Child rights body

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: After the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) informed the Supreme Court that a total of 1,47,492 children have lost either of their parents or both due to COVID-19 and other reasons, the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPR), chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan, said the commission will write to the government to restart the Ashirbad scheme for the benefit of children who have lost their parents due to Covid 19.

Talking to Orissa POST, Pradhan said the commission will write a letter to the women and child development department asking them to help those children who were deprived of the scheme. "We will also recommend them to help them in

NO STARVATION DEATHS IN ODISHA, STATE TELLS SC

New Delhi: Odisha has informed the Supreme Court that not a single death due to starvation was reported in the state. However, there are 1,429 malnourished children of below five years in all districts of the state. Odisha, in an affidavit following the apex court order of October 2021, submitted that the state has been taking numerous steps to prevent malnutrition. The state also submitted that it has been providing additional nutrients to malnourished children. Significantly, the SC Tuesday asked the Union government to consider framing a model community kitchen scheme to combat hunger.

getting proper education and welfare," she added.

The state government last year had discontinued the 'Ashirbad' scheme for children who lost their

parents to COVID-19, three and half months after its launch. The package was meant for orphans and the beneficiaries were divided into three categories — children who lost both the parents or one of earning parents or the breadwinner.

"The scheme covers children who lost their parent(s) on or after April 1, 2020. According to the W&CD department, children who lost parents after September 15, 2021 are no longer to be covered under the scheme due to the declining trend of the pandemic.

Giving state-wise details of children who lost their parent/s to Covid, the commission said the maximum number children is from Odisha (24,405) followed by Maharashtra (19,623), Gujarat (14,770), Tamil Nadu (11,014), UP (9,247), Andhra (8,760), MP (7,340).

Govt to start Cov awareness blitz

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: As the state's Covid-19 infection graph spirals, the state government has decided to intensify information, education and communication (IEC) campaign on the pandemic.

Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra has asked the information and public relation (I&PR) and health departments to intensify the IEC campaign through print, electronic and social media, audio visual clips, cartoon clips for children, hoardings and Swasthya Kanthas (health walls).

"The prescriptive and service oriented IEC campaign against Covid is equally crucial for appropriate management of the Covid scenario," he said. As many patients are in home isolation, they should be informed about the norms of isolation, daily care like measuring of oxygen level, how to contact a doctor, what to do at the time of emergency, and how to avail emergency services, he added. P4

SEC ups damages for Covid deaths during poll duty

State poll panel has announced ₹30L ex-gratia for Covid-19 death of any person engaged in poll duty

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: As Covid-19 situation continues to prevail in Odisha, the State Election Commission (SEC) has announced ₹30 lakh ex-gratia for Covid-19 death of any person engaged in panchayat election duty in the state.

In an order, the SEC said the ex-gratia will be applicable to all civil persons including government (both Centre and state), corporation (including Central and state PSU), local bodies, drivers, helpers of government & private vehicles and police personnel including Central Police Forces (CPF) engaged by the competent authority for election related duty in the state during elections to panchayats, 2022 and thereafter including by-elections.

The amount will be paid on a condition that the death certificate specifying the reason for it has to be issued by the medical officer and countersigned by the chief district medical officer concerned certifying specifically that the death is caused due to Covid-19. The commission said Covid-19 infected officials will get a cashless medical treatment facility.

The duty period is to be counted from the date and time of reporting for election duty before the election officer and ends with being relieved by the election officer from election duty. Similarly, the SEC has revised the compensation amount for the officials in case of death or major injury while on panchayat election duty.

The commission order said a

SEC RECOMMENDS ACTION AGAINST PRINCIPAL, SDPO

Bhubaneswar: Sending a strong message against violation of the model code of conduct, the State Election Commission (SEC) has recommended suspension of a principal and SDPO for violation of poll norms at Maa Tarini College in Mahakalapada in Kendrapara district. The SEC recommended to the state government for suspension of principal Bikash Das and Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Salipur Prasanta Majhi for organising a political meeting in the premises of a college recently, official sources said. The commission has recommended the school and mass education department to suspend Dash and directed Kendrapara Collector to register a case against him. It has recommended the DGP to immediately suspend the SDPO. P5

compensation Rs 30 lakh will be provided to families of polling personnel who die due to any violent act of extremist or anti-social elements in road mines, bomb blasts, armed attacks. In case of death due to other reasons, the compensation amount will be Rs 15 lakh. Earlier, the compensation amount was Rs 20 lakh for category-A employees and Rs 10 lakh for category-B employees in case of death due to violent acts. The amount for other deaths was Rs 10 lakh and Rs 5 lakh for the category A and B employees, respectively. As per the revised order, in case of permanent disability like loss limb, eye sight, etc caused due to any violent acts, the amount of compensation would be Rs 15 lakh. On permanent disability whether by accident or by any other means arising out of and in course of election duty, the ex-gratia amount would be Rs 7.50 lakh.



MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	60754.86 ↓ 554.05
NIFTY	18113.00 ↓ 195.10
DOLLAR	74.88 ↑ ₹0.32
EURO	84.67 ↓ ₹0.01
GOLD	₹47,997 ↑ ₹80
SILVER	₹62,989 ↑ ₹1091

High alert in Delhi as intel warns of attack

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 18: The Delhi-National Capital Region has been put under a "very high-security" cover after police received inputs from intelligence agencies about a possible terror attack.

Operation of sub-conventional aerial platforms, including UAVs, paragliders and hot air balloons over the national capital has been prohibited in the city from January 20 in view of Republic Day celebrations, according to a Delhi Police order issued Tuesday. The order shall come into force from January 20 and remain in effect till February 15.

The order has been issued by Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh

For 2nd time in a row no R-Day Chief Guest

NEW DELHI: There will be no chief guest at the Republic Day parade this year also as the plan to host state heads of five Central Asian countries -- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan -- seems to have been cancelled due to the Covid situation in India as well as in the respective nations. Though the Ministry of External Affairs is yet to confirm this officially.

Asthana in the wake of reports of the possibility of certain criminal or anti-social elements or terrorists posing a threat to the safety of the general public, dignitaries and vital installations, it said.

3 killed in explosion onboard INS Ranvir

The fourth of the five Rajput-class destroyers, INS Ranvir was commissioned into the Indian Navy October 28, 1986

AGENCIES

Mumbai/New Delhi, Jan 18: Three Navy personnel were killed and 11 injured in an explosion onboard the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ranvir at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai Tuesday, officials said. The incident took place at 4.30 pm, they added. "In an unfortunate incident today at Naval Dockyard Mumbai, three naval personnel succumbed to injuries caused by an explosion in an in-



ternal compartment on-board INS Ranvir," the statement by the Indian Navy said. The ship's crew responded immediately and brought the situation under control quickly, it added. "Three sailors have been killed and 11 injured due to the incident. The names (of the victims) will be made public after informing the families about the incident," an official said. As per the Navy's

statement, no major "material damage" was reported. "INS Ranvir was on cross-coast operational deployment from the Eastern Naval Command since November 2021 and was due to return to the base port shortly," it said. A Board of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the incident, the statement said. Source said several onboard persons were injured in the tragic in-

cident. The fourth of the five Rajput-class destroyers, INS Ranvir was commissioned into the Indian Navy October 28, 1986.

On October 23, 2021, an incident of fire and flooding was reported onboard Indian Navy's destroyer INS Ranvijay. In that incident, four sailors suffered burn injuries and were treated at the naval hospital, INHS Kalyani, the Eastern Naval Command had said.

In 2019, fire onboard INS Sindhukesari, a Kilo-class submarine, destroyed critical components of the vessel. The fire took place in March that year when certain components were being fitted inside the vessel. In August 2013, a massive explosion onboard INS Sindhurakshak sank the vessel and killed 18 sailors. Two officers were killed in a fire on INS Sindhuratna in 2014.

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	26.1°C	26.4°C
TEMP. MIN	12.6°C	12.6°C
Humidity	80%	86%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Dry weather most likely

international



The last two years have demonstrated a simple but brutal truth -- if we leave anyone behind, we leave everyone behind. If we fail to vaccinate every person, we give rise to new variants that spread across borders and bring daily life and economies to a grinding halt

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECY GENERAL, UNITED NATIONS

EU'S YOUNGEST PREZ

Maltese lawmaker Roberta Metsola, 43, was chosen as the third woman to head the European Parliament. The politician from the EU's smallest nation becomes the youngest president ever



of the day quote

The Houthis have claimed responsibility for this attack, and we will work with the UAE and international partners to hold them accountable. Our commitment to the security of the UAE is unwavering and we stand beside our Emirati partners against all threats to their territory

JAKE SULLIVAN | NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR, US

We reject racism. What this government wants is to equally protect the honour and rights of all citizens. Therefore, I urge politicians who still incite people against each other for political gains to refrain from doing so

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA | PRESIDENT, SRI LANKA

The Israeli attempts to evict the Salhiya family from their home in Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood fall within the framework of forced displacement

MAHMOUD ABBAS | PRESIDENT, PALESTINE

SHORT TAKES

Cop killed, 2 hurt in Islamabad shootout

Islamabad: A policeman was killed and two others were injured after two militants riding a motorcycle opened fire at a check post here, police said Tuesday. The militants were also killed in the overnight shootout which took place in the Karachi Company area of the heavily guarded capital, the Islamabad Police said in a statement. The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in a statement took responsibility for the attack. A policeman was killed, while two others were wounded, the police statement said, adding that the two militants were also killed in the retaliatory fire.

Bandial to be next Pak Chief Justice

Islamabad: Justice Umar Ata Bandial, one of the judges who declined to retake their oaths in 2007 when former Pakistani military ruler Gen. Pervez Musharraf proclaimed a state of emergency in the country, will be the new Chief Justice of Pakistan. Pakistan President Arif Alvi on Monday formally appointed Justice Bandial, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court, as the next Chief Justice of the country. Justice Bandial, 63, will assume responsibilities on February 2, 2022 after the retirement of incumbent Gulzar Ahmed, who was appointed as Chief Justice on December 21, 2019.

3 Calif teenagers killed in car crash

Pasadena (US): Three teenage boys were killed in Southern California when the car they were in struck a curb, collided with a fence and rolled over on an embankment, authorities said. The single-vehicle crash happened around 8:30 pm Sunday near an intersection in Pasadena, according to the California Highway Patrol. Preliminary reports that the 2005 Honda plunged off an elevated section of nearby Interstate 210 were inaccurate, the highway patrol said.

Poland hit by 5th Covid wave

Warsaw: Poland's Health Minister Adam Niedzielski has said that the fifth wave of the Covid-19 pandemic has come to the country, warning that infections could soon hit record levels. "We already have the fifth wave of the pandemic ... We predict that infections will peak in mid-February and that peak will be at about 60,000 cases a day," Niedzielski said.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Rare black diamond 'The Enigma' to be auctioned

AGENCIES

Dubai, Jan 18: Auction house Sotheby's Dubai has unveiled a diamond that's literally from out of this world.

Sotheby's calls the 555.55-carat black diamond — believed to have come from outer space — "The Enigma."

The rare gem was shown off Monday to journalists as part of a tour in Dubai and Los Angeles before it is due to be auctioned off in February in London.

Sotheby's expects the diamond to be sold for at least 5 million British pounds (USD 6.8 million). The auction house plans to accept cryptocurrency as a possible payment as well.



Sophie Stevens, a jewellery specialist at Sotheby's Dubai, told The Associated Press that the number five bears an important significance to the diamond, which has 55 facets as well. "The shape of the diamond is based on the Middle-Eastern palm

symbol of the Khamsa, which stands for strength and it stands for protection," she said. Khamsa in Arabic means five.

"So there's a nice theme of the number five running throughout the diamond, she added.

Stevens also said the black diamond is likely from outer space. "With the carbonado diamonds, we believe that they were formed through extraterrestrial origins, with meteorites colliding with the Earth and either forming chemical vapor disposition or indeed coming from the meteorites themselves," she said.

Black diamonds, also known as carbonado, are extremely rare, and are found naturally only in Brazil and Central Africa.

Around 20 killed in Saudi-led coalition reprisal on Yemen



REUTERS

Aden (Yemen), Jan 18: Air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthi group on the capital Sanaa killed at least 20 people overnight, including civilians, Houthi media and residents said, in one of its deadliest attacks since 2019.

Around 14 people were killed when coalition planes struck the home of a high-ranking Houthi military official, including his wife and son, according to neighbours and a medic.

The air strikes followed Monday's drone and missile attack on coalition partner the United Arab Emirates that was claimed by the Iran-aligned Houthis and killed three people.

The coalition also said it intercepted eight Houthi drones launched toward Saudi Arabia Monday.

Early Tuesday, the coalition said it had begun air strikes against strongholds and camps in Sanaa belonging to the Houthi group, Saudi state media said.

Houthi media named the Houthi military official whose home was struck as Abdullah Qassim al-Junaidi, the former head of the Houthis' aviation college.

The strike killed him, his wife, his 25-year-old son, other family members and other unidentified people, the medical source and residents told Reuters.

On Tuesday men at the after-

Air strikes follow Houthi-claimed attack on Abu Dhabi
Among targets was house of high-ranking Houthi military official
Civilians among those killed, residents say

math combed through rubble, strewn with belongings, books and twisted metal, as well as debris from heavily damaged neighbouring houses.

At the scene Ahmad al-Ahdal said his uncle's house was hit after the strike on Junaid's home.

My uncle went in with rescuers to extract the victims in Junaid's house, he said. We have been unable to find him since then.

Junaid was among over 170 Houthi officials sentenced to death by firing squad in August by a court in the province of Marib, which remains under the control of the Saudi-backed, internationally recognised Yemeni government.

The court found the defendants, most of whom were tried in absentia, guilty of staging a military coup and committing war crimes, state media reported at the time.

Coalition strikes around the city overnight killed a total of about 20 people, the deputy foreign minister for the Houthi administration, which holds much of northern Yemen, said on Twitter.

HK to cull 2K hamsters as some test COVID+ve

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong, Jan 18: Hong Kong authorities said Tuesday that they will cull some 2,000 hamsters after several of the rodents tested positive for the virus at a pet store where an infected employee was working.

Officials said they would also stop the sale and import of the rodents in the city. The move came after the pet shop employee tested positive for the delta variant Monday. Several of the hamsters tested positive for the coronavirus as well.

Even though authorities acknowledged that there is "no evidence" that pets can transmit the coronavirus to humans, as a precautionary measure, customers who had purchased hamsters from the affected store after Jan 7 will be traced and must be subject to mandatory quarantine. They must also hand over their hamsters to authorities to be put down.

Authorities said that all pet stores selling hamsters in Hong Kong must cease operations and that around 2,000 of the small animals will be culled in a humane manner.

Customers who bought hamsters in Hong Kong from Dec 22 will also be subject to mandatory testing and are urged not to go into the community until their tests have returned negative.

For now, authorities said they would not rule out transmission between human and animals.

Twin tremors claim 26 in western Afghanistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kabul, Jan 18: The United Nations Tuesday raised the death toll from twin earthquakes in western Afghanistan the day before to 26, saying three villages of around 800 houses were flattened by the tremblers.

The Taliban, who overran the country in mid-August, called on international aid organisations to provide immediate help, including tents and other basic necessities, for the victims



relatives' houses while others stayed among the ruins of their homes.

The US Geological Survey Monday registered a magnitude 5.3 quake at 2 pm and a second, magnitude 4.9 at 4 pm local time. They struck 41 km east and 50 km southeast of Qala-e-Naw, the provincial capital in Badghis. The province lies along the border with Turkmenistan and is one of Afghanistan's most underdeveloped and impoverished regions.

The quakes were felt across three western provinces — Badghis, Ghor,

and Herat, the UN statement said.

The Taliban, who overran the country in mid-August, called on international aid organisations to provide immediate help, including tents and other basic necessities, for the victims. The Taliban put the death toll at 22; the disparity in the figures could not immediately be reconciled.

The country is frequently hit by earthquakes, especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, which lies near the junction of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates.

TONGA: ALL HOUSES DESTROYED, THREE DEAD

REUTERS

Sydney/Wellington, Jan 18: All the homes on one of Tonga's small outer islands have been destroyed by a massive volcanic eruption and tsunami, with three people so far confirmed dead, the government said Tuesday in its first update since the disaster struck.

With communications badly hampered by the severing of an undersea cable, information on the scale of the devastation after Saturday's eruption had so far mostly come from reconnaissance aircraft. But the office of Prime Minister Siaosi Sovaleni said in a statement that every home on Mango island, where around 50 people live, had been destroyed, only two houses remained on



A satellite image shows ash covered homes and buildings after the main eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano, in Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Fonoifua, and Namuka island had suffered extensive damage.

Tonga's deputy head of mission in Australia, Curtis Tu'ihalangie, earlier said pictures taken by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) showed alarming scenes of a village destroyed on Mango and build-

ings missing on Atata island, which is closer to the volcano.

People panic, people run and get injuries. Possibly there will be more deaths and we just pray that is not the case, Tu'ihalangie told Reuters.

Sovaleni's office said a 65-year-

old woman on Mango Island and a 49-year-old man on Nomuka Island had been killed, in addition to the British national whose body was found Monday. A number of injuries were also reported.

Tsunami waves reaching up to 15 metres hit the Ha'apia island group, where Mango is located, and the west coast of Tonga's main island, Tongatapu, the prime minister's office said. Residents were being moved to evacuation centres as 56 houses were destroyed or seriously damaged on that coast.

Atata and Mango are between about 50 and 70 km from the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano, which sent tsunami waves across the Pacific Ocean when it erupted with a blast heard 2,300 km (1,430 miles) away in New Zealand.

Indonesia passes law to relocate its capital to remote Borneo

Southeast Asia's largest economy has envisioned the new capital as a low-carbon super hub that will support pharmaceutical, health and technology sectors and promote sustainable growth beyond Java Island

REUTERS

Jakarta, Jan 18: Indonesia's parliament has approved a bill to relocate the nation's capital from Jakarta to a jungled area of Kalimantan on Borneo island, the planning minister said Tuesday.

The new state capital law which provides a legal framework for President Joko Widodo's ambitious \$32 billion mega project, stipulates how development of the capital will be funded and governed.

"The new capital has a central function and is a symbol of the identity of the nation, as well as a new centre of economic gravity," planning minister, Suharso Monoarfa, told the Parliament after the bill was passed into law Tuesday



The new centre will be called Nusantara, a Javanese name for the Indonesian archipelago chosen by the president, Monoarfa announced

Monday.

Plans to relocate the government from Jakarta, a bustling megacity of 10 million people that

The new centre will be called Nusantara, a Javanese name for the Indonesian archipelago chosen by the President

suffers from chronic congestion, floods and air pollution, have been floated by multiple presidents, but none have made it this far.

Jokowi, as the president is known, first announced the plan in 2019, but progress was delayed by the pandemic.

Southeast Asia's largest economy has envisioned the new capital as a low-carbon super hub that will support pharmaceutical, health

and technology sectors and promote sustainable growth beyond Java Island. But critics say the law was rushed through with limited public consultation and environmental consideration.

Nusantara — which follows the creation of new capitals in countries like Brazil and more recently Myanmar — will be led by a chief authority whose position is equivalent to a minister, deputy chair of the bill's special committee, Saan Mustofa, said Monday.

Among those being considered for the position, according to local media reports, are former research and technology minister, Bambang Brodjonegoro, and Jakarta's former governor, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, better known as or Ahok.

of the day quote

We remain fully committed to sustainability and playing a key role in bringing clean mobility across the world



PAWAN MUNJAL | HERO MOTOCORP CHAIRMAN & CEO

Enterprises in India and all over the world are embracing cloud computing, AI, machine and deep learning to reduce costs and increase efficiency



BINDU REDDY | ABACUS.AI CEO

Consumers are increasingly becoming platform-agnostic, with both TV and digital growing simultaneously



ADIL ZAINULBHAII | NETWORK18 CHAIRMAN

SHORT TAKES

Delhivery to raise ₹7,460cr via IPO

New Delhi: Supply chain company Delhivery has received capital markets regulator Sebi's approval to raise ₹7,460 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth ₹5,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) component of ₹2,460 crore by existing shareholders, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Under the OFS, investors Carlyle Group and SoftBank as well as Delhivery's co-founders will divest their shareholding in the logistics company. The company, which filed its preliminary IPO papers with Sebi in November, obtained its observations letter January 13, an update with the regulator showed Tuesday. In Sebi parlance, the issuance of an observations letter implies its go-ahead for the IPO.

Tata Elxsi Q3 profit up 44 pc at ₹151cr

New Delhi: Tata Elxsi Tuesday said its net profit increased 43.5 per cent to ₹151 crore in December quarter 2021-22. The company is among the world's leading design and technology services providers across industries, including Automotive, Broadcast, Communications, Healthcare, and Transportation. It had registered a net profit of ₹105.2 crore in the year-ago period, Tata Elxsi said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations rose 33.2 per cent to ₹635.4 crore in the quarter from ₹477.1 crore in the year-ago period, it added. The company delivered industry-leading bottom-line performance and crossed the ₹200 crore PBT (profit before tax) and ₹150 crore PAT (profit after tax) milestones for the first time in its history, the statement said.

Cost of debt funds for states surges

Mumbai: States are shelling out more for debt funds, with the weighted average cost for their debt auctions hardening by 9 basis points to touch 7.24 per cent, the highest level so far this fiscal, during the auctions Tuesday. Compared to the previous week, the cost has gone up by 9 basis points (bps). From the first auctions in January, the cut-offs have been trending over 7 per cent. The weighted average cut-off for states' 10-year debt auctions or state development loans as they are known, has hardened by 9 bps to 7.24 per cent at today's auctions as the drawdowns was 6 per cent more than indicated earlier, yet overall down by 12.3 per cent on annualised basis, Ibra chief economist Aditi Nayar said in a note. As a result, the spread between the 10-year state debt and the benchmark G-Secs widened to 61 bps today from 58 bps last Tuesday, she said.



Companies must now embrace cyber resilience -- not only defending against cyberattacks but also preparing for swift and timely incident response and recovery when an attack does occur

JEREMY JURGENS | WEF MD

TATA MOTORS TO HIKE PV PRICES

Tata Motors Tuesday said it will increase prices of its passenger vehicles by an average of 0.9% with effect from January 19, in order to partially offset the impact of rise in input costs. The automaker sells various models like Tiago, Punch and Harrier, in the domestic market. Effective January 19, 2022, an average increase of 0.9% will be implemented, depending on the variant and model, it said.



Oil hits 7-yr high as tight supply bites

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 18: International oil prices jumped to the highest level since 2014, topping USD 87 a barrel but domestic petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged for the 74th day in a row - a freeze that may be linked to ensuing assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

Brent - the key global oil benchmark - soared to USD 87.7 per barrel mostly due to rising geopolitical tensions and supply-side disturbances due to Yemen's Houthis group's attack on oil facilities in the United Arab Emirates. Also, global inventories are waning.

The attack, some analysts believe, may lead to more hostile behaviour between the two power centres in the Middle East - Iran and Saudi Arabia.

But domestic fuel prices - which are directly linked to international oil prices - have not been revised for over two months now.

Petrol costs ₹95.41 a litre in Delhi



and diesel is priced at ₹86.67. This price is after accounting for the excise duty cut and a reduction in VAT rate by the state government.

Prior to these tax reductions, petrol price had touched an all-time high of ₹110.04 a litre and diesel came for ₹98.42. These rates corresponded to Brent soaring to a peak of USD 86.40 per barrel October 26, 2021. Brent was USD 82.74 November 5, 2021, before it started to fall and touched USD 68.87 a barrel in December.

Prices, however, started to rise thereafter and Tuesday soared to USD 87.7 per barrel - the highest since 2014. Petrol and diesel prices have been in the past frozen before crucial elections.

There was a 19-day price freeze on petrol and diesel ahead of Karnataka polls in May 2018, despite international fuel prices going up by nearly USD 5 per barrel. However, no sooner were the elections over, oil companies rapidly passed on to customers the desired increase

Sensex, Nifty tank 1% as global equities sink on rate hike worries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 18: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty plunged by around 1 per cent Tuesday due to sharp losses in auto, metal, and realty stocks amid a global rout in equities triggered by rising US bond yields and a spike in crude oil. The 30-share index slumped by 554.05 points or 0.90 per cent to end at 60,754.86 with 23 of its constituents ending in the red.

The broader NSE Nifty fell by 195.05 points or 1.07 per cent to 18,113.05. As many 43 Nifty stocks closed with losses while six advanced. Maruti was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding over 4 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank and L&T. On the



other hand, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Bank Dr Reddy's, Titan and Nestle India were the gainers.

"A surge in oil prices and FIIs turning net sellers added volatility in the domestic market. Globally, markets witnessed selling pressure following a surge in US treasury yield amid rate hike worries while oil prices rose on supply tension owing to the drone

attack on UAE," Vinod Nair, Head Of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said that Nifty closed below the lows of the previous four sessions. "Weak global cues resulted in this weakness even as traders opted to take profits after a dream upturn in mid and small-caps," he said.

Reliance Retail's big investment: \$132mn for robot-maker

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 18: Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Retail has acquired a 54 per cent stake in domestic robotics company Addverb for USD 132 million (about ₹983 crore), a senior official of the robotic firm said Tuesday.

Addverb Technologies co-founder and CEO Sangeet Kumar told PTI that the company will continue to operate independently and will use the funds received from Reliance to expand business overseas as well as set up one of the biggest robotic manufacturing facilities in Noida.

The company already has a manufacturing plant in Noida where it produces around 10,000 robots per annum. With this investment, Reliance will hold around 54 per cent stake in Addverb. They become the largest shareholder in the company.

Microsoft to buy Activision in \$69 billion metaverse bet

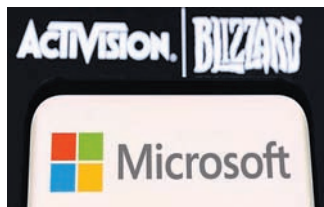
REUTERS

New York, Jan 18: Microsoft Corp is buying Call of Duty maker Activision Blizzard for \$68.7 billion in the biggest gaming industry deal in history as global technology giants stake their claims to a virtual future.

The deal announced by Microsoft Tuesday, its biggest-ever and set to be the largest all-cash acquisition on record, will bolster its firepower in the booming videogaming market where it takes on leaders Tencent and Sony.

It also represents the American multinational's bet on the metaverse, virtual online worlds where people can work, play and socialise, as many of its biggest competitors are already doing.

Gaming is the most dynamic



and exciting category in entertainment across all platforms today and will play a key role in the development of metaverse platforms, Microsoft Chief Executive Satya Nadella said.

Microsoft's offer of \$95 per share represents a premium of 45% to Activision's Friday close. Activision's shares were last up 27% at \$83.11, still a steep discount to the offer price, reflecting concerns the deal could get stuck in regulators' crosshairs.

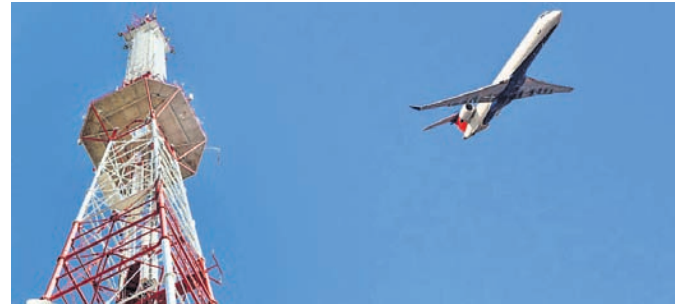
Airlines warn of disruption from 5G rollout

AGENCIES

Washington, Jan 18: The airline industry is raising the stakes in a showdown with AT&T and Verizon over plans to launch new 5G wireless service this week, warning that thousands of flights could be grounded or delayed if the rollout takes place near major airports.

CEOs of the nation's largest airlines say that interference from the wireless service on a key instrument on planes is worse than they originally thought.

"To be blunt, the nation's commerce will grind to a halt" unless the service is blocked near major airports, the CEOs said in a letter Monday to federal officials including Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who has previously taken the airlines' side in the matter. AT&T and Verizon plan to activate their new 5G wire-



less service Wednesday after two previous delays from the original plan for an early December rollout. The new high-speed 5G service uses a segment of the radio spectrum that is close to that used by altimeters, which are devices that measure the height of aircraft above the ground. Two weeks ago, the companies struck a deal with the Federal Aviation Administration to delay the service for two more weeks and reduce the power of 5G

transmitters near airports. That delay ends Wednesday.

Irrespective of hierarchies and education levels most employees (49 per cent) were found working 5-day a week with 51 per cent of them clocking 6-8 hours a day, it said.

Meanwhile, it found that remote work has blurred lines between personal and professional lives, more than half of male employees (57 per cent) worked for 6-8 hours a day during Covid compared pre-Covid where only 15 per cent of male employees worked for the same duration.

While the percentage of women working for 6-8 hours has grown marginally to 43 per cent from 41 per cent pre-Covid, it said.

The new high-speed 5G service uses a segment of the radio spectrum that is close to that used by altimeters, which are devices that measure the height of aircraft above the ground

Delta, United and Southwest said 5G will be more disruptive than they originally thought because dozens of large airports that were to have buffer zones to prevent 5G interference with aircraft will still be subject to flight restrictions announced last week by the FAA, and because those restrictions won't be limited to times when visibility is poor.

71% of employees rethinking their careers: Report

WHILE ECONOMIES ACROSS THE GLOBE STRUGGLED WITH A NEW WAVE OF COVID-19, THE EVENT HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE LABOUR MARKET, A REPORT BY GLOBAL JOB SITE INDEED REVEALED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 18: As the ongoing pandemic impacted the job market and become a catalyst for employees resetting their priorities, a report has revealed that about 71 per cent of workers surveyed are rethinking their careers and might explore a different career.

While economies across the globe struggled with a new wave of Covid-19, the event had a significant impact on the labour market, the report by global job site Indeed revealed that as many as 71 per cent of employees surveyed said they are rethinking their careers and may even see "if a different career is worth pursuing".

The Indeed India Hiring Tracker HY2 2021, is based on a survey conducted by Valuvox among 1,219

employers and 1,511 employees during October and November 2021. The report further found that 51 per cent pondered if their current job is fulfilling a purpose, while a larger proportion of 67 per cent questioned themselves of being in the right job.

Another 61 per cent of employees also said they are seriously thinking to reprioritise their job in favour of other life priorities, it observed.

The consequences of the re-evaluation have resulted in about three out of 10 employees thinking of quitting their current jobs, said the report.

The report also revealed that this thought has occurred to a greater proportion of male employees (31 per cent) than women employees (19 per cent).



According to the data, Covid-19 has brought a paradigm shift in the priorities of the employees. For 68 per cent of surveyed employees, job satisfaction was solely ranked as 'very' or 'most' important aspect followed by salary and job satisfaction for 62 per cent, the report said.

Work-life balance was a close

third with 61 per cent of employees prioritising for the same, it noted.

Although employees are looking for flexibility, work-life balance, the purpose of work and job satisfaction, the report revealed that it may take some more time to transform this into a reality.

About 77 per cent of employees

said their workplaces do not offer flexibility, while only 7 per cent got the privilege of the flexibility of working fewer hours for reduced pay, it said.

Irrespective of hierarchies and education levels most employees (49 per cent) were found working 5-day a week with 51 per cent of them clocking 6-8 hours a day, it said.

Meanwhile, it found that remote work has blurred lines between personal and professional lives, more than half of male employees (57 per cent) worked for 6-8 hours a day during Covid compared pre-Covid where only 15 per cent of male employees worked for the same duration.

While the percentage of women working for 6-8 hours has grown marginally to 43 per cent from 41 per cent pre-Covid, it said.

Surprisingly, 40 per cent of employees said they had no intention of working for fewer hours and at least 35 per cent of employees intended not to work for fewer hours in 2022, it said.

"The tracker sees employers and employees in tandem as employees reprioritise their career. Flexibility at work continues to remain an important conversation and it is important to pay attention to what employees want, to enable them to thrive in a new work environment. Similarly, with more employers hiring in the second half of the year and businesses changing their hiring priorities from sales roles to data analytics roles indicate that businesses are well past the recovery phase and are poised for strong growth." Indeed India Head of Sales Sashi Kumar added.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVEN YEARS, ALL EYES ON KOHLI THE BATTER AS INDIA TAKE ON SOUTH AFRICA IN THE FIRST ODI TODAY

Eyes on 'Batter' Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paarl (South Africa), Jan 18: The mighty Virat Kohli's presence in the Indian playing eleven as a mere player for the first time in seven years will be keenly followed while his potential successor in red-ball cricket, KL Rahul, will be judged for his captaincy in the three-match ODI series against South Africa beginning here Wednesday.

Whether he is batting in the middle or fielding at the boundary line, Kohli's every move is tracked but some of that attention will now have to be shared by Rahul.

More importantly, will he be at his usual animated best on the field or will the cricketing world see a rather subdued Kohli after his stunning resignation from Test captaincy brought an end to his innings as official leader of the team across formats?

He did not want to leave ODI captaincy after relinquishing the role in the shortest format and it led to a war of words with the BCCI on how the entire matter was handled.

His supporters and Indian cricket in general will be hoping that Kohli has put his differences with the BCCI firmly behind him and come Wednesday, he starts a new innings with his willow doing most of the talking. A highly desired century after two years would be cherry on top.

Rahul, who is leading the side in the absence of an injured Rohit Sharma, is expected to turn to Kohli for advice during the series. Not only Kohli has a major role to play as a batter, but as vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah said on the eve of the series, the star "will always be a leader" in the team.

With the new leadership and support staff, India will look to win the series with one eye on preparations for the 2023 World



Cup and also make up for the disappointment of unexpectedly going down in the Tests last week.

The last time a full strength India played an ODI series was at home against England in March before a second string squad travelled to Sri Lanka in July.

Rahul batted in the middle-order against England but it remains to be seen if he moves back to the top alongside Shikhar Dhawan.

Ruturaj Gaikwad, who made the squad following an exceptional domestic season, might have to wait longer for his ODI debut. It will be

INDIA SQUAD

KL Rahul (C), Jasprit Bumrah, Shikhar Dhawan, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Venkatesh Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Yuzvendra Chahal, R Ashwin, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Prasidh Krishna, Shardul Thakur, Md. Siraj, Jayant Yadav, Navdeep Saini.

crucial three games for the seasoned Dhawan, who has already lost his place in the T20 side.

The southpaw has thrived under pressure in the past and will be looking to solidify his position as the first-choice opener alongside Rohit when the latter returns from injury. Kohli will bat at his usual number three spot while there will be a toss-up between Suryakumar Yadav and Shreyas Iyer for the number four position.

Rishabh Pant is expected to come at number five while Venkatesh Iyer is likely to make his 50-over debut as the all-rounder at six, having shown promise in the T20s against New Zealand.

The two spinners likely to play are Yuzvendra Chahal and R Ashwin, who has made a comeback after more than four years.

Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar will share the lead in the pace department while for the third pace option, the management could pick Deepak Chahar, Shardul Thakur or Prasidh Krishna. Mohammad Siraj, who injured his hamstring during the Test series, is also fit as suggested by Bumrah Monday.

On the previous tour, India hammered the hosts 5-1 in ODIs and they will draw confidence from that. South Africa will be in high spirits after a memorable victory in the five-day format.

Colts seek improved show against Ireland



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tarouba (Trinidad & Tobago), Jan 18: In-form batter and captain Yash Dhull will be expecting a much improved batting effort from his team when record four-time champions India take on Ireland in their second Group B match of the ICC U-19 World Cup here Wednesday.

Having started their campaign with a 45-run win over South Africa, the Indians are brimming with confidence and are expected to steamroll Ireland at the Brian Lara Stadium.

Both India and Ireland have registered wins in their openers. While India beat South Africa, Ireland defeated Uganda by 39 runs.

Dhull single-handedly anchored the Indian innings against the Junior Proteas as they lost both

their openers—Harnoor Singh and Angkrish Raghuvanshi early after being put into bat.

Dhull added vital 71 runs with Shaikh Rasheed (31) for the third to resurrect the Indian innings first and then stitched valuable contributions with Nishant Sidhu (27), Raj Bawa (13) and Kushal Tambe (35) to give his bowlers a decent target to defend. But come Wednesday, Dhull would be looking for more support from his openers to ease the pressure on middle and lower-order going into the knock-out stages of the tournament.

If Indian batters were not up to the mark against South Africa, it was completely contrasting performance from the bowling unit.

Left-arm spinner Vicky Ostwal (5/28) turned out to be the star performer with the ball while right-arm fast bowler Raj Bawa (4/47) gave the

perfect support from the other end as India bowled out South Africa for 187 runs.

Jalandhar-born left-handed opener Harnoor, who was India's leading run-getter in the Asia Cup with 251 runs in five games and struck an unbeaten 100 against Australia in the team's final warm-up game on January 11, is expected to score a bagful of runs in the tournament but managed only 1 in the opener.

Right-arm pacer Rajvardhan Hangargekar (1/38), who has played senior cricket for Maharashtra and impressed with his raw pace in the Asia Cup, and left-arm fast bowler Ravi Kumar both had ordinary outings against South Africa.

Meanwhile in the other match of the day, Australia will take on Scotland in a Group D game in Basseterre.

Lewandowski awarded FIFA best men's player



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zurich, Jan 18: Robert Lewandowski was voted the best men's player in the world, retaining the FIFA award he won last year despite being left off the ballot paper filed by runner-up Lionel Messi.

The Bayern Munich forward Monday overturned the result last month of the Ballon d'Or prize where he placed second behind Messi, who finally led Argentina to a senior title at the 2021 Copa America. Mohamed Salah of Liverpool placed third.

"I am very honoured to win this trophy," Lewandowski said on a video link from Munich. The trophy was presented by club officials during the online ceremony hosted at FIFA headquarters in Zurich Monday.

Lewandowski was the overwhelming choice of national team captains and coaches plus selected media in more than 200 countries, yet was almost caught by Messi, who got more than double the number of votes from fans worldwide than the Poland captain.

In the women's award, Alexia Putellas added the FIFA trophy to her Ballon d'Or victory. Putellas captained Barcelona to its first Women's Champions League title and teammate Jennifer Hermoso placed third in the FIFA vote. The runner-up was Sam Kerr of beaten finalist Chelsea.

Chelsea swept the coaching

Medvedev through to 2nd round

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Jan 18: The Australian Open started well for second-seeded Daniil Medvedev, one of the biggest potential beneficiaries of Novak Djokovic's deportation. Aiming to be the first man in the Open era to win his second major title on his next Grand Slam appearance, Medvedev had a 6-1, 6-4, 7-6(7-3) win over Henri Laaksonen Tuesday in the first round at Melbourne Park.

Defending champion Djokovic was already back in Serbia, two days after losing his legal challenge to stay in Australia despite being unvaccinated against COVID-19, when Medvedev went onto Rod Laver Arena and raced through the first set in 26 minutes.

Nobody has dominated on that court like Djokovic, who was unbeaten in the nine finals he reached at the Australian Open. Medvedev was the most recent recipient of one of those beatings, losing last year's championship match.

But he avenged that with his breakthrough major title at the US Open, where his victory meant Djokovic's bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam finished one win short.

Leylah Fernandez, a 19-year-old Canadian, lost 6-2, 6-4 to 133rd-ranked wild-card entry Maddison



Inglis in her first Grand Slam match since her runner-up finish at the US Open.

Fernandez made 30 unforced errors, dropped her serve three times and hit only eight winners on 1573 Arena against Inglis, who converted her third match point to complete her very first win in the main draw of a major.

She lost in the first round at last year's Australian Open to then defending champion Sofia Kenin.

For Fernandez, the venue and the vibe were a long way from her run to the final at Flushing Meadows, where she lost to Emma Raducanu.

Raducanu was scheduled to play later Tuesday against 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens.

The third-seeded Muguruza, meanwhile, kept a perfect streak intact when she won her first-round match at the Australian Open for the 10th straight time, beating No. 77-ranked Clara Burel 6-3, 6-4 to open play on Rod Laver Arena on Day 2.

A runner-up in Australia in 2020 to Kenin—who was a first-round loser on Monday—Muguruza said she's always extra cautious early in a big tournament. Third-seeded Muguruza will next play French vet-

eran Alize Cornet, who beat Viktoriya Tomova 6-3, 6-3.

Sixth-seeded Anett Kontaveit, runner-up to Muguruza at least year's WTA Finals, had a 6-2, 6-3 win over Katerina Siniakova. Seventh-seeded Iga Swiatek, the 2020 French Open champion, opened with a 6-3, 6-0 win over 123rd-ranked British qualifier Harriet Dart.

Also advancing were No.10 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and No.14 Simona Halep, a former No.1 and a two-time major winner who reached the 2018 final here at Melbourne Park.

No.19 Elise Mertens beat Vera Zvonareva 6-4, 7-5, and former US Open champion Sam Stosur rallied to beat Robin Anderson of the US 6-7(5-7), 6-3, 6-3 to start her 20th—and last—Australian Open campaign.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova lost to Sorana Cirstea of Romania for the second straight year, this time 6-2, 6-2 in the first round.

Earlier in the men's draw, No.5 Andrey Rublev beat Gianluca Mager 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. No.11 Jannik Sinner beat Joao Sousa 6-4, 7-5, 6-1. No.13 Diego Schwartzman beat Filip Krajinovic 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 to advance along with No. 15 Roberto Bautista Agut and No.27 Marin Cilic.

Odisha FC jump to 5th after 2-0 win over NEUFC



DANIEL LALHLIPIUIA (R)

AGENCIES

Goa, Jan 18: Two first-half goals helped Odisha FC secure a 2-0 crucial win over NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) in their Indian Super League tie in Fatorla, Tuesday.

The victory allowed the Bhubaneswar-based side to move to fifth position with 16 points after 11 matches in the 11-team standings. Sixth-placed ATK Mohun Bagan (15 points), however, can leapfrog the Kalinga Warriors having two games in hand.

Daniel Lalhlipuija gave Odisha the lead in the 17th minute when he tapped in a low cross from the left by Aridai Suarez. Five minutes later, the provider—Aridai—turned scorer. Aridai, after getting a perfect floating ball from right by Javier Hernandez, controlled the ball before firing it towards the goal to seal the deal for Odisha.

PRANNOY ADVANCES, SOURABH STUNNED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Jan 18: India's HS Prannoy entered the second round of the men's singles competition at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament after registering a straight-game win over Ukraine's Danylo Bosniuk but seventh seed Sourabh Verma was stunned by Azerbaijan's Ade Resky Dwicahyo here Tuesday.

On a comeback trail, the fifth seeded Prannoy took just 36 minutes to get the better of Bosniuk 21-14, 21-18 in his opening match.

A former top 10 player, Prannoy, who gave a good account of himself before being stopped by 20-year-old Lakshya Sen in the quarter-finals of the India Open last week, will next meet compatriot Priyanshu Rajawat, who got a first round walkover from Rahul Yadav Chittaboina.

However, the tournament was over for fourth seed Sameer Verma after he retired hurt against

Lakshya Sen jumped four places to reach a career-high 13th in the latest badminton world rankings

The Indian duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty moved to eighth place in the men's doubles category

P V Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth remained static at seventh among women and 10th (men's singles) spots, respectively

Ireland's Nhat Nguyen. Sameer was trailing 2-7 in the first game before he decided to concede the match due to a calf muscle injury, which he had sustained in October last year.

Subhankar Dey also conceded his match against compatriot Kartikey Gulshan Kumar due to an injury when he was trailing 2-9 in the opening game.

Later in the day, Sourabh suffered a 15-21, 21-19, 21-18 first-round

defeat to Dwicahyo in a match that lasted one hour and seven minutes.

In the women's draw, Ashmita Chaliha gave a first round walkover to Malvika Bansod, while Aakarshi Kashyap defeated Mugdha Agre 21-13, 21-14 and Anupama Upadhyaya eased past Rituparna Das.

In the men's doubles, Tushar Sharma and Vinay Kumar Singh beat the French pair of Fabien Delrue and William Viliger 21-8, 21-13 in 28 minutes.

In mixed doubles, Siddharth Jakhar and Megha Morchana Bora defeated compatriots Ashith Surya and Pranjal Prabhu Chimulkar 21-14, 22-20 in 32 minutes.

In another men's doubles match, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila got the better of Norway's Torjus Flaatten and Vegard Rikheim 23-21, 21-19 in 36 minutes.

Two-time Olympic medalist and top seed PV Sindhu will open her campaign against compatriot Tanya Hemant Wednesday.



HS PRANNOY

leisure



WILLEM DAFOE WANTS TO PLAY 'JOKER IMPOSTER'

Hollywood star Willem Dafoe has said he would love to play a 'Joker imposter' character in a movie alongside Joaquin Phoenix as the iconic villain, and he has even 'fantasised' about it.

KATY PERRY REVEALS HER BEAU ORLANDO BLOOM'S WORST HABIT

Pop star Katy Perry has revealed what her fiancé and actor Orlando Bloom's 'worst habit' is. She said, "He loves to floss, which thank God because some partners don't but he leaves used dental floss all over their bathroom."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You are in a position to affect other peoples' lives. Since you are very compassionate and caring, people will look up to you whether as a peer or a superior. Make good use of this excess energy to solve prickly issues. Ganesh encourages large-scale projects.

TAURUS

Be prepared for taking instant decisions and acting promptly on them. Today you are likely to meet several such situations Ganesh is pleased to see that you have the acumen and experience to deal with such contingencies. You will have no trouble finding the right solutions and seeing things through.

GEMINI

You will be faced with a slew of demands from various people today, and you will find it difficult to meet all of them. However, you will be able to meet the requirements that need to be met to salvage the day. People will praise your intelligence and creativity, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Minor ailments like cough and cold may bother you, warns Ganesh. So avoid cold or sweet items. People admire your helpful nature. Take special care of your health, says Ganesh.

LEO

You need to curb down on your expenses. You need to moderate the risks you take on in the share market. It is a good day for financial gains though. You need to understand the value of compromise, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Family affairs will predominate today. They will even control your thoughts to the exclusion of everything else. Things will look up on the business front. You may spend time relaxing in the evening. Ganesh says a trip to a place of worship is on the cards.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that there are chances that today you might start some long-pending renovation project for your house. You may decorate your home with new paintings and items. There may be guests over in the evening that will make you very happy. You may also go out for dinner with your family and friends or, more probably, with your sweetheart.

SCORPIO

You are all set to paint the town red as you feel romance and love creeping into your life slowly. You may bump into 'someone special' today and see love blossoming for you. There are also chances of marriage proposals and meeting prospective candidates, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Tough times do not last, but tough people do, remember this fact and move ahead in life. Try to make the complicated life simpler by your optimistic approach. Speak up when it is required and don't get bogged down by unnecessary pressure.

CAPRICORN

Today, you will remain unfrustrated by the commotion around you, says Ganesh. However, the emotions locked up inside you will probably cloud your power of reasoning and may leave you feeling a little lost. But this will only be a passing phase, and you will come out of the bewilderment in no time.

AQUARIUS

Today is the day to turn dreams into reality and how! With your talent, wit, and intelligence you will make a great impression on everyone's mind, feels Ganesh. Icing on the cake will be the cash inflow. You know your cards and you play them well to your advantage. There may be a catch though, keep yourself guarded, advises Ganesh.

PISCES

You will communicate with your friends or relatives living abroad today. There is a chance that these communications could translate directly into substantial gain for you. You will find yourself in the mood for socializing. You will likely invite friends over to dinner at your place in the evening, says Ganesh.

Deepika to show her athletic skills on screen again

Deepika Padukone loves doing her own stunts. She is very athletic, it runs in her family. Very early in her career when she did two back-to-back double roles in *Om Shanti Om* and *Chandni Chowk To China*, Deepika Padukone got to do some martial arts in the latter.

She did them with much gusto with Akshay Kumar to keep her company. There were some scenes in this 2009 film that were thought to be too dangerous. But she insisted on doing away with the body double and also the wirings provided for safety during the stunts.

But nothing in *Chandni Chowk To China* compared with what she did in the Rajinikanth release *Kochadaiyaan*. Since then Deepika has been pining to show her athletic skills on screen again.

She finally gets another chance to do her own stunts in Siddharth Anand's *Pathan* where she disposes of all body doubles and plunges into her own stunts. Shah Rukh Khan is also doing some risky action in *Pathan*.

The actress once told in an interview, "I come from a family where sports is a tradition. My sister is a professional golfer player. We are very outdoor types. Doing my own stunts on screen is a dream situation for me."

Deepika was last seen as cricketer Kapil Dev's wife in Kabir Khan's *83*. AGENCIES



Tanzanian star dances on Samantha's number

Mumbai: Popular Tanzanian content creator Kili Paul has shared a video of her shaking a leg on pan-Indian star Samantha Ruth Prabhu's popular track *Oo Antava* from the recent hit *Pushpa: The Rise*.

Kili posted a video on Instagram dancing on the track dressed in a traditional Masaai ensemble.

He captioned the video, which currently has 153,000 likes on the photo-sharing website: "Oh antava mama pushpa songs are (fire emoji) @alluarjunonline @rashmika_mandanna @thisisdsp@adityamusicindia."

This is not the first time Kili Paul has grooved on an Indian number. Previously actress Kiara Advani shared a video of the content creator lip-syncing the track *Raataan Lambiyaan* from her film *Sherashaah*. *Pushpa: The Rise* also stars Rashmika Mandanna and is directed by Sukumar. IANS



Mumbai: The makers of *Pavitra Rishta*... It's never too late have dropped the trailer of its second season and actress Ankita Lokhande says her character Archana is like second skin to her.

Ankita said: "Shooting for *Pavitra Rishta* is like coming home as Archana's character feels like second skin to me. This show changed my life back in the day and this time around too, it has proven extremely lucky for me as it has reinstated my faith in love, second chances and that 'It's never too late'."

She added: "So, it gives me immense joy to announce that your favourite show is back with a new season, 8 fresh episodes, same old Archana-Manav chemistry and renewed drama. We hope that you feel the love we felt while shooting for this series."

Season 2 is centred around Manav, played by Shaheer Sheikh and Archana, and how their marriage, which was based on a sham, falls apart only for them to realise that their 'Pavitra Rishta' was never bound by just vows and responsibilities. IANS



Ankita talks about her 'second skin'

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A DAY OF SPLITS



Dhanush, Aishwaryaa part ways

Chennai: Choosing to end their 18-year-long marriage, actor Dhanush and director Aishwaryaa Dhanush, the daughter of superstar Rajinikanth, have announced that they have decided to part ways.

Late Monday night, both the actor and the director put out a letter, which looked similar for the most part, on their respective social media handles. Dhanush, who was most recently seen with Sara Ali Khan in *Atrangi Re*, shared his letter on Twitter, Aishwaryaa chose Instagram.

In the letter posted on his timeline, Dhanush said, "18 years of togetherness as friends, couple, as parents and well-wishers to each other. The journey has been of growth, understanding, adjusting and adapting. Today, we stand at a place where our paths separate. 'Aishwaryaa and I have decided to part ways as a couple and take time to understand us as individuals for the better. Please do respect our decision and give us the needed privacy to deal with this. Om Namah Shivaya! Spread love!'"

Aishwaryaa's letter read pretty much the same. The decision of the couple, who have two sons, Yatra and Linga, comes as a bolt from the blue to the film industry. IANS



Nitish Bharadwaj announces separation from his wife

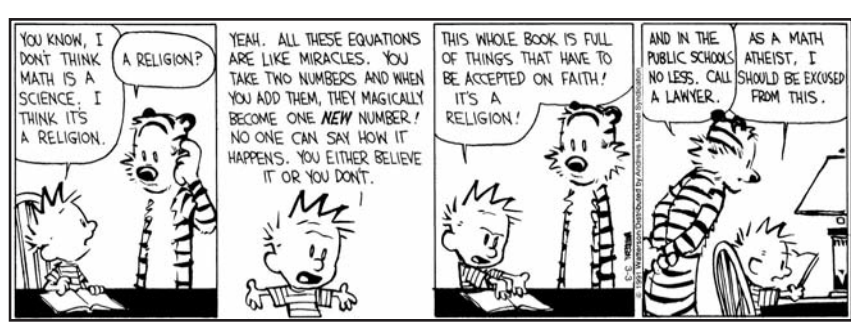
Mumbai: Actor Nitish Bharadwaj has announced his separation from wife Smita Gate, an IAS officer Smita Gate, after 12 years of marriage. He stated, "Yes, I filed for a divorce in the Family Court in Mumbai in September 2019. I do not want to get into the reasons why we separated. The matter is in court right now. All I can say is that sometimes divorce can be more painful than death as you live with an amputated core."

He added, "I am a firm believer in the institution, but I have been unlucky. Generally, the reasons for the breakdown of a marriage can be infinite, sometimes it's because of an uncompromising attitude or lack of compassion or it could be a result of ego and self-centred thinking. But it's the children who suffer the most when a family breaks down." Earlier he married Monisha Patil, daughter of Vimla Patil, then editor of *Femina* in 1991. They have a son and daughter and divorced in 2005. AGENCIES

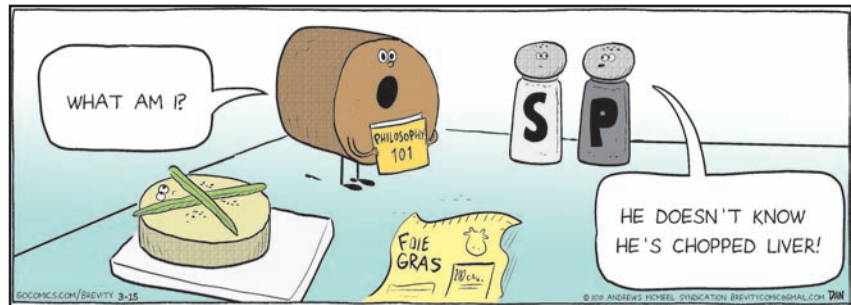
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

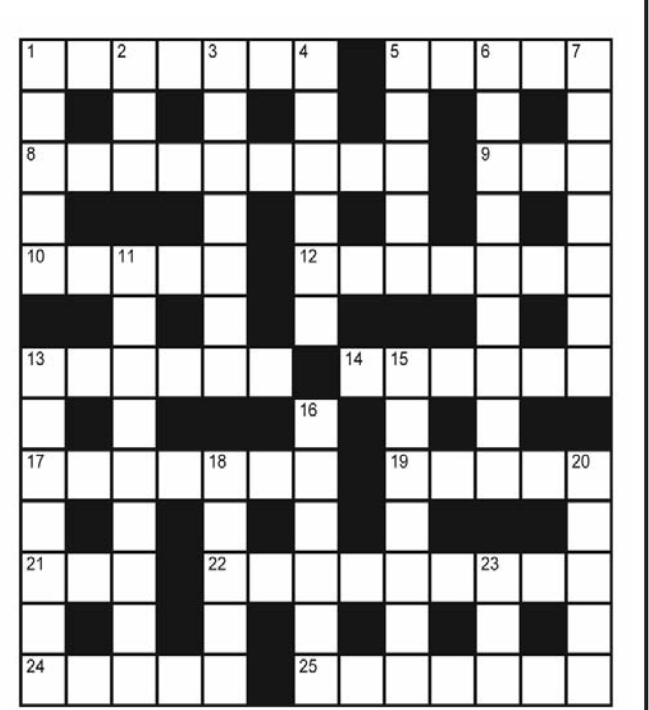


BREVITY



FUN post

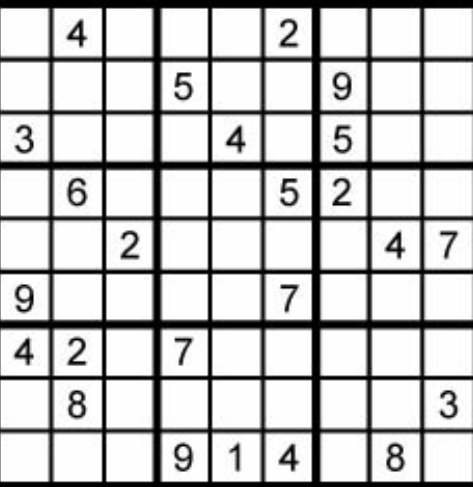
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Hue and cry
 - 5 Elephantine
 - 8 Sirocco (4,5)
 - 9 Paddle
 - 10 Fine fur
 - 12 Blow up
 - 13 Exit
 - 14 Cruise ship staterooms
 - 17 Instructor
 - 19 Racing vehicles
 - 21 Phi follower
 - 22 Northern Atlantic auk
 - 24 Like most beaches
 - 25 Ointment ingredient
- Down
- 1 They may be cracked
 - 2 Commercials
 - 3 Bluepoints
 - 4 Kind of scholar
 - 5 Don't ___ the works! (3,2)
 - 6 Eat humble pie
 - 7 Castle parts
 - 11 Savage
 - 13 Tempts
 - 15 Loser (4-3)
 - 16 São Paulo locale
 - 18 Tube-nosed fruit bat
 - 20 Beauty parlour
 - 23 Indisposed

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

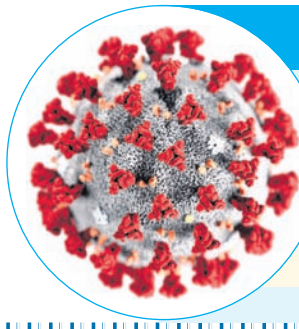


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



DEFT HANDS

An artisan busy making ceremonial headgears in Firingi Bazar area of Cuttack, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	33,21,16,632	26,93,75,814	55,66,118
India	3,76,18,271	3,53,94,882	4,86,761
Odisha	11,55,487	10,73,777	8,488

Make a model scheme to fight hunger: SC

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Jan 18: The Supreme Court has told the Centre to give latest data on the number of people who died due to starvation in the country and frame a national model scheme to combat hunger.

During a hearing Tuesday, a bench headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said, "Are you saying there are no starvation deaths in the country except for one? Can we depend on that statement?"

The Centre had relied on a 2015-2016 report on starvation deaths.

"With state governments not reporting any starvation death, is it to be understood there is no starvation death in the country? Government of India should give us data on starvation deaths, latest information. Ask your officer to give us information," the court told Attorney General KK Venugopal.

The bench said state governments are announcing welfare schemes ahead of Assembly elections next month in five states, and a policy for community kitchens will make the Centre popular. "It's election time. If you frame the policy and give additional food grains, then states will want to implement the cooked food policy," the Supreme Court said.

When Venugopal told the court



66

With state governments not reporting any starvation death, is it to be understood there is no starvation death in the country? Government of India should give us data on starvation deaths, latest information. Ask your officer to give us information

SC BENCH TO ATTORNEY GENERAL KK VENUGOPAL

that there are 134 schemes in place and more funds cannot be diverted to states as food grains are already being distributed to them, the bench

told the Centre to consider providing additional food grains.

It directed the Centre to formulate a national model scheme for community kitchens, in consultation with states and other stakeholders, which can include extending additional logistics, resources and food grains.

"Our focus is that people should not suffer from hunger, die of hunger. You have to discuss with your officers to come up with a nodal scheme. We have explained the intention of this court and need to explore a solution," the Chief Justice of India told Venugopal.

"We are not on larger issues of malnutrition... hunger is to be sa-

tiated. Everyone is admitting there's an issue. Have a humanitarian approach. Ask your officers to apply their mind," he added.

The Chief Justice said, "We are not saying that you (Centre) are not doing anything to deal with hunger or starvation... but consider a model scheme nationally. Draft a scheme, finalise it and then leave it to states."

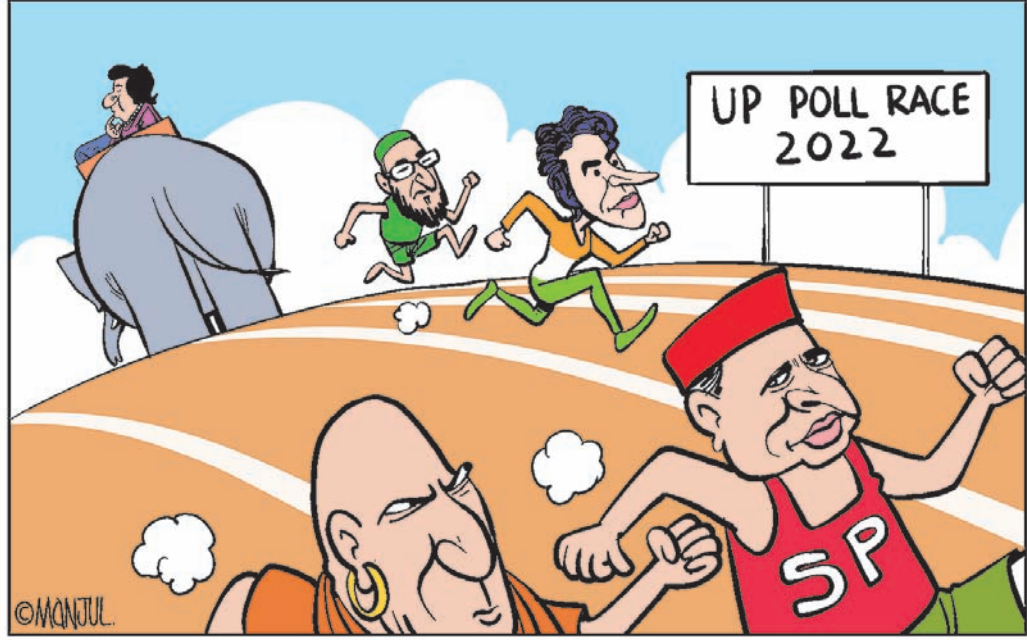
The lawyer said the Centre will consider the court's suggestions. "We can make a scheme with this... Two per cent additional food grains will be made available to states. Let states file an affidavit and see if this two per cent is acceptable to all the states."

The court adjourned the matter for two weeks and said states can file additional affidavits on malnutrition, hunger and other issues till then.

Meanwhile, Odisha informed the Supreme Court that not a single death due to starvation was reported in the coastal state. However, there are 1,429 malnourished children of below five years in all 30 districts of the state.

Following the apex court's October 2021 order, Odisha, in an affidavit, submitted that it has been taking numerous steps to prevent malnutrition. The state also submitted that it has been providing additional nutrients to the malnourished children.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Covid testing centres in capital burdened with seasonal diseases

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: Covid testing centres in the state capital are witnessing a sharp rise in tests amidst the outbreak of seasonal flu, common cold and viral fever, whose symptoms are very similar to that of the Omicron variant.

Pointing to the unseasonal rains and drop in temperature, health experts have suggested that outbreak of usual seasonal diseases other than Covid may have triggered panic and confusion among people. This reportedly has increased the burden on all private and government testing centres in the capital.

"Usually we were receiving about 100-120 samples daily for Covid testing a month ago. Now we are receiving around 600 samples a day. Fearing that they have been infected with Omicron, a large number of people have turned up for Covid testing and tested negative. We have made several temporary Covid testing dispensaries to de-



crease the workload and waiting period for RT-PCR sampling," said Laxmidar Sahoo, Director, Capital Hospital here.

Similarly, private testing centres that offer more expedite testing and results have also been overburdened with Covid samples. "While we used to deal with around 300 samples a day until December, the number has now increased to 900-1,100 every day. In addition, there is a significant demand in home testing," said Bijay Kant Sahoo, manager at a private testing centre here.

However, despite suffering from symptoms such as running nose, cough and cold, health experts have suggested patients to get Covid testing done. "Usual symptoms such as headache, fatigue, sneezing, sore throat and dry cough are found in patients suffering from Omicron as well as other seasonal disease. Their incubation periods are also similar to that of 2-3 days. However, it's advisable to opt for Covid testing and isolate oneself when one tests positive to Omicron," said Dr. Ashutosh Mohanty, a local physician.

Meanwhile, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has increased Covid testing in the state capital in view of a surge in Covid cases. While only 8,106 tests were conducted until January 7, now the daily tests have increased to 9,010.

Moreover, the state capital has also witnessed a 141% jump in Covid cases in last ten days. While only 581 cases were reported until January 8, it shot to 1,402 cases as on January 18.

ATM loot bid foiled

Bhubaneswar: An ATM loot bid by father-son duo in Unit-8 area was foiled by alert locals here Monday night. Nayapalli police have arrested the duo. The accused persons were identified as Pramod Diggal, 64, and his juvenile son. Sources revealed that Suraj Rout, one of the customers of the Punjab National Bank's local branch, while returning home received a phone call from the manager of the concerned branch. The manager told Suraj that the centralised surveillance system of the bank in Mumbai had informed them about the presence of some suspicious persons at the ATM kiosk. He requested Suraj to reach the spot along with some other locals. Accordingly, Suraj and his friends reached there and managed to catch the father-son duo.

SEC issues guidelines for Republic Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: The State Election Commission (SEC) Tuesday released a set of guidelines to be followed by the state government ministers and officials during the Republic Day celebrations this year.

As the Model Code of Conduct is in force in the entire state since January 11 for the upcoming Panchayat elections and the Republic Day will be celebrated during this time, the Commission has instructed all the ministers of the state government as well as

Cabinet ministers and party leaders will not participate as guests in the celebrations in their respective districts

Collectors and other government officials to not talk about any project or scheme and their success in their Republic Day address.

In addition, Cabinet ministers and party leaders will not participate as guests in the celebrations in their respective districts. All the state government departments

have been directed not to advertise the schemes of the government at any Republic Day event.

As per schedule, the filing of nomination papers by candidates for the three-tier panchayat elections started Monday. The process will continue till January 21.

According to sources in the State Election Commission (SEC), 7,116 nomination papers were filed for ward members, while 1,122 nominations were filed for the posts of sarpanch, 512 for panchayat samiti members and 22 for Zilla Parishad members on the first day of nomination filing.

INVITING TROUBLE



Covid protocols go for a toss as hundreds of shoppers throng Unit-II market in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

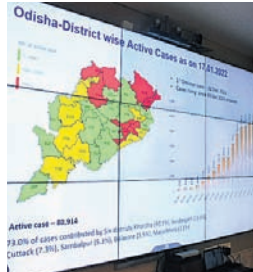
Covid situation totally under control: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: Stating that Covid-19 situation is totally under control in the state, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday appealed to people not to panic and follow Covid-19 protocols.

While reviewing the Covid-19 situation through videoconferencing mode, Naveen said that the state government has taken steps to control the pandemic keeping the livelihood of the people in mind. "With the active cooperation of the people, we can deal with the situation without affecting the livelihood activities," he said.

The state has been able to manage the third wave of Covid-19 so far. The number of daily Covid cases has remained almost constant over the past few days. The number of active cases has started declining in major cities of the country. The symptoms are mild and



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reviewing the Covid-19 situation in state through videoconference, Tuesday



very few patients need hospitalisation, he said, adding, "Still, we all need to remain alert and fully prepared." He asked the Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra, who was present in the meeting, to advise the people not to panic as a high number of cases were reported.

The Chief Minister advised the officials to further speed up the vaccination programme in the state, especially inoculation of

booster dose to the medical staff, police personnel, administrative officials and other eligible persons.

As media personnel are treated as frontline workers, Patnaik advised the officials to give priority to them on vaccination of booster doses. He also emphasised the need for a micro-containment strategy and regular monitoring of health conditions of the Covid patients under home isolation.

Chief Secretary Mohapatra said that all Covid hospitals in the state have been made operational and medicines and other essentials have been provided. Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Health, RK Sharma indicated that the third wave is now at its peak in the state. The number of daily Covid patients in the state has remained between 10,000 and 11,000, but the hospitalisation rate is very low.

There are 11,291 beds for Covid patients in the state of which only 11 per cent are occupied now. The state has adequate medicines, medical oxygen and other essentials.

Giving details about the vaccination drive, Sharma said that 92.7 per cent of the eligible persons have taken the first dose, while 70.7 per cent are fully vaccinated. He noted that 45.8 per cent of children in the age group of 15 to 18 years are vaccinated and 14 per cent have received booster dose.

Man falls to death after stepping into lift shaft

The lift's door lock was malfunctioning for several days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: In a tragic incident, an elderly man died after falling into the basement of a residential apartment on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar through the lift passage, Tuesday.

According to reports, the victim lived at Hi-Tech Plaza, a residential complex located near Sundarpada, on the outskirts of the capital city. Like every day, he pressed the button of the lift to go downstairs. After the lift door opened, he stepped inside only to fall to the basement.

Though the door of the lift opened, the lift compartment did not arrive due and the victim fell through the lift passage after stepping in inattentively. He suffered

critical injuries as a result of falling from a height. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead.

On being informed, a team from the Airfield Police Station arrived at the spot and launched a probe into the accident.

Sources informed that the lift's door lock was malfunctioning for several days due to which the door opened even though the lift compartment did not arrive on the floor.

Residents of the building have raised concerns over the matter as the irresponsibility of the lift operators and other persons employed for maintenance resulted in the tragedy. The residents said their lives too are at risk unless the lift is not repaired immediately.

Rourkela among 15 winners of worldwide innovation contest

The steel city bagged the honour for providing cold storage units to women-run co-ops to empower female food vendors, reduce food waste, and increase access to fresh foods

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: The industrial city of Rourkela is among the 15 winners, hailing from 13 nations, of a prestigious worldwide innovation competition, which recognised the cities for designing the boldest and most ambitious urban innovations to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bloomberg Philanthropies Tuesday announced the 15 winning cities of the 2021-2022 Global Mayors Challenge, the fifth edi-



A VIEW OF ROURKELA CITY

tion of the global innovation competition that supports and spreads cities' most promising ideas.

"The yearlong competition launched in 2021 elevates the most promising urban innovations to emerge from the pandemic," said a press release issued by Bloomberg Philanthropies. As many as 631 cities from 99 countries participated in the competition.

Rourkela, known as the steel city, bagged the honour for providing cold storage units to women

co-ops to empower female food vendors, reduce food waste, and increase access to fresh foods, the release said.

The winning cities will receive USD 1 million each and multi-year technical support.

The other winners are Amman (Jordan); Bogota, (Colombia); Butuan, (Philippines); Freetown (Sierra Leone); Hermosillo (Mexico); Istanbul (Turkey); Kigali (Rwanda); Kumasi (Ghana); Paterson (US); Phoenix (US); Rochester (US);

Rotterdam (the Netherlands); Vilnius, (Lithuania); and Wellington (New Zealand).

"As the world works to address the profound public health and economic effects of the ongoing pandemic, cities can implement innovative ideas at a pace that national governments simply can't match," said Michael R Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg LP and 108th Mayor of New York City.

"Our fifteen winners offer bold, achievable plans to improve health, reduce unemployment, empower women, and more. Collectively, they have the potential to improve millions of their residents' lives—and the most successful solutions will inspire cities around the world to embrace them," he said.

The 15 winning cities collectively represent more than 30 million residents.

The winners will now enter a three-year implementation period with the USD 1 million grant and

robust technical assistance. During this time, the cities will work diligently to evolve and scale their ideas into a real-life programme to improve residents' lives. Cities will also work to share their ideas with additional cities around the world to enable these tested innovations to spread, the release said.

The winning ideas address one or more of four current issue areas in cities including economic recovery and inclusive growth; health and wellbeing; climate and environment; and gender and equality.

The winners were selected based on four criteria: Vision; Potential for impact; Feasibility; and Transferability. The ideas provide a powerful snapshot of the innovation priorities of hundreds of the world's cities. The most common themes of the winning innovations focus on reducing unemployment, improving health, and addressing climate change, the release said.

Online system for forest diversion proposals soon

THE FOREST DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ASKED TO CREATE LAND BANK FOR COMPENSATORY AFFORESTAION IN LIEU OF DIVERTED FOREST LAND

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: For expeditious diversion of forest land for implementation of social infrastructure projects, the state government has decided to develop a foolproof online system. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Tuesday directed concerned officials to develop foolproof online software through which the forest diversion proposals could be dealt right from the time of initiation to the final sanction and issue of the certificates. Mahapatra gave this direction during an interactive session on forest diversion proposals held in digital mode from Lokseba Bhawan wherein Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Mona Sharma outlined the issues for discussion. Mahapatra advised secretaries of different departments to make use of the latest provisions of forest laws for expeditious implementation of the critical infrastructure and development projects. “Forest department officers are very much a part of the developmental process and they should be properly oriented and appraised about the recent permissive provisions of the law that allow construction of infrastructure projects and other developmental interventions on the forest land,” he said. Mahapatra directed the Forest department to circulate a simplified guideline with frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers among the district and field-level officers of both the Forest and user departments. The department was also asked to organise regular orientation programme of the Forest and Revenue officers and update them about the latest position of the law regarding development of the critical socio-economic infrastructure. ACS Sharma said that around 13 types of essential projects could be approved under the Forest Rights Act (FRA). These included schools, dispensary, fair price shops, electric and telecommunication lines, tanks, drinking water projects,



minor irrigation projects, canal, water harvesting structures, clean energy, skill training centre, roads, and community centers. Permission of the use of forest land to the extent of one hectare could be given by the DFOs. Further, the Chief Secretary instructed the Forest officials to identify appropriate land for compensatory afforestation (CA) in lieu of the diverted forest land for maintaining ecological balance over the years. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Sishir Kumar Ratho advised that the land identified for land bank should be permissible and appropriate for compensatory afforestation. He further said that the land categories like the degraded revenue forest, patara jungle, jhadra jungle etc would be ideal for compensatory afforestation.

BJP doubts SEC impartiality

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: The state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Tuesday levelled serious allegations against the State Election Commission (SEC) saying they have doubts regarding the impartiality of the SEC in conducting the upcoming panchayat election. The party also alleged that the Constitutional authority has been reduced to ‘a toothless body’. State BJP general secretary Lekhashree Samantasinghar accused the SEC of being a tool in the hands of the BJD-led government. The discontent among the saffron party’s leaders came following the missing of the names of many of its’ candidates from the final voter list prepared by the SEC. “It was told that the district-level final voter lists would be published December 18. That did not happen. Now after much delay, the lists have been published. What surprised us is that some of our prominent candidates’ names have gone missing from those lists,” alleged Samantasinghar. “The names featuring in the Election Commission of India’s lists are not there in the SEC’s lists. From this, one can easily understand the wrongful intention of the state government as well as the SEC,” she alleged. The BJP also demanded the immediate transfer of Vijay Amruta Kulange who has been the district Collector of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik’s home district Ganjam for five years, and D Brundha, district Collector of Kandhamal, district for seven years.

Khurda accounts for 31% of fresh Covid-19 cases in state

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: Odisha reported 11,086 new Covid-19 cases Tuesday, 597 more than the previous day, while four more patients succumbed to the highly infectious virus, the Health Department said in a bulletin. The coastal state’s daily test positivity rate (TPR) rose to 15.62 per cent from 14.96 the previous day, as 70,990 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, the bulletin stated. Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported nearly one-third (31 per cent) of the new cases at 3,469, followed by 1,416 cases in Sundargarh and 766 in Cuttack, it said. As many as 1,061 children were among the new patients. The daily cases jumped by more than 56 per cent from 7,071 a week ago. The state had logged 10,489 cases Monday. The active cases surged to 80,914, including 27,010 in Khurda that is in the red zone of districts where current cases are over 2,500. Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Cuttack, Balasore and Mayurbhanj are also on the list. Puri and Bolangir are among the nine districts that are in the yellow zone with over 1,000 patients. The toll mounted to 8,488 with one fatality each in Cuttack, Sundargarh, Kendrapara and Koraput districts. Fifty-three other patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to the bulletin. The total Covid case tally in state climbed to 11,55,487. So far, 10,66,032 patients, including 5,965 Monday, have recovered, the Health bulletin added.



VITAL STATS
The state’s daily cases jumped by more than 56 per cent to 11,086 from 7,071 recorded a week ago, while at least 10,489 cases were recorded Monday. The active cases surged to 80,914, including 27,010 in Khurda district that is in the red zone of districts where current cases are over 2,500. Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Cuttack, Balasore and Mayurbhanj are also on the red zone list.

For the last few days, Odisha has been reporting daily Covid load between 10,000 to 11,000 cases. However, the hospitalisation rate and oxygen requirement among the patients have remained very low in this wave. The occupancy rate is nine per cent in general beds, 15 per cent in ICU and five to six per cent in ventilator beds, while the admission of paediatric cases is also very low

LOKAYUKTA OFFICE CLOSED TILL JAN 21

The office of the Lokayukta at Toshali Bhawan in Satyanagar area of the city will remain closed from January 19 to 21 due to the surge in Covid-19 cases. The benches of Lokayukta as well as the office have been suspended for the above time period. They will resume work January 24, sources said. This has been uploaded to the official website of

the Lokayukta and displayed on the office notice board. Earlier, the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) suspended all operations after several of its staffers were found positive for Covid-19. The commission informed through a press note that the commission located at Toshali Bhawan in Satyanagar area will remain completely shut for nine days starting January 17.

Former Works Secy Panda dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: Former Engineer-in-Chief-cum-Works Secretary Dileep Chandra Panda passed away at a private hospital here Tuesday, family sources said. He was 93. A celebrated engineer, Panda served as the Works Secretary in 1986. He also served as an expert member of the Western Odisha Development Council. Panda was a man of many talents who enjoyed flying, photography, travel, literature, gardening and witty conversations. He is survived by his wife Binata Panda, eldest son (late) Satyabrata’s wife Sita, four children — Debabrata, Debasish, Dipti, Mitrabinda — their spouses, and loving grandchildren.



Govt to intensify IEC campaign on Covid

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: As the state’s Covid-19 infection graph is rising, the state government has decided to intensify the information, education and communication (IEC) campaign on the pandemic. Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra has asked the information and public relation (I&PR) and health departments to intensify the IEC campaign through print, electronic and social media, audio visual clips, cartoon clips for children, hoardings and Swasthya Kanthas (health walls). “The prescriptive and service oriented IEC campaign against Covid is equally crucial for appropriate management of the Covid scenario,” he said. As many patients are in home isolation, Mahapatra said, they should be very clearly informed about the norms of isolation, daily care like measuring of oxygen level, which number to contact for getting doctor’s advice, what to do at the time of emergency, and how to avail emergency services like ambulance and hospitalization. He said the campaign should contain the telephone numbers of

Area wise WhatsApp groups of positive patients to be created for monitoring their health condition

persons whom a patient in home isolation could contact for getting health services. The rapid response teams (RRTs) were advised to form area wise WhatsApp groups taking all positive patients so that the patients could communicate their health condition to the RRTs. The department was also advised to put district and ULB specific telemedicine numbers in the IEC campaign which the patients could use at the time of emergency. This information will give more confidence to Covid positive people in home isolation, and will be more helpful for their early cure, he pointed out. Information and Public Relations Secretary Bishnupada Sethi said appropriate contents would be re-designed in collaboration with the State Institute for Health and Family Welfare (SIHF&FW) for different media and audiences.

Press Chhak murder: Locals block road, demand arrest of accused

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: The residents of Gadakana Tuesday again staged a road blockade protesting the delay in arresting the main accused in the Nirnanjan Parida murder case at Press Chhak here Saturday evening. All the vehicular movement on the road was halted for around an hour due to the blockade at Press Chhak Tuesday afternoon. The protesters lifted the blockade after police intervention. Earlier, the Saheed Nagar police had arrested Satyaranjan Singh and Satya Prakash Pandav, both of Bhadrak district Sunday in connection with the crime. However, police are yet to arrest two other accused, including the alleged prime accused, Soumya Ranjan Behera alias Milu who has been on the run since the murder. The agitating protestors also urged the police to enquire the role of the owner of the two-wheeler showroom at the Press Chhak. They alleged the owner of harbouring the accused and providing safe passage to them after the murder. It may be mentioned here that two of the accused used to work at



Residents of Gadakana stage a demonstration at Press Chhak in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Two PILs filed over Dinkia baton charge

POST NEWS NETWORK

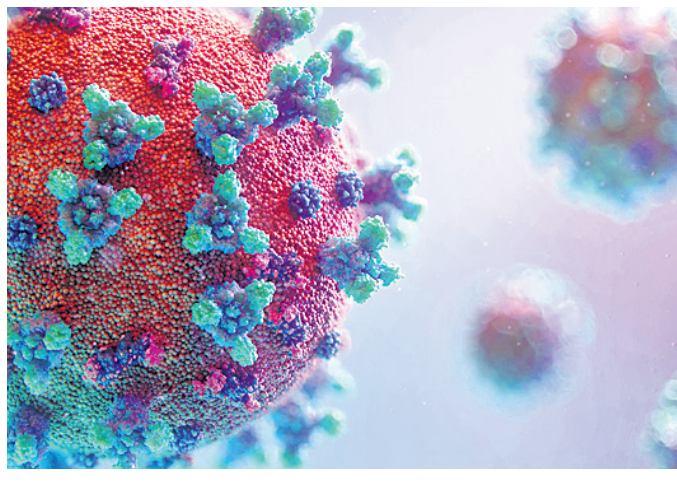
Cuttack, Jan 18: Two public interest litigations (PILs) have been filed in the Orissa High Court here in connection with the baton charge on agitators by police during acquisition of land for a steel plant project at Dinkia in Jagatsinghpur district January 14. The PILs have been filed by Khirod Rout, Deepak Kumar Mahapatra, Kabiraj Pradhan and a woman from Dinkia. The Chief Secretary, Revenue department secretary, JSW Steel, Jagatsinghpur SP and Erasama Tehsildar have been made parties to the cases. The petitioners urged the court to safeguard the human rights of the locals of Dinkia and ask the authorities not to raise any betel vine in the locality till further order in the cases. The petitioners also pleaded for free treatment of the injured and adequate compensation to the people who would be affected by the project. They sought HC’s intervention to stop forcible eviction for the project and initiate an impartial probe into the baton charge incident. The court is likely to take up one of the two PILs January 21, sources said.

CLASSIFIED
LOST

By virtue of this affidavit I, Malayabnt Suna, S/o. Sudramani Suna, of Risigaon, P.S.- Khariar, Dist. Nuapada declares that I am owner of land area Ac.0.69 dec., Plot No.998, Khata No.328 of Village- Risigaon vide Registered Sale Deed No.11431101996/2011 before the Sub Registrar, Khariar, which has been lost somewhere while I was coming to Khariar from my residence of Risigaon. Further I declare that I am going to avail finance from State Bank of India, Khariar Branch by keeping mortgage the above mentioned land. If anybody any objection for that, they can inform the SBI, Khariar in writing within 10 days publication of this matter:

CAN A PERSON BE INFECTED WITH OMICRON TWICE?

ALTHOUGH RE-INFECTIONS ARE THERE, "THERE IS NOT YET STRONG EVIDENCE IN FAVOUR" OF OMICRON RECURRING IN AN INDIVIDUAL
While Omicron is known to cause Covid re-infection, there is no strong evidence yet in the favour of a person being affected with the vaccine dodging strain again, said Indian health experts here. However, they also did not rule out such a possibility. An individual’s immunity which has been primed by prior infection or vaccination has the memory of the parent virus.



But because Omicron is a deviant, meaning it has deviated quite a lot from its parent Covid strain it has many dissimilarities. As a result, “our immune system fails to recognise the virus as the original virus and hence the chance of re-infection. Along with the above the waning immunity of naturally infected individuals with passage of time will also contribute to the re-infection”. Dr Dipu TS, Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Amrita Hospital, Kochi, said. Although re-infections are there, “there is not yet strong evidence in favour” of Omicron recurring in

an individual, added Dr Ashok Mahashur, Consultant Chest Physician at PD Hinduja Hospital & MRC, Mahim, Mumbai. A recent study led by the UK’s Imperial College London has showed that the risk of re-infection with the Omicron variant is 5.4 times greater than that of the Delta variant. “This implies that the protection against re-infection by Omicron afforded by past infection may be as low as 19 per cent,” said the researchers. Dr Rahul Pandit Director, Critical Care, Fortis Hospitals Mumbai, said: “Omicron causes re-infection because it has an ‘immune escape phenomenon’ - that means that people who had acquired infection before and had antibodies, because of that or who are vaccinated and have antibodies, or have both, which is known as ‘hybrid immunity’”. Omicron has more than 30 mutations on its spike proteins, helping it to escape immunity. That is why it is infecting people who were

previously having antibodies as well. “However, there is no understanding if Omicron infection would happen again in these people, or not; that remains to be studied and seen,” Pandit, who is also a member of National and Maharashtra’s Covid-19 Taskforce, said. “We should not be speculating if such re-infection would happen or not. I haven’t seen any case as such of a patient with Omicron getting re-infected with another Omicron infection, neither has been reported anywhere in the medical journals and medical literature yet,” he said. But, some western experts have argued that Omicron can re-occur. “Yes, you can get Omicron twice,” Stanley Weiss, Professor at the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School was quoted as saying in a media report. While, “the data regarding Omicron specifically is just coming out, but there’s no reason to think that Omicron in this regard is any different than the previous

variants”, added William Schaffner, Professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, in the report. However, Kingston Mills, Professor of Experimental Immunology at Trinity College Dublin said it was “too early” for people infected with the virus and then caught again. The picture may be clear in six months’ time, Mills was quoted as saying to Financial Times. Mahashur said that in India, cases of Covid re-infection have been reported and especially among those with low immunity. “The best way to prevent this is by following a Covid appropriate behaviour because there is no way to know whether the virus is there or not. The virus may be there, but the patient may be asymptomatic, so the best way to prevent it is by taking vaccines, wearing masks, washing hands properly, and avoiding crowded places,” Mahashur said. IANS

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SHORT TAKES

MODEL CODE VIOLATION

College principal, Salipur SDPO face suspension

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Jan 18: Participating in an election meeting despite holding government posts proved costly for two officials as the State Election Commissioner (SEC) Tuesday directed for suspension of the duo from their services.

and later participating in a feast in violation of Covid norms. The matter came to the light after a video of the incident went viral on social media. On being informed, Kendrapara Collector Amrit Raturaj directed the Mahakalapara tehsildar and Marshaghai police IIC to conduct a probe into the charges and submit a report to him, Monday.

Man gets life term for killing 'witch'

Baripada: A court in Mayurbhanj district Tuesday sentenced a 32-year-old man to life imprisonment for killing a woman on the suspicion of being a witch eight years ago.

Maoist posters in Bolangir

Bolangir: Maoists have put up banners at Samarsingh village under Turekela block in Bolangir district Tuesday.

Man imprisoned for cheque bounce

Berhampur: A local court sentenced a man to one-year imprisonment after convicting him in a cheque bounce case under Negotiable Instruments Act, Tuesday.

Man gets 10-yr jail for raping minor

Baripada: A court in Mayurbhanj district Tuesday sentenced a 57-year-old man to 10 years of imprisonment for raping a minor girl.

Jilted lover attacks married woman

Kamakhyanager: A jilted lover attacked a married woman and rendered her critical after she spurned his advances at Rankia under Kamakhyanager police limits in Dhenkanal district, Tuesday.

KOTIA TO VOTE IN RURAL POLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: A year after voting in Andhra Pradesh rural elections, residents of disputed villages in Kotia gram panchayat (GP) of Koraput will now exercise their franchise in the upcoming panchayat elections in Odisha.

A YEAR AFTER ANDHRA ELECTIONS



ANDHRA GOVT HAD HELD RURAL ELECTIONS IN VILLAGES IN KOTIA GRAM PANCHAYAT AREA, CLAIMED BY BOTH THE STATES, IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR

SEC HAS ISSUED SPECIAL DIRECTIONS TO OFFICIALS CONCERNED FOR CONDUCTING PEACEFUL POLLS IN KOTIA GP IN KORAPUT DISTRICT, AND CHITRAKONDA BLOCK OF MALKANGIRI DISTRICT

Padhi has issued the directions during a recent review of the situation in all the 30 districts of the state before holding the rural polls in mid-February, they said. Polling could not be held in two zilla parishads, comprising 18 gram panchayats, of Chittrakonda block in the 2017 panchayat elections due to the situation created by ultras.

boycott the panchayat elections were seized from some pockets, a senior police officer said. Similarly Padhi has also asked the Collector and SP of Koraput to lay special emphasis on conducting peaceful elections in Kotia GP under Pottangi block.

There have been several flare-ups last year over the ownership of 21 of the 28 villages under Kotia GP had first reached the Supreme Court in 1968. In 2006, the apex court held that inter-state boundaries did not fall within its jurisdiction and only the Parliament could resolve them, as it imposed a permanent injunction on the disputed area.

PANCHAYAT POLLS

Jayanarayan's absence may hit BJP's campaign

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 18: Absence of Sambalpur MLA Jayanarayan Mishra from active electioneering due to health reasons might have a bearing on the BJP's poll campaign in Sambalpur district, a report said.



electioneering in the district. Meanwhile, nomination filing has started Monday but the three parties - BJP, BJP and Congress - have not released their list of candidates for the zilla parishad zones. On the other hand, BJD has prepared a separate list of three probable candidates for each ZP zone and sent it to the party high command for approval.

BJD faces problem of plenty in Khandapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khandapara, Jan 18: Filing of nominations has started in 22 panchayats under this block in Nayagarh district, but more than one aspirant for sarpanch posts in all the panchayats has become a headache for the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in this block, a report said.



Many senior leaders of the ruling party had pinned hopes to fight elections in their respective areas, but seat reservation has spoiled their hopes. To hold their way in their areas, they are lobbying to field their spouses or loyalists as sarpanch nominees.

Similar situation was found in case of zilla parishad zones. The BJP and Congress are in the lookout for such mess in the ruling party, but it remains to be seen how far they will cash in on the situation arising out of squabbles in the ruling party.

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Covid surge throws spanner on Eco Retreat in Sambalpur



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 18: The surge in Covid-19 cases has adversely impacted the ongoing Eco Retreat along the Hirakud reservoir in Sambalpur.

BOOKING OF COTTAGES AT THE ECO RETREAT HAS REACHED A MEAGRE 10 PER CENT AS OF NOW

LAST YEAR, FOOTFALL OF MORE TOURISTS WAS RECORDED TOWARDS THE LAST WEEK OF DECEMBER AND FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY

The booking of cottages at the Eco Retreat has reached a meagre 10 per cent, affecting the business as was expected in early part of the current year, a report said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had inaugurated the Eco Retreat December 15, 2021. The Tourism department had expected more footfall of tourists at the Eco Retreat than that of the previous year.

It was learnt that between December 15 and January 15, less than 10 per cent bookings have been logged for cottages. In previous year, footfall of more tourists was recorded towards the last week of December and first week of January.

bar, drawing hall, meetings halls - in 27 cottages to attract tourists. Moreover, other recreational facilities like boating, cycling, rifle shooting, sight-seeing of Debrigarh sanctuary and other tourist facilities.

Water sports facility has been made in the reservoir for local and outside tourists.

It was stated that even local tourists fear to enjoy water sports due to Covid transmission.

In previous year, local tourists used to visit the Eco Retreat and lakhs of rupees was warned.

The water sports facility was closed too. Last year, 40 per cent cottages had been booked within three months logging Grade-1 business.

In the current month, no booking was made, but it is expected that tourist footfall will grow in coming months.

On the other hand, the agency which has got tender for the Eco Retreat management is in a spot over poor business.

40 names deleted from voters' list

CHANDBALI: Names of 40 people including a sarpanch aspirant and her family members have been deleted from the voters' list in Aradi panchayat under Chandbali block of Bhadrak district.

BJP workers alleged that the officials have deliberately deleted the names of sarpanch aspirant Sasmita Padhi, her husband and other family members from the voters' list. The BJP has submitted a memorandum to the BDO in this regard. They also staged protests in front of the block office Tuesday. When contacted, Collector Trilochan Majhi said that the names have been struck off owing to technical reasons.

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Tender Opening Date : For Sl. No. 1 dt. 07.02.2022, Sl. No. 2 dt. 10.02.2022, Sl. No. 3 dt. 14.02.2022 & Sl. No. 4 dt. 16.02.2022.

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Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Bhubaneswar

Chola CORRIGENDUM With reference to the Possession Notice which was published in this newspaper on 16.01.2022, should be read as follows: 1. Loan A/c. No. X0HEBH00002234179 - Amount Rs. 33,70,960.21 instead of Rs. 32,84,968.44, Loan A/c. No. X0HECUK00003446393 - Amount Rs. 10,40,519.44 instead of Rs. 10,68,091.05 and Loan A/c. No. HE02BH00000001351 - Amount Rs. 873302.00 which was not published in the earlier publication. Totaling Amount Rs. 52,84,781.65 instead of Rs. 43,53,059.49. 2. Demand Notice Dated 24.09.2021 instead of 15.06.2021. Rest of the matter remains unchanged. Inconvenience caused is regretted.

Despite ban, fishing in Gahirmatha rampant

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Jan 18: Rampant fishing in the water bodies and seawaters of Kendrapara district and smuggling of marine species have resulted in drastic fall in their count triggering concern among the conservationists, a report said.



ALTHOUGH THE FOREST DEPARTMENT HAS IMPOSED A BAN ON CATCHING CRABS AND TRADING THEM IN AREAS UNDER RAJNAGAR FOREST DIVISION, FISHERMEN CONTINUE TO CAST NETS IN THE WATER BODIES NEAR GAHIRMATHA MARINE SANCTUARY

CATCHING CRABS FROM THE WATER BODIES HAS BECOME SO RAMPANT THAT AS MANY AS 200 SHOPS SELLING CRABS HAVE COME UP IN THE AREA IN RECENT TIMES

Catching crabs from the water bodies has become so rampant that as many as 200 shops selling crabs have come up in the area in recent times, said sources. Traders buy these crabs and fishes from local fishermen at a very nominal price and export them to foreign countries via Paradip and Kolkata for a premium. These crabs are also transported to other states at high prices.

red crabs, marine crabs and various varieties of sea fish which are sold for ₹50,000 per kg. Mud crabs are being sold in this region at ₹1,000 - 3,000 per kg. These dealers pack the crabs in big bamboo containers and smuggle them to hotels in big cities like Kolkata, Raipur and Hyderabad. Mud crabs have high demand in national as well as international markets. Foreigners are served with various delicacies prepared with these crabs. A local fish trader

said that the demand for these marine fishes and crabs is very high as medicines are also prepared from these marine creatures. Some fishermen, requesting anonymity, said that despite the ban, they are allowed to fish in the water bodies in lieu monthly bribes to Forest officials. They take action only against fishermen who refuse to pay the bribe. Fishermen Bikash Mandal, Gurupada Bera, Panchanan Bera, Bimal Bera and Aswini Maiti said

they are forced to catch fish and crab from the water bodies and the sea to earn a living as they do not own any farmland. Environmentalist Samarendra Mahali had earlier said that crabs and fish were found in abundance in the water bodies of this coastal area. However, rampant fishing activities and discharge of industrial effluents into the water bodies have taken a toll on their population. Moreover, discharge of chemical mixed water from the prawn gheries and use of modern fishing nets has led to a decline in their population. He warned that if proper measures are not taken immediately, these marine creatures will vanish from these water bodies soon. When contacted, Mahakalapara Forest ranger Sahaji Charan Biswal said Forest officials are regularly patrolling in the area and recently caught some fishermen fishing in Kharinasi reserve forest areas.

FOCUS SOCIETY

TIME FOR GOVERNANCE 4.0

In 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic and the myriad crises it spawned may finally start to recede. But even in that best-case scenario, a tsunami of new challenges—from the failure of climate action to the erosion of social cohesion—is within sight. Addressing them will require leaders to adopt a different governance model.

When our institutions are well governed, we pay little attention to them. They are simply invisible infrastructure supporting the economy and virtually all aspects of the social order. And “good enough” governance in the second half of the twentieth century enabled income growth and social peace.

Today, however, many people have lost faith in their leaders. Faced with mounting risks and our collective failure to address them, we have started looking for culprits. Some point the finger at inept political leaders, others blame ‘Davos Man’ CEOs, and a desperate, growing minority sees an elite conspiracy behind the current doom and gloom.

The truth is more complicated. At the heart of our failure to foresee and manage global risks—not only climate change and deepening social divisions but also the re-emergence of infectious diseases, debt crises, and inadequate technology regulation—lies an unresolved problem of global governance. Our institutions and their leadership are no longer fit for purpose.

We tend to view history as a series of big, earthquake-like events. But the degradation of global governance was mostly a case of gradual erosion.

In the Governance 1.0 period immediately after World War II, both public and corporate governance were marked by the rule of the ‘one man’: the elected or unelected ‘strong leader’ and the ‘boss.’ This type of leadership worked well in a society where the cost of information was high, hierarchical power and management functioned relatively smoothly, and technological and economic advances benefited almost everyone.

The Governance 2.0 model, which emerged at the end of the 1960s, affirmed the primacy of material wealth, and coincided with the rise of the economist Milton Friedman’s ‘shareholder capitalism’ and progressive global financialisation. The new man-



The twenty-first century will bring many unprecedented challenges. If we want our children and grandchildren to look back at the progress we made with the same satisfaction that we felt at the end of the twentieth century, then our governance model must evolve

change are disrupting every industry and center of power. Technologies such as blockchain are replacing centralised and hierarchical organisations with decentralised, autonomous entities. And social, economic, and digital inequities are increasing.

For now, many leaders remain stuck in the shareholder capitalism mentality of Governance 2.0, while some societies still favour the strongman leadership and structure of Governance 1.0. And as long as COVID-19 remains a threat, the crisis mentality of Governance 3.0 will continue to dominate boardroom and cabinet discussions.

But many leaders are already thinking and acting like pioneers for a new age of governance. They include business executives advocating for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) metrics, and political leaders such as French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi breaking down boundaries. Above all, young people are demanding a better future.

Those still using the governance playbooks of previous eras criticize such leaders for not staying in their lane. But we should welcome leaders who, navigating largely uncharted territory, act outside of their narrow interest as trailblazers and argue for specific action to fight climate change and address social injustice.

The best gauges of responsible and responsive governance today measure the extent to which leaders embrace and consent to stakeholder responsibility over shareholder responsibility. Although the measurement of stakeholder accountability is still in its infancy, the development of consistent metrics will enable us to judge whether leaders are taking a broader view of their role and responsibility.

The twenty-first century will bring many unprecedented challenges. If we want our children and grandchildren to look back at the progress we made with the same satisfaction that we felt at the end of the twentieth century, then our governance model must evolve.

The writer, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, is co-author of The Great Narrative: For a Better Future (Forum Publishing, 2022).
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Klaus Schwab

WE TEND TO VIEW HISTORY AS A SERIES OF BIG, EARTHQUAKE-LIKE EVENTS. BUT THE DEGRADATION OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE WAS MOSTLY A CASE OF GRADUAL EROSION

Accountability

A day passed without accomplishing a good action is a day without soul.

THE MOTHER



Eighty per cent Indians believe they and their families will be economically better off in the next five years. Admittedly this is not a result of any plebiscite held across the country. This fact along with some other data was collected by The Edelman Trust Barometer which has, for two decades, been polling thousands of people in multiple countries on how much they trust their governments, media, business and NGOs. A report published recently by Edelman communications group claimed to have carried out a survey which involved 36,000 respondents in 28 countries during November 1-24 of 2021. This report has come to the conclusion that public trust in governments running the world’s democracies has fallen to new lows over the handling of the pandemic and a widespread sense of economic pessimism. The biggest losers of public trust were institutions in Germany followed by Australia, the Netherlands, South Korea and the United States. By contrast, public trust was high in institutions in China followed by the UAE and Thailand which are all non democracies. In Japan only 15% respondents believed they and their families would be better off in five years’ time, with most other democracies also clocking very low trust on the same query. This same question to Chinese respondents drew a two-thirds optimism about their economic fortunes while 80% Indians quizzed believed they would be better off in five years.

Apart from governance issues, according to this Barometer, business has gained trust globally due to its role in developing vaccines and adapting to new and appropriate workplace and retail practices. On the other side, around two-fifths of the respondents also said that business was not doing enough to address economic inequality, workforce re-skilling and climate change.

People’s concern about ‘fake news’ was at an all time high this time. Three-quarters of respondents globally felt that media was using fake news as a weapon while climate change was the second big issue after loss of employment among societal fears.

This recent survey seems to be an echo of findings of the past few years that demonstrated increasing disillusionment with capitalism, political leadership and the media.

Most important in all of this is the loss of faith in democracy. It can safely be said that this loss is primarily because of the quality of manpower that political parties are attracting. It is mostly individuals like Erdogan, Orban, Duterte, Bolsonaro and others, all of them bearing similar autocratic mindset, that have managed to infiltrate the democratic processes in their respective countries and have come to power through the ballot. The people at large have chosen them. Simultaneously, the people are reposing total faith in the capabilities of this set of leaders to guide them to a better life. This should make the old democratic thought process to stand up and take note. It could be a great harbinger of change. History has shown that the era of the king and the conqueror, landlord, and feudal lord came to an end when autocratic characters usurped the thrones. The dictator was dislodged with pro people movements into which jumped the liberal, thus was born communism on one hand and democracy on the other. Today, maybe, democracy has come full circle. Casting a single vote once only for a fixed number of years does not absolve us, citizens, of our responsibilities. We mostly tend to focus on our rights only. The leader also feels that the certain number of years bestowed on her or his administration implies no accountability. When people forget, there is no accountability. If there is no accountability, there can be no justice in society.

WISDOM CORNER

- Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
- Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success. SWAMI SIVANANDA
- Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

WORDSWORTH

Riff-raff

To trace this one, we have to start in medieval French. There was then a set expression rife et raffé. These words are from the verbs riffer, to spoil or strip, and raffler, to carry off. The phrase referred to the plundering of the bodies of the dead on the battlefield and the carrying off of the booty. The French phrase moved into English in the forms rif and raf or rife and raf, which meant at first every scrap, from which we may guess that medieval plunderers were extremely thorough. It’s known by at least 1338 (it appears in Mannyng’s Chronicle of English of that date). Later it shifted sense through a series of stages, first referring to one and all, or everybody, and then later taking on the idea of the common people, those of no special social standing. The phrase was abbreviated to riff-raff and can be found in Gregory’s Chronicle of London of about 1470. It seems to have taken some decades longer for it to have gone even further downhill and for it to be associated in particular with the dregs of society. It’s likely that the negative associations of common soldiers ransacking the bodies of the dead coloured the expression even after it had shifted its meaning. We’re familiar with descendants of both of the original old French words in English, by the way. Riffler is the origin of our riffle in the card-shuffling sense, amongst others, and of rifle, for searching hurriedly through possessions for something, or to steal. It also gave rise to the firearms sense, since a rifle takes its name from the spiral grooves cut in the barrel of such a gun to improve its accuracy; this comes from a different sense of the French word, meaning to graze or scratch. And raffler lent its name to a game played with three dice, perhaps because the winner snatched up or carried off the winnings (we’re not quite sure of the connection). In English the game was called raffle, and the word was only much later applied to another form of gambling, a lottery. And in the early nineteenth century raffish appeared. This adjective originally referred to somebody who was disreputable or vulgar. Only later did it acquire the undertones it now has of a person who is attractively unconventional. This may have come from the second half of riff-raff, or from raff, which had survived by itself in dialect usage in much the same sense of the lowest class of the population.

LOL

Low self-esteem

A guy had been feeling down for so long that he finally decided to seek the aid of a psychiatrist. He went there, lay on the couch, spilled his guts then waited for the profound wisdom of the psychiatrist to make him feel better. The psychiatrist asked him a few questions, took some notes then sat thinking in silence for a few



minutes with a puzzled look on his face. Suddenly, he looked up with an expression of delight and said, “Um, I think your problem is low self-esteem. It is very common among losers.”

IN JEST THIS

Forget objective measurements – we’re human



Melvin Durai

WE DON’T JUST COMPARE OURSELVES TO OTHERS—WE ALSO COMPARE OUR CURRENT EXPERIENCES TO PREVIOUS ONES

I drive a Honda that’s more than 10 years old. I was quite happy with it, until I happened to rent a new car one day. This new car had all the latest technology installed, including a navigation system that my Honda lacks (I use my phone for directions) and a premium surround sound system. The sound system provides 320 watts of power from eight speakers, which would allow me to blast Abba so loud, my kids would die of embarrassment. For a day or two after returning the rental car, I wondered if it would be worth it to buy a newer car and enjoy some of the amenities that newer cars offer. But then I realised that any additional happiness that I’d get from the newer car would dissipate in a week or two. I’d get used to all the new features and they wouldn’t be special to me anymore. I might even grow tired of embarrassing my kids.

In the end, what really matters is whether a car can reliably take me from Point A to Point B. My

Honda runs very well—it hasn’t broken down on me yet—and I’m not quite ready to get rid of it. Of course, whenever a friend buys a brand new car, I can’t help feeling a little envious. But then I imagine all those monthly car payments and the envy disappears.

It’s human nature to make comparisons, as David J. Linden, a neuroscientist at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, writes in an article titled “A Neuroscientist Prepares for Death,” which appeared in a recent issue of the US magazine The Atlantic.

Linden, who has terminal cancer, shared a few insights that preparing for death has taught him about the human mind. One of his insights struck me as particularly perceptive. “The deep truth of being human is that there is no objective experience,” he writes. “Our brains are not built to measure the absolute value of anything. All that we perceive and feel is colored by expectation, comparison,

and circumstance.”

Even when we can measure something objectively, we do not experience it objectively. This is why, Linden says, 30 minutes fly by when you’re chatting with a friend, but the same amount of time can seem like an eternity when you’re standing in line at the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles). In a similar way, 60 minutes seem like such a short time when you’re sitting for an important exam, but those same 60 minutes seem never-ending when you’re sitting in a dentist’s chair.

Linden offers another example: “That fat raise you got at work seems nice until you learn that your co-worker got one twice as large as yours.” One moment, you’re feeling appreciated at work, and the next moment, you’re feeling exploited. It’s tough not to compare yourself to others. That’s how we often measure our accomplishments. If you scored 72 per cent in an exam, you’d probably

feel bad about it. But if you find that your score was the highest in your state, you’d feel considerably better about yourself—and considerably worse about your state.

We don’t just compare ourselves to others—we also compare our current experiences to previous ones. After you’ve spent a few years living in Dubai, you’ll never complain about the heat in India. You might even wear a sweater all year. But if you just returned from Siberia, you’ll feel like you’ve been thrown into a fire.

For Linden, his cancer diagnosis has made him appreciate every moment of life. His doctor expects him to live just one more year. Linden wishes he had five years left to enjoy life. Five years seems like a lot, but only because he’s been given just one year.

“The point is that, in our minds,” he writes, “there is no such thing as objective value, even for something as fundamental as five years of life.”

Flyover mishaps

Sir, Accidents on flyovers are on the rise in India. Though flyover accidents and general road accidents have some reasons in common, a few select causes play the first fiddle in flyover mishaps. Roads on overpasses are commonly top class. These are invitations to speed driving. Speed control on overpasses, as compared to that on normal highways, is extremely important. Authorities have to erect familiar signboards on flyovers. No policeman can regulate the drivers on flyovers. So, it becomes important to think of novel ideas to infuse a semblance of discipline among the drivers. The time taken by a vehicle to travel from the entrance of the flyover to the exit can be a handy way of identifying over-speeding drivers. The method, however, needs appropriate technology and exemplary hard work to see the light of day. Many drivers who are unfamiliar with the flyover route will have to be appropriately guided. One may have noticed how good drivers toil to maintain lane discipline on highway roads to compensate for the indiscipline of their erring colleagues. While deviating from the correct lane may prove to be a mistake on highways, on flyovers such blunders could prove fatal. Normally, flyovers are bound by a parapet wall on one side and a median on the other. A vehicle breaching lane discipline can throw another off balance resulting in accidents. Smashing the parapet wall to land on the service road is a very tragic way of putting one’s life on the line. On the other side, crushing the median to collide with vehicles coming from the opposite direction is a common cause of flyover accidents in recent times. Architects have to incorporate newer scientific methods, if any, of parapet and median wall construction, laying much emphasis on design that offers convenience and comfort to drivers, keeping in mind safety aspects.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

RIP maestro

Sir, Brijmohan Nath Mishra also known as Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away at the age of 83. It’s a great loss as he was not just a versatile performer but also had a great personality. Kathak dance was his entry point into the domain of performing arts. Despite the fact that we feel that he is going to be with us eternally, we are going to miss the maestro. Pandit Ji lived a good life, having gotten over the difficult times of earlier years. He has set an example for all youngsters that if you have talent you can achieve anything.

Somya Agrawal, UJJAIN

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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national

of the day quote

Kerala government's ambitious public-centric project, K-FON, for providing high speed internet for free to the poor and at affordable rates to others is progressing quickly

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

The Samajwadi Party, which has been protecting criminals, has now given tickets to anti-social elements and history sheeters for several assembly seats, including Kairana, Muzaffarnagar, Siyana, Bulandshahr and Loni in western Uttar Pradesh

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CHIEF MINISTER

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had fallen back on compromised candidate Bhagwant Mann as no one was ready to lead the party in Punjab

SUKHBIR SINGH | SHIROMANI AKALI DAL (SAD) PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Kerala: Building collapses, 20 injured

Kozhikode (Ker): At least 20 people were injured, few of them seriously, after a building under construction in nearby Kaithapoyil in this north Kerala district collapsed Tuesday morning. According to police sources, the multi-storied building was under construction in the Markaz Knowledge City.

Illegal arms factory busted

Bulandshahr: With the arrest of one accused, police Tuesday claimed to have busted an illegal arms factory in the forest of Bhanoli village in the district. Ten finished and 12 half-finished illegal weapons have been recovered from the illegal unit under Kotwali Dehat Police Station area, Superintendent of Police (City) Surendranath Tiwari said.

Two cops arrested for drug peddling

Bangalore: Two police constables deputised as security officers at the residence of Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai were arrested Tuesday for allegedly running a drug racket, and selling 'ganja' in Bangalore. The policemen - identified as Shivakumar and Santhosh, attached to Koramangala police station, were deputised as security officers at the RT Nagar residence of CM Bommai, in Bangalore.

Delhi riots: Court grants bail to six

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Tuesday granted bail to six accused persons in connection with a case related to the death of 20-year-old Dilbar Singh Negi, whose charred body was found during the violence in the city's North-East area in February 2020. Justice Subramonium Prasad granted bail to the accused - Mohd. Tahir, Shahrukh, Mohd. Faizal, Mohd. Shoaib, Rashid, and Parvez in the order which was reserved earlier this month.

Notorious arms supplier held

New Delhi: A notorious arms supplier of the Nandu and Sisodia gang was arrested after an encounter with Special Staff of Outer North district in the national capital, an official said here Tuesday. The accused, identified as Shakil alias Sherni, a resident of Jahangir Puri, was previously involved in 17 other cases and was currently supplying arms to Nandu and Sisodia Gang.



Industry leaders and youth should take up rural service as a mission, with special focus on women empowerment

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

PVT SCHOOLS IN UP WANT TO RAISE FEES

The Unaided Private School Association (UPSA) has opposed government's decision of 'no fee increment' for the session 2022-23. Around 250 schools under UPSA have demanded permission to hike fees and have sent a letter in this regard to additional chief secretary (secondary education), Aradhana Shukla



FAKE NEWS CONCERNS

'Public trust declines in govt, media globally'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: Public trust in governments and media has declined in the last one year amid the Covid-19 pandemic while concerns about fake news have reached all-time high levels, a global survey showed Tuesday.

The annual Edelman Trust Barometer report, released every year during the World Economic Forum's Davos summit, also showed that business has replaced government as the most trusted and is now followed by government and media in that order.

According to the study, 76 per cent respondents globally said they worry about false information or fake news being used as a weapon. While Spain topped this list with 84 per cent, India came in at the fifth place with 82 per cent.

Respondents in the Netherlands, Japan, France, UK and Germany appeared least concerned about fake news.

In terms of the average per cent trust in NGOs, businesses, governments and media among their people, China topped the list and India came in at the fourth place and Russia was at the bottom.

India figured in the top-five also in terms of economic optimism. With regard to the trust in one's employer, India was ranked second (90 per cent) after Indonesia (91 per cent) while China was third (89 per cent) and South Korea came in last.

India saw the trust declining in businesses, governments and media while it was unchanged with regard to NGOs.



WAR AGAINST COVID

Centre asks states to ramp up testing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: Flagging a decline in the number of Covid-19 tests in many states and union territories, the Centre has asked them to enhance testing so that an effective track of the spread of the pandemic can be kept and immediate citizen-centric action can be initiated.

In a letter to states and UTs Monday, Additional Secretary in the Union Health Ministry Arti Ahuja advised them to pay attention to this aspect immediately and increase the testing in a strategic manner keeping in view the trend of case positivity in specific areas.

She highlighted that Omicron, which has been designated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a variant of concern, is currently spreading across the country.

Referring to the ministry's earlier letters and the Home Ministry advisory of December 27 last year laying out the broad framework of pandemic management in the context of Omicron, Ahuja said testing remains a key and crucial component. "However, it is seen from the data available on the ICMR portal that testing has declined in many states and union territories," she wrote. She said in all advisories on testing issued by the



Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), including the latest January 10, the basic objective remains early detection of cases for quick isolation and care. In addition, testing remains a key strategy for pandemic management as it helps in identification of new clusters and new hotspots of infection which can in turn facilitate immediate action for containment such as setting up of containment zones, contact tracing, quarantining, isolation and follow-up. This can enable the state and district administrations to curb the spread of infection. Also this will ensure reduction in mortality and morbidity. Reiterating the advisory on purposive testing strategy issued by the ICMR January 10,

FRESH CLINICAL GUIDANCE

NEW DELHI: The Union health ministry has advised Covid patients to go for tests for tuberculosis and other conditions if cough persists for more than two-three weeks. The revised 'Clinical Guidance for Management of Adult Covid-19 Patients' issued by AIIMS, ICMR-Covid-19 National Task Force and Joint Monitoring Group (DGHS) under the health ministry Monday underlined there is no evidence of injectable steroids benefiting Covid patients not requiring oxygen supplementation or in continuation after discharge. Anti-inflammatory or immunomodulatory therapy, such as steroids, can have the risk of secondary infection like invasive mucormycosis, when used too early, at higher dose or for longer than required, they highlighted. If cough persists for more than two-three weeks, one should opt for investigation for tuberculosis and other conditions, the revised guidelines stated.

she said in community settings all those who are symptomatic must be tested and all at-risk contacts of laboratory confirmed cases must also be tested.

Army rescues 30 civilians trapped in avalanches

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Jan 18: Amid fresh snowfall and two avalanches, the Indian Army and General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) have rescued 30 civilians stuck on the Chowkibal-Tangdhar road in Kashmir, officials said Tuesday.

"As soon as the information of civilians getting stuck closer to Khooni Nala and SM Hill on NH 701 reached the troops at NC pass, two rescue teams comprising avalanche rescue teams from Indian Army and a team of GREF were mobilised for rescuing the civilians who were

only known as Sadhna pass. All the rescued civilians were provided food, medical care and shelter for the night." Army said 12 vehicles were later retrieved during the day/Tuesday post avalanche and snow slides clearance from the road. "GREF played a difficult but stellar role in snow clearance amidst dangerous conditions. The entire effort took about five to six hours," the army said.

Pertinently last year also civilians were rescued by the troops near Khooni Nala, closer to NC pass, as the area is prone to avalanches and snow slides.

monly known as Sadhna pass. All the rescued civilians were provided food, medical care and shelter for the night." Army said 12 vehicles were later retrieved during the day/Tuesday post avalanche and snow slides clearance from the road. "GREF played a difficult but stellar role in snow clearance amidst dangerous conditions. The entire effort took about five to six hours," the army said.

MAMMA'S BOY



A two-month-old tiger cub plays with his mother inside an enclosure in Mumbai zoo Tuesday

Only 5K-8K people to be allowed to attend R-Day parade this yr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: The number of people allowed to attend the Republic Day parade this year is likely to be curtailed to approximately 5,000-8,000 due to the Covid-19 situation, with seats reserved for construction workers, frontline health workers and others, senior officials of the defence ministry said Tuesday.

Only double vaccinated adults and children above the age of 15 who have taken at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine will be allowed to enter, they said, adding children below 15 years will not be permitted to attend the event.

The officials said the parade would start at 10.30 AM instead of 10 AM to provide better visibility.

They said the number of people that would be allowed to attend the Republic Day parade this year is to be curtailed by 70-80 percent to approximately 5,000-8,000 due to the ongoing Covid-19 wave.

Nearly 25,000 people were allowed to attend the last year's parade, compared to around 1.25 lakh people in 2020, due to the pandemic.

This year, as a special endeavour, seats have been reserved for autorickshaw drivers, construction workers, sanitation workers and frontline health workers for the parade as well as for the Beating the Retreat ceremony that takes place January 29, they said.



Five Naxals killed in separate encounters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sukma/Raipur, Jan 18: At least five Naxals, including two women, were killed in two separate encounters with security personnel in Sukma district and the forests along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border Tuesday morning, police said.

In the Suka district, a dreaded woman ultra, carrying a reward of ₹5 lakh on her head, was gunned down during the firefight between Naxals and the personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard (DRG) from the Sukma, Dantewada and Bastar, an official said.

Another skirmish broke out between Naxals and security personnel in the forests along the border of Chhattisgarh and Telangana in the morning hours.

"A team of special anti-Naxal Greyhounds unit of neighbouring Telangana police had launched a counter-insurgency operation along the forest of Bijapur (Chhattisgarh) and Mulugu (Telangana) districts



after receiving inputs about the movement of Maoist leader Sudhakar along with 40 armed Naxal cadres in the area," Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P told PTI.

A joint team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) from Bijapur was also out on the operation to cordon off the area, he added. "Around 7 AM, the Greyhounds team got engaged in a gunbattle with ultras in a forest near Semaldodi village (Bijapur) and Penugolu village (Mulugu). Later, the bodies of four ultras were recovered from the spot," he said.

Rajnath ends tableau politics

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 18: Putting an end to politics of tableau ahead of the Republic day parade, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday wrote to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Tamil Nadu counterpart MK Stalin explaining the reasons for rejection of their states' tableaux.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had Sunday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention after the Centre rejected her state's Republic Day tableaux on Subhas Chandra Bose.

In his letter to both the leaders, Rajnath Singh stated that of the 29 proposals from states and union territories, 12 were accepted.

Singh said: "I would like to bring to your kind attention that there exists a well established system for selection of tableaux for participation in the Republic Day Parade, as per which Ministry of Defence invites proposals for tableaux from all States/UTs and Central Ministries/Departments."

The minister said that tableaux proposals received from various



Politics of tableau heated up after the Centre rejected the proposals of Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu tableaux in the Republic Day parade

States/UTs and Central Ministries/Departments are evaluated in a series of meetings of the Expert Committee comprising eminent persons in the field of art,

culture, painting, sculpture, music, architecture, choreography etc.

"The Expert Committee examines the proposals on the basis of theme, concept, design and its visual impact before making its recommendations. As per the time slot allotted for tableaux in overall duration of the parade, short listing of tableaux is done by the Expert Committee."

He told Banerjee that West Bengal tableaux were part of 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2021 parades.

He also said that the government has celebrated 2018 Republic Day in honour of Subhas Chandra Bose and this year also the Republic Day celebrations will begin from January 23 marking his 125th birth anniversary.

To Stalin, Singh explained, "The tableaux from the State Government of Tamil Nadu was considered in the first three rounds of meetings. After the third round of meeting, the tableaux could not make it to the final list of 12 selected for participation in the RDP-2022."

Singh told Stalin that Tamil Nadu had representation in 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Republic Day parades.

Why only 19 female candidates out of 400 in NDA, SC asks Centre

THE TOP COURT ASKED THE CENTRE TO EXPLAIN WHY, DESPITE ITS ORDERS, THE INTAKE OF WOMEN CANDIDATES IN NDA FOR YEAR 2022 HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO 19, THE FIGURE SAME AS LAST YEAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 18: The Supreme Court Tuesday sought a response from the Centre, asking why only 19 women candidates will be admitted in the National Defence Academy (NDA) out of 400 seats in 2023.

A bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and MM Sundresh told Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, that the government needs to clarify why 19 women candidates have been fixed for the year 2023, according to the notification issued by UPSC. The bench asked the Central govern-

ment to bring on record the total number of women candidates, along with the over tally, who took the NDA examination in 2021.

During the hearing, the bench told Centre's counsel: "Last year; you said it was due to infrastructure problems (the intake of women will be less)...Now, again for the year 2022, you have proposed to take the same number of women candidates."

The candidates, who will take the NDA exam in 2022, will be admitted in 2023. The Centre's counsel contended before the bench that intake of women candidates in NDA is based on requirement of the force. The petitioner Kush Kalra,



in an additional affidavit, said, "To continue to keep the number of intake of female candidates at only 19 even for the next year, i.e., 2023 and only allowing male candidates in

Sharma, representing the petitioner, argued that the current stand of the Centre is contrary to its stand reflected in the top court orders passed August 18 and September 22 last year. The bench further pressed its query to the Centre's counsel saying why the Central government has fixed the intake of women candidates to 19. The bench emphasised, "You have to explain this. 19 seats cannot be for all times to come..."

The Centre agreed to file a detailed affidavit, explaining why it has taken this stand, within three weeks. The petitioner's affidavit said according to the advertisement issued by the UPSC and by the gov-

ernment, NDA will take in 400 cadets in the current NDA-II 2021 intake.

The top court also sought response from the Central government on the intake of women in Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Rashtriya Military School (RMS), and Sainik Schools in 2022.

The top court gave three weeks to the Centre to file an affidavit and also asked the parties to file their rejoinder in two weeks. The matter has been posted for further hearing March 6.

In September, last year, the apex court had allowed female candidates to take the entrance exam to the NDA scheduled November last year.

KOLHAPUR KIDS' KIDNAP, KILLING

Too late for execution, serve life sentence: HC

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Jan 18: The Bombay High Court Tuesday commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence awarded to sisters Renuka Shinde and Seema Gavit, who were convicted by a Kolhapur court for kidnaping 14 children and killing five of them between 1990 and 1996.

A bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and S V Kotwal commuted the death sentence awarded to the duo after holding that the Maharashtra government and the Centre had caused inordinate delays in executing their death sentence and had breached their fundamental rights.

The bench noted that the government authorities, particularly the state government, had acted casually, delayed protocol despite being aware of the seriousness of the case, and did not execute the death sentence awarded to the women despite their mercy petitions being rejected by the President over seven years ago.

The Maharashtra authorities had delayed processing papers related to the mercy petitions filed by the convict women, and a bunch of mercy petitions filed by others on their behalf, it said. The state prison authorities had failed to follow the protocol of informing the convicts about the status of their pleas, the state government officials had delayed sending relevant details to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, and in seeking a hearing in HC, the bench noted.

"Though the procedure for deciding mercy petitions mandates speed and expediency, the state machinery showed indifference and lax-

TURN OF EVENTS

- The accused were arrested by Maharashtra Police in 1996
- Another prime accused and their mother, Anjana, who was also arrested and charged in the case, passed away in 1998 during the pendency of the trial
- In 2001, the half-sisters were convicted and awarded the death penalty by the Kolhapur Sessions Court
- The death sentence was confirmed by the Bombay High Court in 2004 and then the Supreme Court in 2006
- The sisters had earlier filed mercy pleas before the Maharashtra Governor in 2008 that were declined in August

2013, and later to the President, which was rejected in July 2014, even as people from the USA, Japan, Canada, and India had appealed to the President for commuting the death verdict stating that execution of women was extremely rare

■ The matter was taken up urgently August 19, 2014, as the two sisters awaited the gallows that day

■ The public prosecutor issued telephonic instructions to the YCJ Jail Superintendent Yogesh Desai to stop the hangings till their pleas were heard and the matter came up on the board the following day at the Bombay High Court

PLEA

The sisters argued before the High Court that they had both suffered over 25 years in custody and had therefore invoked their fundamental right under Article 21 through the present petition

The women urged the court to commute their death sentence to a life term and to also order for their release forthwith considering the 25 years they already spent behind by bars as the life sentence already undergone



Renuka Shinde Anjana Gavit Seema Gavit

VERDICT

The Bombay High Court bench allowed the women's petition partly by commuting their death sentence to life

It, however, refused to allow them to be released from custody, stating that they will have to serve their life sentence till the end of their natural life, considering that the crime committed by them was "heinous"

ity at each stage," the court said.

The High Court noted that the state made a statement on not executing the death sentence till the plea was heard finally, but did nothing to seek circulation or schedule the next hearing, and the plea was heard finally by the court in September-October 2021.

"The position of law that an unexplained delay in disposal of mercy petitions may result in commuting the death sentence was already holding the field when mercy petitions by

the petitioners were made," the bench said. "Despite this legal position, only due to the casual approach of the officers of the respondent state (Maharashtra), the mercy petitions were not decided for 7 years, 10 months and 15 days," it said.

The bench of Justices Jamdar and Kotwal said that the state machinery showed indifference. "That it took over seven years for movement of files is unacceptable. Dereliction of duty of the state is the reason for commuting the death

sentence," it said.

The sessions court in Kolhapur had convicted the accused and sentenced them to death in 2001. The death sentence was confirmed by the High Court in 2004 and thereafter by the Supreme Court in 2006.

The convicts had approached the governor with a mercy petition in 2008, which was rejected in 2012-13. After that, they had approached the President with a mercy petition, and the same was rejected in 2014. The sisters argued before the

Amending Cadre Rules will affect states: Mamata



The Centre has proposed an amendment to the IAS Cadre Rules which would enable it to post IAS officers on central deputation bypassing reservations of the state governments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 18: Expressing "strong reservations" to Centre's proposal to amend the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to roll back the decision claiming that the change in rules for central deputation of IAS officers will affect states' administration.

In a two-page letter sent recently, Banerjee alleged that the proposed amendment is against the "spirit of cooperative federalism".

"I express my strong reservations to the approach followed by the Central government in proposing such amendment to the Cadre Rules which unilaterally mandates the state government to make such a number of officers available for deputation as prescribed under Central Deputation Reserve," the letter read.

In the IAS Cadre Rules amendment, the Centre has proposed to insert a provision in Rule 6 of IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, which stated that any IAS officer could be posted on central deputation with the concurrence of the state government.

The Centre has proposed to keep this part of the rule intact, but to add: "Provided that each State

Government shall make available for deputation to the Central Government, such number of eligible officers of various levels to the extent of the Central Deputation Reserve prescribed under Regulations referred to in Rule 4(1), adjusted proportionately by the number of officers available with the State Government concerned vis-a-vis the total authorised strength of the State Cadre at a given point of time. The actual number of officers to be deputed to the central government shall be decided by the Centre in consultation with the state government concerned," it added.

"Not only is the proposed amendment against the spirit of cooperative federalism but the same also upsets time-tested harmony which existed between Centre and states in the matter of posting of IAS-IPS officers," Banerjee wrote.

"I would beseech you to consider that the reciprocal spirit of interactive and consultative give and take, designed in the existing framework, should not be replaced by unilateralism. I request you to keep the federal spirit of the Cadre Rules unviolated by withdrawing/not giving effect to the proposed amendment," she added.

Anil Deshmukh denied default bail in money laundering case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 18: A special court here Tuesday rejected a plea filed by former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh seeking 'default bail' in an alleged money laundering case.

Deshmukh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) November 2, 2021, and is currently in judicial custody.

In his application, the NCP leader had said the Special Court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act cases did not take cognizance of the prosecution complaint (charge sheet) filed by the ED before remanding him in further judicial custody. As the cognizance was not taken in the stipulated period of 60 days from the arrest, he should get bail by default (on technical grounds) under section 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), the plea said.

The ED opposed this argument, saying the charge sheet had been filed within the stipulated time. Special Judge R N Rokade Tuesday rejected the NCP leader's plea.

As per section 167, if a charge sheet is not filed and its cognizance not taken within 60 days, the accused can seek default bail. But the Central agency's contention was that the question of court taking cognizance of charge sheet was not pertinent. Default bail cannot be considered once the principal charge sheet and a supplementary one had been filed in time, it added.

The ED had December 29, 2021, filed a 7,000-page supplementary charge sheet against Deshmukh and his sons. It had earlier filed a charge sheet against 14 others including Deshmukh's private secretary (an additional collector-rank officer) Sanjeev Palande and personal assistant Kundan Shinde. The ED launched a separate probe against Deshmukh after the CBI reg-

istered a case against the senior NCP leader in April 2021 on the charges of corruption.

The ED's case is that while serving as Maharashtra Home Minister, Deshmukh, through (now dismissed) police official Sachin Waze, collected Rs 4.70 crore from various bars in Mumbai. Deshmukh and his family members owned several shell companies which were used to launder this money and divert it to educational trusts controlled by the family Waze, an assistant police inspector with Mumbai Crime Branch, was arrested in March 2021 in the Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hiran murder cases.

Following Waze's arrest, then Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh was transferred. Singh had then accused Deshmukh of asking police officers to collect Rs 100 crore a month from bars and restaurants in Mumbai. Deshmukh, while denying these allegations, resigned as minister.

ED Allegations

While serving as Maharashtra Home Minister, Deshmukh, through police official Sachin Waze, had collected ₹4.70 crore from various bars in Mumbai

Deshmukh and his family members owned several shell companies which were used to launder this money and divert it to educational trusts controlled by the family

Waze, an assistant police inspector with Mumbai Crime Branch, was arrested in March 2021 in the Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hiran murder case

Following Waze's arrest, then Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh was transferred. Singh had then accused Deshmukh of asking police officers to collect ₹100 crore a month from bars and restaurants in Mumbai



5-month-old Oscar swims inside the penguin enclosure at Byculla Zoo in Mumbai, Tuesday PFI PHOTO

Cartoonist Narayan Debnath breathes last at 97

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 18: Cartoonist Narayan Debnath, the creator of Bengali comic characters 'Bantul The Great', 'Handa Bhonda' and 'Nonte Phonte', breathed his last in Kolkata Tuesday morning after a prolonged illness, said the hospital where he was undergoing treatment. He was 97 and is survived by two sons, a daughter and a granddaughter.

Debnath, who was handed the Padma Shri award while undergoing treatment, died at 10.15 am, his family said. He was put on ventilator support as his condition deteriorated after being admitted to the hospital December 24.

In his career spanning over six decades, Debnath created comic characters such as 'Bantul The Great', 'Handa Bhonda' and 'Nonte Phonte' - all of which are household names in Bengal.

The first comic strip of 'Handa Bhonda' was published in 1962 in children's magazine 'Suktara', brought out by Deb Sahitya Kutir. It was followed by 'Bantul The Great' (1965) and 'Nonte Phonte' (1969). Debnath continued working till



Shri Narayan Debnath Ji brightened several lives through his works, cartoons and illustrations. His works reflected his intellectual prowess. The characters he created will remain eternally popular. Pained by his demise. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti.

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Extremely sad that the noted litterateur, illustrator, cartoonist, and creator of some immortal characters for children's world, Narayan Debnath is no more. He had created Bantul the Great, Handa- Bhonda, Nonte- Fonte, figures that have been etched in our hearts for decades. We were proud to bestow upon him Bengal's highest award Banga Bibhusan in 2013. His passing away is certainly an immeasurable loss to the world of literary creativity and comics. My deepest condolences to his family, friends, readers and countless fans and followers.

MAMATA BANERJEE | CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

the age of 93 when the last comic strip of 'Nonte Phonte' was published in the 2017 Durga Puja issue of Suktara.

Earlier, he created 'Rabi Chobi' - a comic strip that was published in May 1961 in children's magazine Anandamela to mark the birth centenary of Rabindranath Tagore. Debnath was born in a family

of jewellers in Shibpur in Howrah. His enthusiasm for sketching jewellery designs at a very early age prompted his family to admit him to the Government Art College in Kolkata after he completed schooling. He dropped out of the college to take care of his family business, but soon went back to drawing board.

BSF seizes fake DLs from truckers at B'desh front

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Kolkata, Jan 18: The Border Security Force (BSF) has seized 82 fake driving licences from truck drivers this week at the India-Bangladesh border check post at Petrapole in West Bengal stating these illegal acts could "compromise" national security.

The south Bengal frontier of the force and its officials headquartered in Kolkata said in a statement Monday that while they do not want to create any "disruption" in cross-border trade between the two neighbours, rules in this regard will have to be followed.

The border guarding force said its troops launched an intensive search January 16 and 17 at the Petrapole integrated check post in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal after it got inputs that few drivers are involved in carrying out trans-border crimes such as smuggling of gold, silver and phensedyl syrup (a cough syrup abused as narcotics drug in Bangladesh) while engaged in export and import of goods between India and Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh side opposite this border post is called Benapole

and everyday hundreds of trucks with goods cross over to either side.

The BSF seized 82 fake licences from the truckers after a surprise checking of the authenticity of the driving licences of the drivers who are engaged in the export-import by road through ICP-Petrapole.

"Accordingly, BSF handed over the 82 fake driving licences to the Customs authorities. The concerned authorities of Customs and Land Port Authority of India were conveyed that BSF cannot allow those trucks to go to Bangladesh whose drivers are found in the possession of fake driving license. The BSF stated that no driver with fake driving licence can be allowed to ply the trucks to Bangladesh at any cost because such drivers obtain fake car passes from the Customs department on the basis of driving licence upon which BSF allows the trucks to go inside Bangladesh," the statement said.

In order to ensure "smooth running of the trade between India and Bangladesh, the BSF has informed Bangaon Transport Association to follow the standing operating procedure so that security and interests of the nations are not compromised," it said.

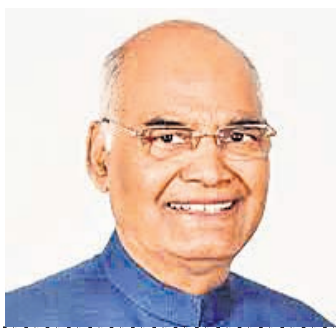
Majumder, the publisher of Deb Sahitya Kutir:

Debnath was conferred with Padma Shri in 2021 but could not visit New Delhi to collect the award. State Home Secretary BP Gopalika and Cooperative Minister Arup Roy handed him the medal and certificate on his hospital bed Thursday.

He was conferred with the Sahitya Akademi award in 2013 and the West Bengal government also honoured him with Banga Bibhusan the same year. The Rabindra Bharati University gave him an honorary DLitt in 2015.

The cartoonist's younger son Tapas Debnath told media that he would urge the government to help preserve his works. "We would like to urge the government to help preserve my father's works, a treasure trove, for the future generations," he said.

Debnath is credited to have first introduced the concept of comic-strip in Bengali literature, said actor-MLA Chiranjit Chakraborty, who is the son of noted cartoonist Saila Chakraborty. "Debnath is the inventor of storyboard in true sense in a comic series," he said.



Work from home during the Covid pandemic has its benefits but it has also put working women under a triple burden. RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT OF INDIA

ENSURE ONLY COVAXIN IS GIVEN TO 15-18 GROUP: BB

Bharat Biotech has urged healthcare workers to ensure that only Covaxin is administered to individuals in the 15-18 years age group. The Hyderabad-based vaccine maker Tuesday said that it "received several additional reports of individuals in the 15-18 year age group being administered unapproved Covid-19 vaccines"



of the day quote

The NaMo App has a very interesting section known as 'Kamal Pushp' that gives you the opportunity to share and know about inspiring party workers. NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

As the testing is high in Karnataka, the cases too are high. But still we have succeeded in managing it. If the precautionary measures are good then the third wave could be managed well even if the cases see a rise. BASAVARAJU BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

I have made it a principle that those who have left us will not be taken back. Many of the leaders who deserted the party are eager to return but I am not going to take them back. MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

EC advises SP to be careful in future

New Delhi: The Election Commission Tuesday let off the Samajwadi Party with a light rap for violating Covid-19 norms on its office premises last week, advising it to be careful and ensure such breaches do not happen in the future. Considering that it is the first reported violation during the current round of elections on the part of the Samajwadi Party, the Commission advised it to follow all the extant guidelines diligently, according to an order.

Alipov new Russian envoy to India

New Delhi: Denis Alipov, a career diplomat and a "dedicated India specialist" with decades-long experience in this country, has been appointed the new Russian Ambassador to India, the Russian Embassy here said Tuesday. Alipov will succeed Nikolay Kudashov shortly, it said.

India to host five BRICS S&T events

New Delhi: Even as India has successfully handed over the BRICS Chair to China from January 2022, it will be hosting five international events through the year, it was decided at the 15th meeting of the BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee. BRICS STI is a forum for the scientific community from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to discuss and deliberate on topics of common interest in the field of science and technology.

Leopardess, lion die in cage

Chennai: A leopardess and a lion died in a cage at the zoo here due to health issues and the deaths occurred after veterinarians had taken samples from the animals to detect if they were infected by coronavirus, a senior official said. The leopardess named Jaya and aged 18, died due to difficulty in breathing while the five-year-old lion Vishnu died of esophageal problems, a senior zoo official said.

Militants detonate IED in J&K's Kulgam

Srinagar: Militants detonated a low intensity improvised explosive device (IED) in J&K's Kulgam district Tuesday but it did not cause any damage, police said. "There was no casualty in the incident. Soon a contingent of police and army reached the spot and cordoned off the area for searches," a police officer said.

PUNJAB ELECTIONS

ED raids an attempt to put pressure: Channi



AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Jan 18: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi said that there was an attempt to put pressure and target him and his ministers as the polling day drew near, hours after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided multiple locations in the state, including those linked to a relative of his. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) seized ₹6 crore in cash, including ₹4 crore from the premises linked to a nephew of Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, during raids against ille-

gal sand mining operatives in the border state, officials said. The search operations at a dozen locations in Mohali, Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Pathankot began

BJP DEFAMING PB, PUNJABIYAT: CONG

New Delhi: The Congress Tuesday accused the BJP and its government at the Centre of defaming Punjab and Punjbiyat by raiding a relative of Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi in an old case, and said the people of the state will give a befitting reply to the saffron party in the upcoming Assembly polls. Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the BJP government is insulting a Dalit who was made the chief minister of Punjab and the Dalits and backward classes would not forgive the party for this.

Vikram Dev Dutt named AI's new CMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: Senior bureaucrat Vikram Dev Dutt has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of Air India Ltd as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre Tuesday.

Dutt, a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre, is at present Principal Secretary (Tourism) in Delhi government. He has been appointed as the Air India chief in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. The Centre had in October last year accepted Tata Sons bid of ₹18,000 crore to acquire 100 per cent of the debt-laden state-run carrier. The takeover has not been completed yet.

Manish Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). Gupta, a 1991-batch IAS officer, is currently Principal Commissioner in the DDA. Ashish Srivastava, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development will now be Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Hari Ranjan Rao, Additional Secretary, Department of Telecommunications has been appointed as Administrator, Universal Service Obligation Fund, Department of Telecommunications.

SC grills Maha on 12 BJP MLAs' suspension

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 18: The Supreme Court Tuesday continued to grill the Maharashtra government on the resolution passed by the state Assembly July 5, 2021 to suspend 12 BJP MLAs for a period of one year for their alleged misconduct and misbehaviour in the House.



A bench, headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar and comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar, shot a volley of questions at senior advocate CA Sundaram, on the rationality of suspending the MLAs beyond the session of the House, as he argued regarding the limited scope for judicial review over the business within the Assembly.

Justice Khanwilkar told Sundaram that the suspension of the MLAs should not be greater than the session of the House, and anything other than this would be irrational. "Your decision of 1 year is irrational because of the deprivation of the constituency being unrepresented for more than 6 months..." noted the bench. Justice Ravikumar said: "Another

early morning with an armed CRPF escort and were underway.

"Not just on the ministers, Chief Minister, but pressure is being created on every Congress worker. Such an atmosphere is not good for democracy. When elections are near, they thought about conducting ED raids. But we are ready to bear all pressure, all troubles which they give. We will carry on with our electioneering and they will not succeed..." Channi said, hitting out at the BJP-led government at the Centre.

When asked how many places have been raided, Channi earlier in the day replied, "What I have heard so far is through TV (channels) and media, I don't have concrete information. But ultimately, it is an attempt to target me and my ministers." The ED action, sources said, has been initiated after taking cognisance of a 2018 FIR of the Nawanshahr (Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district) police and some other such police complaints against some companies and individuals alleged to be involved in illegal sand mining in the state.

Asked if he sees political vendetta behind the raids, Channi told reporters, "You know what all programmes happened during the past few days, and you and people know that very well...Now this attempt to put pressure on me and the Punjab Congress will not succeed."

Opposition parties have earlier linked Channi with the dealings of Bhupinder Singh alias Honey, which the former had denied.

ISI planning UAE-like drone attack in India?



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 18: The Indian intelligence agencies have found that Pakistan is purchasing Chinese drones to use them for the purpose of smuggling arms and drugs into the country, sources said.

Sources in the security agencies said that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is purchasing drones from China for terrorist groups Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). Pakistan can also execute drone attacks in India like the one in Abu Dhabi Monday which killed two Indian nationals, the sources said. After receiving the crucial inputs, the security agencies have stepped up their vigil and have spoken to the law enforcement agencies in various states regarding this.

Since the Republic Day is round the corner, Delhi Police have been specifically briefed about the inputs. A document has been accessed by IANS, which confirms ISI's conspiracy.

"ISI can execute drone attacks like the one in Abu Dhabi Monday which killed two Indians. We are suspecting that a few famous personalities can be targeted with drone attack by terrorist outfits backed by the ISI," said a source. "The inputs have been received

2 Indians killed in Abu Dhabi blast identified

New Delhi: Two Indian nationals killed in an oil tanker blast in Abu Dhabi Monday have been identified, officials said Tuesday, adding the Indian embassy in UAE has started the process for early repatriation of their mortal remains. The embassy officials are also in touch with the immediate family members of the deceased Indians. The embassy, however, has not revealed their identity.

from a reliable source. They indicate that ISI has procured very sophisticated, customised drones from China, which are water-resistant and capable of operating even during rains. These drones can fly up to 800m AGL (actual ground level) and 15-20 km one side. It has been further learnt that the ISI has provided these drones to terrorist groups (LeT and JeM) to use them against India by smuggling arms and narcotics into the country," the source said.

After receiving the inputs, the Border Security Force (BSF) has been informed. In Punjab, the BSF had earlier spotted a few drones, some of which were gunned down by the force.

PHD STUDENT MOLESTED IN JNU CAMPUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: A PhD Student of Jawaharlal Nehru University was allegedly molested while walking in the campus around midnight Monday, sparking a protest by students and bringing into the spotlight again the issue of security in the vast complex.

Police said that a case has been registered and several teams are working to nab the accused. They said a PCR call regarding a female student being molested inside JNU was received at the Vasant Kunj North Police Station at around 12.45 AM Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Gaurav Sharma along with SHO Vasant Kunj North and staff rushed to the spot.

"It was revealed that at around 11.45 PM Monday, a PhD Student was taking a stroll in the campus. When she was walking near the East Gate road of the university, a man came on a bike from inside the campus and tried to molest her," Sharma said.

"Considering the gravity and sensitivity of the incident, SWD police team led by DCP Gaurav Sharma acted promptly and cognisance was immediately taken," the Delhi Police later tweeted.

"FIR No 42/22 U/s 354A/354B/323/341/379 IPC at PS Vasant Kunj North has been registered and investigation is in progress. Several teams are working since then to nab the accused," it said. Beating dhaplis and carrying placards demanding justice for a woman, scores of students protested against the incident Tuesday. According to the protesters, they have given a 48-hour ultimatum to police to make arrests or else they would intensify their agitation.

MILITARY TRADITION



Navy personnel hold the Tricolour as they rehearse for the Beating Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi, Tuesday. PTI PHOTO

'Omicron to peak in India by Feb 15'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 18: Most of India will see a peak in Omicron cases by mid February, health experts said Tuesday.

Speaking to IANS, Dr Shashank Joshi, member of Covid-19 Maharashtra State Task Force noted that Omicron has followed the South African pattern in the case of both Mumbai and Delhi.

"It's a very rapidly progressive and explosive wave, which will come very fast and hopefully go very fast. "Mumbai has already passed the peak, Maharashtra will peak by the first week of February."

"Most parts of India might peak between the first and 15th of February. Somewhere in March, Omicron will be much less and hopefully we should have a dis-

ruption free India April onwards," said Joshi, who is also an endocrinologist at the Lilavati Hospital, Mumbai. Recent projections by researchers at the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Statistical Institute (IISc-ISI) claim that the country is likely to witness over 10 lakh Covid cases a day at January-end/beginning of February when the third wave meets its peak.

6 in 10 workers suffering from pandemic-led imposter syndrome

The 'imposter syndrome' is a psychological pattern in which an individual doubts his/her skills, talents or accomplishments

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 18: After going through two stressful years of the Covid-19 pandemic, more than 7 in 10 (71 per cent) of professionals questioned their abilities at work more now than before the pandemic while 63 per cent said they suffer from 'imposter syndrome', a new LinkedIn report showed

Tuesday. According to the report, the self-doubt seems to be a byproduct of working in isolation for nearly two years as 33 per cent of professionals say the pandemic has negatively impacted their confidence at work.

The findings showed that lack of face-to-face support from supervisors and peers (40 per cent), having to take on new responsibilities (34 per cent), and having to use more technology (31 per cent) are the top three work stressors for professionals in India.

Amid the stress, more than 8 in 10 Indian professionals are considering a job change this year and flexible working arrangements are their top-most priority. The report said that the job reshuffle in India



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

is being led by freshers with up to one year of work experience (94

per cent) and Gen Z professionals (87 per cent), who are more likely

to consider changing jobs in 2022.

The professionals are leaving their current jobs due to poor work-life balance (30 per cent), not enough money (28 per cent), or greater career ambitions (23 per cent).

The report said that professionals in India are confident about their job roles (45 per cent), careers (45 per cent) and overall job availability (38 per cent) getting better in 2022.

"In fact, 86 per cent of professionals in India say they are confident about the strength of their professional networks as they enter into the new year looking for new job opportunities," the findings showed.

The top reasons that can convince professionals in India to stay

with their current employer in 2022 include better salary (42 per cent), more appreciation (36 per cent), and improved work-life balance (34 per cent).

"The findings also indicate a glaring disparity in the perception of men and women towards how they are being compensated by their current employers today," the report mentioned.

Working women (37 per cent) are 1.3 times more likely to quit their current job due to poor work-life balance, when compared to working men (28 per cent).

They are also more likely (49 per cent) to say they will remain with their current employer if they get better pay, when compared to working men (39 per cent).