



UNIQUE ATTEMPT
Ex-beauty queen Manushi Chhillar has launched a platform titled *Limitless* to bring inspiring women icons together

LEISURE P2



NATO SENDS REINFORCEMENTS
NATO said it is putting forces on standby and reinforcing eastern Europe with more ships and fighter jets

INTERNATIONAL P10



AWARD FOR MANDHANA
Smriti Mandhana bags the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for the Women's Cricketer of the Year in ICC Awards

SPORTS P12

ODM GLOBAL SCHOOL
Unlock your potential
ADMISSIONS OPEN
I - XI (Day Boarding)
VI - XI (Residential)
www.odmglobalschool.org
1800-120-2316

Sensex tanks 1,546 points
Mumbai: Equity benchmark Sensex Monday crashed about 1,546 points to sink below the 58,000-level due to across-the-board selloff tracking sluggish global markets. Besides, persistent foreign capital outflows continued to affect the market sentiment, traders said. Benchmark indices started the session on a weaker note and the selling intensified during afternoon trade, with almost all sectoral indices ending in the red. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 1,545.67 points or 2.62 per cent lower at 57,491.51. Similarly, the NSE Nifty slumped 468.05 points or 2.66 per cent to 17,149.10. All Sensex components ended in the red. Bajaj Finance was the top loser, shedding around 6 per cent, followed by Tata Steel and Bajaj Finance.

Air India handover by this weekend
New Delhi: Air India is likely to be handed over to the Tata group by the end of this week, senior government officials said Monday. After a competitive bidding process, the government had on October 8 last year sold Air India to Talace Private Limited -- a subsidiary of the Tata group's holding company -- for ₹18,000 crore. On October 11, a Letter of Intent was issued to the Tata group confirming the government's willingness to sell its 100 per cent stake in the airline. On October 25, the Centre signed the share purchase agreement for this deal. The remaining formalities regarding this deal are expected to be completed in the next few days.

JSW Cement
The Leaders' Choice
1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

Students should be ready for offline board exams: Min

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash Monday said students of Classes X and XII should be ready for writing their board examinations offline as the third wave was showing a downward trend. Addressing the media, Dash said a look at the current scenario reveals the downward trend of the Covid infection graph. "We hope the examination can be conducted unless some unprecedented situation arises," Dash told reporters.



The S&ME Minister, however, said that the state government would take an appropriate decision after reviewing the Covid-19 situation. Notably, the Summative Assessment-I for Class X students has already been completed.

Odisha is currently observing a sharp decline in daily detections of Covid-19 cases.

According to data shared by the health and family welfare department, the coastal state reported 7,291 fresh Covid-19 cases Monday, pushing the tally to 12,11,951. The state had logged 8,520 cases Sunday, 8,845 cases Saturday, 9,833 Friday, 10,368 cases Thursday, and 11,607 cases Wednesday.

DEFT HANDS



Manoda Basak weaves yarn on a traditional charkha to prepare a Tricolor as part of preparations for Republic Day 2022, in Nadia district Monday

State on brink of community spread

■ About 60 per cent of the Omicron cases in the state are local contacts

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: Even though Covid-19 cases are on decline in the state, Odisha is rushing towards community transmission of Omicron variant of Sars Cov 2.

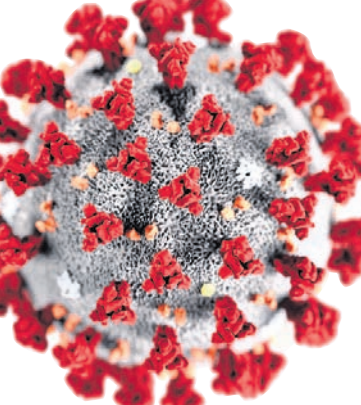
This indication was given by Public Health Director Niranjan Mishra while he was talking to reporters here Monday. The Omicron variant will soon be in a community transmission stage in Odisha as the transmission rate of the variant is high, he said.

Giving a reason for such an alarming situation in the state, he said, during the last genome sequencing, it was found that about 60 per cent of the Omicron cases in the state were local contacts. At any moment, the cases might explode as the variant is highly transmissible, Mishra added.

"In metros, 80 to 90 per cent cases

have Omicron strain. However, we have to wait for some more time to get the data about the prevalence of the strain in our state," he further said.

The director urged people with Covid symp-



toms to get tested without delay. If testing is not done and Covid appropriate behavior is not followed, the virus can spread even more rapidly and infect more people, said Mishra.

When asked, when it can be said

that community transmission is there, he said if multiple cases are detected from one place with positive persons having no international travel history or contact with foreign travelers, it is termed as community transmission which is a technical term.

"We have seen Omicron replacing the Delta variant in many countries and it is also happening in many places in our country," he stated. At present, the state is showing a declining trend as far as the daily reporting of Covid-19 cases are concerned. Odisha reported 7,291 fresh Covid-19 cases Monday, pushing the tally to 12,11,951 while the death toll mounted to 8,525 with five more fatalities.

The state had registered 8,520 single-day cases and six deaths Sunday. As many as 954 children are among the new patients.

The daily infections are the lowest in 13 days and have reduced by 30 per cent from 10,489 a week ago. The state had January 11 reported 7071 cases in the last 24 hours (January 10).

BOLANGIR SHOP LOOT CRACKED

Cell phones worth ₹30L seized from Nepal border

■ The gang January 14 had looted 180 high-end mobile phones worth over ₹50 lakh from a shop in Bolangir

PNN & AGENCIES

Bolangir, Jan 24: District police busted an international looter gang from Bihar-Nepal border and arrested three members of the gang. The police also seized 113 mobile phones worth ₹30 lakh from their possession as they were planning to smuggle the stolen phones into the Himalayan country.

This was stated here by SP Nitin Kushalkar Monday. The accused were identified as Kanhaiya Kumar, 50, of Dehri police limits, Meeraj Ansari, 50 and Kausar Alam, 20 of East Champaran district in Bihar.

The accused had looted mobile phones worth ₹50 lakh from a mobile phone shop near Ramai Talkies in Bolangir town in the night of January 14. The accused first damaged the CCTV cameras in the area and got inside the store by breaking open its shutter locks.

Later, their associates locked the shutter from outside to avoid getting caught by passersby. The

SC adjourns Kotia hearing by 4 weeks

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 24: The Supreme Court Monday adjourned the hearing in a contempt petition filed by the state government against Andhra Pradesh over a dispute on its order related to Kotia group of villages.

A two-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and CT Ravikumar adjourned the matter after a letter circulated by the state government seeking deferment of the hearing to another date.

During the hearing, a counsel submitted in the court that the meeting of bureaucrats of both the states to deliberate on outstanding issues of mutual interest including the Kotia border dispute was postponed due to Omicron. The counsel pleaded the court to adjourn the matter for four weeks.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered and special teams formed to crack the case. Technical surveillance helped the police crack the case. Police got clues based on scientific and tower dump analyses. During investigation, it was found that the criminals have moved near the Nepal border via Rourkela and Bihar. Credible clues were received by the mobile patrolling team as well, the Bolangir SP said.

Row kicks off over govt school allowing Friday Namaaz

AGENCIES

Kolar (KTK), Jan 24: The administration of a government school at Mulbagal town in the district is incurring the ire of parents, alumni and Hindu outfits for allegedly allowing Muslim students to offer Friday Namaaz on the school premises.

The Hindu organisations led the parents of other students and alumni of the school in staging a protest inside the Balechangappa Government Karnataka Model Secondary School at Someshwarapalya for setting a 'new precedence' of allowing Friday prayers. According to a video which has gone viral on social media, the Muslim students, a few of them wearing skull caps, offered Friday prayer inside a classroom in the afternoon.

One of the alumni, who staged the protest Saturday, sought the intervention of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and the Kolar MP S Muniswamy and the education department officials.

He said the school never had a history of allowing Friday prayers

and this would set a wrong precedent, appealing to the Education department officials not to let such events take place again. Another parent alleged that this had been going on every week with the consent of the school administration. A school teacher refuted the charge

that every week such prayers were happening. She told reporters that it happened only last Friday when she and other teachers were away from the school during the lunch.

She said she received a call from the Block Education Officer asking her why the Friday prayers were allowed inside the school premises. When she rushed to the school, she noticed the Muslim boys offering Namaaz.

As tension prevailed due to the protest Saturday, police reached the spot and calmed the angry parents, alumni and some Hindu activists. However, no police complaint has been lodged, police sources said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

It is vikas or hologram of vikas?

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	CHG	VAR
SENSEX	57491.51	↓	1545.67
NIFTY	17149.10	↓	468.10
DOLLAR	74.84	↑	₹0.17
EURO	84.28	↓	₹0.06
GOLD	₹48,454	↑	₹205
SILVER	₹63,890	↓	₹916

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	25.8°C	27.4°C
MIN	18.0°C	17.0°C
Humidity	78%	76%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

leisure



SUPERMODEL BELLA HADID VOWS TO QUIT DRINKING

Supermodel Bella Hadid vows to never drink alcohol again. Bella shared in a new interview that she had decided to stop drinking, explaining that it had something to do with how alcohol has affected her health, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

ELVIS COSTELLO PERFORMED IN HIS GARDEN DURING LOCKDOWN

English singer-songwriter Elvis Costello has revealed how he kept his voice in trim amid the global health crisis. "During the morning I like to work on new songs. I managed to keep my voice in trim over the past year by performing in the garden," he explained.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
A new acquaintance will make you feel happy today. You must remember that things don't have to be expressed explicitly; a word or a song from deep within can make a bigger impact. Ganesh says today is the right time to do something which will be more rewarding in the long-term.

TAURUS
This day, your heart is likely to rule your head. You will be driven by your moods feelings and sentiments. Most of the decisions will be based on your emotions, instead of your reason and experience. Ganesh urges you not to allow your emotionality to enter your professional activities. On no account should you be hasty or impulsive. As far as possible do not allow your feelings to interfere in your plans and decisions.

GEMINI
You will meet someone special who is here to stay for good, predicts Ganesh. Your kind and considerate nature will benefit others. You need to understand that it's okay to spend a little on comforts and entertainment. Be ready for a busy, yet cheerful, day ahead.

CANCER
Those around you have always thought that there is something different about you, but could never put their finger on what exactly it was. You always knew. You are better than them, and today is the day to make them realise that. How? The best course of action is to do your job in the best possible manner. You will be appreciated and may even be seen as a future leader by some of your colleagues.

LEO
One way to assure success is by believing in oneself and one's abilities. Let this confidence and your high spirits take you to newer heights today, says Ganesh. Remain cheerful all day long, and you will see your hardships disappear as you tackle them with consummate skill. But more importantly, Ganesh foresees the day leading you to a fulfilling evening. Enjoy!

VIRGO
A medley of good and bad awaits you today. Emotional people will find you immature and inconsistent. But your bag of jokes is never empty, and you remain the jester as always. Ganesh advises you to meditate and engage in spiritually rich activities to channel and focus all your talents.

LIBRA
There is no end to work, so buckle up, as it is highly probable that work pressure will take up most of your time today. This leaves precious little for your family, but as always, they fully understand. Ganesh expects you to be both hard-working and conscientious today. You may also launch a new business scheme, especially if you are self-employed.

SCORPIO
The spectre of financial instability will keep haunting you. But there can be a brighter side to life too, says Ganesh. Long overdue payments might get encashed today. And those blind bluffs you call sometimes in business might pay handsome rewards, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You may have women swooning over you today; such is your charm and way with them, says Ganesh. But friends are highly valuable to you, and you shall spend much time with them cherishing their company and reliving amazing times spent together.

CAPRICORN
It may seem to be an unusual combination, but you will experience pain and pleasure in equal measure today, says Ganesh. The errands you may have to run for at home will leave you exhausted, so conserve some energy for the rest of the day. Your wit can get you whatever you want, but it's important that you use it in the right way and not just to meet your selfish interests.

AQUARIUS
Good news may hit home today. Promotion, profit, scholarship, anything you've been working for will probably materialise. You are ingenious, and will crack the toughest of problems with consummate ease. Ganesh sees money lenders and brokers doing well.

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



Manushi's bid to bring women icons together

MUMBAI: Former beauty queen and debutante Manushi Chhillar is launching a social media property named *Limitless* that will see her speak to the country's most inspiring women icons.

Manushi wants to bring out the back stories of these influential women and also find out what motivates them to constantly shatter gender stereotypes.

Manushi says: "Growing up and even now, I've been in awe of so many women icons who are working incessantly to break the glass ceiling. They inspire fellow women across the world to dream big."

"I always harboured the thought of creating a digital property that enables me to talk to these icons and help me get to know more about their lives, how their mind works and what inspires them."

She added: "And what better day than National Girl Child Day to launch this project, which is really close to my heart."

Manushi is all set to make her Hindi film debut in Akshay Kumar-starrer *Prithviraj*.

Prithviraj is based on the life and valour of the Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan. Akshay is essaying the role of the warrior who fought valiantly against the merciless invader Muhammad of Ghor. **IAN S**

WHEN AAMNA CAME OUT OF HER COMFORT ZONE

MUMBAI: Actress Aamna Sharif, who portrayed the role of a police officer in the just released web series *Damaged 3*, says she is a 'girly' by nature but playing such a character put her out of the comfort zone to grow as an actress.

In the web series, she plays a non-sensory police officer, Rashmi.

Sharing how different her preparation was for the role, Aamna said: "The most exciting part for this show was its story, and how my character is shown in a multi-dimensional manner."

"She is grey, she is strong and a police officer, finding her space in the male dominating territory. Since there is a different body language I had to imbibe for Rashmi and also had a few action sequences, I had to go through an extensive workshop. Honestly, I am just the opposite of this character."

"I am quite a feminine, girly girl

who loves to dress up, pose and by nature I am quite a soft-spoken person. So, putting myself out of that comfort zone was a step towards my growth as an actress."

Damaged 3 revolves around a police officer Rashmi and a journalist Shanaya. As Shanaya is in search of a real path-breaking story, she crosses paths with Rashmi and how a love-hate relationship these two women get into while a bigger truth gets revealed through that journey. **IAN S**



Sonakshi's quirky reply to fan

MUMBAI: Actress Sonakshi Sinha gave a witty answer when she was asked about tying the knot during a question and answer session on social media.

Sonakshi treated her fans with an interactive session, where she asked her fans "what did you get upto this weekend?"

A user asked her: "Mam everyone is getting married when will you get married?"

To which, Sonakshi gave a quirky reply: "Everyone is also getting Covid? Should I get that too?"

Speaking about her upcoming work, the actress is all set to make her web series debut with *Fallen*, where she plays a cop and will also be seen in *Bulbul Tarang*. **IAN S**



Ajit Natya Mahotsav concludes



A scene from the play *Botala Bhuta*

OP PHOTO

founder member Debananad Nayak, the play showcased the suffering of a tribal cultivator Nandibali who gets exploited by the Sahukar (local money lender), revenue officer, and the police. They manage to lure him to drink country liquor to get rid of all his physical and mental stress. Gradually he gets addicted to liquor and sells all his belongings. The play ends on a tragic note with Sahukar eventually making Nandibali's son work as a slave and daughter to sleep with him.

The artistes who performed on stage included Biswa, Jaga, Rabi, Joseph, Puppy, Sujit, Bapi, Surya, Soumya, Akash, Sunil, Jasmine, Beauty, Anjali and Debanand.

Former Lok Sabha MP Prasanna Patsani was the chief guest of the evening. **PNN**

BHUBANESWAR: Ajit Natya Mahotsav, a three-day national theatre festival organised by Abhinaya Jagruti Institute of Theatre (AJIT), came to an end here at Rabindra

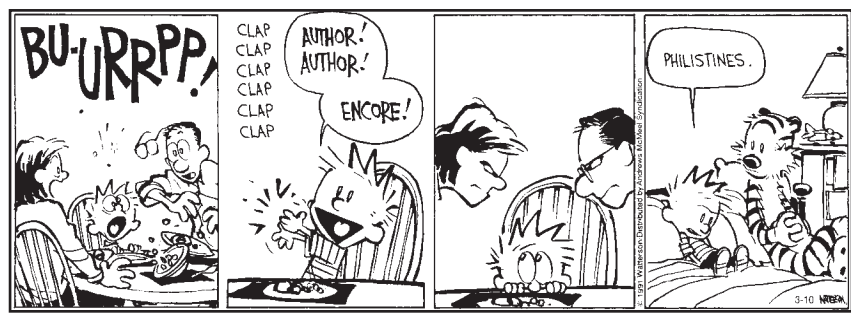
Mandap, Monday. City-based theatre troupe Expressions staged Odia play *Botala Bhuta* on the last evening of the festival. Written and directed by troupe's

FUN post

PEANUTS



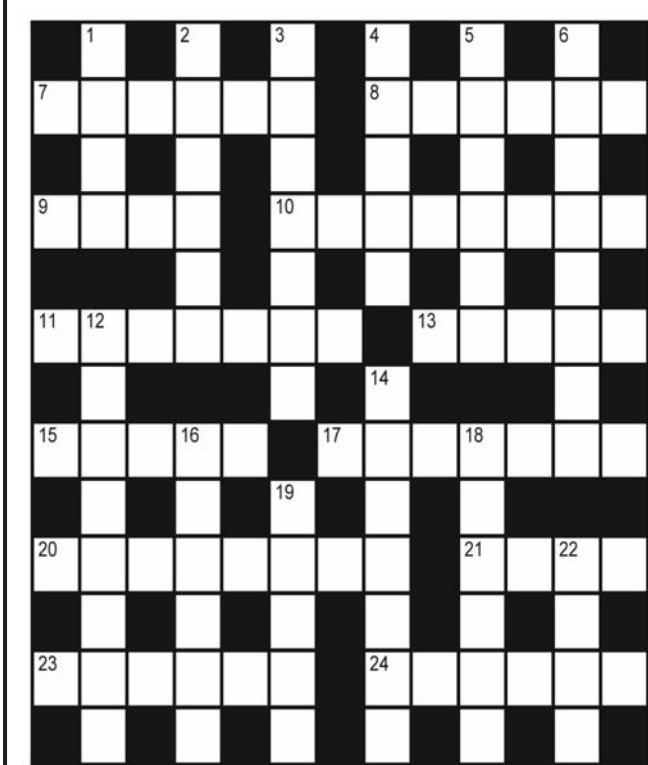
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD

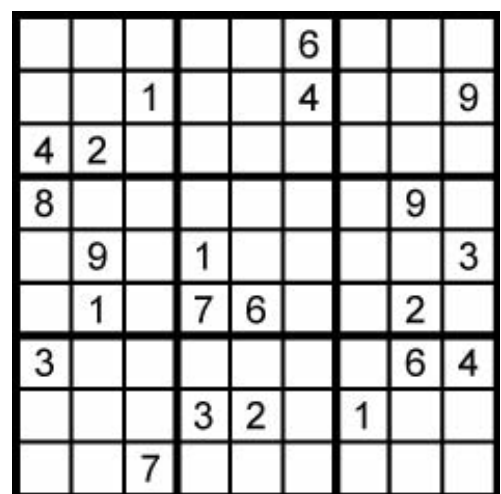


Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com

- Across**
- 7 Elbow grease
 - 8 Ask over
 - 9 Textile machine
 - 10 A long slender cigar
 - 11 High spirits
 - 13 Pontificate
 - 15 Impact sound
 - 17 Some flights
 - 20 Picasso's art
 - 21 Detest
 - 23 Hastened
 - 24 Seldom
 - 5 James Cameron movie
 - 6 Kind of heel
 - 12 Stew ingredient (4,4)
 - 14 Deform
 - 16 Attention-getting
 - 18 Bailiwick
 - 19 Robust
 - 22 Yarn

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

FOR LAND & ROOF



Slum dwellers under the Cuttack Municipal Corporation jurisdiction protest before the Collectorate pressing for their demands for land and housing, Monday

1ST IN STATE

ESD for precise, efficient GI cancer treatment

Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: Thanks to the technological advancements, diagnosis and treatment of gastro intestinal tract is possible at the early stages...



By utilising the ESD technology, cancer can be removed completely, ensuring there was no bleeding, and the patient can go home the next day

Fake Pwd certificate row

Colleges told to flush out erring students admitted in past 3 yrs

The principals have been asked for strict and thorough verification and authentication of disability certificates of such students...



QUICK RECAP In an RTI query, it was revealed that several students gained admission in the Bhadrak Autonomous College by furnishing fake disability certificates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: Following the revelation of a scam in the admission process into degree courses in Bhadrak Autonomous College...

Autonomous College, students took admission in recent years under the PwD quota submitting fake disability certificates.

Balasore, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Jeypore have also been informed about this move. In an RTI query, it was revealed that several students gained admission in the Bhadrak Autonomous College...

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) Odisha Regional Office celebrated the National Girl Child Day across five districts of Koraput, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Malkangiri and Deogarh, Monday.

Nabard felicitates tribal girls



literated 14 tribal girls who have become inspiration for others in their respective areas.

Nabard Odisha Regional Office CGM C Udayabhaskar advised these girls to focus on studies and

nutritional food, and assured that the support of Nabard will continue in their areas. Madhusmita Sahoo, IAS, Project Director, Odisha Community Tank Development and Management Society...

PRESSING FOR PROTECTION



Agitators at the office of the Labour Commissioner, Bhubaneswar, staging a demonstration against the commission's alleged attempt to dismantle their union, Monday

OSOU application last date today

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha State Open University (OSOU), Sambalpur has invited online applications from eligible candidates for engagement of Academic Consultants in different disciplines.

CLASSIFIED LOST

I Sushree Sagarika Mohapatra, W/o. Satyaranjan Kar would like to inform that I have misplaced anywhere my original RSD vide No. 501200982, Dtd.18.02.2012.

Pandemic causing 'generation-defining disruption' among kids

A SURVEY OF 5,000 TEACHERS FINDS THAT ONLY 35 PER CENT OF THOSE PARTICIPANT TEACHERS BELIEVE THAT THEIR STUDENTS ARE LEARNING EFFECTIVELY DURING LOCKDOWNS

Institute, paediatrician Prof Sharon Goldfeld said children are facing a 'generation-defining disruption' with public health restrictions and interventions, the Guardian reported.



one-third (36 per cent) of Australian parents felt that the pandemic had negatively affected the mental health of their child, and that 31 per cent of parents had delayed or avoided medical care for a sick or injured child due to concerns about catching the virus.

COVID BLOW

In a research review from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, paediatrician Prof Sharon Goldfeld said children are facing a 'generation-defining disruption' with public health restrictions and interventions

A survey of 5,000 teachers cited in the review found only 35 per cent of them reported their students were learning effectively during lockdowns. Goldfeld said some families also lacked the resources and time needed to support their children during remote education.

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

SHORT TAKES

Youth shot dead in Ganjam village

Polsara: In a shocking incident, a youth was shot dead at Rampudi village under Polsara police limits of Ganjam district over past enmity, police said Monday. The deceased was identified as Kartik Sabar, 25, in the village. Polsara police rushed to the spot and started an investigation after a complaint was filed by the widow of the victim. A case was registered in this connection and further investigation is in progress. The incident occurred after Kartik allegedly misbehaved with the daughter of Ladu Sabar of the village. Enraged, Ladu picked up a gun and shot Kartik on his head. A profusely bleeding Kartik collapsed and died on the spot. The accused absconded soon after the incident.

Poacher, wild boar die in same trap

Boinda: A poacher was electrocuted along with a wild boar late Sunday night after getting ensnared in live wire laid for poaching animals in a jungle near Nuhurapada under Thakurgarh police limits in Angul district. The 37-year-old man died when he was trying to pull out the carcass of the boar entangled in the live wire. However, attempts were made to suppress the incident as some poachers recovered the body and the carcass and buried them in the jungle. This sparked resentment among the people in the area. On being informed, Thakurgarh police reached the spot and launched an investigation but failed to make any headway as the body and the carcass were missing. Residents of nearby Sapaghara village alleged that poaching of wild boar has been rampant in the jungle with involvement of local politicians. Boar meat is being smuggled to other parts of the district, they said, adding that many poachers have lost their lives in similar fashion earlier. Recently, a leopard was killed after getting ensnared in live wire at Batrakhol jungle. Such incidents are on the rise due to lack of punitive action and patrolling by the forest officials, they added. Thakurgarh IIC Pitambar Nayak said he is yet to receive a complaint while Athamallik SDPO Chintamani Pradhan assured of a thorough probe into the matter.



A bypass road built to ease increasing traffic on National Highway-49 passing through Keonjhar town was thrown open to public, Monday

BPL beneficiaries in Ganjam get plastic rice

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Jan 24: In a shocking incident, BPL beneficiaries were allegedly distributed Re 1-kg rice mixed with plastic rice at Puintola under Ganjam NAC area, sources said Monday. Many beneficiaries complained to have received rice mixed with plastic rice in their sacks during distribution of Re 1-per-kg rice during this month. Some of the beneficiaries have lodged a complaint with the PDS dealer. When contacted, block supply inspector Santosh Kumar Dash said the samples will be collected and sent for an examination to ascertain the veracity of the claims made by the beneficiaries. Sources said people living below poverty line (BPL) as well as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, differently-abled and beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana were distributed Re 1-a-kg rice. Earlier, there were allegations of distribution of substandard rice but distribution of plastic rice to the beneficiaries has surfaced for the first time. Angry locals alleged that bonhomie between the millers and district civil supplies department officials has resulted in the mess. They claimed that as per rules,



civil supplies officials should check the quality of the rice before distribution. They alleged that the supplies of officials have not learnt a word or two from the distribution of moth-infested rice at Umuri Dharma Saranpur village under UDS Pur panchayat and at Podampeta village of Palibandha panchayat. This had sparked protests a few years back. The district Collector had then served a notice on the district Civil Supplies department asking it to show cause on distribution of moth and insect infested rice, they added.

9L tourists stayed away from state sites

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Jan 24: Covid-19 pandemic has dealt a body blow to the tourism sector as several popular tourist destinations in the state have witnessed a decline of 9 lakh tourists during last three years as far as the data for October is concerned, a report said. Popular tourist destinations like Konark Sun Temple, Puri Srimandir, Chilika Lake and the scenic sea beaches of the state have witnessed maximum footfall while the remaining fail to attract the tourists. These sites have witnessed a drop of 9 lakh tourists during October of last three years while dip in footfall of foreign tourists is stated to be 9,000, thanks to the raging pandemic. This in turn has taken a heavy toll on the livelihood of people dependent on these sites. They are virtually struggling for survival. Reports said over 14,07,482 Indian and 9,181 foreign tourists had visited various tourist destinations of Odisha in October 2018. However, these tourists have stopped visiting the state since March 2020 till date due to spread of Covid pandemic in the country. According to Tourism department assistant director (Statistics) Pratapdev Raj, "Only 5,66,939 Indian

PANDEMIC BLUES



OVER 14,07,482 INDIAN AND 9,181 FOREIGN TOURISTS HAD VISITED VARIOUS TOURIST DESTINATIONS OF ODISHA IN OCTOBER 2018

THESE TOURISTS, HOWEVER, HAVE STOPPED VISITING THE STATE SINCE MARCH 2020 TILL DATE DUE TO SPREAD OF COVID PANDEMIC IN THE COUNTRY

THIS HAS TAKEN A HEAVY TOLL ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF PEOPLE DEPENDENT ON THESE TOURISM SITES

and 210 foreign tourists visited the state in October 2021." Raj has submitted a detailed report on dip in arrival of tourists to the Union Ministry of Tourism January 19. He has mentioned about 75 tourist sites in the state. The report mentions zero arrival of Indian and foreign tourists at Nandankanan Zoological Park near Bhubaneswar; Bhanjanagar, Aska, Patnagarh, Nrusinghanath, Khiching, Tikarpada, Sunabeda,

Paper snatched away from sarpanch aspirant

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Jan 24: A woman aspirant for sarpanch post could not file her nomination due to stiff opposition allegedly by supporters of the ruling party in Badakalimati panchayat under Bamebari police limits in Keonjhar. The woman, Gori Nayak, filed a police complaint in this regard. She along with her supporters had come to Badakalimati panchayat to file her nomination on 11am January 21. "However, some supporters of Champua MLA threatened her with weapons and did not allow her to enter the panchayat office," she said. They also snatched away nomination papers from her and hurled abuses at her following which she along with her supporters had to return with utter disappointment. IIC AM Tudu said that a case has been registered while investigation was handed over to the deputy superintendent of police (DSP).



Meanwhile, police have registered a case under various sections of IPC and SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act-1989. In the complaint, Nayak alleged

Poll boycott call over water, road woes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Jan 24: Residents in hill-locked Badakhaman in the district have warned the administration of boycotting the ensuing panchayat elections citing lack of good road and drinking water facilities in their village. The village under Talapada panchayat of Telkoi block is surrounded by hills and inhabited by 80 families with voter strength of over 200. During rains, it is an uphill task to reach the village as it lacks an all-weather road. Moreover, the village lacks drinking water facilities for which the residents have to depend on rivers and creeks. What worries them the most is that they remain cut-off from the rest of the world for 4-6 months during the rains as their village, which is surrounded by a river, gets flooded during the period. During the monsoon months, they can neither visit the panchayat office, which is about 4km away, to bring their ration nor can

KEONJHAR DISTRICT



Lack of good road makes it difficult to hospitalize the patients and pregnant woman in emergencies. During rains, it is an uphill task to reach the village as it lacks an all-weather road

they visit the nearest market to buy other essentials. Their children also fail to visit the school during this period. Lack of good road makes it difficult to hospitalise the patients and pregnant woman in emergencies. Some women of the village alleged that during emergency, they risk their lives while crossing the overflowing river. The villagers alleged that it is only during the elections that the candidates promise them the moon

The residents alleged that it is only during the polls that the candidates promise them the moon but conveniently forget when voting is over. Telkoi block development officer (BDO) P Chand visited the village and tried to convince the villagers to participate in the voting. He assured them to take up their issues with higher authorities. However, the villagers refused to relent and said that their demands should be met first. When contacted, executive officer of Talapada panchayat Khirod Nayak said they have failed to construct a road due to forest land issues. "A plan has been prepared and the matter will be resolved soon. Construction of a bridge, drinking water and all other facilities will be in place once the road is constructed," he added.

Squabbles in Ranpur BJD may come to Oppn advantage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Jan 24: The ongoing internecine squabbles within Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Ranpur Assembly segment may come as a blessing for the Opposition parties in the upcoming three-tier rural polls. According to political analysts, all is not well within Nayagarh BJD and the ruling dispensation could fail to outshine the opposition if the internal bickering doesn't end. However, it all depends on the strategies of BJP and Congress to take good advantage of the rift within the BJD, they added. The party workers who have been denied tickets may play spoilsport

to the BJD prospect in the upcoming panchayat elections, said sources. Recently, Ranpur MLA Satyanarayan Pradhan (BJD) had to return without laying a foundation stone at the local block office due to protests. In another incident, Pradhan was hurled eggs in his home turf during Ranpur Bikash Samavesh. The incidents are believed to have made a deep impact on local voters. Ranpur Assembly constituency segment has six zilla parishad zones, including Zone No 21, 22, 23 and 24 under Ranpur block and 3 and 4 under Odagaon block. Out of the six, Zone No 3, 4, 22 and 23 were captured by BJP (earlier bastions of BJD) and while 21 and 24 were

WHAT EXPERTS SAY



AS FAR AS CONGRESS IS CONCERNED, THE PARTY HAS BEEN GRADUALLY STRENGTHENING ITS BASE IN NAYAGARH DISTRICT IN GENERAL AND RANPUR ASSEMBLY SEGMENT IN PARTICULAR

■ BJD's local dissidence has been growing and assuming alarming proportions in ZP Zone No 21
■ Some BJD workers alleged that the local MLA does not give enough time to work on strengthening the party base

Pradhan could retain the Assembly seat in 2019. According to the political analysts, BJD's local dissidence has been growing to alarming proportions in ZP Zone No 21 covering Darpanarayanpur, Brajarajapur, Damasahi, Gourangapur, Rankadeuli, Baunsagada, Khatia, Pimpal and Bajrakote panchayats and zone 24 covering the panchayats such as Bandhamunda, Champagada, Chandapur, Jankia, Patia, Mayurajhalia, Raipada, Kerenda-tangi, Kandhanugada and Jhadapada in the district. Meanwhile, some BJD workers have alleged that the local MLA does not give enough time to work on strengthening the party base.

On the other hand, it has become difficult for BJP to retain its seat in ZP Zone 4. It is said that local voters had given the mandate to the saffron for a change and also due to anti-incumbency factor in 2017. Besides, BJP could not act as an effective Opposition in the zone. As far as Congress is concerned, the party has been gradually strengthening its base in Nayagarh district in general and Ranpur Assembly constituency segment in particular; the political analysts added. The upcoming three-tier polls in Nayagarh will leave a lot for the three major political parties to learn.

Explosive haul in Malkangiri ahead of Republic Day

PNN/AGENCIES

Malkangiri, Jan 24: Ahead of the Republic Day celebrations, security personnel Monday seized and defused a huge cache of explosives at Swabhiman Anchal in Malkangiri district, police said. Border Security Force (BSF) jawans and the district police personnel recovered seven improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and explosives concealed under stone piles near the village Sadaram-Sanyasiguda and Totaguda, they said. The seized items included 1 steel container IED (approx 5 kg), 4 steel container IED (approx -2 kg), 1 brass container IED (approx 1kg), 1 brass container IED (approx 500 gm), other powdered explosive-500gm, brass gas welding stove, a wrist watch and other materials.



All the IEDs were defused by the bomb disposal squad at the site. With this, the nefarious designs of Maoists were foiled. All the IEDs were defused by the bomb disposal squad at the site, an official release said. With this, the nefarious designs of Maoists ahead of Republic Day celebration were foiled, it said.

zero foreign tourists visited the Silk city Berhampur. Likewise, 15,192 Indian and no foreign tourist visited Sambalpur while 18,567 Indian and zero foreign tourists visited Jharsuguda and Brajarajnagar. Moreover, 13,233 Indian and no foreign tourist visited Rourkela while 38,318 Indian and zero foreign tourists reached Cuttack and Chowdwar. The data also says Jajpur Town witnessed footfall of 1,417 Indian and zero foreign tourists while in Jajpur Road it is 7,034 and six respectively. It also says 7,514 Indian and seven foreign tourists visited Paradip, the port town of Odisha. Similarly, 16,213 Indian and six foreign tourists thronged Balasore while 7,185 Indian and zero foreign tourists visited Chandipur. Bhadrak saw 8,967 Indian and seven foreign tourists while 9,127 Indian and zero foreign tourists visited Angul. Similarly, 842 Indian and zero foreign tourists visited Burla and Hirakud while 287 Indian tourists visited Chandikhole. Likewise, Malkangiri and Keonjhar saw 2,148 and 13,365 Indian tourists visiting the tourism destinations in the districts. It is alleged that lack of proper campaign to attract the tourists to the state has also proved to be a double whammy.

EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 33/ET/SBP/ENGG/2021-22, Dated: 19.01.2022. (1) e-Tender No. 22-eT-DENS-SBP-21... (2) e-Tender No. 23-eT-DENS-SBP-21... (3) e-Tender No. 24-eT-DENS-SBP-21... (4) e-Tender No. 25-eT-DENS-SBP-21...

“The path is long, but self-surrender makes it short; the way is difficult, but perfect trust makes it easy.” THE MOTHER

Biden Under A Cloud

It is no music to US President Joe Biden's ears that the euphoria over his presidency has considerably dissipated only within a year of his assuming office.

Though he sought to downplay the latest ratings by pretending not to trust such figures, his words do betray his anxiety deep down. A new poll from the Associated Press - NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that for the first time a majority of Americans now disapprove of his handling of the Presidency.

When he assumed office a year back Biden inherited some dire crises such as a once in a century pandemic, economic uncertainty and a democracy threatened by partisan division and lies.

The US Supreme Court recently ruled against Biden's Covid-19 test-or-vaccine mandate on large businesses. This administrative fiat was a key component in the Biden Presidency's bid to control the spread of the Omicron variant.

All these do not augur well for Biden and it would be foolish for him and his fellow-Democrats to believe that former President Donald Trump would sit quietly in his Florida resort.

Generations of reference books once included this term, including the first edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, dated 1771: "the name of an ancient cap of state worn by the kings of England, the upper part whereof was in the form of a double crown".

WISDOM CORNER

- Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success. Share this Quote SWAMI SIVANANDA
Not life, but good life, is to be chiefly valued. SOCRATES
There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

WORDSWORTH

Abacot

Generations of reference books once included this term, including the first edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, dated 1771: "the name of an ancient cap of state worn by the kings of England, the upper part whereof was in the form of a double crown".

LOL What was the problem before?

A concerned passenger asked the flight attendant, "What was the problem?" "The pilot was bothered by a noise he heard in the engine," explained the Flight Attendant, "and it took us a while to find a new pilot."

FOCUS NATIONAL POLICY

LANGUAGE MATTERS



Vidyadhar Date

CHRISTIANS IN GOA HAVE BEEN DEMANDING THAT KONKANI IS WRITTEN IN THE ROMAN SCRIPT WHILE OTHERS INSIST ON WRITING IN MARATHI OR THE NAGARI SCRIPT WHICH IS A PRECURSOR OF DEVANAGARI

In Mumbai, a civic garden in the upper-class suburb of Bandra West was renamed after Darryl D'Monte, the late senior Mumbai journalist and environmental crusader last year amidst some fanfare.

As part of the promotion of the language, shops have even been asked to put up boards in Marathi, which many people cannot read. It indicates what is wrong with the language policy in India.

The ridiculous board outside the civic garden in Mumbai is a result of such a policy. In this case, however, the appalling contract system introduced in civic gardens is also responsible.

The problems don't centre around Marathi, dialects of languages, English or Hindi. There are problems galore and they are

मराठी म्हाठी हिन्दो
गुजराती తెలుగు లిపి മലയാളം
भाषा बांग्ला
ଓଡ଼ିଆ ବ୍ଷା ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತम्
വിக்கിப்பീഡിയാ اُروُ অসমীয়া

It is much better to retain English terms or use simple words in the regional language rather than sanskritised words. For instance, why say 'yakrut' for liver, when 'kaleji' or just the English word for the organ - 'liver' - is fine?

across India and have to be considered before taking any step involving a language. For instance, the conversion of a Hindi medium school to English, mid-session, violates Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution.

The parents maintained that they were not against English as a medium of instruction, but against the "complete conversion of the present institution."

The government seems to be so casual about people's problems. In this case, the State government evidently thinks it is easy to get admission in another school - in a village how many schools would there be in the vicinity to choose from? The problem with the craze

about introducing English as the medium of education in schools is that most families and schools in non-urban settings do not have enough resources even for studies in the local languages.

Language can be the cause of divisions in society. In the instance of Konkani, script is a dividing factor. Christians in Goa have been demanding that Konkani is written in the Roman script while others insist on writing in Marathi or the Nagari script which is a precursor of Devanagari.

Then there is the problem of widespread ignorance regarding the language issue at all levels. For instance, Sadanand Date, a police officer praised for his role in the 26/11 terrorist attack in Mumbai, recalled his experience of a meeting of adivasis addressed

by the chief minister of Chhatisgarh in a Naxalite area in that State. He noticed that the audience was not reacting at all. Only then it was realised that they did not know Hindi.

This is probably the main reason why the Naxalites have succeeded despite all the efforts to stop them: Language! Learning the local language has helped Naxalites manage inroads in tribal areas.

For the rest, our insular upper class is one of the major problems in the way of learning languages or dialects and thus a hurdle in the way of communication of any kind.

The writer is a senior Mumbai-based journalist, author and cultural critic. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Cut I-T rates, stop PSU sale



Shivaji Sarkar

THE FM SHOULD RETHINK OF INCENTIVISING SAVINGS BY ASKING RBI TO RAISE INTEREST RATES. IF SHE DOES, IT WOULD BRING BACK THE SUSTAINED GROWTH PATTERN AND STRENGTHEN INDIAN FAMILIES TO COME OUT OF THE CRISIS

Yet another year of uncertainty begins with difficult finances, not so certain growth and perhaps some experimentation by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Two years ago, the government announced a massive corporate tax rate cut, lowering the base rate to 22 per cent from 30 per cent, and to 15 per cent from 25 per cent for new manufacturing companies.

Now people want that synchronisation to be re-established. The individual income tax rates remain very high at 42 per cent and 30 plus 3 per cent. It robs an income tax payee of almost 73 to 83 per cent of his income.

She has her problems of constricted finances, not the desired growth or rather uneven growth instead of a high trajectory that could have generated jobs, increased demand, boosted production and paved the way for de-

mand. Though she should do that, it's possible she would like to avoid the call. And people should be thankful that she does not introduce her own thought of expenditure tax, earlier rejected by many finance ministers.

The FM should rethink of incentivising savings by asking Reserve Bank of India to raise interest rates. If she does, it would bring back the sustained growth pattern.

The FM needs to do it. If she had done this before, the government would possibly not have to resort to free food, edible oil and other doles to 80 crore or 61.54 per cent of the population.

The FM should now, through various policy formulations, try to empower the families. It may help the country reduce these expenses in the next four to five years.

The budget would invest in many metro, infra projects, healthcare, railways and ports. It also may take up the issue of regulating crypto currencies. Last year, the new National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), with a capital base of 20,000 crore and a lending target of 5 lakh crore over a three-year

horizon was set up. In five years, it targets ₹111 lakh crore investment.

NaBFID Chairman KV Kamath says that it would require ₹80 lakh crore in 2022-23 to kickstart big ticket projects like high-speed railways, airports, ports, highways, river interlinking for the national infra pipeline.

It looks interesting but the financial risks cannot be overlooked. The rise of private at the cost of public sector has its ramifications. There are proposals for disinvesting 36 PSUs, including Central Electronics, PDIL, LIC, four major banks by 2024.

The number of profit-making PSUs was 183 in 2017-18, 179 in 2018-19 before declining to 171 in 2019-20, said industry minister. According to the government's new public sector policy, profit or loss incurred by a PSU is not criterion for disinvestment anymore.

It has to lay special emphasis on agriculture. Procurements are on the rise but still unable to satisfy farmers.

Looks good. But MUDRA loans' record is not that bright. Bad debts for Mudra loans have spiked for PSBs, and, at the end of 2018-19 (FY19), stand at 9.3 per cent of advances. There has been 71 per cent jump in the number of MUDRA loan accounts that have turned NPAs in Gujarat in 2021.

Creating jobs and less reliance on the public sector are contradictory. Organisations like PDIL are watchdogs that private or foreign investors detest. Mere infra cannot sustain or boost job demands for long. It has to look how the medium and small industries grow. So far the stress on MSME is a bit lukewarm. The budget has to be more innovative.

Collective failure

Sir, The game of cricket is a game of chess and so each and every move counts in the shortest form of the game. Having lost the test series in a one day fashion we could have chalked out a strategy to rectify the mistakes committed in the longest form of the game.

Dynasty politics, a reality

Sir, Apropos, "Race for tickets tearing apart families," Orissa POST, Jan 24. Fortunes of many political families are on the line in the upcoming five state Assembly elections and for a change these elections are seeing some family members on opposing sides of the political divide.

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



Today we feel proud when we see that the youth of India are innovating and taking the country forward
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

DELHI SLASHES NUMBER OF DRY DAYS TO 3

The Delhi government reduced the number of dry days to just three from the existing 21. Under the new excise policy, liquor shops and opium vends in the national capital will now remain closed only on three national holidays -- Republic Day (January 26), Independence Day (August 15) and Gandhi Jayanti October 2



of the day quote

When farmers are being forced to sell their produce at half of their cost price they need no one to prompt them as to how they should vote
RAKESH TIKAIT | BHARATIYA KISAN UNION LEADER

The state is in favour of opening schools but not at the risk of the lives of the students. The decision will be taken by the Chief Minister
BRATYA BASU | WEST BENGAL EDUCATION MINISTER

Fear, corruption, discrimination and insecurity of life and property, that is, poor law and order, unemployment and migration of lakhs, are the biggest problems of Uttar Pradesh with a huge population
MAYAWATI | BSP PRESIDENT

Omicron wave may intensify in coming weeks, say experts

AGENCIES
New Delhi, Jan 24: India's Covid-19 infections, led by the Omicron variant, may see a sharp rise in the coming weeks, some top experts said, noting that the variant was already in community transmission and hospitals were seeing more patients despite a decline in cases in major cities. India reported 306,064 new infections over the last 24 hours, the health ministry said, about an 8% decline from the average daily cases reported in the last four days. Deaths were 439, the lowest in five days. But weekly positivity rates have risen to 17.03% in the week to January 24, from about 0.63% December 27, led by the highly-transmissible Omicron variant. "Omicron is now in community transmission in India and has become dominant in multiple metros," a report by the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) said January 10 in a report released Sunday. Most cases of the Omicron variant have been mild, the advisory group said, although hospitalisations and cases in intensive care were increasing. In last two weeks major cities such as the capital, Delhi, and financial hub Mumbai in the wealth-



iest state of Maharashtra, have been reporting big falls in cases after hitting peaks. That might change, said Dr. Subhash Salunke, a member of the state-run Indian Council of Medical Research and the national taskforce on Covid, as the variant is spreading to semi-urban and rural areas. The state expects to see multiple peaks in the next eight to 10 weeks, said Salunke, who previously advised the Maharashtra government. "The number of cases in cities like Mumbai and Pune are the tip of the iceberg," Salunke told Reuters, adding that the deadly Delta variant from the previous wave was also circulating. India's tally of overall infections reached 39.54 million, the second-highest globally behind the United States. The country has seen 489,848 people die of the virus.

Assam, Nagaland ready to settle border dispute out-of-court

AGENCIES
Kohima/Guwahati, Jan 24: The governments of Nagaland and Assam are ready for an out-of-court settlement of the long-pending inter-state boundary dispute between the two northeastern neighbours, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said here Monday. Rio said that Nagaland and Assam delegations are likely to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah in February to discuss and formulate how to go about the settlement. The Nagaland Assembly's select committee to examine the border issue held an hour-and-a-half closed-door meeting, a day after Rio, his deputy Y Patton and NPF legislature party leader T R Zeilang met Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at Guwahati Sunday. "We had gone to Guwahati and had fruitful discussions on the border issue with Sarma. Nagaland and Assam had jointly taken up the matter with Union Home Minister Amit Shah December 23, 2020. "Both the state governments are in favour of an out-of-court settlement, and maybe our teams will meet Shah in the first part of February to discuss and formulate how to go about it," Rio told reporters here. The

PM Modi interacts with Rashtriya Bal Puraskar recipients

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, Jan 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday urged recipients of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to support the 'Vocal for Local' campaign and said the youth is at the centre of all policies being framed by government. During an online interaction with the awardees, Modi also talked about the unveiling of the hologram statue of freedom fighter Subhash Chandra Bose and said the "biggest inspiration we get from Netaji is of duty and of nation first, and you have to proceed on your path of duty for the country". The prime minister awarded the Bal Puraskar recipients certificates digitally using block chain technology. Calling for support for the 'Vocal for Local' campaign, Modi asked the awardees to list products at their home which are of foreign origin. Noting that the youth of the country are at the centre of all policies being framed by the government presently, he said, "Today we feel proud, when we see that the youth of India are innovating and taking the country forward." Lauding children over their participation in the Covid vaccination programme, the Prime Minister said children have shown their modern and scientific thinking in the vaccination programme as well. "More than 40 million children got coronavirus vaccine till now since January 3," he said.

SHORT TAKES

Naxal killed in encounter

Narayanpur: A Naxal was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district Monday, a senior police official said. The gunfight took place at around 1.30 am near a bridge in a forest, located about six km from Bharanda police station, when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on a search operation, Narayanpur's Superintendent of Police Girija Shankar Jaiswal said.

Sharad Pawar tests Covid+ve

Mumbai: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar announced that he has tested Covid-19 positive Monday, and has started the necessary treatment. "I have tested Covid positive, but there is no cause for concern. I am following the treatment as suggested by my doctor," said the 81-year-old leader.

Man held with foreign currency

Tamil Nadu: An air passenger was arrested by customs officials at Trichy Airport for possessing huge foreign currency without having valid documents, official said Monday. "On January 22, the passenger was intercepted at Trichy Airport when he was about to catch a flight for Dubai. We have seized 50,000 Saudi Arabian Riyals and 5,000 US Dollars equivalent to Rs 13.30 lakh from his possession," said the official.

Two farmers mauled by leopard

Coimbatore: Two farmers near Tirupur district, 55 km from here, landed in hospital after an attack by a leopard Monday, police said. According to them, 60-year-old Varadarajan went to his farm early today when the animal pounced on him and mauled his shoulder.

Man beaten to death by mob

Mumbai: A 32 year-old auto driver died allegedly of injuries inflicted by a mob in Malad in north Mumbai on suspicion that he was a thief, after which his kin took out a protest march and demanded action against those involved in the incident, a police official said Monday. Shahrukh Sheikh was apprehended by residents of Damu Nagar some 10 days ago when he had gone to check on his autorickshaw that he had parked there, he said.

Covid has still got a 'long, long way' to go: WHO Special Envoy

New Delhi: Covid has still got a "long, long way" to go and is "still very serious" despite some optimism the end is in sight in Europe, the World Health Organisation's special envoy on the virus said, Sky News reported. Dr David Nabarro said "it's as though we're just passing the halfway mark on a marathon" and it is still not clear how long it will take to reach the end because of the way coronavirus "challenges and surprises", the report said.

Revamped CGHS website launched

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, Jan 24: A revamped CGHS website and mobile app aimed at providing easy access to healthcare services and tele-consultation facility for over 40 lakh beneficiaries was launched by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Monday. With the newly provided feature of tele-consultation, Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries can seek expert advice directly, he stated. The minister said the launch of the revamped CGHS website linked with a mobile app is an important and timely step towards catering to India's increasing digital penetration. "The website has several updated features which shall hugely benefit more than 40 lakh beneficiaries (both in-service and retired personnel) with real-time information from the convenience of their homes," Mandaviya stated.



He said the facility will enable healthcare services being delivered without venturing out, and is a timely innovative step during the Covid-19 pandemic.

POLICE ALSO SAID THAT PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO ADHERE TO ALL COVID PROTOCOLS AT THE PROGRAMME ON RAJPATH JANUARY 26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, Jan 24: People attending the Republic Day parade must be fully vaccinated against Covid and children below 15 years of age will not be allowed to attend the function, a set of guidelines issued by the Delhi Police stated. Police also said that people will have to adhere to all Covid-protocols, such as wearing face masks and maintaining social distance,

PATRIOTIC FERVOUR



Children wave Tricolor flags as they run across a mustard field at a village near Balurghat in South Dinajpur district of West Bengal
PTI PHOTO

Intel alert for possible Maoist attack in WB

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
Kolkata, Jan 24: The state intelligence department has sent an alert to all the districts, particularly to the Railways of a possible Maoist attack in several railway stations across the state on the Republic Day. The alert also says that there can be an attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress leaders, mobile towers and on police and central police camps. Though there has been hardly any kind of subver-



sive Maoist activity in the state, but the recent arrest of a Kolkata-based businessman Mahesh

Agarwal by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) from Salt Lake allegedly for funding the Maoists of Jharkhand was enough to put the state police on high alert of the possible Maoist activities going on in the state. The NIA also said that they were looking for his two business partners who are still absconding. Before Agarwal, the NIA also arrested one Maoist leader Monoj Tiwari who was absconding for the last three years.

Pak hands over 20 Indian fishermen

AGENCIES
Attari (Amritsar)/Islamabad, Jan 24: Twenty Indian fishermen arrested by Pakistan for allegedly entering into the country's territorial waters were handed over to India through the border Monday. They crossed over to India through the land transit route of Attari border Monday evening, said officials at the Attari border. They entered India on the basis of 'Emergency Travel Certificate' issued by the Indian High commission at Islamabad. All of the twenty fishermen were released from Landhi district Jail of Malir, Karachi on completion of their sentences. They were escorted to Lahore by road by Pakistan-based NGO Edhi Foundation. The moment the fishermen crossed over to India, they knelt and kissed the ground. All were medically examined, including for Covid-19, said the officials. They will stay for a night here in Amritsar; they said, adding that the fishermen will proceed back home to their native place in Gujarat Tuesday. Some of them had undergone around four years of jail term in Pakistan after their arrest by the Pakistani Coast Guards. They were arrested when their boats slipped into Pakistan through territorial waters in the Arabian Sea. The fishermen thanked Edhi

TN fishermen threaten to give up citizenship

Chennai: Fishermen from Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu have threatened to relinquish all documents relating to Indian citizenship by February 2 if the union government fails to bring back the fishermen who are languishing in Sri Lankan jails for crossing International Marine Boundary Line (IMBL). The fishermen also demanded the Central government to stop the Sri Lankan fisheries department from auctioning the fishing boats of Tamil Nadu fishermen that were seized by the Lankan Navy between 2015 and 2018.

Unvaccinated, those under 15 not allowed at R-Day parade

These personnel, include deputy commissioners of police, assistant commissioners of police and inspectors, sub-inspectors. Police personnel, commands, officers and jawans of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have also been deployed, he had said. On Republic Day security arrangements, Asthana had said 27,723 Delhi Police personnel including 71 DCPs, 213 ACPs and 753 inspectors have been deployed in the capital for the parade. They are being assisted by 65 companies of CAPFs. He had mentioned that the anti-terror measures taken include blockades (nakka bandi) at various places, checking of vehicles, hotels, lodges and dharamshalas and various verification drives like that of tenants, servants, labourers. In the last two months, the anti-terror measures have been intensified, the commissioner has said. Counter drone technology is being used for air space security. The security in and around the area where the Republic Day celebrations will take place has also been secured with the help of the Delhi Police and other agencies, Asthana had said. To create awareness, he had said that through social media, police are also putting out facts and important information so that no anti-social element runs a misinformation campaign. About traffic arrangements, Asthana had said an advisory has already been issued stating specific restrictions on routes so that no inconvenience is caused to general public. According to a recent order, operation of sub-conventional aerial platforms, including UAVs, paragliders and hot air balloons, over the national capital has been prohibited in view of the Republic Day celebrations. The order came into effect January 20 and would remain in force till February 15.



use carpool or taxi. They are also requested to carry a valid identity card and cooperate during security check, it said. "There will be a provision for depositing remote-controlled car lock keys in each parking area," police tweeted. On Sunday, Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana had said over 27,000 police personnel have been deployed for security duties in the national capital and anti-terror measures intensified in view of Republic Day.

32-YEAR-OLD FROM FRANCE QUALIFIES FOR A MAJOR QUARTERFINAL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER 63RD GRAND SLAM APPEARANCE AND 17TH TRIP TO THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN AFTER STUNNING WIN OVER HALEP



CORNET'S 'DREAM COME TRUE'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Jan 24: Alize Cornet dropped to her knees on the hard blue court, clasped her hands and took a few moments to let it sink in. In her 17th trip to the Australian Open, her 63rd run at a Grand Slam, and two days after celebrating her 32nd birthday, Cornet finally qualified for the quarterfinals at one of the four major events in tennis. Cornet recovered after a second-set meltdown in the hot Melbourne sun Monday to advance to the last eight at the Australian Open with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 win over two-time major champion Simona Halep. "It's never too late to try again!" Cornet said in her on-court TV interview. "To be in my first quarterfinal. It's a dream come true. The journey goes on. I still can't believe it."

Cornet led by a set and 3-1 before losing five consecutive games and 16 straight points as Halep took the match to a decider. The match was 2-2 in the third set after Cornet held a service game at love, saying "allez" after every shot she hit. Halep got a break-point chance two games later with a forehand down the line that just caught the outside of the paint and which Cornet could barely believe. She saved it and held serve, then broke Halep's serve for a 4-3 lead that set her on course for the quarterfinals. Cornet will next play Danielle Collins, the No. 27 seed from the United States who beat 19th-seeded Elise Mertens 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in an almost three-hour match to open play on Rod Laver Arena. Collins was a semifinalist in Australia in 2019. Cornet made her main draw

Grand Slam singles debut as a wildcard entry at the 2005 French Open. She lost five previous fourth-round appearances but had gone close to reaching the quarterfinals before, having match points in the fourth round in Australia in 2009 before losing to eventual runner-up Dinara Safina. With a ranking of 61 — 50 lower than her career-high No. 11 — Cornet came into the 2022 season acknowledging retirement must be close and that it was now or never for a Grand Slam breakthrough. The marquee men's match was on Margaret Court Arena, where US Open champion Daniil Medvedev beat 70th-ranked Maxime Cressy 6-2, 7-6(7-4), 6-7(4-7), 7-5. The second-ranked Medvedev is trying to become the first man

in the Open era to win his second major singles title in the next Grand Slam event. He's now potentially three wins from achieving that. Medvedev was a runner-up in Australia last year but avenged that with a win over Novak Djokovic in the US Open final. Djokovic isn't defending his Australian Open title after being deported on the eve of the year's first major for failing to meet the country's strict COVID-19 vaccination criteria. He will next play ninth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime, who beat 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic 2-6, 7-6(9-7), 6-2, 7-6(7-4). Medvedev beat the Canadian in the semifinals at last year's US Open. No. 11 Jannik Sinner ended Australia's last hope in the men's draw when he beat No. 32 Alex de

Minaur 7-6(7-3), 6-3, 6-4. Cornet's victory over Halep, a former Wimbledon and French Open champion and runner-up in Australia, gave her a record for most appearances at a major before reaching the quarterfinals. Tamarine Tanasugarn previously held the mark at 45, set at Wimbledon in 2008. Cornet had to do it the hard way, too. She defeated third-seeded Garbiñe Muguruza in straight sets in the second round but had to rally from 6-4, 4-1 down to beat 2021 French Open semifinalist Tamara Zidansek in the third round. In the first of the night matches, 2020 French Open champion Iga Swiatek beat Sorana Cirstea 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 to move into a quarterfinal match against either second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka or Kaia Kanepi.

Chelsea shake off blues



Chelsea players celebrate a goal against Tottenham, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Jan 24: Once Hakim Ziyech's curling, dipping strike landed in the Tottenham goal, Chelsea never looked back. Sure, it took until two minutes into the second half to break the deadlock and the Moroccan was justified in ranking it "10 out of 10." But the space gifted for Thiago Silva's header from Mason Mount's free-kick in the 55th minute to seal a 2-0 win on Sunday was a snapshot of this most lopsided of London rivalries. Chelsea should never have doubted its four-match winless run in the Premier League would end Sunday. Not even with former Chelsea manager Antonio Conte going nine league matches unbeaten at the start of his Tottenham reign before the visit to Stamford Bridge. It's now 33 wins for Chelsea against Tottenham in the Premier League era — more than against any other opponent. Not since 2018 has a Tottenham player even scored against Chelsea in the league when the north London side last won this derby. Tottenham will have complaints that Harry Kane was denied a first-half goal when it was ruled out for what appeared his slight touch on Silva before racing through on goal to meet Ryan Sessegnon's cross. But for all Kane harangued ref-

eree Paul Tierney at halftime, Tottenham crumbling so soon after the break made the win for Chelsea look inevitable. Tottenham was also denied a spot in the League Cup final by Chelsea winning both semifinal legs this month. Victory for Thomas Tuchel's side shores up a top-four place that was starting to look shaky before winning for the first time since December 26. Chelsea stayed a point behind second-place Liverpool, which won 3-1 across London at Crystal Palace through first-half goals from Virgil Van Dijk and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, and Fabinho's penalty. The results will give a flicker of hope that Manchester City can still be caught after the champions were held at Southampton to Saturday to now sit only nine points in front of Liverpool having played a game more. While Tottenham is in seventh place, the coronavirus postponements distort the standings. Tottenham fell to 11 points behind Chelsea but with four games in hand. And Man United is only two points ahead in the fourth Champions League place having played two more games than Tottenham. What helped Conte slightly was Arsenal being held 0-0 by Burnley Sunday. Arsenal did move above Tottenham into sixth place on goal difference but having played an extra game.

Barca bag much-needed win

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Jan 24: Barcelona finally got things going its way, finding a late goal to end its winless run and go into the international break on a positive note. Barcelona struggled again but Frenkie de Jong scored in the 87th minute to salvage a 1-0 victory at relegation-threatened Alavés in the Spanish league Sunday, snapping its three-match winless streak that included elimination from the Copa del Rey and the Spanish Super Cup. The win moved the Catalan club one point behind fourth-placed Atlético Madrid in the final Champions League spot, and 15 points behind league leader Real Madrid with a game in hand. Madrid needed a stoppage-time goal by Éder Militão to secure a 2-2 home draw against Elche. Madrid has a four-point advantage over Sevilla at the top after a tough day for Karim Benzema, who missed a penalty kick and later had to be replaced because of an injury. Barcelona had won only twice in their last 10 away matches in the league, and it was coming off a draw at Granada when it conceded in the 89th. It then lost to Madrid in the semifinals of the Spanish



MAN OF THE NIGHT: Barcelona scorer Frenkie de Jong reacts after the referee (not in pic) blows the full-time whistle, Sunday

Super Cup and to Athletic Bilbao in the round of 16 of the Copa del Rey. Barcelona was without the injured Ansu Fati and also without Ousmane Dembélé, who the club said was a "no-show" reporting to the squad because of an upset stomach. Barcelona and Dembélé have been at odds over contract negotiations. Benzema's struggles began when he missed an opportunity from close range with only the goalkeeper to beat inside the area in the first half. Moments later he had another chance to give his team the lead from the penalty spot, but the France striker sent his shot way over the crossbar. To cap an unusually frustrating day, Madrid's top scorer had to leave the match in the 58th because of an apparent muscle injury. There was no immediate news on the seriousness of the injury. Lucas Boyé and Pere Milla scored a goal in each half to give Elche a 2-0 lead, but Madrid pulled closer with Luka Modric's penalty kick in the 82nd and evened the match with Militão's firm header off a cross by Vinicius Júnior.

ICC AWARDS

Mandhana 'Women's Cricketer of the Year'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

I am truly honoured for receiving the prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021. A recognition of such high class from the global governing body of cricket in an exceptional and difficult year will motivate me to continue to better my game and contribute to Team India's success going forward
SMRITI MANDHANA

Dubai, Jan 24: India's swash-buckling opener Smriti Mandhana was on Monday named the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year for the second time for her stellar run of form across all formats in 2021. Mandhana, who also made it to the ICC T20 women's Team of the Year, pipped fellow nominees Tammy Beaumont of England, Lizelle Lee of South Africa and Gaby Lewis of Ireland for the top award — the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy, the ICC said in a statement. The southpaw had won the award in 2018 as well when she was also named the women's ODI Cricketer of the Year, making her only the second women's player to win the highest individual distinction in the overall category. The Indian T20 vice-captain is only the second India woman player to bag an ICC award after veteran fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, who was named the ICC Player of the Year in 2007. Despite India enduring a difficult 2021, Mandhana's stock continued to rise this year in all formats of the game. She scored, 855 runs in 22 internationals at an average of 38.86 which included one century and five half centuries. In the limited-overs series against South Africa where India won just two of the eight matches at home, Mandhana played a major role in both of the wins. She made 80 not out as India chased down 158 in the second ODI that helped them level the series and scored 48 not out in the win in the final T20I. The southpaw was in good touch in the series against Australia, starting with the ODI series where

- OTHER AWARD WINNERS**
- Men's Cricketer of the Year*
SHAHEEN AFRIDI (Pakistan)
 - Men's Test Cricketer of the Year*
JOE ROOT (England)
 - Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year*
BABAR AZAM (Pakistan)
 - Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year*
LIZELLE LEE (South Africa)
 - Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year*
MOHAMMAD RIZWAN (Pakistan)
 - Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year*
TAMMY BEAUMONT (England)
 - Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year*
JANNEMAN MALAN (South Africa)
 - Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year*
FATIMA SANA (Pakistan)
 - Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year*
ZEEHAN MAQSOOD (Oman)
 - Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year*
ANDREA-MAE ZEPEDA (Austria)
 - Umpire of the Year*
MARAI ERASMUS (South Africa)

Gurjit's hat-trick guides India to Asia Cup semis



MONIKA



GURJIT KAUR

Muscat, Jan 24: Gurjit Kaur slammed a hat-trick while Monika and Jyoti scored a brace each as defending champions India spanked lowly Singapore 9-1 to register their second win in Pool A and qualify for the semifinals of the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament here Monday. After drubbing Malaysia 9-0 in their opener, the Indians slumped to an unexpected 0-2 loss against pool toppers Japan. But the Indian put their last match defeat behind and dished out a much coordinated display Monday to steamroll Singapore. Gurjit (eighth, 37th, 48th minutes) converted two penalty corners, while Monika (sixth, 17th) and Jyoti (43rd, 58th) scored two field goals apiece. The other goal getters for India were Vandana Katariya (eighth) and Mariana Kujur (10th). India will take on Pool B leaders Korea in the first semifinal Wednesday, while Japan, who beat Malaysia 8-0 in another Pool B match, will be up against China

in the other last four match. The final of the tournament will be played Thursday. The top four teams will automatically qualify for this year's FIH World Cup to be co-hosted by Spain and Netherlands. As expected, a much superior India completely dominated the match from the word go and pumped in four goals in the first quarter. India started on a bright note and enjoyed possession with their brisk, fast-paced one-touch game. India took the lead in the sixth minute through a field goal by Monika. Two minutes later the Savita Punia-led side doubled their lead through Mariana Kujur before Vandana deflected in seconds later to extend their lead. Star dragflicker Gurjit made it 4-0 by converting a penalty corner in the 10th minute. India continued in the same vein in the second quarter and added another goal through Monika. It was raining penalty corners for India as they earned as many as 15 of them in the match but made use of just three, which would definitely be a cause of concern for chief coach Janneke Schopman.

BWF ODISHA OPEN KICKS OFF TODAY

A view of the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack, which is all set to witness the first Odisha Open, a Super 100 badminton tournament, starting Tuesday. The event is the third tournament of the 2022 BWF World Tour and carries a prize money of USD 75,000. The meet, which will see the likes of Parupalli Kashyap, Sourabh Verma, Shubhankar Dey and Ajay Jayaram among others, will conclude January 30.