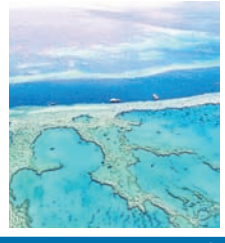




DEFINING ACTING
 Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh feels that a lot of acting is defined by how an actor reacts to his/her co-actor

LEISURE P2



RELIEF FOR REEF
 Australia unveiled a billion-dollar package to protect the climate-ravaged Great Barrier Reef Friday

INTERNATIONAL P10



ON CUSP OF HISTORY
 Rafa Nadal is just one match away from winning a record 21 Grand Slam singles title

SPORTS P12

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V Anantha Nageswaran is new CEA
New Delhi: The government Friday appointed economist V Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA). Nageswaran, an academic and former executive with Credit Suisse Group AG and Julius Baer Group, succeeds KV Subramanian, who demitted office of CEA in December 2021 after the completion of his three-year term. An official statement said Nageswaran assumed charge Friday. Nageswaran's appointment comes days before the annual Budget Tuesday. The CEA generally authors the economic survey - a document that indicates the government's policy direction and serves as a precursor to the Budget.



Pak teen kills family under PUBG influence
Lahore: A 14-year-old boy shot dead his entire family, including mother and two minor sisters, allegedly 'under the influence' of online game PUBG, police here in the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province said Friday. Nahid Mubarak, a 45-year-old health worker, was found dead along with her 22-year-old son Taimur and two daughters aged 17 and 11 in Lahore's Kahna area last week. Her teenage son who remained unhurt and is the lone survivor of the family turned out to be the murderer, police said in a statement. "The PUBG addict boy confessed to have killed her mother and siblings under the influence of the game. He has developed some psychological issues because of spending long hours of the day playing the online game," the statement said.

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TPCL is 'authority': Orissa High Court

AGENCIES

Cuttack, Jan 28: The Orissa High Court Monday held that the Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) is an 'authority' within the meaning of Article 226. Justice BR Sarangi noted that TPCL, although a company, has engaged in the distribution of electricity in four distribution areas of the state under different names.

It was further noted that the company's management is also controlled by the state through GRIDCO. Accordingly, the court held, "In view of the foregoing discussions, it is made clear that though TPCL is a company, but it has indulged in distribution of electricity in four distribution areas of the State in different names, such as, TPNODL, TPWDL, TPSODL and TPCODL, and, thereby, discharging the public duty and, as such, its management is also controlled by the State through GRIDCO. Therefore, TPCL can be said to be an 'authority' within the meaning of Article 226 of the Constitution of India."

The court noted that under Article 12, the phrase 'State' has not been defined. It includes all other authorities within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India, the court said.

The court then proceeded to refer to a host of Supreme Court judgments on the interpretation of Article 12 and accordingly held that TPCL falls under the purview of an 'authority' within the meaning of Article 226 of the Constitution. Therefore, the court held that writ petitions are maintainable against these electricity distribution companies.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

 Forget what I've done in the past 5 years. Let me remind you on what happened 500 years ago!

HOLDING HIGH



NCC cadets perform during the Prime Minister's NCC rally at Cariappa Parade Ground in New Delhi, Friday. PTI PHOTO

Made-in-Odisha test kit gets ICMR nod

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: Soon made in Odisha rapid antigen testing kits will hit the market for testing of SARS-CoV-2 infection in people.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has validated the first made in Odisha Covid-19 rapid antigen test kit, ImCOV-Ag. The kit has been developed by Bhubaneswar-based IMGENEX India Pvt. Ltd., with intellectual input from Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC). The kit can detect various variants of Covid-19 by using nasopharyngeal swab samples, said CEO of IMGENEX, Sujay Singh.

Singh said his firm has started working on this project since June 2020 and the state government's department of biotechnology has sanctioned a grant for this. "By utilising the fund, we have developed antigen and antibody, which is required to develop the kit. The kit was developed at a cost of Rs 1 crore. We are constructing a building where we will manufacture about 20 lakh kits per month. This facility is likely to start op-



eration by April," he said. However, it is only for laboratory use, not for home tests, Singh said, adding, "Our next step will be to develop a self-test kit so that one can undergo Covid test by sitting at home."

"The IMGENEX India Pvt. Ltd., Bhubaneswar first started developing the kit and RMRC Bhubaneswar provided intellectual support for in-house testing and validation. Subsequently, we submitted the proposal for approval," said Sanghamitra Pati, director of RMRC, Bhubaneswar. She said the ICMR follows the criteria of sensitivity and specificity while approving any Covid test kit and this Odisha made kit has passed on all parameters.

As per the ICMR, till date, as many as 150 rapid antigen test kits have been validated (including 31 revalidations), and have been found to be satisfactory.

Bharat Biotech's nasal booster dose trials get approval

NEW DELHI: India's drug regulator has given permission to Bharat Biotech to conduct phase-3 clinical trial for its intranasal Covid vaccine as booster dose on participants who have been previously inoculated with SARS-CoV 2 vaccines. India is yet to approve the use of intranasal COVID-19 vaccine BBV154 developed by the Hyderabad-based company. Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on January 27 gave the nod to Bharat Biotech to conduct phase-3 randomised multi-centric clinical study to evaluate immunogenicity and safety of its intranasal vaccine as booster dose on participants who have been previously vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccines approved under new drugs under New Drugs & Clinical Trials Rules, 2019. According to official sources, the trial would be conducted at five sites, including AIIMS Delhi. In December, Bharat Biotech had sought permission from DCGI to conduct phase-3 study.

SRIMANDIR TO REOPEN FEB 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Jan 28: The Odisha government Friday announced the re-opening of the Shree Jagannath Temple here for devotees from February 1 keeping in view the livelihood of locals and 'slight' improvement in the coronavirus situation in the state.

The twelfth century shrine will, however, remain closed Sundays for sanitisation, Puri District Collector Samarth Verma told reporters after a meeting of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and members of the Chhatisa Nijog (temple servitors' body). "The local economy is mostly dependent on the temple. This apart, keeping in view the sentiments of the people and slight decline in COVID-19 cases, it has been decided to reopen the temple for public from February 1," he said.

He said that the temple will be closed on festivals keeping in view the local situation. "The devotees will be allowed entry into the temple from its eastern gate (Lion's Gate) while the local people of Puri will go inside the shrine through the western gate," the collector said.

The SJTA had closed the shrine from January 10 till January 31 in view of the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the state and some servitors and temple employees getting infected by the virus.

BJP richest party in 2019-20, BSP second

Among the seven national parties, the highest assets worth ₹4,847.78 crore were declared by the BJP, the ADR report said

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 28: The BJP declared assets worth ₹4,847.78 crore in financial year 2019-20, the highest among all political parties, followed by the BSP at ₹698.33 crore and the Congress at ₹588.16 crore, according to poll reforms advocacy group ADR.

The Association for Democratic Reforms prepared its report based on its analysis of assets and liabilities of national and regional parties in 2019-20. According to the analysis, the total assets declared by the seven national and 44 regional parties during the financial year amounted to ₹6,988.57 crore and ₹2,129.38 crore, respectively.

Among the seven national parties, the highest assets were declared by the BJP (Rs 4847.78 crore or 69.37 per cent), followed by the BSP (Rs 698.33 crore or 9.99 per cent) and the Congress (588.16 crore or 8.42 per cent), the ADR report said. Among the 44 regional parties, the assets of the top 10 parties were worth ₹2028.715 crore or 95.27 per cent of the total declared by them all combined. In the FY 2019-20, among the regional parties, the highest assets were declared by the Samajwadi Party at ₹563.47 crore (26.46 per cent), followed by the TRS at ₹301.47 crore and the AIADMK at ₹267.61 crore.

Fixed Deposits/FDR constituted the largest share of ₹1,639.51 crore (76.99 per cent) of the total assets declared by regional parties in the



FY 2019-20. Under the FDR/Fixed Deposits category for the financial year, the BJP and the BSP declared ₹3,253.00 crore and ₹618.86 crore, the top two among all national parties, while the Congress declared ₹240.90 crore.

Among regional parties, political parties such as the SP (Rs 434.219 crore), TRS (Rs 256.01 crore), AIADMK (Rs 246.90 crore), DMK (Rs 162.425 crore), Shiv Sena (Rs 148.46 crore), BJD (Rs 118.425 crore) among others declared highest assets under FDR/Fixed Deposits.

The total liabilities declared by the seven national and 44 regional parties for the FY 2019-20 amount to ₹134.93 crore. "The National Political Parties declared the total liabilities of ₹74.27 crore in FY 2019-20. National Parties declared ₹4.26 crore under Borrowings and ₹70.01 cr under Other Liabilities and in the FY 2019-20, Congress declared the highest total liabilities of ₹49.55 crore (66.72 per cent) followed by AITC that declared ₹11.32 crore (15.24 per cent)," the ADR said.

Regional political parties declared total liabilities of ₹60.66 crore in FY 2019-20, it said. "Regional Parties declared ₹30.29 crore under Borrowings and ₹30.37 crore under Other Liabilities and in the FY 2019-20, TDP declared the highest total liabilities of ₹30.342 crore (50.02 per cent) followed by DMK that declared Rs 8.05 crore (13.27 per cent)," the analysis said.

COLD WAVE RETURNS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: Winter chill is set to return to Odisha and some districts are likely to be in the grip of a cold wave, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Friday. Minimum temperatures will be 3-5 degrees Celsius below normal in many places in the next three days as northwesterly dry and cold winds are entering the state, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said in a bulletin.

The weatherman forecast cold wave conditions in some areas of Kandhamal, Nuapada, Boudh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Sundargarh, Angul and Keonjhar districts till

Sunday morning. Cold wave conditions may prevail in a few places in Jharsuguda, Bolangir, Bargarh, Subarnapur and Kalahandi for a 24-hour period till Monday morning, it said. At least 12 weather stations logged minimum temperatures below 10 degrees Celsius as the mercury fell below normal in many places across the state Friday.

Daringbadi hill station recorded 6.5 degrees Celsius, the lowest in the state, while the mercury plunged by 5.4 degrees Celsius below normal to settle at 9.6 in Angul. Bhubaneswar recorded a minimum of 12.1 degrees Celsius, four notches below normal, and it was 13.2 degrees Celsius in Cuttack, it added.

NeoCov: Scientists warn of new coronavirus from bats

Considering the extensive mutations in the RBD regions of SARS-CoV-2 variants, especially the heavily mutated Omicron, these viruses may hold a latent potential to infect humans through further adaptation

mutates further, according to a study by Chinese researchers.

The yet-to-be peer-reviewed study recently posted on the preprint repository BioRxiv, shows that NeoCov is closely related to the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), a viral disease first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Researchers from Chinese Academy of Sciences and Wuhan University noted that NeoCov is found in a population of bats in



South Africa and to date spreads exclusively among these animals.

In its current form, NeoCov does not infect humans but further mu-

tations may make it potentially harmful, the researchers noted. "In this study, we unexpectedly found that NeoCoV and its close re-

lative, PDF2180-CoV, can efficiently use some types of bat Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) and, less favourably, human ACE2 for entry," the authors of the study noted.

ACE2 is a receptor protein on cells that provides the entry point for the coronavirus to hook into and infect a wide range of cells.

"Our study demonstrates the first case of ACE2 usage in MERS-related viruses, shedding light on a potential bio-safety threat of the human emergence of an ACE2 using 'MERS-CoV-2' with both high fatality and transmission rate," they said.

The researchers further noted that infection with NeoCov could not be cross-neutralised by antibodies targeting SARS-CoV-2 or MERS-CoV.

"Considering the extensive mutations in the RBD regions of the SARS-CoV-2 variants, especially the heavily mutated Omicron variant, these viruses may hold a latent potential to infect humans through further adaptation," the authors of the study added.

A receptor-binding domain (RBD) is a key part of a virus that allows it to dock to body receptors to gain entry into cells and lead to infection.

MARKET WATCH

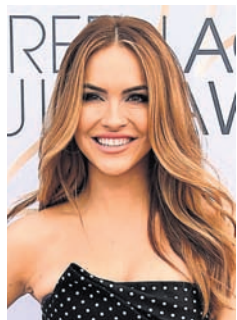
INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	57200.23	↓ 76.71
NIFTY	17102.00	↓ 8.20
DOLLAR	75.58	↓ ₹0.08
EURO	83.92	↓ ₹0.53
GOLD	₹47,522	↓ ₹388
SILVER	₹61,400	↓ ₹544

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	24.6°C	26.0°C
TEMP MIN	12.1°C	13.0°C
Humidity	80%	71%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Mainly clear sky

leisure



CHRISHELL WANTS HER BF TO BE A NON-CELEB

American actress Chrishell Staus, who recently split from her Netflix co-star and her boss at The Oppenheim Group, Jason Oppenheim, 44, after five months together, wants her next boyfriend to not be a celebrity.

RYAN REYNOLDS TO HAVE STREET NAMED AFTER HIM

Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds, who hails from the Canadian city of Vancouver, is to be nationally recognised with the opening of 'Ryan Reynolds Way', which is located in the east end of Ottawa.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Your big ambitions may come to fruition today by the evening. Ganesha says that you will do your best not to make impulsive choices; whatever the expected results may be, you will take sensible decisions.

TAURUS
Ganesha sees you devoting the day in taking care of your personal affairs and relationships. You are likely to review the state of affairs, and identify problems and persons who need more time and attention. This naturally implies that you will be spending a lot of time with your friends and family members, sorting differences and misunderstanding, if any.

GEMINI
There are indications that you will pay special attention to your food habits today, predicts Ganesha. You may go for an interview or start a new job later in the day. At work, you will get both encouragement and inspiration from seniors.

CANCER
You will take unusual interest in places of historical significance and destinations not frequented by many, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you will be the centre of attention in a group discussion. You will show your excellent troubleshooting skills while executing all your plans, hopes Ganesha.

LEO
No matter what you do, on some days, you just can't save the world, even if you were Superman. Remember that, since it looks very likely that today you shall be bringing upon yourself the displeasure of your bosses, and a lachadaisical support from your colleagues.

VIRGO
The day promises to be full of surprises and twists and turns, each of which you will handle with maturity. If anyone makes the mistake of taking you for granted, they will repent for their poor judgement as you are not one to be pushed around.

LIBRA
The day brings with it the gift of passion, and all its various nuances. On the career front, you may take steps today that will establish your identity in office. Later in the day, there are also chances of you having differences with your business associates. But your alert mind shall enable you to have an edge over your rival's plans, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
There is a strong prospect that you will be buying a state-of-the-art motor vehicle, foresees Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may finalise deals regarding your dream house. In the evening, you are likely to buy a household item to please your life partner, expects Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
It is very likely that you will pay enough attention to your family members today. Take time out to validate the efforts of others and show consideration when and where required. At workplace, people will admire your honesty. Romance is in the air in the evening, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
Get ready for a thrilling day ahead, says Ganesha. A lot of unexpected events may bring in happiness, and you may suddenly find yourself deliriously delighted. At work, finding answers to intriguing questions will consume most of your time. There are also chances that you may get adequate financial support to start a new venture or a business enterprise; the existing one may also prosper beyond expectations.

AQUARIUS
Excellence is the buzzword today! But that implies only to your work and not to the results. Nothing earth-shattering is on the cards, so slog away. Kids may howl or your spouse may yell in the evening, but you will simply pull your feet up and relax!

PISCES
It is a day where you are likely to be busy in tempering frayed relationships or indulging in tempestuous secretive affairs. Either way, the expenses incurred on the same will return to haunt you at the end of the day, says Ganesha.

Acting is all about reacting: Fatima

Mumbai: Dangan actress Fatima Sana Shaikh, feels that a lot of acting is defined by how an actor reacts to their co-actor. She maintains that actors feed off each other's energy to sketch a good performance.

Elaborating on her stance, she said: "I believe, acting is a lot of reacting. It's always good to have good performers opposite you so that you can feed off their energies."

The actress recently worked in a TVC with Sidharth Malhotra. They instantly clicked and their camaraderie seems to have translated into their work as well, going by her statement on her experience of working with the actor.

"It has been a blast working with Sidharth for the ad. We gelled so well on the sets, it didn't feel like it was the first time we were working together."

About their upcoming projects, Fatima Sana Shaikh will be next seen in *Sam Bahadur* while Sidharth Malhotra will be next seen in *Mission Majnu*.



Shweta apologises after MP police lodge FIR

Bhopal: Hours after the Madhya Pradesh Police registered an FIR against television actress Shweta Tiwari for allegedly referring to God while making a statement about her innerwear, she apologised Friday.

In a statement by her spokesperson, Tiwari said that it was a statement referring to one of her colleague's previous roles which has been taken out

of context and has been misconstrued. Tiwari added that the 'bhagwan' she was referring to was her co-star Sourabh Raaj Jain, who has played the role of Lord Krishna on TV earlier.

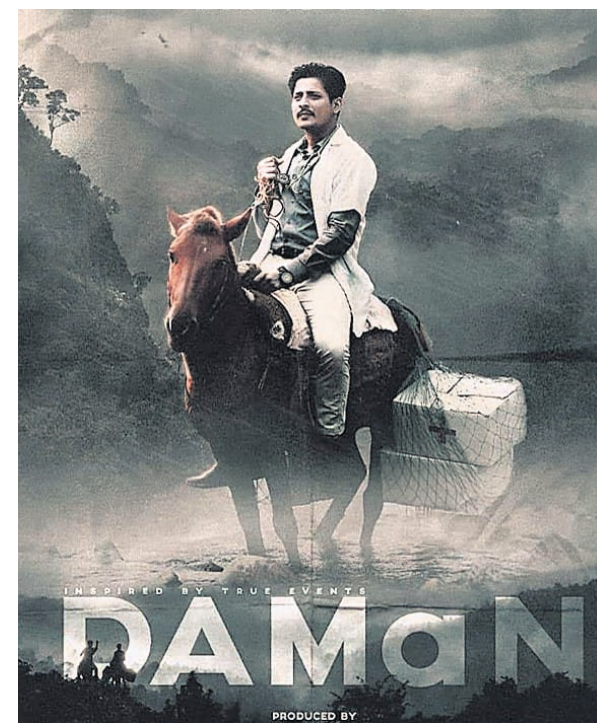
"When put in context, one will understand that the statement in reference to 'Bhagwan' was in context with Sourabh Raj Jain's popular role of a deity. People associate character names with actors and hence, I used that as an example during my conversation with the media," Tiwari said.

REFERENCE TO GOD OVER INNERWEAR

"Please be assured that it has never been my intention to hurt anyone, with my words or actions. Hence, I would humbly apologise for the hurt my statement has unintentionally caused to a lot of people," her statement concluded.

During the conversation at the event, while replying to one of her colleagues, Tiwari had said, "Mere bra ki size bhagwan le rahe hai (God is measuring my bra)."

Her statement created a controversy and the Madhya Pradesh Home Minister on Thursday directed the police to lodge an FIR against the actress for hurting people's sentiments.



Babusan's much-awaited Daman trailer out

Bhubaneswar: The trailer of *Daman*, one of the eagerly awaited films of top star Babusan, was released on various social media platforms by the production house JP Motion Pictures.

Directed by Bishal Morya and Devi Prasad Lenka, the film also has theatre actor Dipanwit Das Mohapatra in an important role. The trailer, after its release, aroused a lot of excitement among the cine-goers. Based on real events, *Daman* tells the story of a doctor, who fearlessly performs his duties in the remote regions of Odisha. The movie is an incredible journey of a doctor who has taken the oath to save people of Malkangiri from Malaria, production house sources revealed.

"The film is expected to get widespread appreciation from viewers who often complain that Odia films lack novelty and originality" said Dipendra Samal, the producer of the movie.

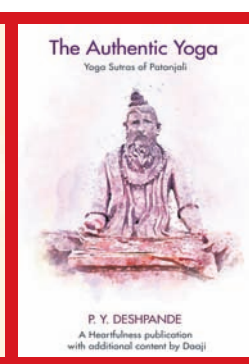
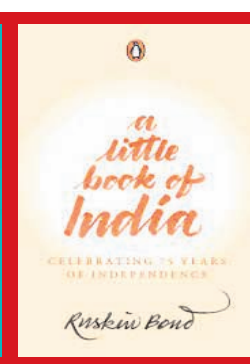
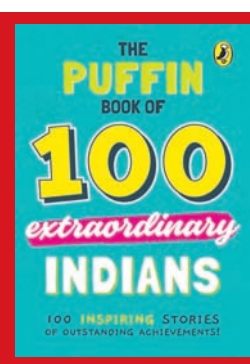
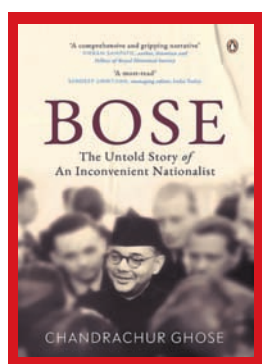
Drawing on his own memories, Ruskin Bond pays homage to the country that has been his home for 84 years through his new offering 'A Little Book of India'

Books with the India twist

As the sunny rays of winter pour through our windows, curl up on your reading chair and indulge in these binge-worthy reads.

Bose: The Untold Story of an Inconvenient Nationalist by Chandrachur Ghose

New information throws light on Bose's intense political activities surrounding the revolutionary groups in Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra and United Provinces, his efforts to bridge the increasing communal divide and his influence among the splintered political landscape; his outlook and relations with women among other. Pacey and thought-provoking, this book will open a window to many hitherto un-



told and unknown stories of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Puffin Book of 100 Extraordinary Indians is a celebration of achievements and personal stories of those who forged new paths for themselves and others in a way that it continues to affect modern lives. Written as short anecdotal biographical sketches, the book presents the lives of scientists, doctors, activists, painters,

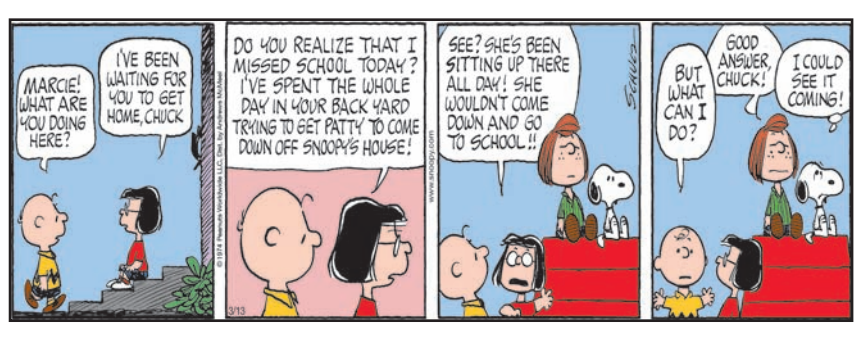
sportspeople, dancers, political leaders and many more from different walks of life. Featured in this collection are names like Irom Sharmila, Dutee Chand, Bhagat Singh, Gauri Sawant, Virat Kohli and Sundar Pichai.

up this beautiful land - its rivers and forests, literature and culture, sights, sounds and colours.

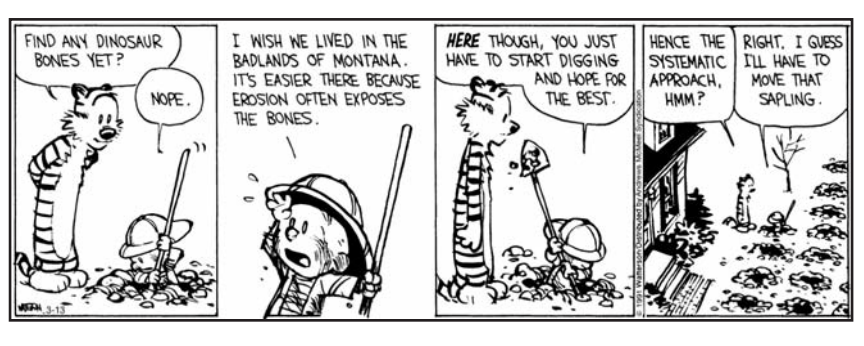
The Authentic Yoga by P.Y. Deshpande

Heartfulness launched The Authentic Yoga originally written by P.Y. Deshpande with additional content by Heartfulness Guide - Daaji, that includes the Foreword and a new chapter presenting the yogic practices in the light of Heartfulness for everyone to benefit from Yoga directly. The book gives a deep insight into the true state of Yoga in finding unity within body, heart, and soul in totality that can rightly translate us into being 'human'.

PEANUTS



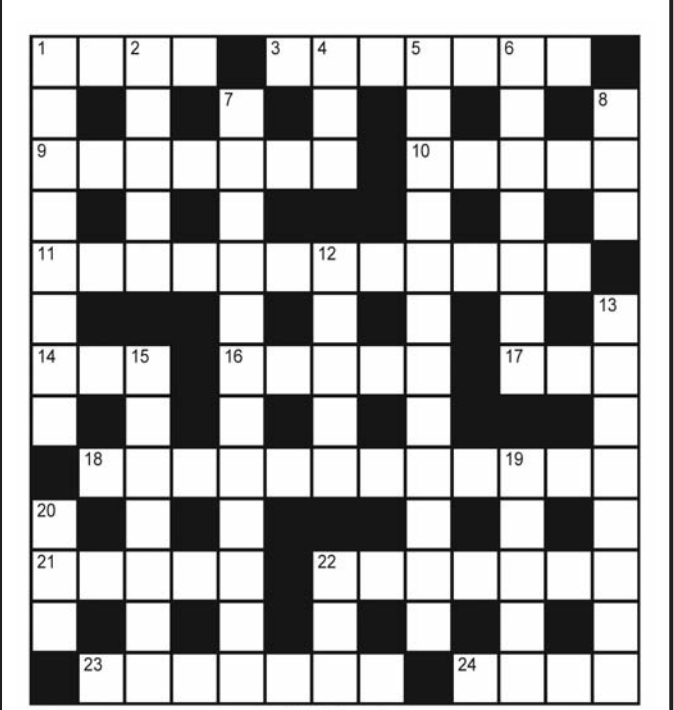
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



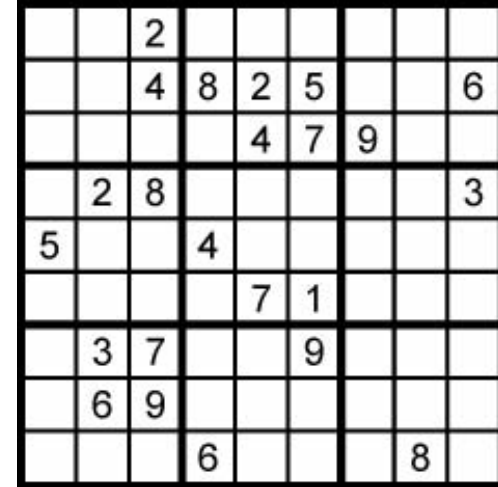
FUN post CROSSWORD



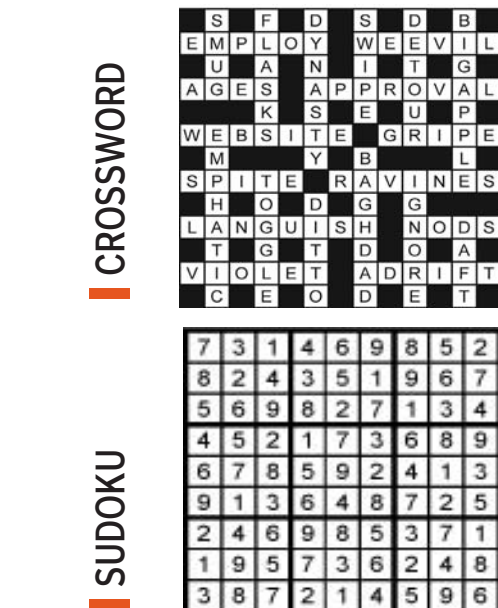
- Across**
- 1 Urban centre
 - 3 Queen's residence?
 - 9 Porridge
 - 10 Bouquet
 - 11 Stake driver
 - 14 Salad ingredient
 - 16 Weighty books
 - 17 Label
 - 18 Public official (5,7)
 - 21 Media attraction
 - 22 Type of long grained rice
 - 23 Generally speaking (2,1,4)
 - 24 Difficult situation
 - 5 Principal at a girl's school
 - 6 Ferocious
 - 7 Bodybuilder
 - 8 Cave dweller
 - 12 They're found on camels
 - 13 Prideful journeys (3,5)
 - 15 Sailplanes
 - 19 Maxim
 - 20 Riel part
 - 22 ___ Paese cheese

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

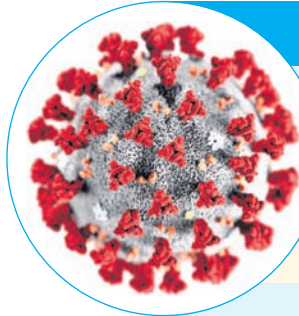


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



GODDESS OF WISDOM

An artisan gives finishing touches to the clay idols of Goddess Saraswati at Kumbharsahi in Cuttack, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	36,78,71,459	29,06,40,602	56,59,280
India	4,06,22,709	3,80,24,771	4,92,327
Odisha	12,36,226	11,73,907	8,560

PEACE PAGODA A BIG DRAW



A team of visitors taking a selfie in front of Dhauli Peace Pagoda in Bhubaneswar, Friday, as the structure is currently undergoing a renovation

KBN mastermind held, sword seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: The mastermind of the notorious Koi Bhai Nahi (KBN) gang finally fell into the police net here Friday. The leader of the gang, Devi Prasad Jena, alias Bubbu, 22, was arrested by the commissionerate police from Delta Square area here Friday.

Bubu, who hails from Srirampur village in Pattamundai area of Kendrapara, has been staying along with his family at Gandamunda under Khandagiri police limits.

Several videos of the gang went viral on social media last year in which the accused were spotted wielding fire arms, swords, other sharp-edged weapons and roaming freely on city roads. The denizens went into a tizzy after the videos went viral on social media.

Police later launched a manhunt to nab the accused members



Mastermind Devi Prasad Jena

of the KBN gang. Police have registered a case against 29 members of the gang. The gang's operation was influenced by Hindi movies. Bubu, considered the mastermind of the gang along with sev-

eral other members of the gang had reportedly attacked two youths with sharp-edged weapons at Nayappalli and ransacked the Laxmi Puja Mandap nearby in October, 2021.

Nayappalli police later started an investigation into the case after registering a case (494/21) in this regard. Bubu's father works in Odisha Police.

Following the viral video, a special team of the commissionerate police conducted raids at the residences of the accused including Bubbu in November last year. Police also razed the houses of some of the accused searching for the fire arms.

Police had also taken five members of the gang, Suman Kumar Parida, Rajesh Behera, Sanatan Behera, Rahul Jena and Narendra Kumar Sahu on a two-day remand to elicit more details about the operations of the gang during interrogation in November, 2021.

Police Friday arrested Bubbu and seized a sword from his possession. Earlier, five associates of Bubbu had been arrested by police.

Bubu is involved in more than a dozen cases registered at different police stations of the city.

Police Friday produced Bubbu before the court and sought its permission to take him in remand for further inquiry.

Restrictions at Swargadwar eased

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, Jan 28: The Puri district administration has lifted restrictions on the cremation of bodies from outside the coastal district at Swargadwar crematorium in the wake of an improvement in the Covid-19 situation here, an official said Friday.

The authorities had imposed curbs on cremation of bodies from other districts and outside Odisha at Swargadwar January 10 as the Holy City witnessed a surge in coronavirus infections.

The restrictions imposed on the funeral services of deceased belonging to other parts of Odisha and neighbouring states at Swargadwar



at the reception counter of Swargadwar Seva Samiti, he said. A maximum of 10 people will be allowed for funeral services at the crematorium, and they will have to follow the Covid appropriate behaviour, the official said.

The Sub-Collector of Puri and the convener secretary of the Swargadwar Seva Samiti have been instructed to ensure strict implementation of the order and take appropriate action in case of violations.

Apart from Odisha, people from neighbouring West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Bihar bring bodies for cremation at Swargadwar.

district, the official said, citing a notification issued by the local administration Thursday.

Relatives of a deceased have to submit the necessary documents

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: Criminals have always a trick up their sleeve to loot people.

In an interesting case, two miscreants including a minor boy decamped with gold ornaments worth around Rs 2 lakhs from a marriage programme at 'Pallavi Mandap' in Kesura area on the outskirts of the city here January 23.

The victim family while examining the CCTV footage of the function shocked to find out that the well-dressed duo in suits entered the wedding hall as guests.

Subsequently, the minor accused decamped with a bag containing a gold chain, earrings and five rings gifted

'Baraatis' get away with ₹2L, ornaments

The host family found out from the CCTV footage that the well-dressed duo and a minor had entered the wedding hall as guests

to the bride by the guests and relatives of the bride and bride groom.

The family members of the bride have lodged a complaint in this regard with Sahid Nagar police the next day. Police are yet to nab the accused despite the presence of the CCTV footage.

Similarly, another miscreant impersonating a customer appeared at an interior showroom,

Annappurna Interior, located at Tankapani road and ran away with Rs 1.28 lakh from cash counter while the elderly owner was busy otherwise here Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the commissionerate police Thursday busted an interstate robbers' gang that would target chemist shops impersonating customers. Sources claimed that some other members of the group of the looter gang from West Bengal are involved in the loot spree in the city.

The city police have been interrogating the owners and staff of the two hotels where the arrested gang members were staying for not checking the identity details during check in.

STA goes filmy to raise road safety awareness



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: The State Transport Authority (STA) has taken inspiration from super hit movie Pushpa to create awareness on road safety among people.

The STA Friday tweeted the image and poster of Allu Arjun starrer Pushpa and said, "Always wear a helmet while riding a bike. Else, not only you will pay fine but also you will endanger your life."

The STA also modified a popular dialogue from the movie to create awareness on road safety. "Pushpa ho Ya Pushparaa! Bina Helmet Ka Challan Sabka Katego," read the modified dialogue.

The Twitter users from Odisha and Andhra Pradesh are retweet-

ing the poster and images in large numbers in social media.

The STA also requested Good Samaritans to assist the victims after the accident. Road accident deaths can be reduced by 50 per cent if the victims get medical assistance within the golden hour. Do not hesitate to help. Protection of a Good Samaritan is guaranteed by law, said the STA.

The twin city Commissionerate Police had earlier used popular movie dialogues to raise awareness about Covid-19 and traffic rules.

Pushpa: The Rise is a Telugu action drama, written and directed by Sukumar. It stars Allu Arjun as the titular character alongside Fahadh Faasil and Rashmika Mandana.

Man uses Yogi's name to extract money, arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police, in assistance with the Commissionerate Police here, Friday arrested a man for trying to cheat businessmen using fake letterheads and signature of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in 2016.

Sources said a team of EOW sleuths reached Kharavela Nagar police station and sought their assistance in arresting Manoj Seth, a resident of Sadhu Nagar area under Dhauili police limits here.

"The sleuths were tipped off about Seth's regular movements in Kharavela Nagar and Master Canteen areas. The team managed to arrest Seth from Master Canteen area," said an official, adding that the accused was produced before a local court that allowed the sleuths to take him on a transit remand.

Sources said Seth was running a newspaper in Delhi a few years back when the incident was reported.

"When Yogi Adityanath was an MP from Gorakhpur in 2016, the accused (Seth) forged his letterhead and signature to seek donations from businessmen for his newspaper. A case was registered in this regard," added the official.

NGT reserves order over sand mining

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has reserved its judgment on an application alleging illegal sand mining in Subarnarekha river in Balasore district. A bench of judicial member B Amit Shalekar and expert member Saibal Dasgupta reserved the judgement in the matter. The application alleged that people residing near the site are affected by the sand mining, which has led to severe air pollution, depletion of water level, change in course of the river and obstruction of the natural flow by wooden bridges and approach roads.

Parbati Giri finds place in Centre's book

The tome narrates the valour of several unsung women freedom fighters



Abbakka, Velu Nachiyar, Jhalkari Bai, Matangini Hazra, Gulab Kaur, Chakali Ilamma, Padmaja Naidu, Bishni Dev Shah, Subhadra Kumari, Durgawati Devi, Sucheta Kripalani, Accamma Cherian, Aruna Asaf Ali, Durgabai

Deshmukh, Rani Gaidinliu, Usha Mehta, Tarkeshwari Sinha, Snehlata Varma and Tuleshwari Barua.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of State for Ministry of Culture Meenakshi Lekhi said that the book celebrates the lives of some of the women who led the charge and lit the flame of protest and rebellion throughout the country.

It contains the stories of queens who battled colonial power in the struggle against imperial rule and women who dedicated and even laid down their lives for the cause of the motherland, she added.

"If we go through our glorious past, we will find that the Indian culture was the one which celebrated women and there was no place for gender discrimination. This is amply evident from the fact that women had the courage and physical strength to fight like soldiers in the battlefield," Lekhi said.

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Cov cases on downward spiral as state sees 5k new infections

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: Daily Covid-19 cases continued to dip in Odisha, where 5,057 more people tested positive Friday, 844 less than the previous day, the Health department said.



The infection tally stood at 12,36,226, while 10 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 8,560

The coronavirus tally stood at 12,36,226, while 10 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 8,560. Khurda district reported 1,111 new cases, followed by 495 in Cuttack and 429 in Sundargarh, the bulletin said.

CHORUS FOR ONLINE EXAM



Members of All Odisha D-Pharmacy Students' Association stage a demonstration in front of the Directorate of Drugs Control office in Bhubaneswar, Friday, demanding online mode of examination for pharmacy

Govt ITI in City earns 'Eat Right Campus' tag

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: The Government ITI, Bhubaneswar, has been accorded the Eat Right Campus by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Caste papers, govt sops elude Kela tribe

AGENCIES

Puri/Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: "We are deprived of government entitlements because we do not have a caste certificate," said Meena Das, 34, before a gathering of academicians, researchers, and journalists in Bhubaneswar in late September.



The file photo of a member of the Mundapota Kela community burying his head under earth to attract public to earn his living

That are given under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. This was particularly tough when job prospects were further dented by the coronavirus pandemic and the nationwide lockdown imposed by the government in March 2020.

years of independence we are deprived of a caste certificate. Now, the pandemic has broken all our hopes," he rued. Murali Shikari's children studied for free till Class 8 in a government school. However, to put them through high school, he will now have to pay fees.

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: A student of a private engineering college here Friday sustained injuries after another student attacked him with a knife in Sailashree Vihar area under Chandrasekharpur police limits.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 28: A student of a private engineering college here Friday sustained injuries after another student attacked him with a knife in Sailashree Vihar area under Chandrasekharpur police limits.

Ex-Bijepur MLA dies

Bhubaneswar: Former Bijepur MLA Rajeev Lochan Hota died at Bargharh Friday. He was 86. Hota was hospitalised after his health deteriorated. He died around 6pm, family sources said.

'Renewable energy sector to create 1mn jobs by 2030'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 28: An important component of its climate action plan, India's renewable energy sector could potentially employ around one million people by 2030, which would be ten times more than the existing workforce of an estimated 1.1 lakh employed by the sector, according to an independent study.

The study 'India's Expanding Clean Energy Workforce' highlights that most of the new jobs would be generated by small-scale renewable energy projects such as rooftop solar and mini and micro-grid systems compared to utility or large-scale projects like solar parks.

The study—India's Expanding Clean Energy Workforce—highlights that most of the new jobs would be generated by small-scale renewable energy projects such as rooftop solar and mini and micro-grid systems compared to utility or large-scale projects like solar parks.

It found that India has successfully trained 78,000 people under the Surya Mitra training programme between 2015 and 2017 to improve the availability of skilled workers for clean energy projects.

Director, India Programme at NRDC, Sameer Kwatra said, "India's unprecedented renewables journey can set a new paradigm on how countries pursue prosperity without adding carbon to the atmosphere."

CLASSIFIED LOST

I Manoj Kumar Bag, S/o Late Giridhari Bag, At/PO/PS-Dharmagarh, is the sole owner of Plot No. 524, Khata No. 817, Mouza-Dharmagarh, Revenue Colony. The Original Sale Deed (No. 1774/1993) was lost during the Bus journey.

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HISTORY BECKONS

RAFA

SPANIARD ONE WIN AWAY FROM A RECORD 21 GRAND SLAM TITLES



WHEN I WON THE TITLE IN 2009, I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD PLAY A FINAL IN 2022. I HAVE BEEN UNLUCKY HERE ON A FEW OCCASIONS, HOPE THIS TIME LUCK IS WITH ME
RAFA NADAL

RESULTS

Rafa Nadal bt Matteo Berrettini **6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3**
Daniil Medvedev bt Stefanos Tsitsipas **7-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1**

had lost in the final to the now 'deported' Novak Djokovic. Sunday's final will be the fifth career meeting between Nadal and Medvedev, the Spaniard leading their head-to-head encounters 3-1. The pair clashed in the 2019 US Open decider, which Nadal won in five sets. One more win will help Nadal break the record of 20 Grand Slam titles that he shares with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. It should however, be stated that Nadal has won the Australian Open only once in his illustrious career - way back in 2009. "For me, it's all about winning the Australian Open more than any-

thing else," Nadal said in his on-court TV interview. "I have been a little unlucky (here) in my career with some injuries. I played some amazing finals with good chances. I feel very lucky that I won once. I never thought about another chance in 2022," the Spaniard added. Nadal broke Berrettini's opening service games in the first two sets and, after dropping the third set on a rare service lapse, he rallied to finish off the match in just under three hours. That in itself was a relief after his long five-set win over Denis Shapovalov two days earlier in the quarterfinals. Nadal later said that more than statistical highlights, what matters

to him is a Grand Slam triumph. "For me at the end it's about more than all these statistics, it's about being in the final of the Australian Open one more time. That means a lot to me. To me it's more important to be in the final of the Australian Open and fight to win another title than the rest of the statistics for the history of the sport," asserted the Spaniard. Nadal was asked about his two rivals, Djokovic and Roger Federer, who were not part of the men's singles draw this time around. "I just feel happy to be part of this amazing era of tennis, sharing all these things with the other two players," Nadal stated.

ODIA PLAYER IN SEMIS OF MIXED DOUBLES
Shuttler Swetapadma keeps medal hopes alive

Cuttack, Jan 28: Odisha's promising shuttler Swetapadma Nanda kept her medal hopes alive by entering the mixed doubles semifinals of the Odisha Open badminton tournament here Friday. In a one-sided quarterfinal encounter, Swetapadma and Balkeshari Yadav defeated their Indian counterparts R Kumar Shah and R Jaiswal 21-12, 21-12. The scoreline itself suggests the dominance Swetapadma and her partner enjoyed during the match. In both the games, Swetapadma and Yadav took early leads and never allowed the opponents to settle down. The winners showed good understanding and the Odia shuttler looked very good from the back of the court.

In the men's singles, Kiran George stunned third seed Subhankar Dey to advance to the semifinals while in-form shuttler Malvika Bansod also cruised to the last four stage in the women's event. The unseeded Kiran eked out a hard-fought 21-16, 10-21, 21-19 win over the higher ranked Subhankar, who was the last remaining seed in men's singles. The 21-year-old Kiran will now meet Ansal Yadav who defeated Tharun Manjappalli 21-15, 23-21. Malvika, who reached the final of the Syed Modi International where she lost to PV Sindhu before defeating Saina Nehwal at the India Open earlier this month, continued to impress as she registered a 21-13, 16-21, 21-17 victory over fellow Indian Tanya Hemanth in a gruelling 58-minute quarter-final contest. Fifth seed Ashmita Chaliha got the better of Rhucha Sawant 21-17,



Swetapadma Nanda has shown good form throughout the tourney. She will now lock horns with Malvika for a place in the final. Unseeded Mithun Manjunath, who had stunned Thursday seventh seed June Wei Cheam of Malaysia, lost a hard fought battle 21-13, 14-21, 8-21 to Priyanshu Rajawat in 51 minutes in another men's singles quarterfinal match.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Covid-19 strikes Winter Olympics

Beijing: Snowboarder Zan Kosir of Slovenia has tested positive for the coronavirus after landing here for the Winter Olympics, the country's national committee said Friday. Kosir, who had been chosen as one of Slovenia's flag bearers for next Friday's opening ceremony, took a second test to confirm the result and is now in isolation. "The management followed the organisers' instructions and the athlete is now isolated," the Slovenian team said. The 37-year-old Kosir will have to self-isolate until he tests negative twice. Another Slovenian, ski team staffer member Darko Centrh has also tested positive.

Aditi shines

Boca Rio (US): Indian golfer Aditi Ashok got off to a flying start at the Gainbridge LPGA with a superb 6-under 66 to be tied third and three short of leader Lydia Ko (63) here Thursday. Aditi, who missed the cut last time she played here at this course, was in sparkling form, finding the first 17 green in regulation. She faltered only once on the 18th and it ended in a bogey. She played very well on the longer holes. LPGA debutant Nishtha Madan however struggled.

Stunning triumph

Coolidge (Antigua): Afghanistan sneaked into the under-19 World Cup semifinals after edging out Sri Lanka by four runs, courtesy a sensational fightback, here Thursday. Afghanistan had posted a small total of 134 after being put in by the opposition. However, their bowlers and fielders dismissed the island nation for 130 in 46 overs. Afghanistan conceded 31 wickets, but even then they won as the Sri Lankans committed hara kiri with four batsmen being run out. Afghanistan will now face England in the first Super League semifinal February 1.

ICC bans Taylor

Dubai: Former Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor was Friday banned for three-and-a-half years by the ICC for failing to report a 2019 spot-fixing approach by an Indian businessman on time. In a statement, the ICC said Taylor admitted to being in breach of the provisions of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code (Articles 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4 and 2.4.7).

HUGE RELIEF FOR DOMESTIC CRICKETERS

RANJI TROPHY IN TWO PHASES: BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 28: BCCI secretary Jay Shah said Friday that the postponed Ranji Trophy will be held in two phases starting next month. The announcement thus cleared the decks for India's premier domestic competition to resume after being cancelled last season. It is expected that the 38-team tournament will begin in the second week of February and the first phase will continue for about a month. The tournament was not held last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was the first time since its inception that the event was not held. This year the Ranji Trophy was scheduled to begin January 13 but was postponed owing to a third wave of infections across India. "The BCCI has decided to conduct the Ranji Trophy this season in two phases. In the first phase, we plan to complete all matches of the league stage while the knockouts will be held in June," Shah said in a statement. "My team is working closely to mitigate any kind of health risk caused by the pandemic, while at the same time ensuring a highly

Shastri's message

New Delhi: Former head coach Ravi Shastri said Friday that Indian cricket would become 'spineless' if the Ranji Trophy is ignored. "The Ranji Trophy is the backbone of Indian cricket. The moment you start ignoring it our cricket will be SPINELESS!" Shastri tweeted earlier in the day.

competitive red-ball cricket contest," Shah added. Shah said that the BCCI understands the significance of Ranji Trophy. "Ranji Trophy is our most prestigious domestic competition, which has been providing Indian cricket with an enviable talent pool every year. It is absolutely important that we take all necessary steps to safeguard the interest of this premier event," asserted the top BCCI official. The BCCI announcement has come a day after its treasurer Arun Dhumal had said that the board intends to host the event. The two phases are required since the BCCI also plans to host the IPL from March 27 and hosting two big tournaments would not be possible practically as the players' availability would also be an issue.

Boys in Blue start favourites

INDIAN SQUAD BOOSTED BY RETURN OF KEY PLAYERS INCLUDING SKIPPER DHULL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Osborn (Antigua), Jan 28: Covid-hit India will be bolstered by the return of key players when the record four-time champions meet holders Bangladesh in the third quarterfinal of the U-19 Cricket World Cup here Saturday. Most of the half a dozen India players, who were affected by the dreaded virus, have recovered and are set to feature in the crucial clash. Six players, including skipper Yash Dhull, had gone into isolation ahead of India's second league fixture against Ireland, dealing a big blow to the side. Five of them tested positive in the RT-PCR tests and also ended up missing the last league game against Uganda. However, the depth in the squad ensured India won both those games comfortably and qualified for the quarterfinals as group toppers. However, Nishant Sindhu, who captained the team in the absence of Dhull, tested positive after the game against Uganda and won't be available for the Bangladesh game. However, Dhull, his deputy Shaik Rasheed, Sidharth Yadav, Aaradhy Yadav and Manav Parakh are now available for the Bangladesh game. "All are fit now,



except for Sindhu," said an ICC source. "They have been medically deemed fit to play. They have a day or so to train and be game ready," added the source. Both Dhull and Rasheed are important batters for the team and had looked in good touch against South Africa in their tournament opener. Opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi and all-rounder Raj Bawa's confi-

dence must be sky high after they scored match winning tons against Uganda. Left-arm spinner Vicky Ostwal has been India's stand out bowler in the tournament with seven wickets. The Bangladesh batters will also not have an easy time negotiating the extra pace of Rajvardhan Hangargar. The game will be a rematch of the previous edition's final in 2020

when Bangladesh had stunned the favourites to win their maiden title. Current Bangladesh skipper Rakibul Hasan was part of that memorable final. In the recently held Asia Cup semifinal in the UAE, India had outplayed Bangladesh and gone on to win the title. So the 'Boys in Blue' will certainly start the game as favourites.

Consolation bronze for eves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Muscat, Jan 28: Last edition champions India defeated China 2-0 to register a consolation third place finish at the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament here Friday. The Indian eves left behind the disappointment of their semifinal defeat to Korea and controlled the proceedings in the first two quarters. They scored a goal each in the two quarters to lead 2-0 at the interval. However, in spite of dominating the second session, the eves failed to add to the tally. The Indians started brightly and earned a couple of penalty corners and from one such situation Sharmila Devi gave her side the lead in the 13th minute. She scored from a rebound after Gurjit Kaur's initial flick was blocked by the Chinese defence. The second goal came six minutes later when Gurjit made no mistake from India's fourth penalty corner. China responded swiftly, securing a penalty corner which was brilliantly kept away by India captain and goalkeeper Savita Punia.



Down by two goals, China came out with more intent after the change of ends and tried to put pressure on the Indian defence but to no avail. The Indian eves kept up the pressure on the Chinese defence at the start of the fourth and final quarter but failed to create any clear cut chances. Lack of match practice due to the Covid-19 pandemic, after finishing in the fourth place at the Tokyo Olympics, cost defending champions India dearly. They were very inconsistent throughout the tournament which led to their ouster from the title race. In the semifinals, the eves had gone down 2-3 to Korea in a hard-fought encounter.

ACT LOSS A WAKE-UP CALL FOR TEAM
Reid harps on consistency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 28: Still smarting from the semifinal exit at the Asia Champions Trophy (ACT), the Indian men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid said Friday the setback came as a reality check for the Tokyo Olympic bronze medal winners ahead of a busy calendar year. Defending champions India were stunned 3-5 by Japan in the semifinals of the ACT in Dhaka last month. "It's always difficult. You have to be put in situations. Everybody including myself hated that semifinal loss to Japan. No one likes to experience something like that. But sometimes you have to face it to learn from it," Reid said in a virtual press conference. "The message after that tournament was 'Look this is what happens if we don't treat every single game with the utmost importance. I think it was really good learning experience,'" Reid added. India will start the year with back-to-back Pro League ties against

South Africa and France in Potchefstroom from February 8 to 13. Manpreet Singh will lead a 20-member team in the double-leg contests in South Africa. The team will also have their veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh back besides getting two new faces - young drag-flicker Jugraj Singh and striker Abhishek. Skipper Manpreet too highlighted the importance of starting the year on a positive note. "It's a very important year for the team. It's a good opportunity for us to play matches against France and South Africa and we hope to start the New Year on a winning note and make good progress. No doubt an important tour for us," asserted Manpreet. Reid was asked about the two new players in the squad. "Jugraj is quite a versatile player who can play in both midfield and defence. He is also very quick when he drag-flicks. I am quite excited if we can get him to be a little more consistent with his strikes," Reid pointed out. "Abhishek likes scoring goals, a prolific scorer. He is strong and young," Reid added.

JFC WIN, DENT FC GOA HOPES

AGENCIES

Bambolim, Jan 28: Jamshedpur FC (JFC) inflicted a huge blow to FC Goa's aspirations for a play-off berth with a solitary goal win in their ISL match played here Friday. The winning goal was scored by Daniel Chima Chukwu (49th minute), who struck on his first outing for JFC after signing for them in the January transfer window. The win took Owen Coyle's men to second place in the league table but kept Derrick Pereira's men stuck at ninth place. FC Goa will next face an ambitious Odisha FC here Tuesday while JFC await the challenge of an in-form Bengaluru FC at the same venue next Saturday. The match had an eventful start with Chukwu shooting wide with a clear look at the Goa goal. On the other end, Ivan Gonzalez hit the underside of the crossbar with a header. The rebound fell to Edu Bedia whose low shot was brilliantly saved by TP Rehenesh. The Gaurs threw in more subsequent attacks at the JFC defence but to no avail.