



## INAUGURATION

### 18th National Scout Guide Jamboree

(4-10 January, 2023)

by



**Smt. Droupadi Murmu**  
Hon'ble President of India



**Shri Kalraj Mishra**  
Hon'ble Governor, Rajasthan

Chief Guest  
**Shri Kalraj Mishra**  
Hon'ble Governor, Rajasthan

Presided over by  
**Shri Ashok Gehlot**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan



**Shri Ashok Gehlot**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan

**Venue: Rohat (Jodhpur-Pali route) Time: 3:15 PM onwards**

“ Scouts-Guides Organisation reinforces the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family). Through this, values are inculcated in students which prove useful throughout their life. Organising a jamboree after 67 years in Rajasthan is a matter of pride for all of us. I welcome all visitors to this event. ”

Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

- Participation of more than 35,000 from India and abroad
- Cultural Programmes
- Air Show by Surya Kiran Team of IAF
- Various Sports and Adventure Activities
- Development Exhibition
- Folk Dance, Band Display, Pageant Show
- Global Village Activities



DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

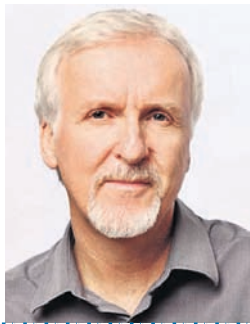


**THE CONJURING 4 MAY BE FINAL FILM OF FRANCHISE**

Filmmaker James Wan says that the fourth installment of the *Conjuring* franchise may be the ultimate movie in it. Back in October, it was announced that a fourth *The Conjuring* film was in the works, with David Leslie Johnson-McGoldrick returning to pen the script.

**CAMERON'S PLANS FOR AVATAR SEQUELS**

Filmmaker James Cameron who has directed the long-awaited blockbuster *Avatar: The Way of Water* and confirmed that a number of sequels are planned for the coming years to make sure that the sci-fi franchise stays fresh in the memories of audiences, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



leisure

**FORTUNE FORECAST**

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**ARIES**  
If you are involved in monetary matters, today you will find yourself weighing the benefits. A loan that you have applied for may be sanctioned. Look at a range of choices, says Ganesh, and you will end up feeling very happy about it.

**TAURUS**  
Today you are going to focus on enhancing your looks and appearances, says Ganesh. Instead of trying to seek satisfaction from within yourself you will be flaunting your fine clothes, your hairstyles. A visit to a beauty parlour cannot be ruled out. Your new looks will make you tremendously confident and impressive and will make others see you in a new light. Have no fears. You have a great day ahead.

**GEMINI**  
The day promises sensitivity and compassion for you, predicts Ganesh. You may plan a trip with your family members. You may also invest your money in various financial companies, as securing the future of your family will be foremost on your mind. Moreover, you will also save some hefty amount to meet future needs.

**CANCER**  
It is high time that you dedicated yourself to your work. If you are looking to try new things, today may not be a very good day to do so. Stick to doing things the way you have been doing them so far, advises Ganesh. All you need is a little attitude adjustment. Today, you are likely to meet an old friend and you will get busy reminiscing about your time together.

**LEO**  
A challenging day awaits you. You will face some tensions and problems, however this doesn't mean you will not be able to complete all your work successfully. Your personal life will proceed as usual, however expectations from you at the work-front will increase.

**VIRGO**  
Children will be a source of a lot of appreciation today, in and out of the classroom. Your logical abilities will become stronger. Ganesh advises you to stay peaceful, flow with the tide and enjoy yourself, regardless of what happens in the day.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today is a fortunate day for starting new work. You will win the hearts of everyone with your amazing charm. Your house and its arty interior decoration will impress people

**SCORPIO**  
Do your deeds and don't expect returns is what Indian mythology has taught us since time immemorial. Now, it's time to implement it, especially at work. You may have to wait a little longer in terms of your business and joint venture. However, don't lose hope as the fruits of patience are sweet.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Good Samaritans around you may give unsolicited, but valuable advice. Take it as a hint, and consider it for your betterment. Take your decision after following the advice, and this may definitely yield benefits, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
Not every day is the same day. And, today is one of those days when you feel extremely confused, feels Ganesh. While you won't be able to get rid of negative emotions, your hard work will be paid off and lay a strong foundation for future. You'll not understand whether to feel good about your achievements or experience sadness of confusion.

**AQUARIUS**  
There are no short-cuts to success. You know this very well and work you socks off to get what you want. Colleagues, friends and family - all of them will acknowledge and appreciate your efforts and achievements. Though you will be apprehensive about it, you will have to take some risks to bring the desired change in your life, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Interactions with those of the opposite sex will mark your day. It is also a good day to strike up friendship with those of the opposite sex. For those in love, today is a good day to spend time with your partner. For those looking for love, now is the best time to pop the question to that special someone you've secretly admired for long, says Ganesh.



**Mumbai:** Regina Cassandra, who is known for her work in Tamil and Telugu films, will be next seen in web series *Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke* and she is quite excited about portraying a woman IPS officer, Kavya on screen. Regina says: "Putting rumours to rest, I am thrilled to be a part of *Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke*, helmed by Srijit Mukherji. It's been three months since we shot this crime thriller in four breathtakingly beautiful Indian states that gave it the rawness it needs."

**Regina shares her surreal experience**

The 32-year-old actress made her Kannada debut with *Suryakaanti* and her Hindi debut with *Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga*. She made her web debut with the 2022 series *Rocket Boys*. On how she feels about playing uniform on-screen, she says: "Wearing the IPS officer's uniform was a surreal experience for me. This is up there with the most empowering characters I have essayed so far. Officers wear multiple hats and I believe that *Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke* truly captures that. I feel blessed to see myself in a Khaki uniform." Produced by Juggernaut and helmed by director Srijit Mukherji, *Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke* focuses on the life of a woman IPS officer, Kavya played by Regina. The series will be streaming on ZEE5.

**Rolling Stones honours Lata**

The 'Melody Queen' who passed away last year has been named among singers like Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, Sam Cooke, Billie Holiday, Bob Dylan, Prince, Elvis Presley, Celia Cruz and Frank Sinatra



**Mumbai:** *Rolling Stones* magazine, considered the bible of music-related subjects, has named Lata Mangeshkar as one of the top 200 singers of all times. While honouring her, *Rolling Stones* writes, "The crystalline, eternally girlish voice of 'the Melody Queen' is a cornerstone of Indian pop music, with a global influence spread via Bollywood films, whose golden era she defined. Lata was the empress of playback singers, the vocal magicians who perform songs for actors to lip-sync in lavish movie musicals, recording over 7,000 such songs, by some estimates."

tion no.84, is the only Indian singer in the list. She joins Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, Sam Cooke, Billie Holiday, Mariah Carey, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Beyonce, Otis Redding, Al Green, Little Richard, John Lennon, Patsy Cline, Freddie Mercury, Bob Dylan, Prince, Elvis Presley, Celia Cruz, Frank Sinatra and Marvin Gaye. Reacting to the honour, director Sanjay Leela Bhansali says, "It is good to know that she has been ranked among the 200 hundred best. But Lataji is not only among the 200 best, she is THE best singer civilization has ever produced."



**Sai opens up about her dream project**

**Mumbai:** Of late, a lot of actresses are taking to doing action on screen. And now Mimi Tamhankar too has shown interest in exploring that genre. The actress who was last seen in *India Lockdown* has been a part of various genres as she actively worked in Hindi and Marathi films. However, action is something that she is itching to do! She shares, "I have mentioned this a million times that I want to do a hardcore action film. I am desperately waiting for somebody to approach me for such a project. I love action." Sai who was a state-level kabaddi player in school and is also orange belt in karate says that she's so desperate to do stunts on screen that she might produce her own film to win that opportunity. She says, "An action film will be a dream project for me and I think I will have to create something on my own." Though she is waiting to be a part of her dream genre film, Sai in her earlier chat did mention how she's being approached for interesting films after her successful stint with *Mimi*.

**NATYADHARA: FINAL DAY**



Bhubaneswar-based theatre troupe Bijoy Eka Uchhwas, instituted in the name of famous playwright Bijoy Mishra, presented Odia play *Ta'ari Lagi* on the third and final day of *Natyadhara* at Bhanjakala Mandap, Tuesday. Written by Mishra, the play was directed by Susmita Rana Pattnaik. *Natyadhara* is a monthly cultural programme organised by Odisha Natya Sangh(ONS) in collaboration with Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi.

**PEANUTS**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

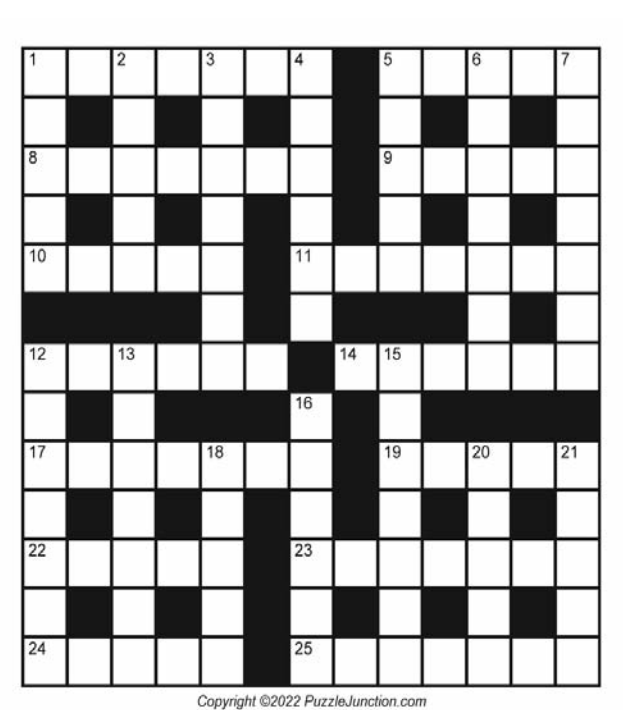


**BREVITY**



**FUN post**

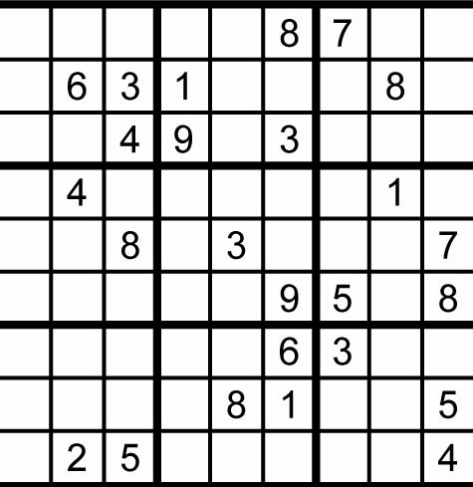
**CROSSWORD**



- Across  
1 Old master  
5 Giant  
8 Stress  
9 Eng. physicist  
10 Police search  
11 Supporting tower  
12 Kids' totes  
14 Revulsion  
17 Mexican cantina favourite  
19 "Haste makes waste," e.g.  
22 Furious  
23 Adriatic port  
24 Expel  
25 Certain stone  
Down  
1 Theme  
2 Boredom  
3 Add flour to gravy  
4 Showy  
5 Clan  
6 Betrayer  
7 Type of weapon  
12 Internet landing area  
13 Relevant  
15 Egg-shaped instrument  
16 Jacuzzi (3,3)  
18 Unreactive  
20 Torcher's misdeed  
21 Hostile force

**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



**ACTION LOVER**  
Actor Sai Tamhankar, an orange belt in karate, says she's desperate to do stunts for a movie



**CHINA FUMES**  
With many countries clamping Covid curbs on Chinese travellers, China warns of reciprocal countermeasures



**BUMRAH ADDED TO SQUAD**  
Jasprit Bumrah was added to India's ODI squad for the 3-match home series against Sri Lanka beginning January 10

**SHORT TAKES**

**ED serves notice on Archana, hubby**

**Bhubaneswar:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has reportedly started process to attach the properties owned by lady blackmailer Archana Nag, her husband Jagabandhu Chand and business partner Khageswar Patra in the money laundering case. Sources revealed that the ED has issued show-cause notice to the three seeking their reply as to why their properties should not be attached. The accused allegedly failed to produce any required or satisfactory documents regarding the sources of their assets acquired in a very short span of time. **P2**

**Road mishap claims 2**

**Bhawanipatna:** Two persons died and three others, including an infant, were injured when their car collided with a passenger bus in Kalahandi district, police said Tuesday. The accident took place near Chancher on National Highway-26 late Monday night, they said. While two persons died on the spot, two women and the infant suffered critical injuries, a police officer said, adding, they were admitted to Bhawanipatna Government Hospital. The deceased have been identified as Dilip Gochayat and Dinesh Nayak of Bhawanipatna.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	61294.20 ↑ 126.41
NIFTY	18232.55 ↑ 35.10
DOLLAR	82.68 ↓ ₹0.14
EURO	87.54 ↓ ₹0.67
GOLD	₹55,605 ↑ ₹427
SILVER	₹70,546 ↑ ₹975

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	27.7°C	27.0°C
TEMP MIN	18.4°C	17.5°C
Humidity	75%	73%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Fog very likely	



**HITTING THE STREETS:** Traffic between Master Canteen and Raj Mahal Squares in Bhubaneswar came to a grinding halt as hundreds of Anganwadi workers staged a protest to press for fulfillment of their 8-point charter of demands, Tuesday. Later in the day, they put the protest on hold till February second week

## Min's statement can't be attributed to govt: SC

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Jan 3:** A minister's statement cannot be attributed 'vicariously' to the government even when applying the principle of collective responsibility, the Supreme Court said Tuesday and held that there can be no additional restrictions on freedom of speech for public functionaries. A five-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Justice SA Nazeer, said no additional restrictions, except those mentioned under Article 19(2) of the Constitution, can be imposed on a public functionary's right to freedom of speech and expression. "Statement made by a minister even if traceable to any affairs of state or protecting the government cannot be attributed vicariously to the government even applying the principle of collective responsibility. Fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) can be exercised even against other instrumentalities other than the state," the Constitution Bench, by a 4:1 majority comprising Justices BR Gavai, AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, said. Justice BV Nagarathna was also part of the Bench. The court was hearing a plea filed by a man whose wife and daughter were allegedly gang-raped in July 2016 on a highway near Bulandshahr. He was seeking transfer of the case to Delhi and lodging of an FIR against then Uttar Pradesh minister Azam Khan for his controversial statement that

## Justice Nagarathna strikes dissenting note yet again



**New Delhi:** Although Justice BV Nagarathna, who was also a part of the five-judge SC Bench, was unanimous on the larger issue that there should not be additional restrictions on freedom of speech and expression of high public functionaries, she differed with four other judges of the Bench on the issue whether the government can be held liable for a

statement made by a minister. She said the government can be held 'vicariously' liable for the disparaging statements made by individual ministers. On Monday, a Constitution Bench of the SC upheld, by a 4:1 majority, the Centre's November 8, 2016 decision to withdraw from circulation currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denominations. Justice Nagarathna in her dissenting view held that although the government's demonetisation exercise was well-intentioned and thought-through, it was unlawful on legal grounds. "A hate speech strikes at the foundational values of our Constitution," Justice Nagarathna said. Public functionaries and other persons of influence including celebrities are duty bound to be more responsible and restrained in their speech, Justice Nagarathna said. **Continued on P2**

the gang-rape case was a 'political conspiracy'. The judgement came on a question of whether restrictions can be imposed on a public functionary's right to freedom of speech and expression. The top court, which reserved its verdict November 15, had said people holding public offices should exercise self-restraint and not blabber things that are disparaging or insulting to other people in the country. The apex court had said this approach is part of our constitutional culture and there is no need for it to formulate a code of conduct for public functionaries.

## ANOTHER RUSSIAN DEAD

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar/Paradip, Jan 3:** Another Russian was Tuesday found dead in a cargo ship anchored at Paradip Port, the third death of citizens of the CIS country in a fortnight in Odisha. The 51-year-old Russian, identified as Milyakov Sergey, was the chief engineer of the vessel, MB Aldnah, which was on its way to Mumbai from Chittagong Port in Bangladesh via Paradip. "The foreigner was found dead in his chamber in the ship around 4am Tuesday. The vessel was anchored around 45 kilometre away from the Paradip Port Authority's berth area," DGP SK Bansal said. He mentioned that the port authorities informed the local marine police station in Jagatsingpur district about the death of the Russian. "All the procedures are being followed as per law," he said. "The incident may be probed by the Crime Branch if required,"



the DGP said, while replying to a question on the investigation into the death of the Russian engineer. Paradip Port Authority Chairman PL Haranadh also confirmed the death of the Russian engineer and said an investigation was underway. "It is too early to say anything about the death of the engineer. The police will inquire into all angles and all required measures will be taken in the post-mortem ex-

aminations and the investigation into the death of the ship engineer," he said. The Odisha Police said, "It could not immediately ascertain the cause of the engineer's death." Two Russian tourists were found dead under mysterious circumstances in Rayagada town in the latter half of December. Pavel Antov (65), a Russian lawmaker, died after allegedly falling from a hotel's third floor December 24, while his friend Vladimir Bidenov (61) was found dead in his room December 22. Two separate cases of unnatural deaths were registered at the Sadar police station in Rayagada. There was 'no evidence of any foul play so far' behind the death of the two Russians, the DGP had said January 1. The post-mortem report of the Russian MP indicated that he died of internal injuries after a fall, while that of Bidenov pointed to a heart attack as the cause of death, police said.

## CM NOD TO ₹25-CRORE SIKHARCHANDI REVAMP

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 3:** In a bid to transform Sikharchandi temple in the City here into a major tourist destination, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday approved the master plan for redevelopment of 53.64 acre area around the shrine with a cost of ₹25 crore. As per the plan, redevelopment and beautification work will be done on 53.64 acre of land in and around the temple. The Bhubaneswar Development

Authority (BDA) will look into managing the area in addition to carrying out the developmental work. The total surrounding area is divided into four zones. "Zone-I will have parking space along with sports and other activities for visitors, while Zone-II will have viewpoints and trekking routes. In Zone-III and IV, the BDA will develop infrastructure for recreational activities, community centre, main temple, shops and other facilities," said an official.

## CINEMA HALLS CAN RESTRICT OUTSIDE FOOD: APEX COURT

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Jan 3:** The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday the owners of cinema halls are entitled to set the terms and conditions for sale of food and beverages and can determine whether outside food should be permitted within the theatre precincts. The SC set aside a direction of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court which had in July 2018 directed multiplex and cinema hall owners there not to prohibit movie goers from carrying their own food articles and water inside the theatres. A bench of CJ JY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha observed that cinema hall is a private property of the owner, who is entitled to have terms and conditions so long as they are not contrary to public interest, safety and welfare. "Viewers visit a cinema hall for the purpose of entertainment. We are clearly of the view that the high court transgressed the limits in the exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution by ordering and directing the state to ensure that there should be no prohibition on a movie goer bringing eatables and beverages from outside within the precinct of a cinema hall," the bench said. The SC was hearing a batch of pleas challenging the direction given by the Jammu and Kashmir HC. It said whether or not to see a movie is entirely the viewer's choice and, if he/she seeks to enter a cinema hall, they have to abide by the terms subject to which the entry is granted.

# Drone advances in Ukraine could bring dawn of killer robots

*The longer the war lasts, the more likely it becomes that drones will be used to identify, select and attack targets without help from humans, according to military analysts, combatants and artificial intelligence researchers*

more likely it becomes that drones will be used to identify, select and attack targets without help from humans, according to military analysts, combatants and artificial intelligence researchers. That would mark a revolution in military technology as profound as the introduction of the machine gun. Ukraine already has semi-autonomous attack drones and counter-drone weapons endowed with AI. Russia also claims to possess AI weaponry, though the claims are unproven. But there are no confirmed instances of a nation putting into combat robots that have killed entirely on their own. Experts say it may be only a matter of time before either Russia or Ukraine, or both, deploy them. "Many states are developing this technology," said Zachary Kallenborn, a George Mason



Ukrainian soldiers launch a drone at Russian positions near Bakhmut, Donetsk region, Ukraine. (FILE: AP PHOTO)

University weapons innovation analyst. "Clearly, it's not all that difficult." The sense of inevitability extends to activists, who have tried for years to ban killer drones but now believe they must settle for trying to restrict the weapons' offensive use. Ukraine's digital transformation minister, Mykhailo Fedorov, agrees that fully autonomous killer drones are "a logical and inevitable next step" in weapons development. He said Ukraine has been doing "a lot of R&D in this direction." "I think that the potential for this is great in the next six months," Fedorov told The Associated Press in a recent interview. Ukrainian Lt. Col. Yaroslav Honchar, co-founder of the combat drone innovation nonprofit Aerorozvidka, said in a recent interview near the front that human war fighters simply cannot process information and make decisions as quickly as machines. Ukrainian military leaders currently prohibit the use of fully independent lethal weapons, although that could change, he said. "We have not crossed this line yet - and I say 'yet' because I don't know what will happen in the future," said Honchar, whose group has spearheaded drone innovation in Ukraine, converting cheap commercial drones into lethal weapons.

Russia could obtain autonomous AI from Iran or elsewhere. The long-range Shahed-136 exploding drones supplied by Iran have crippled Ukrainian power plants and terrorised civilians but are not especially smart. Iran has other drones in its evolving arsenal that it says feature AI. Without a great deal of trouble, Ukraine could make its semi-autonomous weaponised drones fully independent in order to better survive battlefield jamming, their Western manufacturers say. Those drones include the US-made Switchblade 600 and the Polish Warmate, which both currently require a human to choose targets over a live video feed. AI finishes the job. The drones, technically known as "loitering munitions," can hover for minutes over a target, awaiting a clean shot. **Continued on P2**

**Kyiv, Jan 3:** Drone advances in Ukraine have accelerated a long-anticipated technology trend that could soon bring the world's first fully autonomous fighting robots to the battlefield, inaugurating a new age of warfare. The longer the war lasts, the

# ED notices to Archana, hubby, business partner

SHOW-CAUSE NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE TRIO SEEKING THEIR REPLY AS TO WHY THEIR PROPERTIES SHOULD NOT BE ATTACHED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 3:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has reportedly started the process to attach the properties owned by lady blackmailer Archana Nag, husband Jagabandhu Chand and her business partner, Khageswar Patra in the money laundering case. Sources revealed that the ED has issued show-cause notices to the trio seeking their reply as to why their properties should not be attached.

The accused allegedly failed to produce any required or satisfactory documents regarding the sources of their assets acquired in a very short span of time.

In another development, Odia movie producer Pramod Kumar Swain appeared before the ED at its office in Nayapalli area for ques-



tioning for the third time Tuesday. Archana and her associate Shradhanjali Behera, used to stay at the residence of Swain at

Jagamara on rent in 2017. He was earlier grilled by the ED sleuths over illegal financial transactions between Swain and the lady blackmailer November 29 and December 2 last year. He had also accused Archana of blackmailing him and lodging a complaint at Mahila Police station in 2017.

Archana, the prime accused in the alleged high profile sextortion racket, and her husband allegedly amassed huge wealth by blackmailing influential persons of the state threatening the victims with sexually explicit videos. She allegedly honey trapped many prominent persons.

The ED arrested Archana and her husband Jagabandhu under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) December 13 and 24 respectively last year.

## Man held for killing wife

**Bhubaneswar:** The Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested a person for killing his wife whose decomposed body was recovered from an abandoned house near an under-construction building at Kordakanta in Mancheswar Monday. The accused identified as Bidyadhar Naik, 30, is a resident of Banigochha in Nayagarh district. Police sources claimed that deceased Rita, while staying at Sikharachandi area along with his husband and two daughters, came in contact with Bidyadhar a few years back. The accused was then working as a security guard at Sikharachandi under Infocity police limits. Later, they fell in love and eloped to Bidyadhar's village in Nayagarh. The couple has a four-year-old son out of the wedlock.

## Work for 17 in-stream storage structures started in '22: WR dept

**Bhubaneswar:** Water Resources department has started construction of new projects like in-stream storage structures (ISS) in several rivers in the calendar year-2022. The state government has approved the projects with an aim to provide double benefits - conserving surface water and raising groundwater table - in the areas where the projects will be constructed, a department official said. Of the approved projects, 17 ISS projects - Nandagaon in Nuapada district, Gudvella in Bolangir district, Gochara, Kirasasan & Budharaja in Sambalpur district, Mahulpali in Bargarh district, Kudgeba, Kopsinga, Jharbeda & Hamirpur in Sundargarh district, Kuakhai & Kusabhadra in Khurda district, Dhanei & Kansariyanda in Ganjam district, Sirigida & Khalpal in Angul district and an integrated barrage over Kochila & Baitarani in Jajpur district have been taken up. Besides, tender process has been completed for five projects.

## CLASSIFIED LOST

Annapurna Mohanty, W/o Paramananda Mohanty, Sri-Korua, Gopalpur, Cuttack- 753011, Sale Deed No. 3438/2005 Dt.10.06.2005 lost on Dt.17.12.22.

I, Dr. Rabindra Kumar Pradhan, S/o Kunja Bihari Pradhan, At-Bhatra, P.O./P.S.-Dhanupali, Dist.-Sambalpur, purchased an Area of 0.40 decimals by means of Registered Sale Deed No.- 100861003951, dated 24.9.2010 for construction of Motilal Yadav Memorial Samaleswari Hospital at Beherapat, Jharsuguda and the said original sale deed has been lost.

## 'NEP 2020 has answer to meet global challenges'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 3:** Utkal University's Physics department has played a stellar role in global scientific development in the last five decades. It has the potential to contribute in a big way towards the growth of science and innovation in the country, said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan here Tuesday.

Inaugurating the two-day golden jubilee celebrations of Physics department, Pradhan said, "Today, world has big expectations from India. Our responsibilities are much bigger: NEP 2020 has the answers to meet global challenges. Physics is the mother of all sciences. Physics should not be confined to being an instrument of intellectual culture, it should become a medium of development and well-being," he said.

"In the next 13 years, Odisha will complete 100 years of state-

hood. In the next 25 years, India will complete 100 years of independence. This period is important for all of us. Physics department's repository of last 50 years will help us identify ways to navigate the next 25 years," Pradhan stressed.

University Vice Chancellor Sabita Acharya presided over the function. Guest of honour Professor Emeritus of Physics in IISER, Pune Sunil Mukhi released the Vision Document and Souvenir of the department on the occasion.

President of Vani Vihar Physics Alumni Association Lambodar Prasad Singh also spoke on the occasion. While Head of Physics department Prafulla Kumar Panda gave the welcome address, Vice-President of Alumni Association, Durga Prasad Mohapatra offered vote of thanks and a senior scientist of IMMT, Manas Kumar Dalai moderated the function.

## 2 killed in road mishap in Capital city

**Bhubaneswar:** Two persons including a woman died in separate road accidents in the Capital city here, Tuesday. The deceased were identified as Debashis Pradhan, 23, of Banarpal in Angul district and Phula Bindhani of Radhakrushna Lane slum in Chandrasekharpur area. Debashis was on his way to Cuttack on a motorcycle Tuesday afternoon when a speeding truck (OD 04 L 0990) hit his vehicle from the rear at Palasuni under Mancheswar police limits. He lost balance and fell off the vehicle sustaining severe injuries on head and other parts of the body. An injured Debashis was rushed to Capital Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. Similarly, Bindhani was crossing the road at Docto Square when a speeding bus ran her over. She died on the spot. Tension erupted as people blocked the road. Police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem.

## MP Pratap Sarangi admitted to AIIMS

**Bhubaneswar:** Balasore MP Pratap Sarangi was admitted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar Tuesday for chest pain and fever. He is being consulted by pulmonary specialists at AIIMS. Director and Superintendent of AIIMS Bhubaneswar personally checked his health condition Tuesday. His condition is improving, said sources at AIIMS. The BJP MP and former Union Minister had been referred to AIIMS after he was discharged from Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital in Balasore. Sarangi had tested positive for Covid-19 in October 2021.

## Drone advances in Ukraine could bring dawn of killer robots

Continued from P1

"The technology to achieve a fully autonomous mission with Switchblade pretty much exists today," said Wahid Nawabi, CEO of AeroVironment, its maker. That will require a policy change — to remove the human from the decision-making loop — that he estimates is three years away. Drones can already recognise targets such as armoured vehicles using catalogued images. But there is disagreement over whether the technology is reliable enough to ensure that the machines don't err and take the lives of noncombatants. The AP asked the defence ministries of Ukraine and Russia if they have used autonomous weapons offensively — and whether they would agree not to use them

if the other side similarly agreed. Neither responded.

If either side were to go on the attack with full AI, it might not even be a first. An inconclusive UN report last year suggested that killer robots debuted in Libya's internecine conflict in 2020, when Turkish-made Kargu-2 drones in full-automatic mode killed an unspecified number of combatants.

A spokesman for STM, the manufacturer, said the report was based on "speculative, unverified" information and "should not be taken seriously." He told the AP the Kargu-2 cannot attack a target until the operator tells it to do so.

Fully autonomous AI is already helping to defend Ukraine. Utah-based Fortem Technologies has supplied the Ukrainian military



FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD: Dignitaries at World Integration Day seminar organised by Global Peace Foundation at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

## Pradhan asks students to learn about state's history

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan3:** Union Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Tuesday inaugurated the National Kala Utsav organised by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) at the Regional Institute of Education (RIE) here.

The five-day Kala Utsav, after a two-year Covid hiatus, is being organised from January 3 to 7, with around 714 students from 36 states and union territories participating in the event.

In his address, Pradhan said that Kala Utsav was started by Central government in 2015 to promote Indian arts through the education system by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talents of school students.

"The use of arts is important in education sector as it is needed to impart lessons to students in creative ways. Art forms such as painting, singing, dancing are as important as other forms of education," added Pradhan.

About Odisha, he said that there are many cultural symbols which showcase the rich history of arts in the state, including the Konark Sun temple. He asked students to visit various parts of Odisha to learn about the cultural and artistic history of the state.

"NCERT is working speedily on the implementation of the National Education Policy and by this year's



Kala Utsav was started in 2015 by the Central government to promote Indian arts through the education system by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talents of secondary school students

Saraswati Puja, new teaching-learning material and textbooks for 5 years from the elementary stage, kindergarten to class 2, will be ready," he informed.

While informing that the new curriculum under NEP will focus on art and culture education, he added that in the coming years, to turn students global citizens, textbooks will be imbued with the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

Pradhan also said that the first five years of education must focus on mother tongue as it helps students in learning more if he learns in his mother tongue.

School Education and Literacy

Secretary Sanjay Kumar, NCERT Director Dinesh Prasad Saklani, Kala Utsav national coordinator Pawan Sudhir, RIE principal PC Agarwal and others were present at the event.

The focus of Kala Utsav 2022-23 is on different styles of traditional folk and classical art forms in ten categories. Art forms included for the competitions are vocal music-classical, vocal music-traditional folk, instrumental music-percussive, instrumental music-melodic, dance-classical, dance-folk, visual arts (2-dimensional), visual arts (3-dimensional), indigenous toys and games and drama (solo acting).

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS Pact inked between Agri dept & FICCI

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 3:** A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Agriculture department and FICCI at Krushi Bhawan here, Tuesday, for organising events on the eve of International Year of Millets (IYOM) 2023.

State's Director of Agriculture and Food Production Prem Chandra Choudhary and assistant secretary general of FICCI Mousumi Ghose signed the agreement in the

presence of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment and Fisheries & ARD Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain. As per sources, FICCI will partner with the Agriculture department for organisation of events to mark the International Year of Millets, 2023.

The UN General Assembly has declared the year 2023 as IYOM to promote the cereal globally. In this regard, Odisha Millets Mission has planned to organise a series of activities to commemorate this opportunity and spread the impor-



tance and benefits of millets globally.

Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment department and FICCI will be partners for organising

many activities and events while the latter will render necessary end-to-end help, support and services towards successful organisation of the activities throughout the year.

## Min's statement...

Continued from P1

The court had noted that irrespective of what Article 19(2) may say, there is a constitutional culture in the country where there is an inherent limitation or a restriction on what people holding responsible positions say.

Article 19(2) relates to the powers of the State to make laws imposing reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right to freedom of speech and expression in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of the country, public order, decency, morality etc.

A three-judge bench had October 5, 2017 referred to the Constitution bench various issues for adjudication, including whether a public functionary or a minister can claim freedom of speech while expressing views on sensitive matters.

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# AP adopts cultivation route to encroach land in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput/Narayanpatna, Jan 3:** Allegations against the Andhra Pradesh government over intruding into Odisha land have once more cropped up. The matter came to light after a complaint was filed at Bandhugaon block of fice over alleged cultivation of palm oil seeds on 36 acre of land at Kapalada village in Koraput district, sources said.



Bandhugaon tehsildar Sadashiv Bhatra visited the spot in Kapalada village and took stock of the situation Tuesday. During the tehsildar's visit, officials also seized two JCB eathmovers engaged in cultivation work. Koraput Zilla Parishad chairperson Sasmita Melka also visited Kapalada village. She directed the tehsildar to stop the palm oil seed cultivation and asked people accompanying her to uproot the saplings that had grown.

however, refuted the allegation against him. He said he had leased the land from private owners in Kapalada village.

Officials informed that the Centre has implemented 'Bana Bandhu Yojana' scheme in hilly areas of the block to usher in green cover on dry and barren land areas, three years back. As part of this programme, the District Watershed Mission had carried out cultivation of sunflowers and other vegetables by providing irrigation facilities in some villages of Bandhugaon block.

Officials had then said that the programme was being carried out to improve the financial condition of the farmers. However, all farmers were not interested in sunflower or vegetable cultivation.

Many of them were into lemon grass cultivation because of the profits involved. They were preparing oil from the lemon grass and selling it in the market.

However, the situation now is different from what it was before. A large number of farmers have shifted elsewhere in search of better income leaving their farmlands unattended.

This has happened because lemon grass prices have decreased in the market. Earlier, a litre of lemon grass oil fetched ₹1,300 but it has now come down to ₹900. As a result, hundreds of acre of farmlands are lying barren without being cultivated.

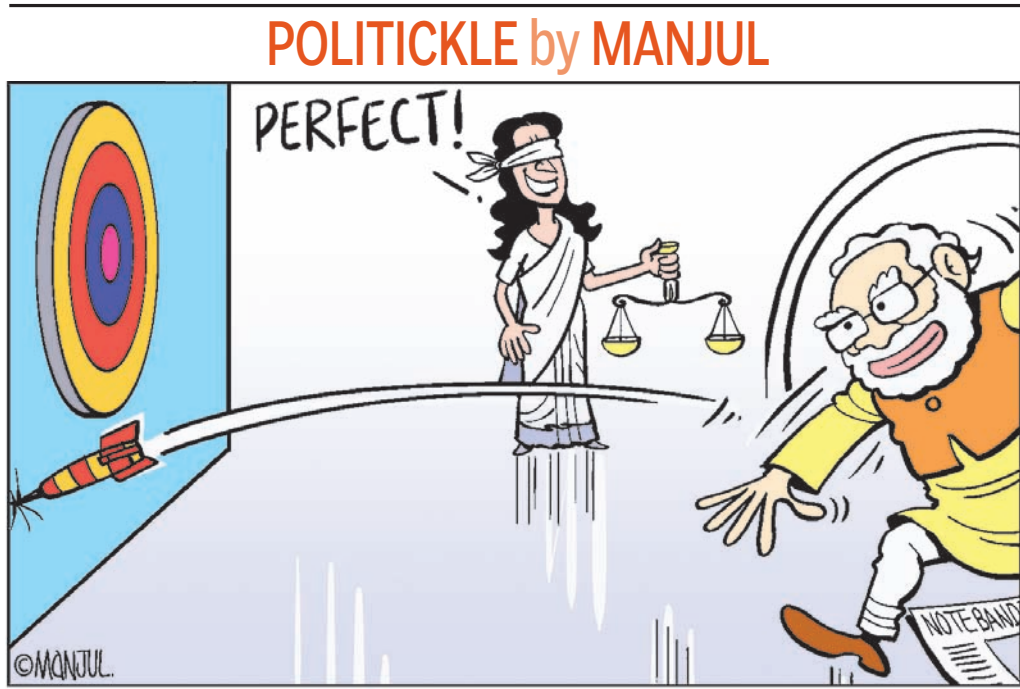
Taking advantage of the situation, a number of people from Andhra Pradesh has taken land from the farmers on lease and carrying out cultivations of their choice. In the process, the farmers are allowing people from Andhra to settle down in Kapalada village and build a settlement of their own. Unknowingly, they are allowing Andhra people to encroach on Odisha land.

## Work resumes in Sambalpur court

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Jan 3:** Work resumed in the district court here Tuesday as it began proceedings after a 23-day lawyers' strike. However, Section 144 prohibitory order is still clamped on the court premises and has not been withdrawn. The district court witnessed regular court work with lawyers and clients running from one corner of the premises to another.

Cases were heard round the clock. However, the usual crowd of advocates were not seen as 30 of them are still in prison and yet to get bail. A member of the district bar association said work has resumed from Tuesday and he hoped everything will be normalised soon.



## Spl team formed to trace dead doc's boyfriend

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Joda, Jan 3:** The post-mortem report of Dr Subhashree Kar released Tuesday said that she died due to poisoning. Kar was working at the Joda Urban Public Health Centre (UPHC) at Baneikala in Keonjhar district when she allegedly died by suicide.

In a separate development, officials informed that Kenonjhar police have formed a special team to trace Dibyanjan Majhi, the alleged boyfriend of Kar, who was found dead inside a house, January 1. Giving this information ASP

Biranchi Dehuri told mediapersons that they will be able to trace Majhi soon.

Meanwhile, the CDMO at the district headquarters hospital here, Dr Kishore Chandra Prusty said that viscera samples of the deceased has been sent to Bhubaneswar for forensic tests as it could not be carried out here due to lack of facilities. A bottle of poison found in the room has also been sent for forensic test to find whether it matches with the traces found in Kar's body. The final report of the exact reason behind Kar's death will only be known



once the forensic tests are done, Dr Prusty stated.

Police meanwhile are continuing to interrogate Kar's friends who had parted with her on New Year's Eve.

It has been alleged that Kar was in a relationship with Majhi who worked as a doctor with a mining firm at Rugudi in Keonjhar district. Kar had filed a police complaint December 20 with the

Joda police alleging that Majhi entered into a physical relationship with her twice after promising to get married. However, later he refused to marry her. On the basis of the complaint, a case was registered at the police station here while her statements were recorded in the court of JMFC, Barbil.

Sources said that Majhi had resigned from his workplace since the time the complaint was lodged. His mobile phone was found switched off a couple of days later and since then police have not been able to trace him. Police had also visited the dispensary where Majhi worked.



**SIZZLING SHOW:** Artistes performing a traditional dance on the inaugural day of three-day district level cultural contest held in Sundargarh Tuesday, ahead of the FIH World Cup Hockey tournament

## Drone cameras to protect Gahirmatha

FOREST DEPARTMENT INITIATES PROCESS TO FOLLOW HIGH COURT ORDER

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rajnagar, Jan 3:** Gahirmatha in Bhitarkanika sanctuary is famous as the breeding ground of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles. The Odisha High Court had earlier ordered for protection of Gahirmatha with the use of drone cameras. Officials of the Forest department said Tuesday that they have initiated the process to follow the high court order. Drone cameras will be used for protection of animals, maintaining a strict vigil over mangroves and also to prevent soil erosion in and around Gahirmatha, they informed.



Gahirmatha is a prohibited 20-km area along the coast. Every year, lakhs of Olive Ridley turtles migrate from far off places to lay eggs there. However, at times fishing trawlers stray into the prohibited area thereby disturbing the natural surroundings which affects the mat-

ing of the turtles. Officials said that the drone cameras will help in preventing the entry of boats and trawlers in Gahirmatha. They added that the use of drones have been initiated with the help of locals.

It has been alleged that poachers frequently enter the forest and kill deer, boars and other wild animals for their skin and horns. Officials are hoping that the drone cameras will keep poachers in check. They added that with the help of drones, emission of toxic water from illegal prawn breeding

centres will be prevented. "Bhitarkanika is our national property. Protecting its bio-diversity, swamp, flora and fauna is very essential. Drone cameras will come handy in identifying the prawn centres causing harm to the bio-diversity. We will fully implement the high court order as soon as possible," said Rajnagar tehsildar Ashwini Kumar Bhuyan.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Man killed in road mishap

**Purusottampur:** A pedestrian was killed Tuesday after a speeding auto-rickshaw hit him from the rear at Hindula Square under this police limit in Ganjam district. The deceased was identified as Trinath Patra, 69, of Singipur village under Chhatrapur police limits. He was walking on the road when the auto-rickshaw hit him. He suffered critical injuries and

collapsed on the spot. Locals rescued Trinath and rushed him to the Bhatakumarada community health centre (CHC) where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. On being informed, police registered a case and sent the body from post-mortem. The auto-rickshaw has been seized, police said.

#### Youth held for molesting minor

**Digapahandi:** Police arrested Tuesday a youth for molesting a minor girl in this town of Ganjam district. The accused identified as Ramaskrushna Panda was

produced in court. As the accused's bail plea was rejected by the court, he was sent to prison. According to the complaint, the minor girl was returning home from tuition. On the way, the accused molested and sexually abused her and tried to abduct her. After the victim raised an alarm, some local people came to her rescue while others chased the culprit and apprehended him. On being informed police reached the spot and detained the accused. After an official complaint was filed by the minor's family police arrested Panda under various sections of the IPC.

**ସଞ୍ଚୟକ୍ରମ ୨୦୨୩**

କଂଗାଳୀ ନବବର୍ଷରେ ମୋ ଜିଜ୍ଞା ତଥା ସହରବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ଅନେକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଶୁଭକାମନା । ପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀକରନାଥଙ୍କ କୃପାକୁ ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଶାନ୍ତି, ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଆଣିବେ, ଏତିକି ମୋ କାମନା ।  
କର କରନାଥ

**ସରୋଜ କୁମାର ଜେନା**  
ସମାଜସେବୀ, ରାଉରକେଲା

**ସଞ୍ଚୟକ୍ରମ ୨୦୨୩**

କଂଗାଳୀ ନବବର୍ଷ ଅବସରରେ ମୋ ଜିଜ୍ଞା ତଥା ସହରବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ଅନେକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା । ପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀକରନାଥଙ୍କ କୃପାକୁ ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସୁଖ ଓ ଶାନ୍ତିର ବର୍ଷ ହେଉ ।  
କର କରନାଥ

**ବାସୁଦେବ ବରାଳ**  
ସମାଜସେବୀ ତଥା ଡିଏଲ୍ ଆଖଣ୍ଡଳମଣି କଲୋନୀ, ବାସନ୍ତୀ କଲୋନୀ, ରାଉରକେଲା

### Woman gangraped in Sundargarh; 4 held

**Sundargarh:** Police arrested Tuesday four people for their alleged involvement in the gangrape of a woman at Pitabalia village near Semna under Sadar police limits in Sundargarh district. The victim was gangraped Sunday night following which she filed a complaint with the police Monday. All the four were produced in court after their medical examination was conducted along with that of the victim. Sources said that the victim is a fish seller. She was sexually assaulted when she was on her way back home at around 8.00pm after the accused abducted her and took her to a farmhouse at an isolated place. Villagers rescued her when she raised an alarm and all the accused fled. The woman in her complaint said that all those involved in raping her were inhabitants of Pitabalia village. Police took the survivor to the place where the incident occurred to recreate the crime scene before arresting the four accused.

### Complaints galore over ration cards

**Bhadrak:** The Bhadrak district administration has stepped up grievance redressal activities here. The first grievance hearing of the New Year was held at the Sadbhawana hall in the district collectorate office here Monday. Out of 108 grievances taken up for hearing, the majority of the cases were related to ration cards and paddy procurement by cooperative societies, officials said. Many people alleged that they had to suffer a lot as paddy mandis are yet to open while tokens have not been issued to many farmers who have already registered online. ADM Ramdas Tudu, ASP Bijay Kumar Kerketa, sub-collector Manoj Patra and CDMO Santosh Patra were among the senior officials who took part in the public meeting.

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THE MOTHER



# Ominous Airstrikes

Israel's missile attack 2 January on the Damascus International Airport of Syria, the second in seven months, is in a sense a continuation of hostilities between the two countries. Yet, the timing is significant. It occurred four days after Benjamin Netanyahu had been sworn in as Prime Minister for the sixth time. The new government is the first of its kind in Israel's history with Ultra-Right and Ultra-Orthodox parties joining it. This makes even the hawkish Likud Party of Netanyahu appear moderate. The attack, about which Israel remains characteristically silent, as it did on previous occasions, is being interpreted as a message by the new government to the world that it will be tough and aggressively implement its main anti-Palestinian, anti-reform, anti-women and anti-LGBTQ agenda. Immediately after the strikes, Syria's Foreign Ministry said the attacks were "part of a series of Israeli crimes" targeting Syria. The ministry called on the UN Security Council to condemn the Israeli aggressions and demanded those responsible should be held accountable and such attacks should not recur.

However, Israel has been continually launching hundreds of missile attacks on Syria in recent times. On 10 June last year, Israeli airstrikes on the same airport caused significant damage to infrastructure and runways. It reopened two weeks later after repairs. In September, Israeli airstrikes put the international airport of the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest, out of service for days. Though Israel always refuses to take responsibility for strikes, it is an open secret that its target of attack is the Iran-supported Hezbollah and other militant groups working for the Syrian President Bashar Assad. Iran is known to be using the civilian airports of Syria to deliver arms and ammunition for the Hezbollah militants. Israel, it is believed, chooses Syrian airports for the missile attacks so as to disrupt the arms supply.

The latest Israeli attack appears to signal to Iranians, Syrians and Russians that Israel is going to maintain this policy of striking any target that it thinks is a danger to its own security. The new government controlled by the Far-Right and Ultra-Orthodox Jewish outfits can carry out attacks anywhere in the region it chooses since it is militarily superior to any combination of foes around them due to the US policy adopted years ago to ensure Israel's military superiority. The air strikes on 2 January came days after the head of the Israeli military, Major General Oded Basiuk, presented the army's operational outlook for 2023. He explained Israel's course of action in Syria is "an example of how continuous and persistent military action leads to shaping and influencing the entire region," according to tweets by the Israeli military.

The attacks could be a dress rehearsal for the new government's actions for expansion of settlement in the occupied West Bank, that goes against international law, and other forms of aggression in the coming days. Of the parliament's 120 members, 63 voted in favour of the new government, with 54 votes against. Netanyahu himself explained in the Knesset, before being sworn in as the new PM, that resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict is at the top of his agenda. How this can be done can be conjectured from the positions of Far-Right leaders who have been given top posts, such as Religious Zionism leader Bezalel Smotrich, and Jewish Power leader Itamar Ben-Gvir. Both of them live in illegal settlements in the West Bank. Smotrich is finance minister with authority over settlements. Ben-Gvir was convicted in 2007 of incitement against Arabs after he called for Palestinians in Israel to be expelled. He is the national security minister with increased authority over the police, including in the occupied territories.

Palestinians now fear harsher policies against them will be adopted by the new government. They are also fearful of the status quo of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem.

The situation is aptly summed up by none other than Israeli President Isaac Herzog. He occupies a largely ceremonial position. Yet, he has warned of the potential harm the new Israeli government could bring about. The "entire world", as he said, is worried about how the Ultra-Right-driven government of Netanyahu is going to stoke passions in the region leading to a new cycle of violence and abuse of human rights.

## WISDOM CORNER

- Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold. BOB MARLEY
- You don't need anybody to tell you who you are or what you are. You are what you are! JOHN LENNON
- What's money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants to do. BOB DYLAN

## WORDSWORTH

### Epilimnion

Have you ever swum in the warm water of a lake in summer and found when treading water that your feet suddenly became uncomfortably cold? If so, you experienced something that limnologists, experts on lakes, describe by the rather splendid and poetic-sounding pair epilimnion and hypolimnion. When the sun heats a smallish body of water, the topmost layer of water warms up, but because warm water is less dense than cold, it stays on top. That top area is the epilimnion. The cold water below it, which may not warm up much during the summer if the lake is at all deep, is the hypolimnion. The root of both epilimnion and hypolimnion is the classical Greek limnion, the diminutive of limne, a lake. Limnologist and the subject of study, limnology, are very closely related — they derive from limne. Epi- is Greek for upon or above, while hypo- is from Greek hupo, under. The epilimnion and hypolimnion are separated by a thin layer where the temperature drops quickly. You might guess this is sometimes called the metalimnion (Greek meta-, with or across), though it's commonly referred to as the thermocline. Most examples of epilimnion are in scientific contexts, though it also crops up very occasionally in science fiction: *The brown sphere was spotted after some days by a prowling ameba, quiescent in the eternal winter of the bottom. Down there the temperature was always an even 4°, no matter what the season, but it was unheard of that a spore should be found there while the high epilimnion was still warm and rich in oxygen* (Surface Tension, by James Blish, 1952).

### Epizeuxis

A writer in an American scholarly journal in 1914 felt that it was hard on schoolchildren of his time to get a grip on the concepts of rhetoric when they had to describe them in mouthfuls like epitheton, catachresis, hendiadys, aposiopesis, hysteron proteron, hypallage, anacolouthon, hyperbaton, parrhesia and epizeuxis. Few of us of any age have to struggle these days with such words or the concepts that they represent, though the tricks of effective communication they stand for are still very much with us. When in 2001 the Labour Party leader Tony Blair told the country that a top priority of his administration was "education, education, education", he was committing epizeuxis, the repetition of a word for emphasis. Other famous examples are Alfred, Lord Tennyson's "Break, Break, Break / On thy cold grey stones, O sea" and Rudyard Kipling's "Boots, boots, boots, boots, movin' up and down again." It's not necessary to follow the rule of repetition so strictly. Richard the Third's "A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!" and Captain Ahab's "Death and devils! men, it is Moby Dick ye have seen — Moby Dick — Moby Dick!" are other examples of epizeuxis. Epizeuxis is from Greek epi-, in addition, plus zeuxis (from zeugnunai, to yoke), hence fastening together.

## FOCUS NATION

# CITIZENS & SECURITY



DC Pathak

**NATIONAL SECURITY ORIENTATION IS DESIRABLE IN CITIZENS WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT, FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECTS**

National security is about protection of the nation's physical boundaries, its citizens and its information assets. Our defence forces deal with any open attack or aggression of an enemy, the police machinery takes care of the safety and security of the people and the national security set up based on Intelligence agencies protects our national secrets against the hidden designs of the adversary to access them.

In an era of proxy wars, covert attempts to cause sabotage, recruit agents from among our own citizens by turning their loyalties or gain unauthorised access to 'protected' information - which is the classical definition of espionage - have made the counter-intelligence charter of India's national Intelligence agencies a lot more complex and large - requiring a timely review of their tasks, capabilities and resourcefulness. There has been a significant consolidation and expansion of the national security set-up in the Modi regime under the watchful eye of the National Security Advisor. Security is not a one-time event and new geopolitical developments, large scale induction of technology in security and newer threats to cyber systems - all make for rapid upgradation from time to time through a competent appraisal.

The rise of terrorism and faith-based radicalisation of our own nationals have taken the call of internal security closer to the ground and given a new-found importance to the need for citizens to have a good idea of the threats facing the country, act as eyes and ears of the nation and become a voluntary contributor to safeguarding of national security. This should be considered a part of the mandate of the Age of Information that lays down that being well informed was the prerequisite of success in any sphere - one therefore, had to read both opportunities as well as risks in the environment at any given time.

It follows that there has to be a strategy of creating awareness of national security dimensions among the people at large. Those in the job of handling governance should be the first recipient of any programme formulated for this objective. It is a matter of great satisfaction that on the initiative of NSA the content for the Foundation Course - in which all officers of Civil Services of India including Indian Foreign Service, are put together at the



**Citizens have to realise that national security was not the concern of the government alone and that their contribution to it was of great significance**

LBS National Academy of Administration at Mussorie for a few months of shared orientation - was enriched with the inclusion of a segment on India's national security and strategic affairs.

These services provide the 'steel framework' of the country's governance and their officers exposed to some crucial knowledge about the nation's security concerns at the beginning of the career itself would be better placed to handle their responsibilities and also have the advantage of being able to coordinate with their colleagues wherever required. The officers would go on to hold senior positions in organisations of strategic importance whose security would be of crucial importance for the nation.

The learning acquired at a younger stage stays forever and this was the logic behind the introduction of this new segment in the Foundation Course - for which some of the most experienced national security and strategy experts were invited to interact with probationers. The policy has turned out to be extremely fruitful in terms of serving the cause of national security.

Another sphere where a general awareness of India's security interests can help the nation on a long-term basis is an appropriate introduction of security education as a part of civics and humanities at a level where the students were mature enough to imbibe it. The high school stage is perhaps the right occasion where this knowledge can be imparted more as an extension of the discussion on the rights and duties of a citizen as indicated in the Constitution. A simple add-on can be thought of for the current syllabus - it can point out the significance of geopolitical placing of India, the external and

internal threats to national security and the country's preparedness to deal with them. The exercise should be free of any political tint.

The third instrument for popularising the idea of national security is to pitch it as a subject of education at academic level - some universities in India have separate departments for security studies. The Centre has - at the initiative of the PM himself - established the Rashtriya Raksha University at Gandhinagar which is expanding fast as a premier national institute for training and research on defence, security and police matters.

Time has also come for making arrangements that would facilitate the process of informed citizens sharing their observations of a suspect activity or individual - from national security point of view - with the designated authorities without fear of running into any hassle as a consequence. Even a communication made with anonymity should be looked at. External threats to internal security are translating on the ground - closer to where people live - such as terrorist activity, drug trade, attempts at radicalisation, appearance of strangers and bomb making. The receiving point for this type of feedback from citizens should be centralised enough to keep the communicator from being identified too easily.

The US Homeland Security is reportedly using Fusion Centres to national information inflow from people on matters related to security. Ever since Warren Christopher, Bill Clinton's Secretary of State famously said in 1993 that "national security is inseparable from economic security," there has been a closer rapport between corporate America and the CIA on the matter of garnering information of national

security interest for the US from across the world. Correspondingly this adds to the dimension of security awareness that all nationals engaged in globalised business interactions should have, in the interest of their own country. National security orientation is desirable in citizens working for the government, for the private sector and for civil society projects.

India is moving in the direction of Public Private Partnership in all spheres under the Modi regime - this is a measure of democratic governance and of the trust that the state has in the citizens. Awareness of the importance of national security facilitates this welcome advance. Economic development apart, collaboration between the government and the people is required in the sphere of security as well - citizens have to realise that national security was not the concern of the government alone and that their contribution to it was of great significance.

No caste, community or regional identity can be above the national identity and this is to be specially remembered today since anti-India lobbies were out to play up 'identity politics' and negate the strength India had acquired as a functional democracy putting all citizens on the same footing through the secular principles of 'one man one vote', equal opportunity for all and same protection of law for everybody. Threats to internal security are permeating to the grassroots levels making it important that credible security agencies in the private sector were suitably utilised for joint pursuit of certain national security tasks, that Centres of Excellence are established for training and research in PPP format as was recommended by India's National Cyber Security Policy some years ago and that security orientation programmes were run for senior management in public and private enterprises, by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

There is no political play in safeguarding national security or in maintaining law and order - these are the prime responsibilities of the Centre and states respectively in our Constitution and a close liaison between the two is truly the hallmark of 'cooperative federalism' that India wants to head for.

*The writer is a former Director of Intelligence Bureau. Views expressed are personal.*

## IN JEST THIS

# Do your part to help the economy



Melvin Durai

**SOME PEOPLE HELP THE ECONOMY BY MAKING THINGS, OTHER PEOPLE HELP THE ECONOMY BY BREAKING THINGS**

Mecole Hardman, a professional player for an American football team, recently threw a remote at his widescreen TV while watching his team, the Kansas City Chiefs, play the San Diego Chargers.

Hardman was injured and could not play in the game. His frustration boiled over when the Chargers took the lead in the final minutes.

Hardman tweeted a photo of the TV with its cracked screen and irregular lines. "Now I gotta go get a new TV," he tweeted.

You may think that Hardman needs anger management therapy, and perhaps you're right. But I also want to give credit to Hardman for doing his part to help the economy.

Everybody needs to do their part to help the economy. Some people help the economy by making things, other people help the economy by breaking things.

When you break something, you usually have to replace it by buying something new. As any econo-

mist will tell you, consumer spending helps drive the economy. The more you buy, the more manufacturers have to produce. This contributes to the gross domestic product (GDP) of a country. It also ensures that factories can employ workers. Trust me, there are at least a few workers in TV factories in Japan who owe their jobs to people breaking their TVs.

It happens more often than you think. During the recent World Cup, for example, a man in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was watching the Argentina-Mexico match, standing right in front of his widescreen TV. When Lionel Messi scored a goal, the man got so excited that he punched the TV. The screen went blank and somewhere in Japan, a worker cheered.

Argentina beat Mexico 2-0, yet at least one TV was broken in the country. Can you imagine how many were smashed during Argentina's opening loss to Saudi Arabia? Argentina ended up winning

the World Cup, while neighbouring Brazil lost in the quarterfinals. It's safe to assume that Brazil suffered many more TV deaths than Argentina.

No one keeps statistics on dead TVs, of course. But it's clear to me that while most TVs suffer natural deaths, many suffer accidental deaths and a significant number are lost through "teleicide."

During my lifetime, I've lost several TVs due to natural causes. Old age affects TVs in a variety of ways. In many cases, they lose their ability to produce a clear picture, but sometimes it's their voice that fails. In some cases, they just stop operating completely; and almost always when you are about to watch something important, such as a cricket match. This happened to me once and all I could do was grab a pair of binoculars and be thankful that my neighbour had a widescreen TV.

Accidental deaths occur when a TV is dropped, an object is accidentally thrown at the TV, or a

drunk person accidentally runs into the TV, perhaps while trying to meet Priyanka Chopra.

Teleicide is not as common as accidental death, but still results in a significant number of TV deaths. Deliberately throwing an object at the TV or punching the TV are the two most common forms of teleicide, but there are also cases of people tossing their TVs through windows or shooting their TVs.

In 2016, a man and a woman in Texas had an argument over a country music video that was playing on a TV. The man took out a Colt .45 handgun and shot the TV. Police officers arrested the man and charged him with deadly conduct. The TV was pronounced dead on the scene.

I don't own a gun and have never felt the urge to throw anything at my TV, not even during a football game. I want my TV to live a long, happy life.

Please don't hold it against me. I'll try my best to help the economy in other ways.

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Terror strikes

Sir, This refers to "2 terror attacks rock J&K within 36 hours of 2023," OrissaPOST, Jan 3. The tragic killing of four civilians in a terrorist attack in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir makes for a dreadful beginning of the new year. This incident, clearly aimed at disturbing peace and scuttling the resumption of the electoral process in the UT, comes on the heels of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's statement that terrorism cannot be used as a tool to force India to the negotiating table. In a thinly veiled attack on Pakistan, he asserted last week that India wanted good neighbourly relations with everybody but this did not mean "excusing or looking away or rationalising terrorism." The killings in J&K make it evident that Pakistan continues to aid and abet terrorism in pursuance of its old policy of "bleeding India with a thousand cuts." What's worrying for India is the dubious role being played by the US. Ned Price, US State Department spokesperson, said recently that both India and Pakistan were indispensable to his country. The US is giving the impression that it is keen on a "constructive" dialogue between the two countries; nevertheless, Washington is reluctant to tell Islamabad to mend its ways. However, the restoration of peace in J&K is a must to create a conducive atmosphere for the conduct of the long-delayed Assembly elections. India must continue to up the ante against Pakistan on international platforms and at the same time see through America's designs.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Biggest star

Sir, In the passing of Pele, football has lost its king. Pele rose from barefoot indigence to become one of the greatest and best-known athletes in modern sporting history. The Brazilian legend was the only men's footballer to have won three FIFA World Cup titles. Pele was solely responsible for the rise of football to the position of the most popular sport on the planet. His extraordinary and awesome skills turned the Brazilian Selecao and its yellow jersey into a global brand. It would have been most appropriate and a fitting adieu for the legend had Brazil won the FIFA 2022 world cup. Nevertheless, it is comforting to some extent that the trophy has still been won by a South American team. Perhaps, one can say that in Pele's death, Brazil is engulfed by a "ball of gloom."

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

# national

## of the day quote

We are now building nuclear power plants in northern parts of the country as well

Demonetisation. Majority of Supreme Court Upholds Process. Objectives of demonetisation: curb black money, reduce tax evasion, stop circulation of fake currency, curb terrorism, tackle problems of corruption. All failed. Who should apologise?

I heavily honour the massive mandate given by the people of Kangra in the Assembly elections and I assure you that special focus would be laid on the development of the district in all spheres

## SHORT TAKES

### 5 of family killed in road mishap

Cuddalore (TN): Five members of a family, including two children, were killed in a multiple collision involving the car in which they were traveling and a lorry, on the Chennai-Trichy national highway near Veppur in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore district, police said Tuesday. The car, bound for Chennai, halted near Veppur in the early hours owing to the traffic congestion caused due to the construction of a flyover at Iyanarpalayam when a speeding lorry crashed into the car from behind.

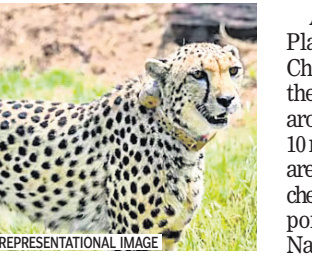
### SC grants interim bail to Pooja Singhal

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted interim bail to Pooja Singhal, Jharkhand cadre IAS officer suspended in a money laundering case, to look after her ailing daughter. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing the ED, contended before a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul that the plea was incorrect and devoid of merits. Singhal, a former state mines department secretary, has been in custody since May last year, after raids were conducted at properties connected with her.

### Vande Bharat pelted with stones in Malda

Malda (WB): Just a few days after its inaugural run, the Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express was pelted with stones in West Bengal's Malda district, prompting the BJP to demand an NIA probe into the incident. No injuries, however, were reported in the incident that took place near Kumarganj railway station.

## 2nd batch of 12 cheetahs likely to arrive at Kuno this month



New Delhi, Jan 4: A second batch of 12 cheetahs is likely to arrive in India from South Africa in January, sources said Tuesday. Discussions with South African authorities to translocate 12 cheetahs to Kuno are at an advanced stage and the animals are likely to arrive in January, a Union Environment ministry source said.

## KANJHAWALA SHOCKER Autopsy rules out sexual assault

New Delhi, Jan 3: Two days after Anjali Singh was hit and dragged by a car in outer Delhi on New Year, her friend who was riding pillion with her and fled after the accident recorded her statement with police Tuesday, even as a preliminary postmortem report of the victim indicated "no injury suggestive of sexual assault".

The mortal remains of 20-year-old Singh were cremated Tuesday amid tight security. Recalling the fateful night, Anjali Singh's friend, who was traced by the police after they examined the CCTV footage, said they had gone to meet some friends at a hotel on New Year eve and alleged that despite being 'drunk', the victim wanted to ride the scooter after the party. Contrary to other eyewitness accounts, the victim's friend asserted that there was no music playing in the car that hit them and claimed that the driver was aware that Anjali was being dragged under the wheels.

Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal cautioned against victim shaming and demanded a probe into the friend's claims.

In her statement, Anjali's friend told the police that she had fled the accident spot "out of fear". With the emergence of the eyewitness, police said that her account will be important evidence in getting the accused punished and more CCTV footage has been recovered that could help establish the sequence of events on Sunday night. While public outrage simmered over the incident and the alleged apathy shown by the police initially, there was heavy

Anjali was killed in the early hours of the New Year after her scooter was hit by the car which dragged her for 12 kms. Her body was found in outer Delhi's Kanjhawal

police deployment during Anjali's funeral procession. Teary-eyed family members and neighbours moved alongside the ambulance carrying her mortal remains from her residence to the crematorium. Scores of people carrying banners that read "Anjali ko insaaf do (Give justice to Anjali)" also joined the funeral procession. They were accompanied by protesters who demanded that the accused be hanged.

Doctors of the MAMC board who carried out the autopsy opined that the provisional cause of death was "shock and haemorrhage as a result of antemortem injury to the head, spine, left femur and lower limbs".

"All injuries collectively can cause death in the ordinary course of nature. However, injury to the head, spine, long bone and other injuries can cause death independently and collectively in the ordinary course of nature," the doctors opined.

"All injuries produced by blunt force impact and possible with vehicular accident and dragging," the preliminary report said. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh for the victim's family and assured that the government will appoint the "best lawyer" to fight the case.



Family members along with locals protest demanding justice

### PM's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' Jan 27

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with students, parents and teachers during his annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' January 27, the Ministry of Education announced Tuesday. The sixth edition of the interaction will be held at the Talkatora Indoor stadium here, it said. Pariksha Pe Charcha is an annual event where Modi interacts with students appearing for the forthcoming board examination.

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ଅତାବିରା  
OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, ATTABIRA  
DIST: BARGARH (ODISHA) PIN-768027, Email: attabiranac.2013@gmail.com, Ph.06682-2212123  
No. 19/ATTB Dated: 03.01.23  
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PREPARATION OF STORM WATER DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN & DPR OF NAC ATTABIRA  
No.C-2212:- Attabira NAC proposes to undertake Preparation of storm water drainage master plan & DPR for Attabira NAC area.  
Proposals are invited to conduct the assignment and submit the deliverables from engineering consultants/Consulting registered architectural firms that have requisite experience in preparation of drainage/Pipeline/Sewerage network plan.  
Details of the bid document can be accessed and the EO/ application forms can be downloaded from the website https://bargarh.nic.in and obtained from the office of Attabira NAC by paying the Tender Paper Cost Rs.10,000 (Rupees Ten thousand) only Non Refundable by paying through D.D. in the name of Executive Officer, NAC Attabira during office hour on or before Dt: 18.01.23.  
The completed applications, as per instructions in the EO/ document should reach the following address by hand/registered post / speed post/Courier latest by 5 PM on Dt: 18.01.23.  
Attabira NAC reserves the sole right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.  
OIPR-13176/11/0016/2223 Sd./- Executive Officer, Attabira NAC

Government of Odisha  
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER  
RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION  
Bid Identification No: DFO-RGDA-12/2022-23 (Online Tender)  
e-mail ID: dfo.rayagada@odisha.gov.in  
e-Procurement Notice  
No.MM-390:The Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division at Rayagada on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Item Rate/ Percentage bid through e-procurement in Single cover system according to norm of e-Procurement system in on-line mode.  
1. No. of the works: - 02 Nos. of Watch Tower.  
2. Estimated Cost: - Rs.20,00,000/- Respectively Including GST. (Watch Tower)  
3. Cost of document: - Rs. 6,000/- each  
4. Bid Security (EMD- declaration amounting to Rs.): - Rs. Nil.  
5. Class of Contractor: - 'C' & 'B' class contractor.  
6. The Bid documents will be available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in from 11.00 Hrs. of dated. 10.01.2023 to 17.00 Hrs. of dated. 16.01.2023 for online bidding.  
7. Last date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal: - Up to 17. 00 Hrs. of dated. 16.01.2023.  
8. Bids received "on-line" shall be opened at 11.00 Hours on dated 17.01.2023 in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Rayagada Forest Division.  
9. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal: "www.tendersodisha.gov.in". Any Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.  
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer  
Rayagada Forest Division  
OIPR-08062/11/0005/2223



Army Jawans take part in a parade during a dress rehearsal ahead of Army Day at MEG & Centre in Bangalore

## RAJNATH LAUNCHES 28 INFRA PROJECTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 3: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday dedicated to the nation 28 infrastructure projects including bridges and roads in strategically key areas of Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir among others to boost military preparedness and spur socio-economic growth. The projects comprised 22 bridges including the Siyom bridge, three



roads and three other projects. Eight of these projects are in Ladakh, five in Arunachal Pradesh, four in Jammu and Kashmir, three each in Sikkim, Punjab and

Uttarakhand and two in Rajasthan, according to the defence ministry. In his address, Singh also made an indirect reference to the Chinese PLA's attempts of transgressions along the LAC. "Recently, our forces effectively countered the adversary in the Northern sector and dealt with the situation with bravery and promptness. This was made possible due to adequate infrastructural development in the region," he said. "This motivates us even more for

the progress of far-flung areas," he said. There has been a fresh spike in tensions between India and China after troops from the two sides were engaged in a clash along the LAC at Yangtse in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh December 9. On December 13, Singh told Parliament that the Chinese troops tried to "unilaterally" change the status quo in the Yangtse area but the Indian Army compelled them to retreat by its firm and resolute response.

### Speeding car runs over three on New Year's eve

Greater Noida: A 21-year-old woman is battling for her life at a hospital here after a speeding car hit her and two of her friends on New Year's eve. The three young women are final year B. Tech students at GNIT College in Greater Noida. While two of them who suffered minor injuries have been discharged from the hospital Tuesday, the condition of Sweety (21) is stated to be serious. Sweety, who is in ICU, has been put on a ventilator and is said to be in a state of coma. She received critical injuries on her legs and head following the accident which happened at around 9 p.m. December 31. Meanwhile, Sweety's classmates claimed that the cops harassed them for two days, alleging that neither did the police file any case, nor did they make any attempt to trace the car.

UCO Bank NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF UCO BANK, BHUBANESWAR MAIN BRANCH  
All the Customers of the Bank & General Public are hereby informed that our Bhubaneswar Main (0470) Branch will be shifted from Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar to 1st Floor of UCO Bank Building, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar and the Branch will function at new Premises w.e.f. 27.02.2023.  
Branch Manager, Bhubaneswar Main Branch, Contact No.: 7008410372

# PANCHAYAT SAMITI, ANGUL INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

## IDENTIFICATION No. AGLB-01/2022-23

E-mail address: ori-bangul@nic.in

The Block Development Officer, Angul on behalf of the Governor of Orissa invites percentage Rate Composite Bid in Single Cover System for the works "Construction of P.H.C. (N) and Sub-Center Building", from the Class B & C Contractors, registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade/class registered with Central Government/MES/Railway, to be eventually drawn up in PWD P-I form, for execution of Building (Composite work i.e. Civil Work except Electrical and Sanitary works). The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid. If successful, the bidder who has not registered under State Government has to register under the State PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing the agreement. Bidders may submit bids for any or all the 11 (Eleven) Nos. of P.H.C. (N) and Sub-Center Building. The details of the Eligibility criteria, EMD, enclosures etc. along with the list of project and date & time of sale, receipt and opening of bid document can be viewed & downloaded from the district website i.e. www.angul.nic.in.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Angul

# Oppn unity remains a pipe dream in UP



CONGRESS MP RAHUL GANDHI'S REMARK THAT THE SAMAJWADI PARTY DOES NOT HAVE A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE HAS SPARKED OF A FRESH ROUND OF THE BLAME GAME BETWEEN OPPOSITION PARTIES, LEAVING THE BJP SMILING

BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY PRESIDENT MAYAWATI, CHOSE TO WELCOME THE NEW YEAR BY BLAMING THE CONGRESS FOR THE PLIGHT OF OBCS AND DALITS IN THE COUNTRY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Jan 3:** Just two days into the New Year, it has become amply clear that opposition unity in Uttar Pradesh will remain a pipe dream ahead of the general elections 2024.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's remark that the Samajwadi Party (SP) does not have a national perspective has sparked of a fresh round of the blame game between opposition parties, leaving the BJP smiling. SP president Akhilesh Yadav retorted by saying that his party's outlook is national and it has been making strong political interventions in the national interest.

The SP fully believed in the Indian Constitution and was committed to democracy, socialism and secularism, the party chief said in a press release. "It is always determined to keep the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the country intact. That is why the Samajwadi Party has been making strong political interventions in the national interest keeping a keen eye on developments in the country," he said.

Akhilesh also rubbished reports of him supporting Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) in Uttar Pradesh. The Rashtriya Lok Dal, an

ally of SP, has already turned down the question of joining the BJP.

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati, meanwhile chose to welcome the New Year by blaming the Congress for the plight of OBCs and Dalits in the country. She alleged the SP of playing a key role in giving OBCs and Dalits a raw deal on the issue of reservation.

The SP promptly returned the attack and senior party leader Shivpal Singh Yadav said that people know whom Mayawati is supporting and no one will listen to her. "Everyone knows with whom she (BSP chief Mayawati) has been siding with and for whom she is working. Now, no one will listen to her," Shivpal told reporters in Etawah.

Senior political analyst R.P. Shukla said: "The opposition has given the BJP a reason to smile in 2023. All the talk of opposition unity has already crumbled and a fragmented opposition will ensure BJP's return to power. These leaders put their egos before their political goals. As the main opposition force in Uttar Pradesh, it is the responsibility of Akhilesh Yadav to bring everyone together but he apparently believes that he alone can defeat the BJP. He has not learnt his lesson from the 2022 Assembly polls."

# Govt hospitals run out of vaccines

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Jan 3:** State-run healthcare facilities in Uttar Pradesh seem to be running out of vaccines as the rush for precaution doses increases, following reports of rising Covid cases in China and some other countries.

Officials said it will take at least a week for fresh supplies to arrive. The Covid vaccinations are being done at 14 hospitals in the state capital -- 10 private and four government.

The government healthcare facilities offering vaccination are SPM Civil Hospital, NK Road Community Health Centre, Lok Bandhu Hospital and Balrampur Hospital. A total of



96 people were vaccinated at private hospitals on Monday while those coming to the government hospitals were asked to come after a week. District immunisation officer Dr.M.K. Singh confirmed vaccine unavailability at the government centres and said requests have been sent to the government for fresh supplies. According to data, about 31 lakh people aged 18 years and above in the state capital have not taken precaution doses so far.

# EXAM PAPER LEAKS WORRIES GEHLOT

Recently, Rajasthan minister Rajendra Singh Gudha exposed his own government in connection with the frequent cases of exam paper leak in the state and said the government is protecting the 'paper mafia'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, Jan 3:** The back-to-back exam paper leak cases seem to have become a pain in the neck for the Congress government in Rajasthan as its own ministers have now questioned the inability of the government to hold the exams successfully.

Recently, Rajasthan minister Rajendra Singh Gudha exposed his own government in connection with the frequent cases of exam paper leak in the state and said the government is protecting the 'paper mafia'. The teachers' exam of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission was cancelled on December 24 after the question paper was allegedly leaked just hours before the exam.

Gudha accepted the fact that it was the government's incapacity to

conduct the competitive exams. He said, "The paper leak scandal is a failure of the government and it's the responsibility of the government to hold free and fair examinations."

"It is our failure that we are not able to conduct fair exams. Papers are getting out and we are unable to take action. There is despair among the candidates appearing in the competitive examinations," he said. Congress MLA Girraj Singh Malinga also raised questions in the paper leak case in the senior teachers' recruitment exam. Malinga advised the government to take strict action against the paper leak gang and use bulldozers on their houses on the lines of Uttar Pradesh.

Malinga, talking to the media, said what is the problem in running bulldozers, Yogi is the UP Chief



Minister and we also have a Chief Minister, and concrete action should be taken here too so that these leaks stop. When bulldozers can go to the houses of 'paper leakers' in UP, then what is the problem here, he asked.

Malinga said "It is absolutely true that the papers have been leaked. The government should take concrete steps regarding this so that injustice is not done to a poor man. Action should be taken against whoever is involved in the paper leak."

Speaking on the issue, Rajya

Sabha MP Kirorilal Meena said "If the CBI investigates the papers that have been leaked so far in Rajasthan, many Congress leaders and ministers will be in jail like Partha Chatterjee in Bengal."

"10 out of 16 papers have been cancelled. By the way, 16 out of 16 papers have been leaked. REET was a big paper which was leaked. There were protests and demonstrations too. The government hastily sacked RBSE president DP Jarauli. After sacking, SOG did not question him till date and has given them a clean chit. He had

given this statement that politicians have a hand in this. I had said earlier also that 5 MLAs and 3 ministers are involved through the Rajiv Gandhi Study Circle. There was no CBI inquiry into this paper leak. Had the CBI investigated, the leaders would have been in jail here as the central agency caught Partha Chatterjee and others in Bengal."

Bharatiya Janata Party state president Satish Poonia also said that they will order an inquiry when they come to power. "This is a sin as youths are deprived of jobs despite working hard." Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra also expressed deep concern to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot over the news published in various newspapers regarding paper leaks. He said that selection of personnel for public service in a transparent manner is the constitutional and moral responsibility of the state government. He emphasized on strict compliance with an appropriate action plan in this regard at the state government level immediately.



President Droupadi Murmu being presented a memento by Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot during the inauguration of 'Samvidhan Udyan' at Raj Bhawan in Jaipur

# Ayodhya to get eco-resort

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ayodhya, Jan 3:** The Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) is planning an eco-resort and spa in the holy city on a public private-partnership model.

The project is being planned near the 137-acre wide Samda lake and bird sanctuary, which has a potential of drawing both, domestic and international tourists, officials said. As its share, the authority will offer about a six acre wide land parcel to the agency that comes forward to set up the project.

It will be the first such hospitality project to be taken up by the government agency jointly with a private agency. The authority will offer the rights to develop and commercially exploit the land on a lease period of 30 years.

The authority has already floated its requirements, seeking a response from stakeholders to gauge their interest in the project. According to the authority's proposal, the agency will have to work on five fronts - land development, project devel-



It will be the first such hospitality project to be taken up by the government agency jointly with a private agency. The authority will offer the rights to develop and commercially exploit the land on a lease period of 30 years

opment, resort construction, resort maintenance and operations.

Vice-chairman of the authority, Vishal Singh said, "Cottages and tents will be built like it was done in the past, without using cement or metal. It will be an eco-resort and

material such as mud, wood, stones, husk and clay will be used to develop it. However, the best services will be offered. Some international agencies including one from Singapore have shown interest in the project."

# Last budget likely to focus on youth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, Jan 3:** With special emphasis on youth, the last budget of the present Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan is expected to be focused on social welfare schemes to counter inflation, one of the key issues on which the party would contest the assembly elections in 2023.

The budget would also have a reflection of Rahul Gandhi's suggestions based on the feedback received during his Bharat Jodo Yatra which passed through the state this month. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has already announced that the state government will give 12 cylinders in a year for ₹500 per cylinder to poor families to reduce the impact of inflation.

During a public rally in the Alwar district before the completion of the Bharat Jodo Yatra's part in Rajasthan a few days back, Gehlot also said that the government would consider giving kitchen kits.

Also, the state government is expected to make provisions for the protection of the rights of the people working in the gig economy sector, as suggested by Rahul Gandhi - a move that political experts believe will give an edge to the Congress party in polls. The term gig worker refers to people engaged

in temporary work for a certain period or a project.

"Rajasthan will be the first state in the country to bring provisions in the budget, especially for the gig workers aiming to provide legal protection and connect them with welfare programmes," said a senior official familiar with the development. The assembly session is starting on January 23.

He added that in July, the state government conducted a sample survey of gig workers to find out about their benefits and challenges. Political experts believe that gig employment is an emerging sector and providing them with social security will give an edge to Congress in the polls. An official said that pre-budget meetings have already taken place and feedback from various sections of the society was received. "Important suggestions from the feedback meetings will be included in the budget," an official said.

A party leader said that various suggestions were received during Bharat Jodo Yatra in the state and some crucial recommendations based on the feedback were given by Rahul Gandhi to the party's state unit and the CM and they are likely to be incorporated into the budget.



# Coaching villas drive Kota's real estate sector growth

While hostel plots are bought mostly by locals aspiring to start their own businesses, coaching villas are popular among well off families who move to the city to stay with their children as they complete their coaching for competitive exams as well as schooling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kota, Jan 3:** The real estate sector in Rajasthan's Kota, dubbed the country's coaching hub for competitive exams, has two unique options when it comes to properties -- hostel plots and coaching villas.

With over two lakh students moving to the city to prepare for the exams, Kota's real estate sector has grown with the coaching industry as people invest in building hostels and other forms of temporary accommodations for those coming here.

While hostel plots are bought mostly by locals aspiring to start their own businesses, coaching villas are popular among well off families who move to the city to stay

with their children as they complete their coaching for competitive exams as well as schooling.

"The plot sizes that can be converted into hostels with 30, 50 and 70 rooms are the most popular. Each hostel room comprises a bed, study table and wardrobe. Each hostel has a mess, common area for recreation and some extra rooms that are designated 'parents room' and are occupied by them whenever they are visiting their children," Shahbad Khan, a property dealer here, told PTI while explaining the concept of "hostel plots".

The monthly charge for each room ranges between ₹13,000 and ₹15,000 and hence, an owner can make a decent income, he said. "Either locals buy hostel plots



or people who want to set up a business here. It is a lucrative earning opportunity. People can construct hostel buildings of up to seven storeys," Khan said.

These two real estate options, "hostel plots and coaching villas", have been in demand in the past 10 years, except during the years of the Covid pandemic, he claimed. Once an industrial hub, Kota is now home to a ₹6,000-crore worth coaching industry. Over two lakh students move to Kota annually for

preparing for competitive exams such as the JEE for engineering and the NEET for admission to medical colleges.

There are 3,500 hostels and 25,000 paying guest (PG) accommodations in Kota, according to Naveen Mittal, president, Kota Hostel Association. "While the hostel sector is completely formal, the PG business is quite unregulated. Hence, hostels are more popular as they have more facilities," he said. However, not all parents are com-

fortable with their children staying in hostels or PGs and they move in with them by moving into "coaching villas".

Coaching villa is a popular concept here as some parents want to stay with their children while they complete Class 9-12 schooling along with coaching for competitive exams, Ram Kishan Gaur, another property dealer in the area, said. Some stay till their children clear a competitive exam, he said.

"Rather than renting, these families buy these houses for a few years and later, sell it," Gaur said. Those in the real estate sector in Kota said coaching villas are available in two and three bedroom formats, and are priced between ₹50 lakh to ₹70 lakh.

"The families get good appreciation value (of their properties) and during their stay here, they are relieved from renting woes. Locals mostly prefer renting out to students rather than families as that is more pocket friendly for them," Gaur added.

# UP officials to adopt buses

A circular released by the UPSRTC directed that each ARM should 'adopt' 10 buses while each service manager must take care of two buses from their depots

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Jan 3:** After asking people to adopt animals in zoo and then legislators and MPs to adopt village, officers to adopt schools in the state, the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) is undertaking a program as part of which assistant regional managers (ARM) will be asked to adopt 10 buses each.

A circular released by the UPSRTC directed that each ARM should 'adopt' 10 buses while each service manager must take care of two buses from their depots. The officials will be responsible for repairs and maintenance of these vehicles.

The buses will have to be re-



paired and kept in good condition within three days of the adoption. This program will run for one month at a time.

Subsequently, a new set of buses will be adopted by the officials. Yajuvendra Kumar, general manager, UPSRTC, said: "Currently, there are 11,200 buses under the UPSRTC. An inspection to check maintenance will be conducted by officials from the headquarters around January 25. Three officials who perform with greatest efficiency will be awarded at the end of the one-month cycle as an incentive to keep up the good work."



# national

## of the day quote

Since the formation of the 'Mahagathbandhan' government in Bihar, not a day goes without hearing about murders, loot, kidnapping, rape and other crimes. 'Jungle Raj' has returned to the state. There is a complete breakdown in law and order in the state

Ayodhya is a place of worship and admiration for us and I will definitely visit the place

Because you are a diplomat, does not mean you are untruthful. I could use much harsher words than epicentre. So believe me, considering what has been happening to us, I think epicentre is a very diplomatic word

## SHORT TAKES

### PM speaks with King Charles III

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday spoke with King Charles III of the United Kingdom and the two discussed issues such as climate action, conservation of biodiversity and innovative solutions for financing energy-transition, the PM's office said. "It was a pleasure to speak with His Majesty King Charles III on issues of mutual interest, including environmental protection, climate resilience, and the Commonwealth. Also discussed the priorities of India's G20 Presidency, and the potential of Mission LIFE," Modi tweeted.

### BJP MLA Jagtap no more

Mumbai: Maharashtra Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Jagtap died at 59 Tuesday after suffering from cancer, sources said. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde termed Jagtap's death as "mind-numbing", while Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis called it "heart-wrenching". Jagtap, the legislator from Chinchwad in Pune, was undergoing treatment since a long time, a family member said. He breathed his last at a private hospital here, sources said. The BJP has lost two MLAs from the state within a fortnight.

### 1 killed after scuffle between two groups

Guwahati: One person was killed while several others were left injured after two factions of a mosque committee clashed in Assam's Dhubri district, the police said Tuesday. The incident took place in the Bilasipara area of the district on December 30. According to the police, at least 20 people have suffered injuries in the clash. Two separate complaints have registered in the matter, while two persons have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the violent clash. Superintendent of Police of Dhubri district, Aparna Natarajan, said that the incident took place at the Bilasipara Bangalipara mosque.

### Three killed as truck overturns

Burhanpur (MP): Three persons, including two farmers, were killed and four others injured when their mini-truck loaded with vegetables overturned in Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh in the early hours of Tuesday, a police official said. The accident took place around 3 am near Chouda Nala when the vehicle was going to Burhanpur town from Chamati village, the official said.



**“We still haven't forgotten cold-hearted Chandrababu Naidu's statement where he had compared the Pushkaralu tragedy with Kumbh Mela and said, didn't people die in Kumbh Mela?”**  
YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | AP CM

## QUALITY MATTERS!

In a shocking incident, a tea shop owner in Kerala's Malapurram district was severely injured - and is fighting for his life - after a customer, irate over the quality of the tea, stabbed him Tuesday, police said



# Bharat Jodo Yatra enters UP '2nd Covid booster shot unwarranted'

**AGENCIES**  
**Ghaziabad (UP)/New Delhi, Jan 3:** The Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra resumed Tuesday after a year-end break with a milling crowd and several leaders joining Rahul Gandhi, who was described by his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as a "warrior" who is not afraid of the might of the government.



The Bharat Jodo Yatra, which started from Kanyakumari on September 7, will end with the hoisting of the national flag by Rahul Gandhi in Srinagar January 30

The yatra has so far covered 3,122 km from Gandhi Mandapam in Kanyakumari to the Red Fort in Delhi

ing the shield of truth," the Congress leader said. Rahul Gandhi, who was constantly seen wearing white T-shirts even in extreme chilly conditions, has found media and politicians alike wondering why he does not feel cold. Priyanka said she was proud of welcoming the yatra, which entered Uttar Pradesh traversing 3,000 kms from Kanyakumari.

"Look at my elder brother; I take the maximum pride in you. Because the establishment put all its pressure. The government spent thousands of crores to destroy his image," Priyanka added. Congress's West Uttar Pradesh president Naseemuddin Siddiqui told PTI that continuing the yatra from the Loni border, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi took a seven-km walk and then returned to Delhi. Earlier, AICC in-charge for Delhi affairs of the party Shaktisinh Gohil said he saw a great turnout in Delhi and leaders of various opposition parties will join the yatra. Senior Congress leader Jai Prakash Agarwal said the yatra is echoing the voice of the citizens.



**AGENCIES**  
**New Delhi, Jan 3:** The need for a second booster dose of Covid vaccine is not on the agenda of the government as of now, official sources said Tuesday amid renewed concerns about the viral infections in view of surge in some countries.

A fourth Covid shot is unwarranted at the moment as most people in the country are yet to receive their third dose, they said. Also, there is no data available on the utility of a second booster for the currently used vaccines, the sources said. India began administering a precautionary or booster dose in January 2022 and till now only 28 per cent of the eligible population have taken it. "The need for a second booster dose of Covid vaccines is not on the agenda of the government as of now nor are discussion over it underway. Most importantly, majority of the population are yet to receive a third dose and those who are due for it should take it," an official source said. Countries such as the US and the UK are administering third and fourth booster doses to fully vaccinated individuals as well as extra shots to the immunocompromised who did not have a strong immune response from their initial doses. Indian Medical Association (IMA) representatives and senior doctors in a meeting on December 26 urged Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to consider the fourth dose for healthcare and frontline workers. The meeting came against the backdrop of rising cases globally, especially in China, Japan, South Korea, and Thailand. "Healthcare professionals are exposed to a larger number of coronavirus infected patients resulting in repeated exposure to the virus which can trigger more infections among the healthcare community," former IMA president Dr J A Jayalal had said. "To counter that, they need augmented immunity against the virus," he argued. Amid a spike in Covid cases in some countries, the Union Health Ministry has sounded an alert, tightened Covid guidelines and asked states and Union territories to prepare for any eventuality. It has also urged them to increase coverage of the precaution dose.

## Five cases of XBB.1.5 variant found in India

Five cases of COVID-19's XBB.1.5 variant, responsible for the rise in cases in the US, have been found in India, according to data from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG). Of the five, three cases were found in Gujarat and one each in Karnataka and Rajasthan, according to INSACOG figures Tuesday. The XBB.1.5 strain is a relative of the Omicron XBB variant, which is a recombinant of the Omicron BA.2.10.1 and BA.2.75 subvariants. Combined, XBB and XBB.1.5 make up 44 per cent of cases in the US.

## Court hears plea for narco, polygraph tests of accused

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**Kotdwara (U'khand), Jan 3:** A local court Tuesday heard a petition seeking its permission to conduct narco and polygraph tests of the accused in the Ankita Bhandari murder case.

Judicial Magistrate (first class) Bhavna Pandey fixed January 5 as the next date of hearing in the case after hearing the arguments of the prosecution and defence lawyers. Prosecution lawyer Ajay Pant argued that both narco and polygraph test of the accused should be conducted. While defence lawyer Amit Sajwan wanted it to be clarified whether the narco test or the polygraph test of the accused should be conducted as they are different.

## ANKITA BHANDARI MURDER

Bhandari, who worked as a receptionist at Vanantara resort near Rishikesh, was allegedly killed by its owner Pulkit Arya and his two accomplices. The accused are in jail and a charge sheet has also been filed against them by the special investigation team (SIT) investigating the case. A letter on behalf of the accused had been sent to the court in which they had made a plea to be heard, their lawyer Sajwan said. They had said that their narco test should be done to find out who pushed Bhandari into the river. "What was the reason for it and what sort of relationship Ankita had with her friend Pushp, and why he left her and went on the day the incident took place," the letter stated.

They also wanted to know whether they could be contacted when a charge sheet has already been filed in the case. It is likely that the court will contact the accused via video conferencing, Sajwan said.

## Armed Pak intruder shot dead by BSF

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**New Delhi/Chandigarh, Jan 3:** An armed Pakistani intruder was shot dead by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel along the India-Pakistan international border in Punjab Tuesday morning, officials said.

The infiltration bid was detected near a village, named Dariya Mansoor, in Amritsar district around 8 am and the troops subsequently recovered the body of a man, who was aged around 45-50 years, along with a weapon there. The area falls under BSF's Gurdaspur sector. "At about 0830 hours, BSF troops of border post Channa in Gurdaspur sector observed suspected movement of an armed Pak intruder ahead of the fence. The suspected intruder was



challenged and neutralised by the troops," a BSF spokesperson said. He said a pump action gun along with six yellow-colour live cartridges bearing 'Made in Pakistan' markings were found near the body of the Pakistani "miscreant". The recovered gun is a sophisticated and modified weapon, BSF officials said. It was earlier informed by BSF officials that there were two incidents of intrusion, but

This was the first incident in 2023 where a Pakistani intruder was killed at the 2,289 km-long front that runs along Jammu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Punjab on India's western flank

In 2022, the BSF had killed two infiltrators and apprehended 23 Pakistanis along the 553-km-long India-Pakistan international border in Punjab

later they clarified it to be a single incident. In 2022, the BSF had killed two infiltrators and apprehended 23 Pakistanis along the 553-km-long India-Pakistan international border in Punjab. The force also recovered 1 kg of suspected heroin from a drone it retrieved Monday, which it had shot down in the Kassowal area of the Gurdaspur sector December 31.



Farmers shouting slogans burn an effigy during a protest against the state government in Amritsar, Punjab

# Be wary on roads between 3 pm & 9 pm

**AGENCIES**

**New Delhi, Jan 3:** The period between 3 pm and 9 pm is the most dangerous time to be on Indian roads, going by the number of road mishaps reported in 2021.

According to the annual report - Road Accidents in India 2021- released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), the evening hours, especially the three-hour duration between 6 pm and 9 pm recorded over 20 per cent of road accidents in the country in 2021.

"In 2021, the time interval between 18:00 and 21:00 hours recorded the maximum number of road ac-

cidents, accounting for 20.7 per cent of the total accidents in the country and this is in line with the pattern seen over the past five years," said the report.

As per the report, the second highest time interval in the day was between 15:00 and 18:00 hours, constituting 17.8 per cent of road accidents.

"As per the data, afternoon and evening hours are the most dangerous time to be on the road. The time interval of 0.00 hours to 6:00 am saw the least number of accidents," said the report released recently.

As per the report, the country witnessed a total 4,12,432 road ac-



cidents in 2021, and maximum 85,179 road accidents (20.7 per cent) occurred between 6 pm and 9 pm, while 73,467 accidents (17.8 per cent) took place be-

■ The country witnessed a total 4,12,432 road accidents in 2021, and maximum 85,179 road accidents (20.7 per cent) occurred between 6 pm and 9 pm, while 73,467 mishaps (17.8 per cent) took place between 3 pm and 6 pm

■ The time interval of 0.00 hours to 6:00 am saw the least number of accidents

■ Month-wise analysis of road accidents in 2021 disclosed that the maximum number of mishaps was reported in January, followed by December, November and October

January, followed by December, November and October. The data said that January 2021 recorded a total of 40,305 accidents, in which 14,575 persons were killed.

## AP govt prohibits rallies on roads

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**Amaravati, Jan 3:** The Andhra Pradesh government issued an order late Monday night prohibiting conduct of public meetings and rallies on roads, including National Highways, citing public safety but all opposition parties vociferously decried the move, alleging it was aimed at muzzling their voices.

The ban order comes in the wake of a stampede at a rally held by the main opposition Telugu Desam Party at Kandukur last week in which eight persons were killed. Only the BJP MP G V L Narasimha Rao supported the government decision, though with a rider. The prohibitory order (GO No. 1) was issued under the provisions of the Police Act, 1861, and the police immediately started implementing it.

Meanwhile, the Telugu Desam Party chief is scheduled to undertake a tour of his Kuppam Assembly constituency from January 4 to 6 but the Palamaner Sub-Divisional Police Office served a notice on the former saying strict action would be taken if any meetings were held in violation of the GO No. 1 and untoward incidents occurred. The SDPO said they would consider granting permission for Naidu's meetings if suitable places that did not cause any inconvenience to the public were identified.

The GO No. 1 said, "The right to conduct a public meeting on public roads and streets is a subject matter of regulation as Section 30 of the Police Act, 1861 itself mandates."

The opposition parties have decried the government's decision and called the GO atrocious.

# international

## of the day quote

Afghanistan's soil is being used against Pakistan despite an agreement with the Taliban government

**KHAWAJA ASIF**  
DEFENCE MINISTER OF PAKISTAN

The Government of National Unity and the National Elections Commission are fully prepared to hold the national elections in Libya

**ABDUL-HAMED DREIBAN**  
LIBYAN PM

The country's exports in 2022 reached a record high of \$254.2 billion, registering a year-on-year growth of 12.9 per cent

**RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN**  
TURKISH PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Doctor jailed

**Berlin:** A German doctor has been sentenced to two years and nine months in prison for illegally issuing more than 4,000 people with exemptions from wearing masks during the coronavirus pandemic. Public broadcaster SWR reported that a regional court in the southwestern town of Weinheim convicted the doctor late Monday for issuing certificates to people from across Germany, most of whom she had never met or examined.

### 22 injured

**New York:** A hit-and-run driver rear-ended a sport utility vehicle and sent it crashing into a New York City restaurant, injuring 22 people, police said Tuesday. The crash happened at about 9 pm on Monday in upper Manhattan, a police spokesperson said. A white Audi exited a gas station and struck the rear of a Toyota sport utility vehicle, causing the SUV's driver to lose control of the vehicle, police said.

### 4 killed in blast

**Abuja:** Four security officials were killed in a car bomb targeting a former government official in southeast Nigeria, authorities said Tuesday. Three police officers and a paramilitary official were killed in the attack in Imo State on a convoy carrying the former governor Ikedi Ohakim, Police Commissioner Mohammed Barde said.

### Pak seeks aid

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's foreign minister Tuesday issued an emotional appeal ahead of a major conference next week, urging the international community to generously donate funds for the country's flood victims. The gathering in Geneva on Monday — jointly hosted by the United Nations and Pakistan — aims to raise funds for the victims of last summer's unprecedented flooding, which experts partly attribute to climate change.

# Iranian chess player was warned not to return to Iran

**Dubai, Jan 3:** An Iranian chess player arrived in Spain Tuesday after receiving what a source close to her said were warnings not to return to Iran for competing without a hijab at an international tournament in Kazakhstan. Sara Khadem, born in 1997, took part in last week's FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty without the hijab — a headscarf mandatory under Iran's strict dress codes. The source, who did not want to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter, said Khadem subsequently received multiple phone calls in which individuals warned her against returning home after the tournament, while others said she should come back, promising to

## MOUNTING TENSION

# Palestinians rage at Israel minister's holy site visit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Jerusalem, Jan 3:** An ultranationalist Israeli Cabinet minister visited Tuesday a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site for the first time since taking office in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new far-right government last week. The visit is seen by Palestinians as a provocation.

Earlier in the day, Palestinian officials said a 15-year-old boy was killed by Israeli army fire near the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem. The Israeli military said its forces had shot a person involved in violent confrontations with soldiers.

In Jerusalem, Itamar Ben-Gvir entered the site known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary flanked by a large contingent of police officers. The act drew condemnation from Israel's Arab neighbours, Egypt and Jordan, and a rebuke from the US ambassador.

Ben-Gvir has long called for greater Jewish access to the holy site, which is viewed by Palestinians as provocative and as a potential precursor to Israel taking complete control over the compound. Most rabbis forbid Jews from praying on the site, but there has been a growing movement in recent years of Jews who support worship there.

The site has been the scene of frequent clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli security forces, most recently in April last year. The US Embassy in Jerusalem said that Ambassador Thomas Nides "has been very clear in conversations with the Israeli government on the issue of preserving the status quo in Jerusalem's holy sites. Actions that prevent



**Earlier in the day,** Palestinian officials said a 15-year-old boy was killed by Israeli army fire near the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem

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In Jerusalem, Itamar Ben-Gvir entered the site known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary flanked by a large contingent of police officers

that are unacceptable". The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which acts as custodian of the contested shrine, condemned Ben-Gvir's visit "in the strongest terms." Egypt warned against "negative repercussions of such measures on security and stability in the occupied territories and the region, and on the future of the peace process." Ben-Gvir's stated intention of visiting the site earlier this week drew threats from the Islamic militant group Hamas. Ben-Gvir wrote on Twitter after his visit that the site "is open to all and if Hamas thinks that if it threatens me it will deter me, they should understand that times have changed". Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said that Ben-Gvir entering the site on Tuesday was "a continuation of the Zionist's occupation aggression on our sacred places and war on our Arab identity." "Our Palestinian people will continue defending their holy places and Al-Aqsa mosque," he said. Ofir Gendelman, who has long served as Benjamin Netanyahu's Arabic-language spokesman, released a video showing that the "situation is calm" at the holy site following Ben-Gvir's departure.

## BORDER ISSUE

# China tried to 'unilaterally change' LAC: Jaishankar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

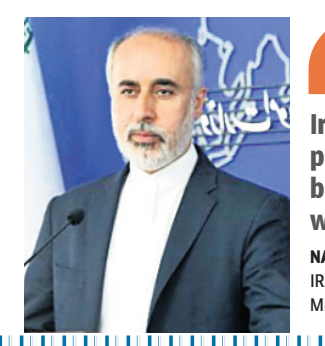
**Vienna, Jan 3:** China did not observe agreements with India on border issues and that is why there is a "tense situation" between the two neighbours, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has pointed out as he explained how Beijing tried to "unilaterally change LAC".

During an interview to Austria's national broadcaster ORF on Monday, Jaishankar said India had agreements with China not to mass force in the border areas. However, China did not observe those agreements, "which is why we have the currently tense situation that we do", he said while responding to a question. "We had an agreement not to unilaterally change the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which they

We had an agreement not to unilaterally change the Line of Actual Control, which they (China) have tried to do

**S JAISHANKAR**  
INDIA'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

(China) have tried to do," he said. Replying to a counter question on what if China also says that India did not observe the agreements, Jaishankar said it's difficult for Beijing to say that as the "record is very clear". "Today, there is a lot of transparency in satellite pictures. If we see who moved the forces to the border areas first, I think the record is very clear. So, it is very difficult for China to say what you have suggested they could," Jaishankar said. Indian and Chinese troops clashed along the LAC in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 and the face-off resulted in "minor injuries to a few personnel from both sides", according to the Indian Army.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

## FIRING ON IMRAN KHAN

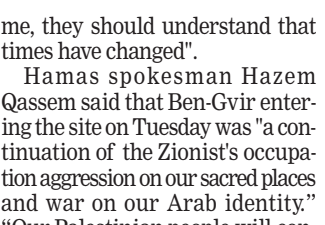
# Three more shooters involved: Probe team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lahore, Jan 3:** The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probing the assassination attempt on Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that the firing was carried out from four different sites and three more shooters, other than the arrested suspect, were involved in the attack.

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), suffered bullet injuries in the right leg on November 3 when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others standing on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area (some 150-km from Lahore), where he was leading the long march to press for snap polls.

"Shots were fired by three unknown shooters, from unknown weapons from a considerable height other than the gun attack carried out by the suspect, Naveed Meher, arrested from the spot," the Dawn newspaper reported quoting a member of the JIT on Tuesday. The JIT, led by Lahore Police chief Ghulam Mahmood Dogar, said Khan was hit by three bullets on the container-mounted-truck during the protest rally. A total of 13 people had suffered bullet injuries during the attack.



The JIT also pinpointed "some mismanagement" in the security arrangements at the PTI's rally. Earlier, Punjab Home Minister Omar Sarfraz Cheema had said that the gun attack on Khan was an "organised one and well-thought-out conspiracy".



## COVID IMPACT

# The SARS-CoV-2 virus spreads throughout the body, including the brain, and lingers for almost eight months, shows an analysis of tissue samples from the autopsies of people who died due to Covid-19

## COVID SURGE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, Jan 3:** Piqued by several countries, including India, clamping curbs on Chinese travellers amid the massive surge of COVID in the country, China on Tuesday said the restrictions are discriminatory and warned of reciprocal countermeasures.

The US, Australia, Canada, India, Israel, Malaysia, Morocco, Qatar, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and several EU countries have asked travellers from China to take a COVID-19 test prior to boarding their flights, while Morocco, which attracts a large number of Chinese tourists, even banned Chinese travellers from entering the country.

Asked at a media briefing here about the restrictions on Chinese travellers, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning went on the offensive saying "we do not believe the entry restriction measures some countries have taken against China are science-based." "Some of these measures are disproportionate and simply unacceptable. We firmly reject using COVID measures for political purposes and will take corresponding measures in response to varying situations via the principle of reciprocity," she said, without elaborating.

"Health experts from many countries have said that the main variant now spreading in China has previously been found elsewhere already, and that a new variant can emerge anywhere on the planet, which means entry

# China fumes over virus restrictions



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

restrictions targeting China are unnecessary," she said. "China always believes that for all countries, COVID response measures need to be science-based and proportionate. They should not be used for political manipulation, there should not be discriminatory measures against certain countries, and measures should not affect normal travel and people-to-people exchange and cooperation," she said.

Starting from January 8, China will practically abandon its three-year-old stringent zero-Covid policy and its international isolation by fully opening its airports and ports for travel and trade, amidst the current massive coronavirus outbreak in the country.

The development comes at a time when China is grappling with a sudden spurt in infections fuelled by the Omicron variants after the Xi Jinping regime relaxed its stringent zero-Covid policy following a wave of anti-government protests.



REUTERS

# UK trains disrupted again

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Jan 3:** Commuters returning to work Tuesday after the Christmas break were advised not to travel as tens of thousands of British rail workers stage a fresh round of strikes that will disrupt services all week.

Around half of the UK's railway lines are closed, and only one-fifth of services are running amid a long-running dispute over pay and working conditions. Members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union were striking Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, while drivers in the Aslef union will strike Thursday. Many places, including most of Scotland and Wales, have no train services. Transport Secretary Mark



"solve her problem". The source also said Khadem's relatives and parents, who are in Iran, had also received threats, without giving further details. Iran's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the case. Khadem, who is also known as Sarasadat Khademalsharieh, arrived in Spain on Tuesday, the source said. She has not responded to Reuters request for comment. Newspapers reported last week that Khadem would not be returning to Iran and moving to Spain. The phone calls led to organisers deciding to provide security with the cooperation of Kazakh police, resulting in four bodyguards being stationed outside Khadem's hotel room, the source said. Iran has been swept by demonstrations against the country's clerical leadership since mid-September, when 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini died in the custody of morality police who detained her for "inappropriate attire." Laws enforcing mandatory hijab wearing have become a flashpoint during the unrest, with a string of sportswomen competing overseas appearing without their headscarves in public.

London, Jan 3: Commuters returning to work Tuesday after the Christmas break were advised not to travel as tens of thousands of British rail workers stage a fresh round of strikes that will disrupt services all week. Around half of the UK's railway lines are closed, and only one-fifth of services are running amid a long-running dispute over pay and working conditions. Members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union were striking Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, while drivers in the Aslef union will strike Thursday. Many places, including most of Scotland and Wales, have no train services. Transport Secretary Mark Harper urged union leaders to come to the negotiating table and said the government has offered a "very fair pay offer". But union boss Mick Lynch said officials have not put forward any fresh proposals and suggested the government was blocking an agreement. "What we keep hearing is the same stuff from the government across the sectors that they want to facilitate an agreement, but they don't actually do anything," Lynch told Sky News from a picket line at London's Euston train station. Train companies and the government argue they need to change the way the rail network operates to control costs after the coronavirus pandemic reduced passenger traffic and changed commuting patterns.

# business

## of the day quote

The government is working on the guidelines for dealing with stressed public-private partnership projects at major ports and has also come up with policies to support the shipbuilding industry in India

**SARBANANDA SONOWAL** | UNION MINISTER

We are incredibly confident about 2023 and hence, we announce the arrival of nine new Ducati motorcycles and 2 new dealerships for the Indian market

**BIPUL CHANDRA** | DUCATI INDIA MANAGING DIRECTOR

Through a diversified multi-channel distribution network and a strong physical presence of over 3,700 branches across India, IIFL Finance caters to delivering small loans to sound under-banked people and enterprises in India

**KAPISH JAIN** | IIFL FINANCE CFO

## SHORT TAKES

### Sebi returns OYO's draft IPO papers

**New Delhi:** Capital markets regulator Sebi has asked Oravel Stays Ltd, the parent company of travel-tech firm OYO, to refile the draft IPO papers with certain updates. The move might delay the Gurugram-based hospitality unicorn's initial public offering (IPO). OYO filed preliminary documents with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in September 2021 for a ₹8,430 crore IPO. The proposed offering consists of a fresh issue of shares of up to ₹7,000 crore and an offer-for-sale of as much as ₹1,430 crore. According to an update with Sebi's website Tuesday, the markets regulator returned the company's draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) on December 30, 2022 and asked the firm to refile it with applicable updates/ revisions. However, the regulator has not elaborated on the updates or revisions required in the draft documents.

### IEX trade volume falls 7pc in Dec

**New Delhi:** The Indian Energy Exchange's total trade volume in December 2022 dipped 7 per cent to 8,452 million units as compared to the year-ago period mainly due to higher average spot price of electricity and lower trading of renewable energy certificates. "The overall volume on the exchange in December 2022 increased 9 per cent on a MoM basis. However, it declined by 7 per cent on YoY basis due to high REC traded volumes of 13.85 lakh in (December 2021) the previous year," an IEX statement said. The IEX total trade volume in December 2021 was 9,035 million units (MU). The IEX achieved 8,452 MU total volume in December 2022, including green power trade of 377 MU, and 4.87 lakh RECs (equivalent to 487 MU), it stated.

### Exicom signs pact with Hero Electric

**New Delhi:** Electric vehicle charger and lithium-ion battery maker Exicom Tuesday said it signed an agreement with Hero Electric to supply its battery management systems. Under the agreement, Hero Electric intends to purchase 5 lakh units of Exicom BMS (Battery Management Systems) per annum, the company said in a statement. Exicom will provide intelligent BMS, built on multiple innovative technologies around remote health monitoring, multi-level safety checks to ensure that the battery operates within the safe operating area, it added.



What is most important in the labour force is constantly updating the skill and taking pride in it and the market forces rewarding it. That's magic when education is more continuous. I think these are three things that make me very optimistic about India

**SATYA NADELLA** | MICROSOFT CHAIRMAN & CEO

# India aims for \$17 billion cut in food, fertiliser subsidies

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Jan 3:** India aims to cut spending on food and fertiliser subsidies to 3.7 trillion rupees (\$4.6 billion) in the fiscal year from April, down 26% from this year, two government officials said, to rein in a fiscal deficit that ballooned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food and fertiliser subsidies alone account for about one-eighth of India's total budget spending of 39.45 trillion rupees this fiscal year, but reductions in food subsidies in particular may prove politically sensitive with elections looming on the horizon.

The government expects to budget around 2.3 trillion rupees for food subsidies in the coming fiscal year, compared with 2.7 trillion rupees for the current year to March 31, the two officials said.

Spending on fertiliser subsidies will likely fall to about 1.4 trillion rupees, according to one of the officials and a third government official. That compares with nearly 2.3 trillion rupees this year, the third official added.

The officials declined to be named because the information was not public.

The finance ministry declined to comment, while the food and fertiliser ministries did not immedi-



ately reply to requests for comment.

A large part of the savings will come from the end of a COVID-19 era free food scheme, which will be replaced with a lower-spending programme, the first two officials said.

That will effectively halve the free rations available to the poor in a year with a series of state elections, while general elections loom in 2024.

The government is eager to tame its fiscal deficit, which is targeted at 6.4% of GDP for the current fiscal year.

That is far above the average of 4% to 4.5% over the past decade, excluding the pandemic years when spending surged and the ratio peaked at 9.3%.

The government plans to shave at least half a percentage point from the ratio in 2023/24, the first two officials said.

The subsidy numbers will be announced Feb. 1, when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents the 2023/24 Union budget in Parliament.

The three officials said the latest subsidies estimates for 2023/24 may be adjusted when a final round of discussions takes place, by mid-January.

The reduction in fertiliser subsidies is also driven by expectations of lower crude oil prices and the government's revised gas procurement policy for fertiliser companies, which came into effect earlier this month, two of the officials said.

# Crypto winter wipes over 70K Bitcoin millionaires



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Jan 3:** The crypto winter wiped over 70,000 Bitcoin millionaires in 2022, as the recent volatility experienced by the cryptocurrency resulted in millionaire holders suffering significant losses, a report showed Tuesday.

According to data by Finbold (as of January 2), the number of Bitcoin millionaire addresses stood at 28,007, representing a drop of about 71.73 per cent or 71,085 addresses from January 2 last year.

At the start of last year, the number of millionaire addresses stood at 99,092.

"The rise of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies in recent years has created a new class of wealthy individuals, many of whom had made their fortunes by buying into the market early," said the report.

However, the past year has seen the market experience a sharp downturn, with the value of Bitcoin falling significantly, resulting in a devastating impact on the wealth of many holders.

Notably, most Bitcoin addresses hold between \$100 and \$999 worth of BTC at 13.47 million as of January 2023, representing a drop of about 13.33 per cent (on-year) from 15.63 million.

The second largest group of Bitcoin holders accounts for at least \$1,000 worth of BTC at 5.33 million as of January 2023, while in 2022, the figure stood at 6.54 million.

"As Bitcoin's price continues to fall, many investors have seen their holdings significantly devalue. Therefore, the drop in millionaire addresses highlights how far the crypto market has fallen from the 2021 bull run," the report said.

It is worth noting that the declining number of Bitcoin millionaires is not solely an impact of the plunging prices.

"With Bitcoin undergoing a free fall in recent weeks, the likelihood of holders liquidating their assets increased to avoid further losses. Institutions have also jumped on the liquidation bandwagon, with American business intelligence firm MicroStrategy selling over 700 Bitcoin," the report said.

# BAVEJA JOINS JINDAL STAINLESS AS NEW CHRO

AGENCIES

**Gurugram, Jan 3:** India's leading stainless steel manufacturer, Jindal Stainless, announced the appointment of Sushil Baveja as its new Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO). Baveja comes with an experience of over three decades and will be responsible for driving people strategy, enhancing workplace culture, strengthening talent management, and enriching the organisation's growth.

Speaking on the appointment, Abhyuday Jindal, Managing

Director, Jindal Stainless said, "In today's competitive hiring landscape, great organisations are distinguished by their culture, leadership, and values. Our organisation is differentiated by its focus on customer satisfaction, creativity and innovation, and learning agility. We thus want to keep attracting the right talent and retaining high performers. I am confident that Mr Baveja will be the driving force helping both the organisation and its people thrive."

Talking about his new role, Baveja said, "I am thrilled to join Jindal Stainless, an organisation that has set benchmarks not only in stainless steel manufacturing, but also in creating a cohesive work environment for its employees. The company is currently going through a very exciting phase in terms of business expansion and people practices. I am looking forward to propelling its growth story further."



# MARUTI LOGS 28% IN EXPORTS IN 2022

Maruti Suzuki India Tuesday reported a 28 per cent rise in exports at 2,63,068 units in 2022, its highest ever overseas shipments. The company's previous highest exports was achieved in 2021 with 2,05,450 units. The highest exported models in 2022 were Dzire, Swift, S-Presso, Baleno and Brezza, the company said in a statement.



# Govt hikes windfall tax on crude oil, export of diesel, ATF

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Jan 3:** The government has raised the windfall profit tax levied on domestically produced crude oil as well as on the export of diesel and ATF, in line with firming international oil prices, according to an official order.

The levy on crude oil produced by companies such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been increased to ₹2,100 per tonne from ₹1,700 per tonne, the order dated January 2, said.

Crude oil pumped out of the ground and from below the seabed is refined and converted into fuel like petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF).

The government has also raised the tax on the export of diesel to ₹ 7.5 per litre, from ₹5 and the same on overseas shipments of ATF to ₹4.5 a litre, from ₹1.5 a litre. The new tax rates are effective from January 3.



# PSUs to be roped in to build nuclear power plants: Min



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Nagpur, Jan 3:** India is all set to rope in its public sector behemoths for building nuclear power plants as it aims to achieve its goal of net zero emissions by 2070, Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said here Tuesday.

Addressing the media on the sidelines of the 108th Indian Science Congress here, Singh said the nuclear sector has been opened up for joint ventures with public sector undertakings to generate financial resources for building atomic power plants.

Singh is the Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and in-charge of the Department of Atomic Energy.

The government had amended the Atomic Energy Act in 2015 to enable joint ventures between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and public sector companies to build nuclear

power projects.

"We are now building nuclear power plants in northern parts of the country as well," Singh said citing the construction of a nuclear power plant in Gorakhpur in Haryana.

In 2017, the government has approved the building of 10 nuclear power plants of 700 MW each under the fleet mode to expand the contribution of atomic power in the country's energy mix.

The NPCIL, which operates almost all nuclear power plants in the country, has formed joint ventures with National Thermal Power Corporation, Indian Oil Nuclear Energy and Nalco Power Company Limited for expansion of the nuclear power sector.

India's current installed nuclear power capacity is 6780 MW and it plans to add 21 more atomic power generating units with a total installed capacity of 15,700 MW by 2031.

# SENSEX, NIFTY EXTEND GAINS IN SEE-SAW TRADE

Depreciating rupee and sustained foreign fund outflows capped the gains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 3:** Market benchmarks overcame bouts of volatility to close in the green for the second straight session Tuesday, propped up by robust demand for banking, IT and pharma stocks amid a supportive trend overseas.

However, a depreciating rupee and sustained foreign fund outflows capped the gains, traders said.

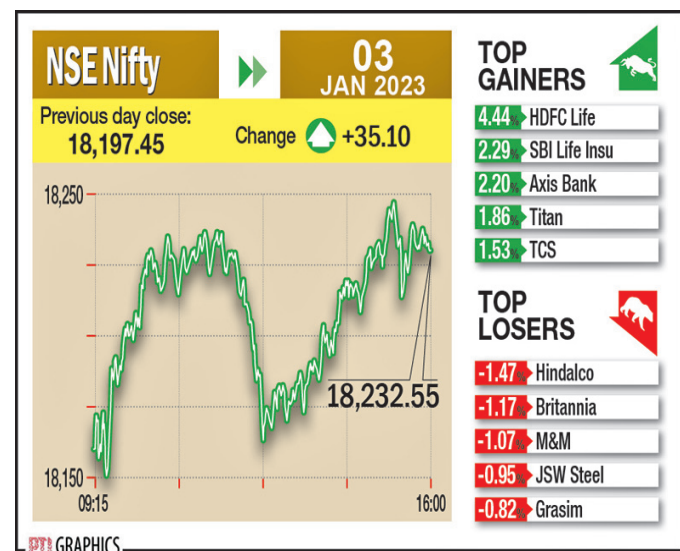
The 30-share BSE Sensex rose 126.41 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 61,294.20. During the day, it hit a high of 61,343.96 and a low of 61,004.04.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 35.10 points or 0.19 per cent to end at 18,232.55.

Axis Bank led the Sensex gainers' chart, spurring 2.25 per cent, followed by Titan, TCS, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, Wipro and Nestle India.

In contrast, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Steel, Asian Paints, ITC and NTPC were among the main laggards, shedding up to 1.13 per cent.

"In the absence of major economic triggers, the domestic market shifted its focus towards the Q3 earnings season, which is set to kick off this week. Banks' initial quarterly business results revealed solid business traction supported by robust loan growth. IT and banks will take centre stage in the coming days as the trend in the market will be determined by the early signals from sector majors," said



# Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth a net ₹212.57 crore Monday, according to stock exchange data

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.22 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.18 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, consumer durables jumped 1.56 per cent, healthcare 0.67 per cent, IT (0.65 per cent), financial services

(0.64 per cent), bankex (0.58 per cent) and teck (0.53 per cent).

Commodities, FMCG, auto and metal chalked up losses.

Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Shanghai and Hong Kong logged gains, while Seoul ended lower.

International oil benchmark Brent crude inched up 0.34 per cent to USD 86.20 per barrel.

The rupee pared initial gains and settled 8 paise lower at 82.86 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday, weighed by a strong greenback overseas and sustained foreign fund outflows.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth a net ₹212.57 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

# ONGC, Indian Oil, Power Grid top profit making PSUs in FY22

THE NET PROFIT OF OPERATING CENTRAL PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES STOOD AT ₹1.65 LAKH CRORE IN THE PREVIOUS FISCAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 3:** The net profit of operating public sector enterprises jumped 50.87 per cent to ₹2.49 lakh crore during 2021-22, with ONGC, Indian Oil Corp, Power Grid, NTPC and SAIL emerging as the top five performers, according to a government survey.

The net profit of operating central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) stood at ₹1.65 lakh crore in the previous fiscal.

The Public Enterprises Survey 2021-22 also revealed that the net loss of loss-making CPSEs narrowed to ₹0.15 lakh crore in FY 2021-22 from ₹0.23 lakh crore in FY 2020-21, showing a decrease of 37.82 per cent.

(BSNL), Mahanagar Telecom Nigam Ltd (MTNL), Air India Assets Holding Ltd, Eastern Coalfields Ltd and Alliance Air Aviation Ltd.

"Total gross revenue from the operations of operating CPSEs during FY 2021-22 was ₹ 31.95 lakh crore as against ₹24.08 lakh crore in FY 2020-21, showing an increase of 32.65 per cent," it said.

Dividend declared by operating CPSEs in FY 2021-22 stood at ₹ 1.15 lakh crore, as against ₹0.73 lakh crore in FY21, up 57.58 per cent. The survey attributed the revenue rise in FY 2021-22 to better performance by the petroleum (refinery and marketing), crude oil and transport, and logistics segments.

Among the sectors, manufac-



turing, processing and generation sector continues to command the

highest share, followed by services, and mining and exploration.

Three cognate groups - petroleum (refinery and marketing), trading and marketing, and power generation - together contributed 69.08 per cent to the gross revenues in FY 2021-22.

The net profit of profit-making CPSEs stood at ₹2.64 lakh crore in FY 2021-22 against ₹1.89 lakh crore in the previous fiscal, up 39.85 per cent. The top five CPSEs with the highest net profits were ONGC, Indian Oil Corporation, Power Grid Corporation of India, NTPC and Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL), the survey said.

The contribution of all CPSEs to the central exchequer by way of excise duty, custom duty, GST, corporate tax, interest on central government loans, dividend, and other duties and taxes stood at ₹5.07 lakh

crore in FY 2021-22, as against ₹4.97 lakh crore in FY 2020-21, showing an increase of 2.14 per cent.

The top five CPSEs contributing to the central exchequer were Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

Besides, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure of all CSR eligible CPSEs (160) stood at ₹4,600 crore in FY 2021-22 compared to ₹4,483 crore in FY-21, up 2.61 per cent.

The top five CPSEs contributing the highest under CSR were ONGC, NTPC, Indian Oil Corporation, NMDC and Power Grid, the survey added.

# DEBUTANT MAVI STEALS SHOW

# Bumrah in for ODIs vs SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 3:** Shivam Mavi made a dream debut with a relentless display of fast-bowling as his 4-wicket haul (4/22) made the difference in India's narrow two-run win over a spirited Sri Lanka in the first T20I here Tuesday.

India batters found the Sri Lankan spinners hard to put away before Deepak Hooda (41 n o, 23b, 1x4, 4x6) and Axar Patel (31 n o, 20b, 3x4, 1x6) took the hosts to 162/5.

The Sri Lankans surely had the firepower to chase down 163 but Mavi's strikes at front and back end of the innings tilted the game in favour of the home team. The game went down to the wire with spinner Axar (0/31) managing to defend 13 runs in the final over.

The fighting knocks from skipper Dasun Shanaka (45, 27b, 3x4, 3x6) and Chamika Karunaratne (23 n o) went in vain as Sri Lanka ended 160 all out in 20 overs. This is the lowest total India defend at this stadium.

Skipper Hardik Pandya decided to bowl the first over and the pressure created by him helped debutant Mavi at the other end. Hardik (0/12) bowled full tilt and hardly gave anything away in his three-over spell.

Mavi's moment to cherish came in his first over as he showed remarkable composure to strike back after being hit for two fours by Kusal Mendis (28). Having already got a life in Hardik's first over, Patham Nissanka (1) had no clue about Mavi's beauty of a delivery that jugged back in to shatter the stumps.

In his second over too, Mavi got hit for a couple of fours before he had Dhananjaya de Silva (8) caught at mid-on. It became 47/3 in eighth over when Ishan Kishan took a brilliant catch running backwards after Charith Asalanka (12) mistimed a pull off Umran Malik (2/27).

Pacer Harshal Patel (2/41) got lucky with his first wicket as a dan-



**DREAM SPELL:** Shivam Mavi celebrates with teammates after dismissing a Sri Lankan batter, Tuesday

gerous looking Mendis found the deep point fielder before getting rid of Bhanuka Rajapaksa (10) with a slower ball, leaving Sri Lanka struggling at 68/5 in the 11th over. Hardik had to leave the field briefly after taking Rajapaksa's catch.

Wanindu Hasaranga (21) and skipper Shanaka made the game interesting with a quickfire 40-run stand off 23 balls. Mavi was brought back to break the threatening partnership and that is what he did by having Hasaranga caught at mid-off. Shanaka kept Sri Lanka in the game singlehandedly before falling to Umran in the 17th over.

Earlier, Hooda and Axar shared

an unbeaten 68-run stand off 38 balls for the sixth wicket after India found themselves at a shaky 94/5 at the high-scoring Wankhede Stadium.

Playing his first international innings since the double hundred in Bangladesh, Kishan (37, 29b, 3x4, 2x6) went ballistic in the first over itself that yielded 17 runs. Shubman Gill (7), who made his T20 debut alongside Mavi, missed a straighter one from the mystery spinner Maheesh Theekshana to be trapped in front of the stumps.

India's best T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav (7) too perished cheaply, leaving the hosts at 41/2 in

the powerplay. Sanju Samson (5) wasted another opportunity by mistiming a slog off De Silva (1/6).

The spinners stemmed the flow of runs in the middle overs with India collecting only 26 in overs 10-15 with the loss of Kishan and skipper Hardik (29). Then it was all Hooda and Axar for India.

## BRIEF SCORES

India 162/5 (Deepak Hooda 41 n o, Ishan Kishan 37, Axar Patel 31 n o; Dhananjaya de Silva 1/6, Wanindu Hasaranga 1/22) beat Sri Lanka 160 (Dasun Shanaka 45; Shivam Mavi 4/22, Umran Malik 2/27, Harshal Patel 2/41) by 2 runs.

**Mumbai, Jan 3:** Star pacer Jasprit Bumrah was Tuesday added to India's ODI squad for the three games against Sri Lanka after National Cricket Academy (NCA) declared him fit for home series beginning January 10. Bumrah last played for India in September and had also missed the T20 World Cup in Australia due to a back injury.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has included pacer Jasprit Bumrah in India's ODI squad for the upcoming Mastercard 3-match ODI series against Sri Lanka.

"The pacer has undergone rehabilitation and has been declared fit by the National Cricket Academy (NCA). He will be joining the Team India ODI squad soon," said the BCCI in a statement.

The first ODI will be played in Guwahati January 10, second in Kolkata January 12 and third in Trivandrum January 15.

With the focus on 50-over cricket in an ODI World Cup year, it is unlikely that Bumrah will feature in the shortest format till the ICC event at home in October-November. His IPL workload too would be monitored closely by the NCA, as well as other "targeted" India players for the ODI World Cup.

One of the best in the business, Bumrah is vital to India's chances at the mega event as they look to win the coveted trophy for the second time at home after 2011. Having made his India debut in 2016, the 29-year-old has represented the country in 30 Tests, 72 ODIs and 60 T20Is.

Experts including the great Michael Holding find Bumrah injury-prone as he generates serious pace with a short-run up.

"My problem with Bumrah, and I mentioned it to him when last time I saw him in England, is how long that body will hold up with that short run and the amount of effort



he has to put into in his bowling, it is a human body. It is not a machine," Holding had said back in 2020.

The updated squad: Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (vc), Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Umran Malik & Arshdeep Singh.

# BCCI invites bids to own WIPL teams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 3:** The BCCI Tuesday invited bids to own and operate teams in the inaugural Women's Indian Premier League (WIPL) scheduled for March. The inaugural season of the Women's IPL is likely to be played from March 3 to 26, which will be followed by the men's IPL.

"BCCI announces release of Invitation to Tender for the right to own and operate a team in Women's Indian Premier League," the board said in a statement.

"The Governing Council of the IPL invites bids from reputed entities to acquire the right to own and operate a team in WIPL, through a tender process."

The ITT will be available for purchase for a non-refundable fee of Rs 5 lakh till January 21. "Any interested party wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the ITT. However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the ITT and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid. It is clarified that merely purchasing this ITT does not entitle any person to bid."

"BCCI reserves the right to cancel or amend the bidding process at any stage in any manner at its discretion," the BCCI added.

# Unadkat's historic spell sinks Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rajkot, Jan 3:** Jaydev Unadkat, fresh from his fine bowling performance in the second Test against Bangladesh at Mirpur, returned to the Ranji grind and made a smashing impact, grabbing a hat-trick in the first over to leave Group B rivals Delhi in a disarray Tuesday.

Delhi, who lost 7 wickets for just 10 runs, didn't face ignominy of lowest first-class score of 6 by a team called 'The Bees' against England in an official match held in 1810.

Courtesy young Hrithik Shokeen (68, 90b, 9x4, 3x6), they finally managed 133 before Saurashtra scored 184/1 in just 46 overs as the visitors decided to play with two specialist bowlers.

Unadkat (8/39) took wickets off the third, fourth and fifth deliveries to achieve the distinction of becoming the only player to take a first-over hat-trick in Ranji Trophy's 88-year-old history. Unadkat's hat-trick victims included opener Dhruv Shorey, Vaibhav Rawal and young Delhi captain Yash Dhull, all of whom departed for duck.

The previous quickest Ranji hat-trick, a split one, is in the name of Karnataka's Vinay Kumar who achieved the feat over two overs - first and third.

Sources close to the Delhi team management in fact were wonder-



ing as to why on a pitch that had moisture, a rookie like Ayush Badoni was sent to open on his debut.

Badoni, Rawal and even Dhull don't have the wherewithal to face Unadkat on a lightly damp wicket and they had no clue which one was leaving them, which one came back

in and the trademark one which skids straight after pitching.

And by the time he was done with his second over, the 31-year-old Unadkat had added two more scalps to accomplish his 21st five-wicket haul in first-class cricket. Unadkat continued to wreak havoc,

finishing with career-best figures in his 12 overs Tuesday.

Delhi, missing quite a few regular bowlers in their playing XI due to injuries, found themselves staring at an uphill task after being bundled out for 133. Their toothless attack was laid bare by Saurashtra opener Harvik Desai (104 batting, 124b, 15x4), who guided the hosts to 184/1 - a 51-run lead - at stumps. Harvik was accompanied by Chirag Jani (44 batting, 92b, 4x4, 2x6) when the balls were drawn.

Earlier, Unadkat, whose India career got a fresh lease of life almost 12 years after he played his opening Test, pulverised the Delhi batting, reducing them to five for six wickets in his opening two overs.

He accounted for Jonty Sidhu (4) and Lalit Yadav (4) in his second - and the team's third - over with Delhi staring at one of the worst batting displays in recent years. But late-order batter Hrithik and Shivank Vashisht (38) took the score past 100.

Later, Saurashtra batter Harvik traded in boundaries as the home team raced to 184 in no time, with Jay Gohil's (34) wicket being the only success the visitors had on day one.

## BRIEF SCORES

Delhi 133 (Hrithik Shokeen 68 n o, Shivank Vashisht 38; Jaydev Unadkat 8/39; Saurashtra 184/1 (Harvik Desai 104 batting, Chirag Jani 44 batting). Match to continue.

# Disappointing outing for Odisha against Nagaland



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Jan 3:** Odisha bowlers failed to impress after electing to field first in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match against Nagaland at the DRIEMS Ground in Tangi, Tuesday. The visitors were 291/6 at stumps on the opening day, with Chetan Bist (94 batting, 153b, 11x4, 1x6) at the crease six shy of his century.

Nagaland were in a spot of bother when they lost their third wicket with the scoreboard reading 77/3. However, Shrikant Mundhe (66, 103b, 10x4) and Bist denied Odisha bowlers to keep the momentum as they added 71 runs for the fourth wicket taking the team's total close to 150.

Tarini Sa (3/55) broke the partnership dismissing Mundhe. But the wicket didn't bother much to



the Nagaland batters as Bist found an able ally in Hokaito Zhimomi (59, 144b, 6x4).

The duo batted cautiously and stitched together 128 runs for the fifth wicket. Odisha, however, got back-to-back wickets in successive overs to reduce Nagaland to 277/6. First Tarini broke the dangerous-looking stand between Bist and Zhimomi getting rid of the latter.

Suryakant Pradhan (3/69) then dismissed Akash Singh (1) the very next over to give the visitors a double blow. Sedezhalie Rupero (14 batting) then joined Bist at the middle and the duo ensured Nagaland of no further damage on the day.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Nagaland 291/6 (Chetan Bist 94 batting, Shrikant Mundhe 66, Hokaito Zhimomi 59; Tarini Sa 3/55, Suryakant Pradhan 3/69) vs Odisha. Match to continue.

# Ramkumar, Mukund go down Sloppy Liverpool tumble at Brentford

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, Jan 3:** Ramkumar Ramanathan squandered his chances in the deciding set while Sasikumar Mukund went down fighting in his match as India's singles challenge ended in the first round at the Tata Open Maharashtra here Tuesday.

Coming into the main draw from the qualifying route, Ramkumar lost 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 to Spanish World No.62 Pedro Martinez. Mukund, who got a wild card entry as the country's best-ranked player at number 340, matched Flavio Cobolli stroke for stroke from the baseline but his Italian opponent got the points when it mattered and won 6-4, 7-5.

In the other matches of the day, Dutch player Tim van Rijthoven knocked out Moldova's Radu Albot 6-4, 6-4 while the eighth seed Russian Aslan Karatsev made short work of Pablo Andujar 6-1, 6-3.

In an all-Indian affair, the pair of Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Sriram Balaji, who came in as an alternate team, beat wild card entrants Purav Raja and Divij Sharan 6-4, 6-3.

Ramkumar's serve and volley



game worked wonders in the opening set but he allowed his rival to make a comeback. Martinez moved Ramkumar around with deep returns and often landed shots near the Indian's feet, making it tough for him to pick up half volleys.

His passing shots were a delight to watch, and they made a lot of difference to the outcome of the match.

Egged on by the crowd, Ramkumar fought his heart out when Martinez was serving for the match.

Ramkumar struggled with his first serve initially but still dished out the serve and volley style in the match. Most of his points came in that fashion. Martinez relied a lot on his forehand and few of his returns did trouble Ramkumar.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Jan 3:** Liverpool lost more ground in the race for a top-four English Premier League finish when they lost to Brentford 3-1. Sloppy defending cost Liverpool twice in the first half, prompting angry boss Jurgen Klopp to substitute key defender Virgil van Dijk at halftime.

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain pulled one back but Bryan Mbeumo killed off Liverpool as Brentford beat the visitors for the first time since 1938 in all competitions. Brentford rose to seventh in the standings. They were two points behind Liverpool.

Ibrahima Konate's own goal gave the Bees the lead and Yoane Wissa's header just before halftime put them in control. Wissa, the replacement for Ivan Toney, the Bees' 13-goal top scorer, had two goals ruled out for offside before he scored in a breakneck first half.

Liverpool's Darwin Nunez added to his growing catalogue of wasted opportunities in front of goal. He was slipped in behind by Mohamed Salah and took the ball around Bees goalkeeper David Raya and rolled it towards goal, only for Ben



**DISAPPOINTING NIGHT:** Liverpool players wear gloomy looks on their faces during their match against Brentford

Mee to arrive in the nick of time to slide in and block.

At the other end, Wissa sent Mbeumo clean through on goal but the latter's shot was well saved by Alisson. However, from the corner, Brentford took the lead when the ball ricocheted off the knee of France World Cup finalist Konate and squirmed past Alisson.

Mbeumo's corners continued to

cause the visitors problems and Wissa put two of them into the net only for both goals to be chalked off.

However, the winger made it third time lucky four minutes before halftime when he buried a superb header from Mathias Jensen's cross. Alisson got a hand to the ball and scooped it out but referee Stuart Attwell's watch buzzed to confirm Wissa finally had his goal.

Moments later, Liverpool made one count, Oxlade-Chamberlain glancing in a header from Trent Alexander-Arnold's tempting cross. They pressed for an equalizer but Raya did well to keep out a Fabinho shot and Konate headed wide.

Brentford ended their hopes six minutes from time after Mbeumo brushed off a feeble challenge by Konate and tucked away the third.