



BUSTING MYTHS

Actor Mrunal Thakur recalls when she was called stupid and crazy for wanting to play sister to a contemporary male actor

LEISURE P2



POLITICAL STALEMATE IN US

US Congress in disarray as Republicans block Kevin McCarthy from becoming Speaker in the House of Representatives

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA EYE SERIES

India aim to clinch the 3-match series after winning the first one as they face Sri Lanka in the second T20I today

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Odisha wins UN award for 'Jaga Mission'

Bhubaneswar: Adding yet another feather in its cap, the Odisha government Wednesday won the UN-Habitat's 'World Habitat Award-2023' for its 5T initiative 'Jaga Mission'. The innovative programme, which aims at upgrading almost 3,000 slums in the state, has won the prestigious 'Bronze World Habitat Award', officials stated. 'Jaga Mission' is the world's largest land titling and slum upgrading programme which aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Odisha government has set for itself the ambitious target of becoming the first slum-free state in India and is leading the 'Jaga Mission' programme to upgrade all the 2,919 bustees, they added. P3

CM to unveil Rourkela hockey stadium today

Rourkela: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will be inaugurating here Thursday the Birsra Munda hockey stadium, which is the biggest hockey arena in India. The stadium has been built at an expenditure of ₹146.5 crore and will host matches of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup beginning January 13. The stadium will host a total of 20 games while the other matches will be played at the Kalinga Stadium hockey complex in Bhubaneswar. The Indian team have already started training at the Birsra Munda Stadium where they will play two of their pool games against Spain and England. The stadium can accommodate 20,000 people, officials said here Wednesday.

Medical teachers on contract get salary hike

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has hiked the consolidated remuneration of contractual teachers of government medical college and hospitals in the state. As per a notification issued Wednesday by the Health and Family Welfare Department, contractual professors of government medical college and hospitals will get ₹2,30,000 as revised remuneration with five per cent hike per annum against the existing remuneration of ₹1,25,000 with three per cent hike per annum. Similarly associate professors will receive ₹2,00,000 as revised remuneration with five per cent hike per annum.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Instead of an investigating officer send a cover-up officer. A politician is involved in the case

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	60657.45 ↓ 636.75
NIFTY	18042.95 ↓ 189.60
DOLLAR	82.67 ↓ ₹0.01
EURO	87.73 ↑ ₹0.40
GOLD	₹55,818 ↑ ₹288
SILVER	₹70,159 ↑ ₹242

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	27.6°C	27.0°C
TEMP MIN	16.8°C	16.2°C
Humidity	69%	66%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Shallow to moderate fog likely



GLADIATORS ARRIVE: The Netherlands team were the first squad to arrive Wednesday in Bhubaneswar to participate in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup beginning January 13

5G SERVICES IN STATE FROM TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will roll out the much-awaited 5G telecom network services in Odisha during a programme here Thursday. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will also be present on the occasion.

Sources informed Wednesday that, 510 base transceiver station (BTS) towers have already been installed across Odisha by telecom operators Jio and Airtel. Initially the service will be available in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and a few other places in the state.

The programme in Bhubaneswar will also include the announcement of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) aided projects including spectrum enablement for Research and Development (R&D), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).

Vaishnaw will also dedicate 100 4G telecom towers in rural areas of Odisha Thursday. The event will be accompanied by a two-day exhibition

on digital communications by technology companies and start-ups.

Earlier, the IT Minister had stated that Modi government has allocated ₹5,600 crore for development of the telecom sector in the state.

PM Modi had October 1 launched the 5G services that promise to provide ultra high-speed internet on mobile phones. In Odisha, President Droupadi Murmu's village Pahadpur under Kusumi block in Mayurbhanj district has also experienced the new generation telecom network.

The state Cabinet led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had approved a proposal to provide 2,000 square feet of land each at 1,687 places to BSNL for 30 years at Re 1 per site per annum without any premium and incidental fees.

The first phase of 5G services was rolled out in October last year across 13 cities in India by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Among the cities where 5G services have already been launched are Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai, Pune and a few others.

Gujarat Bill to criminalise protests

The bill will come in handy for governments as it can now register criminal cases against persons who stage protests in violation of Section 144

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 4: The Gujarat Bill facilitating registration of criminal cases against persons who stage protests in violation of Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) has received Presidential assent, officials said here Wednesday. In name it may just sound as the 'Gujarat Bill' but the assent will clear the passage for the law to be used by other states also if they feel it necessary. To put it succinctly police may use the bill to terrorise even peaceful protesters by criminalising their act.

The Code of Criminal



Procedure (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2021, was passed by the State Assembly in March last year. It should also be stated here that a month before Gujarat went to polls this year, the Centre cleared the state legislation that 'empowers police officers to register cases - without informing the local court in writing - against persons who protest and agitate violating Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)'. The bill amends Section 195 of the CrPC which states that no court shall take cognisance of any criminal conspiracy for contempt of the lawful authority of public servants, except on the complaint in writing of the public servant concerned.

A Home Ministry official in-

formed Wednesday that the Code of Criminal Procedure (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2021 has been assented to by President Droupadi Murmu.

According to the statement and objects of the bill, the 'Gujarat government, police commissioners and district magistrates are empowered to issue prohibitory orders under CrPC Section 144, directing

any person to abstain from a certain act or to take certain order to prevent disturbance of public tranquillity or a riot or an affray to maintain public order on various occasions'.

It said the police officers while deployed on such duties come across incidents of violation need to take appropriate legal action against the violators under Section 188 of IPC.

After the bill was passed by the Gujarat Assembly in March 2021, it was sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to examine if it was repugnant with any central law or deviated from the Central government's policy. After the MHA okayed the bill, it got the President's assent.

However, Section 195 of the CrPC, 1973, makes it mandatory for the public servant issuing such orders to be the complainant against the violators thereby creating an impediment to taking cognisance of violations. However, now other states, especially those ruled by the BJP may take the Gujarat path.

Justice Trivedi opts out of Bilkis case yet again



Justice Bela Trivedi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: Supreme Court judge Justice Bela M Trivedi recused herself Wednesday from hearing a batch of pleas challenging the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case in which she was gangraped and seven members of her family killed during the 2002 Gujarat riots. She did not give any reason.

Earlier Justice Trivedi had recused herself December 13 last year from hearing a writ petition filed by Bilkis in which she challenged the remission of sentences of 11 convicts by the Gujarat government. Like the previous occasion, no reason was assigned for recusal.

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Trivedi took up the pleas by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, journalist Revati Lul and TMC MP Mahua Moitra against the premature release of the convicts.

Advocate Shobha Gupta, the counsel for Bilkis, pointed out at this juncture that Justice Trivedi has recused herself from hearing the victim's plea. Justice Rastogi, then said, "Since my sister judge has already recused from hearing the victim's plea, she would like to recuse from hearing this matter also."

He added, "We will list all the matters on the next date, possibly in February and tag along all the petitions. All the pleadings should be completed by then."

Picnic on Ib river bank turns sour as youth drowns

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Jan 4: Three youths were swept away Wednesday in the swirling waters of Ib river while taking a bath at Kanakunda ghat under Talsara police limits in Sundargarh district, Wednesday. They were part of a group of friends who had gone for picnic on the banks of the river.

On being informed, fire personnel and villagers rescued one of the youths. Later the body of another youth was fished out while another was still missing when the search was called off due to darkness.

The rescued person has been identified as Satish Kumar Gupta, 26, while the deceased as Chudamani Meher, 26. The one still missing is Mukesh Meher, 17. All of them belong to Buromal village in Jharsuguda district.

Sources said that around 25 youths had gone to the river ghat on a picnic. Among the three, Mukesh was the first once to be swept away. Satish and Chudamani jumped in to rescue him but the swirling current was too much for them and they were also pulled deep into the river. Luckily for Satish, he was rescued by locals.

Lady attempts suicide over cop apathy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 4: Alleging police apathy, a woman poured kerosene and tried to die by suicide in front of the DGP office here Wednesday. The woman, who is a resident of Kendrapara district, said that police have not taken any action against a journalist who has been blackmailing her for the last couple of months, despite repeated complaints.

The woman who had poured kerosene on herself, was rescued in



the nick of time by personnel posted at the DGP office. She alleged that instead of taking action against the journalist, who works for a private TV channel, police are coercing her to withdraw her complaint. She said that the accused was blackmailing her by threatening to put on social media some of her photos and videos. "Police are also shielding the mediaperson," the woman alleged.

"I have no connections with the administration and I am being constantly harassed and feeling threat-

ened. Since I have no other option, I decided to end my life so that at least the police get to know the truth," the woman said while being pulled away by officials.

Sources said that the accused journalist is allegedly absconding and police are trying to trace him. They added that police are trying to find the mobile location of the accused.

Meanwhile the police assured the woman that her complaint would be properly looked into and the accused will be detained soon.

Man sues MP govt over loss of 'sexual pleasure'

BHEEL HAS SOUGHT COMPENSATION OF ₹10K CRORE FOR SUFFERING MENTAL AGONY AND VARIOUS OTHER REASONS

AGENCIES

Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh), Jan 4: After languishing behind bars for close to two years in this town of Madhya Pradesh, a man has been acquitted of gangrape charges. The man now has sued and sought compensation of over ₹10,000 crore from the Madhya Pradesh government citing 'suffering and mental agony' caused to him as his incarceration sent his family to the brink of starvation.

Of the ₹10,006.02 crore compensation the man has sought ₹2 lakh towards the 'loss of God's gift to humans, e.g. sexual pleasure', as per his petition.

Kantu, alias Kantilal Bheel (35), has moved the District and Sessions Court here after a local court dropped the gangrape charges against him, October 20, 2022, his lawyer Vijay Singh Yadav informed Wednesday. He added that the case against the MP government and police will be heard January 10.



KANTILAL BHEEL

The lawyer also explained why such a whopping compensation amount has been asked for: "₹10,000 crore has been sought on the grounds that 'human life is precious'. Two years of my client's life got wasted for no reason in prison," Yadav said. "The remaining ₹6.02 crore is for various reasons, including legal expenses of ₹2 lakh, mental agony and suffering by my client's family," the lawyer added.

In his petition, Bheel said he was the sole breadwinner for his

family when the police arrested him in the gangrape case December 23, 2020. Bheel also said that he supported his ageing mother, wife and their three children. He added that since his arrest, his family had to face the pangs of hunger. Yadav pointed out that his client and his family suffered tremendous mental agony due to the fake charges of gangrape. He added that Bheel's family was on the verge of starvation.

Continued on P4

leisure



ROMEO & JULIET STARS SUE MAKERS OVER 1968 FILM'S TEEN NUDE SCENE

The two stars of 1968's *Romeo & Juliet* sued Paramount Pictures for more than \$500 million Tuesday over a nude scene in the film shot when they were teens. Olivia Hussey, then 15 and Leonard Whiting, then 16, filed the suit in an LA court alleging sexual abuse, sexual harassment and fraud.

EMILY SLAMS MEN WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE STRONG WOMEN

Actress Emily Ratajkowski is sick of dating men who don't know how to handle strong women and sees the appeal of dating another female instead. Speaking to guest Olivia Ponton on her *High Low* with *EmRata* podcast, she said: "They're like, 'You're special. You've done it.'"



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will be keen on carefully protecting your private affairs, particularly your relationships. Ganesha predicts exciting things for you today. You also make a final attempt at completing some work that you have been postponing.

TAURUS
Today you are likely to remain in an uncertain, indecisive frame of mind. You could, early in the morning, have an irresistible urge to take a holiday and go off on a long vacation with your friends and family members. After contacting everyone and getting them interested, you could have a change of mind and decide to get back to office and attend to the work, in hand. Strange, but true!

GEMINI
It is not too bright a day for reaping the rewards of your hard work. A deeply buried desire as well as your sentimental nature will be the cause for some mood swings today. You will be subject to mental stress on account of this.

CANCER
Business rivals will try to wipe out your prestige, but will fail. Bold people can steer clear of hurdles and you are bold. So with Ganesha's grace you will be successful. People will praise your honesty and generosity. Your efforts alone beget you laurels.

LEO
You need to be extremely wary in the morning, because there are chances that a major confrontation with someone very close to you may occur. In the afternoon, your good fortune will bring you the solutions to most of your current issues. Your plans for travel may get postponed, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Like a goose mother, you will be intensely over-protective and will desire to be in seclusion. Matters of the heart will come to fruition faster than you could have imagined. Ganesha says you will at last overcome your tendency for procrastination, and it will be a fulfilling day.

LIBRA
Ganesha says this is a time for a new romantic relationship to develop. Due to that you will be extremely happy and joyous today. Small issues cropping up will sully your good mood today. Your happy go lucky attitude will come to the fore and you will be able to put aside all the issues and worries and move ahead in life.

SCORPIO
You are the man who keeps his promises and that's rare. Besides fulfilling your seniors' expectations at work, you also manage to fulfill the desires of your family. Work while you work and play while you play, a neat line between the two will result into a happy life, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Immersed in a pool of thoughts, you are busy in the mood of introspection today. Besides this, you are on a creative high and may think of giving your lovely abode, a makeover. Doing up the interiors will take up most of your time. At work, your superiors are in awe of you due to your commendable efforts, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
You are performing a tightrope walk and Ganesha congratulates you for rightly balancing the your personal and professional life both. Your hands will be full with assignments, projects, and domestic demands, and multitasking is the only way to handle everything together. You may feel negative from within but you will not let that emotion come on your face, feels Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
The day begins on a dull note which may disturb and disappoint you. But, all is not wrong as you will receive some unexpected good news by the end of the first half of the day. It may become difficult for you to complete the work before deadlines and maintain the quality of output both, predicts Ganesha, so learn the art of time management.

PISCES
You will receive social acclaim today. Your intellectual and philanthropic nature will be the cause of your elevated social status. For those in search of love, now is the time when they will finally settle down with the person of their dreams. All your desires will come true today. Hence make the most of the day, says Ganesha.

Mrunal: It's high time actresses bust myths

MUMBAI: Mrunal Thakur recently recalled being dissuaded for playing a mother in Shahid Kapoor starrer *Jersey* and called 'stupid' for playing Ishaan Khatter's sister in *Pippa*.

In an interview with a news portal, the actress revealed that she wanted to break the stereotype and reinstate that it's absolutely okay to play someone's sister or even a mother, for that matter. According to her, it is high time that actresses bust myths. The actress also stated that she had people dissuading her from playing a mother. These things should change the kind of choices that a female actor makes in the future, she added.

Elaborating further, the actress added that a lot of female actors get misguided because a character's pitch comes to them as a mother or a sister, and they reject a good story because they feel like they don't want to be seen in that light, they feel that their screen age will increase.

She even went on to reveal that a lot of people associated with

the filmmaking business called her and told her that she is stupid and crazy for wanting to play a sister to a contemporary. Mrunal was also told that she won't be paired opposite Ishaan in the near future.

AGENCIES



SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI'S 5-DAY DRAMA FEST ON LIVES OF ODIA LEGENDS BEGINS

Byasa Kabi comes alive on stage

Bhubaneswar: Known as the 'Father of Odia nationalism and literature' and often referred to as Byasa Kabi or Vedavyasa of Odisha, Fakir Mohan Senapati was the foremost warrior of the language movement in Odisha. The life and times of Fakir Mohan came alive on stage here at Rabindra Mandap in star-studded Odia play *E. Jatira Senapati*, Wednesday.

The occasion was the first day of Natak Utsav, organised by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) in collaboration with the Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture to celebrate *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, on the life of five legendary personalities of Odisha. "The event is being organised to recall the contributions of legends who had made a lot of sacrifices in the formation of modern Odisha," said OSNA secretary Prabodh Kumar Rath.

Written by Bijay Kumar Satpathy, the play was presented by Newquest Repertory of Rourkela and directed by Nalini Nihar Nayak. Artistes who performed on stage included Ashrumochan Mohanty, Antaryami Panda, Devanand Nayak, Pragyan Ranjan Khatua,



A scene from Odia play *E. Jatira Senapati* staged at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

Sankarshan Pradhan, Sunanda Parida and many others.

Culture Secretary Satyabrata Sahoo, Director Ranjan Kumar Das, OSNA president Aruna Mohanty and vice-president Manmath Kumar Satpathy were among the dignitaries who graced the occasion.

Four more plays established by theatre troupes of Odisha on the lives of Swabhabakabi Gangadhar Meher; Bhaktakabi Dinabandhu Das, Kabichandra Kalichandra Patnaik and Maharaja Krushnachandra Gajapati will be staged in the next four days, informed OSNA secretary Rath.

BHUMI GEARS UP TO SHOW HER VERSATILITY

Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar has five releases in 2023 including *Bheed*, *The Ladykiller*, *Ajwaal*, *Bhaktshak* and *Mere Husband Ki Biwi* says that this year will be hers as an artiste.

Bhumi said: "With five films releasing this year, I'm putting it out in the universe that 2023 will be my year in cinema as an actor! Given the diversity of these films and the powerful women that I will essay in the film, I don't think I could push myself any further to showcase the variety of roles that I can play as an artiste."

"People will get to see six different Bhumi's on screen in one year which is what is most exciting for me. I live to play out different lives on screen. It excites me, challenges me and stimulates me as an artiste. I'm fortunate that I'm an actor living out my dream every single day. I couldn't have manifested anything better to happen to me," she added.

IAN5



Zee Sarthak's DOD from Jan 7

Bhubaneswar: *Dance Odisha Dance (DOD)* - Zee Sarthak Sansar Dance League, a dance-based reality show will be aired on Zee Sarthak entertainment channel from January 7.

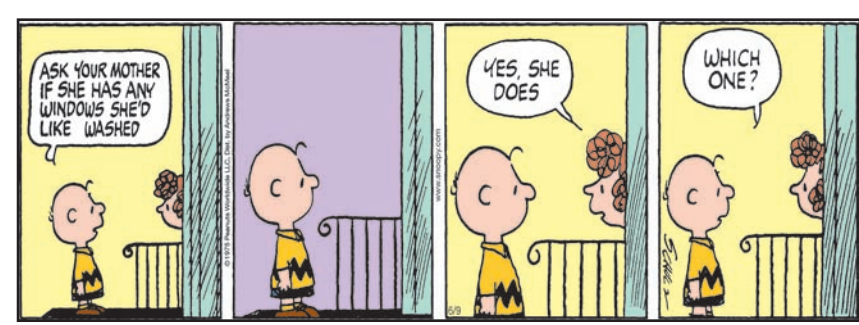
DOD will feature eight lead actresses- Nikita, Ankita, Jasmine, Deepika, Ananya, Elli, Arpita and Chhandita - of several Zee Sarthak shows as contestants while they will be judged by three star jury- actress Lipi Mohapatra, choreographer Harihar Dash and actor Debashish Panda.

The show will be aired on every Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 pm to 10:30pm.

"We are optimistic about the support from the audience and will be excited to see all the actresses showcasing their dance talents," said Pratik Seal, chief channel officer of Zee Sarthak.

Earlier, the channel welcomed New Year 2023 by launching three new serials titled *Mu Bi Bijayinee*, *Tu Khara Mun Chhai* and *Khusria Chhunka*.

PEANUTS



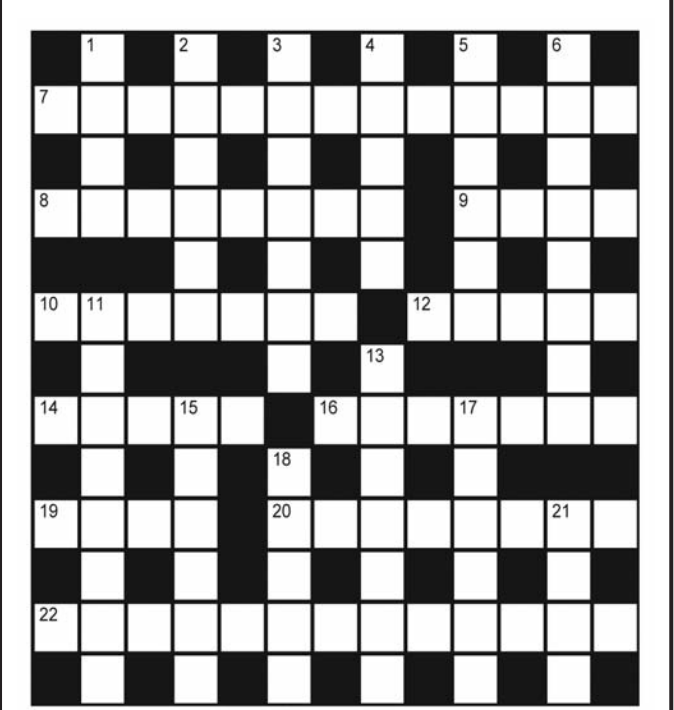
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Quarrelsome
 - 8 Stretch
 - 9 Stew vegetable
 - 10 Fettuccine follower
 - 12 Hang loose
 - 14 Oblivion
 - 16 Weight room item
 - 19 Scoff
 - 20 Overtly expressed
 - 22 Lucky
 - 4 Precipitous
 - 5 Golf shot
 - 6 Give a face lift
 - 11 Dawdler
 - 13 Primitive wind instrument
 - 15 Desolate
 - 17 Jewish pancake
 - 18 Rundown
 - 21 Markers
- Down
- 1 Word-of-mouth
 - 2 Heating element
 - 3 Outdoor seating area

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

M	A	E	S	T	R	O	T	I	T	A	N
O	N	H	O	R	R	U					
T	E	N	S	I	O	N	I	S	A	A	C
I	U	C	A	B	I	L					
F	R	I	S	K	T	R	E	S	T	L	E
				E	E	O	A				
W	A	G	O	N	S	H	O	R	R	O	R
E	E	H	C								
B	U	R	R	I	T	O	A	D	A	G	E
S	M	N	T	R	R	N					
I	R	A	T	E	T	R	I	E	S	T	E
T	E	N	R	U	N	O	M				
E	J	E	C	T	B	L	A	R	N	E	Y

SUDOKU

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

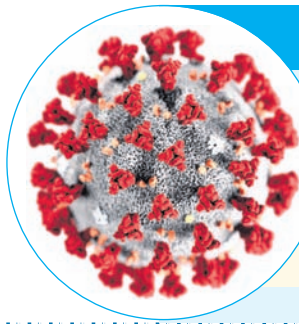
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



CULTURAL FETE

Artistes perform during Srikshetra book fair organised by Odia Language, Literature & Culture department in Puri, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	66,62,23,036	63,81,68,158	67,01,814
India	4,46,79,131	4,41,45,854	5,30,707
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204



INFRA BOOST: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurates three academic blocks of Utkal University of Culture on the occasion of the varsity's foundation day in Madanpur area of Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

State bags World Habitat Award for Jaga Mission

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: Adding yet another feather in its cap, the Odisha government Wednesday won the UN-Habitat's 'World Habitat Award-2023' for its 5T initiative 'Jaga Mission'. An innovative programme, which aims at upgrading almost 3,000 slums in the state, has won the prestigious Bronze World Habitat Award.

Jaga Mission is world's largest land titling and slum upgrading programme which aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers.

Under the inspiring leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the state government has set for itself the ambitious target of becoming the first slum-free state in India and is leading the Jaga Mission programme to upgrade all the 2,919 slums in the state.

Sources said altogether 1,75,000 families from the slums have been granted land tenure security during the last five years of the initiative.

Under the mission, 100 per cent households in 2,724 slums have been provided with piped water, 707 slums fully transformed into liveable habitats, 100 per cent households in 666 slums have individual toilets and eight cities have become slum-free.

Principal secretary to Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department G Mathivathanan said, "We are delighted to receive the Bronze World Habitat Award for



MAKING SLUMS LIVEABLE

Jaga Mission is world's largest land titling and slum upgrading programme which aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers

Altogether 1,75,000 families from the slums have been granted land tenure security during the last five years of the initiative

In 2019, Jaga Mission had received the World Habitat Awards for its success in providing land tenure security to the slum dwellers

Jaga Mission for the second time.

"Jaga Mission has successfully demonstrated that there is an urgent need to have a paradigm shift in the governments' approach by recognising the informal settle-

ments and the slum dwellers as indispensable part of the city fabric and empower them with land tenure security, and better living habitat. This global recognition helps in promoting this best practice for other governments dealing with similar challenges of rapid urbanisation and the consequent rise of informal settlements."

Chief Executive of World Habitat David Ireland said, "Jaga Mission is a hugely ambitious statewide project that aims to make Odisha slum free by upgrading informal settlements, improving governance and securing land ownership for slum dwellers. There is nothing else like it."

In 2019, Odisha's Jaga Mission had received the World Habitat Awards for its success in providing land tenure security to the slum dwellers.

The awards, which are organised by World Habitat in partnership with UN-Habitat, are the world's leading housing awards, which recognise and highlight innovative, outstanding and revolutionary housing ideas, projects and programmes from across the world.

The project's annual budget is approximately 5 billion INR (\$65 million USD), which comes predominantly from Odisha's state budget and grants from the Union and state governments that are meant for various components required for slum upgrading.

Dedicate yourself to the cause of people: CM to new OCS recruits

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday advised the 378 newly-recruited Odisha Civil Services (OCS) officers to dedicate themselves to the cause of people.

Joining the orientation programme for 2020-batch OCS officers at Lok Seva Bhawan here virtually, Naveen said, "Government service provides a unique opportunity to serve the public, especially the weaker section of the society. People have great expectations from you. I wish you will fulfill those aspirations."

The CM said, "A 'new Odisha, empowered Odisha' is possible with young, tech-savvy and efficient officers like you in the government. And, I hope you all will shine in this test of public service."

"In a democracy, people are the ultimate masters. And we all are here to serve them. I hope that you all will dedicate yourself to the noble cause of serving the people and fulfilling their hopes and aspirations," added Patnaik.

Patnaik highlighted state's numerous initiatives that contributed immensely to the nation building.



“A 'new Odisha, empowered Odisha' is possible with young, tech-savvy and efficient officers like you in the government. And, I hope you all will shine in this test of public service

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

"Our success in developing a robust disaster management infrastructure, turning Odisha a food surplus state from a food deficit one, making Odisha a global hotspot for international sporting events, reshaping Odisha's economy and

making it attractive for investors, and massive infrastructure drive have brought Odisha to leadership position among states," Patnaik pointed out.

He added, "We are a model welfare state. We are reaching out to every vulnerable section, providing them economic justice, and making endeavor to bring them to the mainstream. I believe that the empowerment of women can bring about the real transformation of the state."

Patnaik also launched the 'Online Registration of Pension Adalat' and the 'Promotion Adalat'.

3 ACADEMIC BLOCKS OF UUC UNVEILED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday inaugurated three academic blocks and a sculpture garden at Utkal University of Culture (UUC) premises to mark the 24th foundation day of the university.

On the occasion, two books published by State Museum - 'Illustrated Palmleaf Manuscript' and 'Timeless Tales' were unveiled. Patnaik also visited special exhibition by the students of the university and appreciated their work.

UCC Vice-Chancellor Byomakesh Tripathy, Odia language, Literature and Culture secretary Satyabrata Sahu and others were present.

The institution was established as a teaching-cum-affiliating university. It was set up in order to engage itself to preserve, promote, propagate and protect the richness of Odisha's cultural values by way of making substantive accomplishment through study, research, documentation and continuing education.

The university seeks to spread the benefits of culture and education and its mission is to evolve policies and programmes which would enable to make the university a distinct one by fostering the composite culture of Odisha through qualitative expansion of academic studies and researches.

RBT, leopard skins seized in Boudh; poacher held

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police seized hides of Royal Bengal Tiger (RBT) and a leopard from a person in Boudh district.

Based on specific information, the STF team conducted a raid near Salunki river bridge with the help of officials of the Boudh Forest Division Tuesday. The STF arrested the accused identified as Himalaya Dash.

"We seized the RBT skin while a deal was in progress to sell it for Rs 10 lakh. The arrested person, however, claimed that he was engaged by another man to strike



the deal and he was not the real culprit. The STF has launched a manhunt to nab the prime accused," a senior official said.

The seized hides will be sent to the laboratory of Dehradun Wildlife Institute for examination.

The STF has lodged a case (1/23) and sent the accused to Boudh police station which forwarded him to the court.

NIMAPARA MAN GETS LIFE TERM FOR MURDER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nimapara, Jan 4: The Additional District Judge (ADJ) Court here Wednesday awarded life imprisonment to a man after convicting him of killing a fellow villager over past enmity in February 2021 here.

The court also slapped a penalty of Rs 5,000 on the convict, Daitari Behera. Defaulting on payment of the penalty would invite an additional six months of jail term, additional public prosecutor (APP) Sitakanta Das said quoting ADJ Lokanath Sahoo's ruling.

According to the case details, the incident took place February 9, 2021 when Tapan Sahoo, a resident of Hansapada under Nimapara police limits, was on his way home on a scooter.

Daitari, who also happens to be of the same village, waylaid him on the outskirts of the village and attacked him with a wooden plank. A critically-injured Tapan was rushed to a private healthcare facility in Bhubaneswar where he succumbed to his injuries February 11.

On the same day, Tapan's uncle Debendra Nath Sahoo lodged a complaint with Nimapara police which registered a case (53/2021) and subsequently took Daitari into custody. The court took statements of as many as 16 witnesses into account and convicted Daitari under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC.

OSSC to fill 10,000 vacant posts in '23

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) Wednesday said it has plans to complete 10,000 recruitments in nine months or less this year.

This was revealed by the commission during presentation of the Summary of Achievements/Improvements during 2022 and Plan for 2023.

The commission said OSSC plans to complete 10,000 recruitments in nine months or less.

For this, 10 advertisements were published in November 2022 and December 2022 inviting applications for over 10,000 posts.

The commission said that in 2022 results of 53 recruitments were finalised and published.

This includes six recruitments advertised in 2016, eight in 2017, two in 2018, 16 in 2019, three in 2020, 14 in 2021 and two in 2022.

On recommendation of OSSC, the government has notified six Combined Recruitment Examinations (CREs) while one more approved by Cabinet would be notified soon.

CREs will save time and effort of OSSC as well as applicants. Applications for five CREs have been invited in November and December of 2022.

The commission also said that jammers will be placed in examination centres for all computer-based Main examinations from this year.

Popularise Tele-MANAS helpline: Pandit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: Health and Family Welfare department Wednesday directed all the departments, chief district medical officers (CDMOs), public health officers, National Health Mission director and others to take steps to popularise and disseminate 'Tele-MANAS' helpline number (14416 or 18008914416) among the ministerial staffers, colleges, schoolchildren and prison inmates for psychological first aid intervention.

In a letter, Health and family welfare department secretary Shalini Pandit said, "I am directed to invite a reference to the subject cited above and say that the incidences of mental health have shown an increasing trend in our community in the aftermath of Covid-19 Pandemic. For this purpose, two 'Tele-MANAS' cells are made functional in our state - one at Mental Health Institute (Centre of Excellence), SCB Medical College & Hospital and another at District Mental Health Programme (DMHP/DAC) unit at MKCG Medical College & Hospital, Berhampur.

fare department secretary Shalini Pandit said, "I am directed to invite a reference to the subject cited above and say that the incidences of mental health have shown an increasing trend in our community in the aftermath of Covid-19 Pandemic. For this purpose, two 'Tele-MANAS' cells are made functional in our state - one at Mental Health Institute (Centre of Excellence), SCB Medical College & Hospital and another at District Mental Health Programme (DMHP/DAC) unit at MKCG Medical College & Hospital, Berhampur.

Nasal swab may provide early warning of stealthy viruses

Testing for the presence of a single immune system molecule on nasal swabs can help detect hidden viruses not identified in standard tests, says a study published in The Lancet Microbe journal.

As seen during Covid-19 pandemic, potentially dangerous new viruses can begin to spread in the population well before the global public health surveillance system can detect them.

"Finding a dangerous new virus is like searching for a needle in a haystack," said Ellen Foxman, an associate professor at Yale University in the US.

"We found a way to significantly reduce the size of the haystack," said Foxman, a senior author of the study.

Public health officials typically look to a few sources for warning signs of emerging disease. They study emerging viruses in animals

that may transmit the infection to humans.

However, determining which of the so many new viral variants represent a true danger is difficult.

They also look for outbreaks of unexplained respiratory ailments, which was how SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, was discovered in China late in 2019.

However, by the time an outbreak of a novel virus occurs, it may be too late to contain its spread.

Nasal swabs are commonly taken from patients with suspected respiratory infections and are tested to detect specific signatures of 10 to 15 known viruses. Most tests come back negative.

However, as Foxman's team observed previously, in a few cases, the swabs of those who tested negative for the "usual suspect" viruses still exhibited signs that antiviral defenses were activated, indicating the presence of a virus.



The telltale sign was a high level of a single antiviral protein made by the cells that line the nasal passages.

The team applied comprehensive genetic sequencing methods to old samples containing the protein, and in one sample, found an unexpected influenza virus called influenza C.

The researchers also used this same strategy of retesting old samples to search for missed cases of Covid-19 during the first two weeks of March 2020. While cases of the virus had surfaced in New York State around that same time, testing was not readily available until weeks later.

Hundreds of nasal swab samples collected from patients at Yale-New Haven Hospital during that time had tested negative for standard signature viruses. When tested for the immune system biomarker, the vast majority of those samples showed no trace of activity of the antiviral defense system.

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However, as Foxman's team observed previously, in a few cases, the swabs of those who tested negative for the "usual suspect" viruses still exhibited signs that antiviral defenses were activated, indicating the presence of a virus

Among those, the team found four cases of Covid-19 that had gone undiagnosed at the time.

The findings show that testing for an antiviral protein made by the body, even if the tests for known respiratory viruses are negative, can help pinpoint which nasal swabs are more likely to contain unexpected viruses.

Screening for the biomarker can allow researchers to narrow down the search for unexpected pathogens, making it feasible to do surveillance for unexpected viruses using swabs collected during routine patient care, the researchers said.

Samples found to possess the biomarker can be analysed using more complex genetic testing methods to identify unexpected or emerging pathogens circulating in the patient population and jumpstart a response from the health care community, they said.

Revenue collection up 5.6% by Q3 end

Chief Secretary directed the departments to adopt 5T parameters scrupulously while dealing with financial matters

The total revenue of the state has crossed ₹1 lakh crore to ₹1,01,119 crore by the end of the third quarter of the current fiscal

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: State government's total revenue collection has registered a growth of 5.6 per cent by the end of December of current financial year 2022-23 over the corresponding period of last financial year.



The total revenue of the state has crossed ₹1 lakh crore to ₹1,01,119 crore by the end of the third quarter of the current fiscal. In spite of negative growth in grants from the central government by about 21 per cent, total revenue has increased by 5.6 per cent.

of ₹63,523 crore, the revenue from state's non-tax sources grew by 1.17 per cent by the end of December 2022 in comparison to the corresponding period of the last year. Accordingly, the total revenue generation from both the sources by the end of December 2022 has increased around 5.6 per cent over the corresponding period of last fiscal.

Secretary directed the departments to avoid parking of funds at the bank account of the implementing agencies so that actual expenditure would be reflected on the common treasury portal. He also emphasized on strengthening the internal audit mechanism for wider transparency. Mahapatra directed the departments to adopt 5T parameters scrupulously while dealing with financial matters. The submission of Utilization Certificates in a time bound manner should be given priority, he said.



FOR SLUM UPGRADATION: Demanding inclusion in state government's Jaga Mission, members of 'Basti Basindanka Milita Mancha' staged a protest outside CMC office in Cuttack, Wednesday

CM launches music video of 'Hockey WC'

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the music video of 'Hockey Hai Dil Mera,' the song for the Hockey World Cup 2023 composed by the music director Pritam, Wednesday. In the video, the official mascot of the Hockey World Cup, Olly, can be seen playing hockey with other mascots aiming to win the world cup trophy.

The CM said, "Hockey World Cup 2023 song, composed by the legendary composer Pritam, reflects the vivacious spirit of hockey. Let's join to celebrate the spirit of hockey as Hockey Comes Home. The full music video of the song is here." Pritam also retweeted the music video and thanked the Chief Minister for the kind words and felt honoured to create the music for the HWC.



Mohan, Amit Mishra, Benny Dayal, Lisa Mishra, Antara Mitra, Sreerama Chandra, Nakash Aziz, Shalmali, Namita and Charan. The duration of the song is 4:21 minutes

and it's available for download on JioSaavn. Pritam and the other singers will perform this song at the opening ceremony in Barabati Stadium January 11. Aptly titled 'Celebrations', the opening show, with a star-studded cast lined up for different forms of entertainment featuring songs, dances, and technology and showcasing cultural aspects of Odisha, will serve as the precursor event to the opening of the tournament.

Students enthrall audience at Kala Utsav

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: The five-day National Kala Utsav which began Jan 3 is drawing large number of crowds at Regional Institute of Education (RIE) here. Around 714 students from all states and Union Territories are participating in the event which is being organised by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The participants are showcasing the artistic talents in various categories. Wednesday, the jury witnessed enthralling performances by students from the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab and Rajasthan in art forms of Vocal Classical Music, Traditional Folk Vocal Music, Percussive Instrumental Music Melodic, Classical Folk Dance and solo acting.



The children put up their best performances in traditional attires and the folk-art form of their individual states



The musical renditions of Carnatic Music, Bhajans, Jugni, Tappe, Dar Hla, Kirtana, Borgeet, Bundeli folk mesmerized the audience. The fast rhythmic beats kept the jury and audience engaged till the end. Secondary school students exhibited their talents on the percussive and melodic musical instruments like pakhawaj, tabla, mridangam, ghatam, thavil, khanjira, edakka, chenda, mizhavu, nakkara, sambal, karadi, tala, dimdi, dholak, morchang, badangshi, bhangam, maan, khartal, pung, mandar, dup, sitar, sarod, tambura, sahnai, sarangi, violin, khanjani, veena, harmonium, bansuri and sarod.

City AIIMS to hold its 4th annual convocation Jan 7

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: AIIMS Bhubaneswar is going to celebrate its 4th Annual Convocation January 7, 2023. Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya will grace the occasion along with Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar, said AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas Wednesday. On this occasion, a state-of-the-art Burn Centre at AIIMS will be dedicated to the public. 36 bedded Burn Centre, equipped with 6 ICU, 6 Cabin facilities has been set up by NTPC at ₹19.87 crore. Its foundation was laid by former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu August 25, 2018. This Burn Centre will be very

helpful exclusively for burn patients with Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber, Skin Bank, Physiotherapy, tele-conference seminar room with advanced equipment & instrument for the treatment of burn patients, informed Biswas. Similarly, dignitaries will also lay the foundation stone of a Critical Care Hospital Building at the institute. The 150 bedded Critical Care Hospital will be set up under PM- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) at a cost of around 192 crore. This will be very useful for critical care patients, added Biswas. The guests will also award gold medals to 40 meritorious students of the national institute from different disciplines like DM/MCh(4 scholars), MD/MS(10), MBBS(17), BSc Nursing(6), BSc Paramedical(3). Anil Das will be awarded as best outgoing MBBS graduate. Subhrajyoti Barik has been adjudged as best BSc (Hons) nursing graduate.

Training for women with visual impairment

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: A vocational training programme for women with visual impairment was launched on the premises of Odisha Association for the Blind (OAB), Wednesday. The training programme for 30 women started as a joint initiative of the OAB, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and nonprofit organisation Open Learning Systems (OLS). The programme will continue for 3 months. The programme was launched in the presence of Kasturi Mohapatra (editor of Utkal Prasang and Odisha Review) and Gitanjali Bastia (advisor, Mission Shakti), State Association for Visually Impaired Women of Odisha president Snehanjali Mohanty deputy general manager Pradyumna Chaudhury and OAB president Sanyasi Kumar Behera. The visitors expressed their gratitude for initiative by OLS to provide the visually impaired women a marketable talent that will allow them to support themselves and achieve economic independence. They also valued SIDBI's assistance with this special initiative. Women trainees are overjoyed for their enrolment in the training on making artificial jewellery and coir products.

Man sues MP govt for loss of 'sexual pleasure'

As per information available from the case diary a woman had filed a complaint July 20, 2018 against Bheel at Manasa police station in Neemuch district of Madhya Pradesh. She accused Bheel of raping her on the pretext of dropping her at her brother's home. In her complaint she also said that Bheel forced her to go with another person and the latter confined and raped her for six months before freeing her. The complaint led to Bheel's arrest and incarceration for nearly two years. It has also been alleged that police tried to forcibly get a 'confession' from Bheel stating that he was involved in 'raping and forcing the woman into prostitution'. However, Bheel stuck to his claims of innocence.

Are black holes time machines?

Black holes form natural time machines that allow travel to both the past and the future. But don't expect to be heading back to visit the dinosaurs any time soon. At present, we don't have spacecraft that could get us anywhere near a black hole. But, even leaving that small detail aside, attempting to travel into the past using a black hole might be the last thing you ever do. What are black holes? A black hole is an extremely massive object that is typically formed when a dying star collapses in on itself. Like planets and stars, black holes have gravitational fields around them. A gravitational field is what keeps us stuck to Earth, and what keeps Earth revolving around the Sun. As a rule of thumb, the more massive an object is, the stronger its gravitational field makes it extremely difficult to get to space. That's why we build rockets: we have to travel very fast to break out of Earth's gravity. The gravitational field of a black



hole is so strong that even light can't escape it. That's impressive, since light is the fastest thing known to science! Incidentally, that's why black holes are black: we can't bounce light off a black hole the way we might bounce a torch light off a tree in the dark. Stretching space Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity tells us matter and energy have a curious effect on the universe. Matter and energy bend and stretch space. The more massive an object is, the more space is stretched and bent around it. A massive object creates a kind of valley in space. When objects

come near, they fall into the valley. That's why, when you get close enough to any massive object, including a black hole, you fall towards it. It's also why light can't escape a black hole: the sides of the valley are so steep that light isn't going fast enough to climb out. The valley created by a black hole gets steeper and steeper as you approach it from a distance. The point at which it gets so steep that light can't escape is called the event horizon. Event horizons aren't just interesting for would-be time travellers: they're also interesting for philosophers, because they have implications for how we understand the nature of time. Stretching time When space is stretched, so is time. A clock that is near a massive object will tick slower than one that is near a much less massive object. A clock near a black hole will tick very slowly compared to one on Earth. One year near a black hole could mean 80 years on Earth, as you may have seen illustrated in the movie Interstellar. In this way, black holes can be used to travel to

the future. If you want to jump into the future of Earth, simply fly near a black hole and then return to Earth. If you get close enough to the centre of the black hole, your clock will tick slower, but you should still be able to escape so long as you don't cross the event horizon. Loops in time What about the past? This is where things get truly interesting. A black hole bends time so much that it can wrap back on itself. Imagine taking a sheet of paper and joining the two ends to form a loop. That's what a black hole seems to do to time. This creates a natural time machine. If you could somehow get onto the loop, which physicists call a closed timelike curve, you would find yourself on a trajectory through space that starts in the future and ends in the past. Inside the loop, you would also find that cause and effect get hard to untangle. Things that are in the past cause things to happen in the future, which in turn cause things to happen in the past!

2 detained for threatening woman cop with sword

Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: The twin city Commissionerate Police Wednesday detained two persons for allegedly chasing, hurling abuses and threatening a policewoman with a sword here while she was returning home in her car after night duty Tuesday, an official said Wednesday. The SUV, which the group of men used to chase the lady sub-inspector of police (SI), has been identified on the basis of the details provided by her. Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh said, adding that the police are extra sensitive towards cases involving the security of women in the City. In her complaint, the SI of Mahila police station, Subhashree Nayak, said the incident occurred at around 1.30 am Wednesday when she was returning home in her car after her duty was over. Three men approached her car in an SUV near Science Park area. The men hurled abuses at Nayak

and chased her car, she alleged in the complaint. She managed to go to the closed gate of the Reserve Police Office and stopped her car. The three accused also reached there and an argument ensued. One person from the SUV then took out a sword and threatened to kill her. As she raised an alarm, some police personnel from the office rushed to the spot and the SUV sped away.

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25 critical as bus turns turtle in Kendrapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aul, Jan 4: As many as 25 passengers sustained critical injuries after a bus overturned on roadside after colliding with a Hyva truck at Chhapolia on Cuttack-Chandbali state highway under this police limit in Kendrapara, Wednesday.

On being informed, locals, police and fire personnel rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. The critically injured persons were shifted to Aul, Pattamundai and Cuttack hospitals.

The mishap occurred when the private-run bus carrying around 40 passengers was heading towards



Cuttack from Chandbali. The driver lost control of the vehicle and collided with the Hyva truck at Chhapolia, following which the bus overturned leaving at least 25 people injured.

Meanwhile, 21 of the critically injured persons were undergoing treatment at Aul Hospital while one was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after his condition deteriorated. The rest of the injured were undergoing treatment at Pattamundai community health centre.

Meanwhile, Aul police registered a case in this connection and launched a probe into the matter.

CB mulls dummy simulation of fall



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Jan 4: Speeding up its probe into the mysterious death of two Russian tourists in a hotel here, the state Crime Branch (CB) is planning to re-create the circumstances in which the Russian lawmaker Antov Pavel died. In its plan to recreate the circumstances that led to the death of the Russian lawmaker, the CB has contacted leading experts in Delhi.

The CB sleuths are specifically planning to conduct a dummy simulation exercise of falling from the roof top in similar circumstances to recreate the scene and ascertain the situation leading to his death.

For this, a dummy of same weight and height as that of the deceased shall be created with the help of experts of anatomy department of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and forensic experts. The objective is to study the fall pattern.

In this regard CB has contacted Dr Rajendra Dangi, former Director,

Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), CBI and Dr Dogra of AIIMS, Delhi who are the leading experts in dummy fall simulation exercise.

They have been involved in resolving several complicated cases of CBI. They will ascertain the cause, nature and manner of the incident and the injury on Pavel's body and crosscheck with the post-mortem report. This is expected to help the inquiring team of CB to come to a definite conclusion.

Meanwhile, the CB team as well as scientific and forensic officers are camping at Rayagada and continuing with their investigation into the death of Pavel and his friend Vladimir Bidenov which entered its sixth day, Wednesday.

Another CB sleuth DSP Tapan Das reached Rayagada Tuesday night and joined the probe. He questioned the Town police IIC about the deaths after his arrival. He reached the Town police station again and verified the details collected earlier and matched them with the details and evidences collected by CB DSP Saroj Kanta Mohanta during the probe.

They are continuing with their interrogation of the staff of Sai International hotel where the incidents took place and examining and receiving the seized exhibits from the district police to be sent to forensic experts for examination.

Notably Russian lawmaker Pavel Antov died December 24 allegedly after a fall from the roof of the hotel in Rayagada where they were staying, two days after Bidenov was found dead in his room.



FOLK CHARM: Artistes performed Sambalpuri dance to welcome the FIH Hockey World Cup at Hawa Maidan in Sambalpur, Wednesday

33 hospitals in Ganjam set for transformation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Jan 4: After high schools, now hospitals in Ganjam district will undergo transformation under 5T Initiative.

The government has taken a decision in this regard at an emergency meeting at the district Collectorate, Wednesday. The meet-

ing was presided over by Collector Dibyajyoti Parida.

In the first phase, 33 hospitals and healthcare centres will be transformed.

Among them are the district headquarters hospital (DHH), the sub-divisional hospitals at Chhatrapur, Aska and Hinjilicut and 28 primary health

centres (PHCs).

Architects will be roped in for drawing up blueprints for hospital transformation which is aimed at providing quality and satisfactory healthcare services to patients at the hospitals.

Staff crunch and infrastructural shortcomings in all these hospitals will be plugged up.

Audio conversation of CB with Gobinda's daughter goes viral

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Jan 4: An audio recording of the conversation between a Crime Branch (CB) official and Lipika Sahu, elder daughter of Mamita Meher murder case prime accused Gobinda Sahu who was found dead on Kantabanji sub-jail premises recently, has gone viral. In the audio, Lipika can be heard asking the official to hand over the let-

ter written to her by her deceased father. The CB official, however, turns down her request in the viral audio.

Notably, Gobinda Sahu was found dead on Kantabanji sub-jail premises December 20. The CB is looking into the matter. As part of the investigation, CB officials had visited Gobinda's residence and Mahaling College. At this time, Lipika had asked for the letter of his father addressed to her, which had

been recovered from his pocket.

"As the last letter is written to me. I need to read what is written in it. The letter should be given to me," Lipika is heard telling a CB official in the recorded conversation.

The CB official outright rejected it, saying it is a matter under investigation, adding that the letter has been sealed and will be sent to the Handwriting Bureau for examining its veracity.

145 KIDS MALNOURISHED IN MAHAKALAPARA

ICDS efficacy under lens

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalpara, Jan 4: The efficacy of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) has come under scanner in Mahakalpara block of Kendrapara district as 145 children were reportedly found malnourished in various areas of the block.

Crores of rupees are being spent through supplementary nutrition programme (SNP) under ICDS to tackle malnutrition and control infant and maternal mortality rate (IMMR). The programme being executed through Anganwadi centres is aimed at meeting nutritional needs among infants, expectant and lactating mothers.

Dry and cooked food is provided to children and pregnant women through Anganwadi centres to ward off nutritional deficiency and foster physical growth. Due to lack of proper nutrition, children become underweight, stunted and vulnerable to various diseases.

However, it was alleged that sattu or mixed flour as prepared by the SHGs is of very poor quality and fails to provide any nutritional value to the children. As a result, many children are affected by malnutrition.

Reports said, there are 31 panchayats under this block. According to official data from the office of the ICDS, 145 children have been affected by malnutrition in 23 panchayats.

As many as 7,628 kids in the age



Sattu prepared by the SHGs is of very poor quality and fails to provide any nutrition to the children. As a result, many children are affected by malnutrition

Rajgad, 8 in Bijaynagar, 1 in Balipal, 8 in Baddi, 5 in Kebi Dandua, 4 in Suniti, 4 in Gogua, 7 in Jaychandrapur, 9 in Badakul, 6 in Patulipank, 15 in Tikarpanka, 4 in Tikhiri and 2 in Ameipal panchayats were found to be malnourished.

Now, social activists and various outfits have sought to know why crores of rupees are being spent towards the scheme in the name of controlling malnutrition.

Subash Swain, a local resident said that sattu prepared for kids and women are sub-standard and, it naturally will not be effective against malnutrition.

Contacted, the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) said that a team will be formed in each Anganwadi centre to conduct field visits to identify malnourished kids and provide them sattu.

CDPO Kabita Mallick said that 4 kids in Batighar, 7 in Kharinasi, 13 in Ramnagar, 7 in Baulakani, 3 in Petachhela, 8 in Barakandha, 5 in Mangalpur, 12 in Jambu, 12 in Bardang, 5 in Mahakalpara, 3 in



POLIO VACCINE: An ASHA administers third dose of fIPV (fractional dose of the Inactivated Polio Vaccine) to a child as part of polio vaccination programme organised by Zilla Swasthya Samiti at a health and wellness centre at Goudaguda in Malkangiri district, Wednesday

Tomato farmers in Keonjhar resort to distress sales

LACK OF MARKETING FACILITIES AND COLD STORAGES HAS HIT THE FARMERS HARD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Jan 4: Farmers in Keonjhar district have reaped a very good harvest of tomatoes this season. However, they are resorting to distress sale due to a lack of marketing facilities and cold storages in the district, sources said Wednesday. As a result the farmers are being deprived of fair prices for their produce.

Things have come to such a pass that now farmers are selling a 25 kg crate of tomatoes for only ₹150. The bumper harvest has been possible due to the support of the Horticulture and Agriculture departments.

Currently, they are harvesting around 10,000 metric tonnes of tomatoes, but a major chunk of

vegetables remain unsold and get rotten due to their inability to sell them at a fair price. They have been demanding the construction of a cold storage facility in the area to store perishable produce and sell it in lean seasons to do away with the distress sale, but their demands are yet to be addressed.

Sources said that tomato cultivation is mainly carried out in Tikarpada, Rajabandha, Nuagaon, Raisuan, Mahadeijoda, and Padmapur areas under Sadar block in Keonjhar district.

Apart from that, farmers in Maidankel and Kathabari areas grow tomatoes as a cash crop. Farmers in these areas are now harvesting tomatoes, but they lack a cold storage facility to store them.

Fearing that the vegetable might rot, they are selling it at ₹6 per kg. The traders, equally apprehensive about loss, are not inclined to take all their harvested tomatoes. The farmers had borrowed a lot to buy fertiliser, seeds, and even a motor pump to raise their



crops and expected to pay it back after the harvest.

Tomatoes imported from outside the state, such as those from Bihar, Jharkhand, and other districts of state, are transported and sold in the area, while tomatoes produced locally rot on their farmlands.

According to a farmer named Laghu Soren, the local farmers

were also forced to go to the market to sell their produce in order to make up for their losses. It was also observed that many farmers did not harvest their crops leaving them to rot on the farmlands.

A farmer named Biswambar Majhi and others said that they would get a fair price for their produce if the administration could

help them in transporting the produce to the districts where tomato is not cultivated or readily available. They also demanded for proper market linkage facilities with food processing units engaged in manufacturing sauce and juice to help them tide over the crisis.

A retired college reader named Bimbahar Behera said that students residing in various hostels in the state could get good food to eat if the harvested tomatoes were supplied to the hostels.

When contacted, Jayant Nayak, deputy director for horticulture, said that agriculture production clusters (APC) have been engaged to market the harvests. Earlier, the farmers were taking decisions on their cultivations, but now the APC is guiding them.

As a result, farmers will not be forced to do any distress sale in the coming days, he said. Similarly, steps are being taken for the establishment of food processing units and selling the harvested tomatoes to different hostels in the state, he added.

'Koraput's millets are of high yield, nutritional value'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Jan 4: Some indigenous varieties of millets produced by tribals in Koraput district are capable of giving high yield and high nutrition. This was claimed by Dr Debabrata Panda, an assistant professor of Central University of Odisha, Koraput. For the last 10 years, Panda has been carrying out research on the indigenous varieties of millets, their qualities and production.

He told about his research articles detailing 33 varieties of millets, their nutritional values and yielding capacity. The research article was published in the international journal Cereal Research Communication, December 31, 2022.

In his research, he found that farmers would get higher yields of four varieties such as Bhalu, Ladu, Telugu and Bada than the other varieties of millets. Moreover, these millet varieties are highly nutritious and fibrous, containing sulfur and anti-oxidants.

He has examined the genetics of these millets. New varieties of millets can be produced by using the genes of these four varieties. Such varieties of millets are preserved by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Jeypore.

He observed that such varieties of high quality, rare millets should be preserved and its cultivation promoted through Millets Mission of the state government. Such millets will help ensure food as well as nutrition security for the tribals and others. Besides, the tribals can boost their economy if they are encouraged to raise such millets on a large-scale, he added.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/ E-Tender/132, Dt. 30.12.2022
1.Tender No. etender-HQ-KUR-365-2022, Date: 26.12.2022
Description: REPAIRS TO STATION APPROACH ROAD ON EAST SIDE AND FROM LEVEL CROSSING (KP-27) TO PLATFORM NO. 4 ON WEST SIDE AT SAKHIGOPAL STATION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹95.84 lakhs, EMD: ₹1,91,700/-.
2.Tender No. etender-HQ-KUR-366-2022, Date: 26.12.2022
Description: CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACH ROAD, PATHWAYS AND TOILETS FOR STAFF FOR IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES NEEDED FOR CARRIAGE AND WAGON (C & W) SICK LINE AT KHURDA ROAD.
Approx cost of the work: ₹41.81 lakhs, EMD: ₹83,600/-.
3.Tender No. etender-South-KUR-368-2022, Date: 27.12.2022
Description: PROPOSED REPAIRS TO GESS FOR STRENGTHENING OF EMBANKMENT, TROLLEY REFUGES AT VARIOUS LOCATION BETWEEN KHURDA ROAD, BALUGAON SECTION UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (WORKS)/BALUGAON OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹368.12 lakhs, EMD: ₹3,34,100/-.
Completion Period of the work: 06 (Six) Months (For sl. no. 1), 04 (Four) Months (For sl. no. 2) & 15 (Fifteen) Months (For sl. no. 3).
Date & time of Tender Closing: 18.01.2023, 1500 hrs (For All Tenders).
No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website http://www.reps.gov.in
Note: The prospective tenders are advised to visit the website 10 (ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./V) PR-875/N/22-23 Khurda Road

CORRIGENDUM

In suppression to previous IDENTIFICATION No.- AGLB-01/2022-23 published on NIC website on dtd.29.12.2022 and local daily newspaper Dharitri, Orissa POST & Sambad on dtd.04.01.2023 is hereby cancelled.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Angul

FOCUS NATION

DISSENT IN DEMONETISATION



The majority verdict disappoints on a major score as to whether the intended objectives of demonetisation have been achieved or not

The Constitution Bench through a 4-1 judgement found no flaw in the Union government's process to demonetise ₹500 and ₹1,000 currency notes through government notification issued on 8 November 2016. Justice Gaiwri writing the majority judgement observed that the procedure under Section 26(2) was not violated just because the Centre had taken the initiative to advise the Central Board of the RBI to consider demonetisation. In a sparkling dissenting judgement, Justice Nagarathna has observed that the Centre should have issued a notification under Section 26(2) only if the Central Board of RBI had initiated the proposal to demonetise. The government could have gone forward by promulgating an ordinance or legislative act, should there be any difference of opinion between the Central Board and the government. She further observed: "Parliament is the nation in miniature and without Parliament democracy will not thrive. No meaningful application of the mind by the government seems to be visible when 86% of the currency had ceased to be circulated, causing severe financial crunch and socio-economic despair." The process undertaken was bad in law, in her view.



Satya Narayan Misra

IT IS A PITY THAT THE COURT DID NOT ADDRESS THE LARGER QUESTION OF ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DEMONETISATION

The difference of opinion between the majority of judges and the lone dissenting voice is based on interpretation of Section 26(2) of the RBI Act which states: "On recommendation of the Central Board, the Central government may declare that any series of bank notes of any denomination shall cease to be legal tender." The four judges are of the view that recommendation means a consultative process which was initiated six months before the promulgation of the government order. Further, it was done for the elimination of fake currency, black money and terror financing. There was thus a reasonable nexus be-

tween the measure of demonetisation and its objectives. It therefore satisfied the basic canon of proportionality test for adjudicating reasonability of a government decision. In an earlier judgement (2018), the Supreme Court, in a split verdict had upheld Aadhaar since it had the potential to bring down proliferation of fake PAN cards. It would thus be seen that while the dissenting judgement has interpreted Section 26(2) in a literal manner, the majority judgement has taken a more expansive opinion of the consultative process between the RBI and the government.

However, the majority verdict disappoints on a major score as to whether the intended objectives of demonetisation have been achieved or not. The majority judgement observes that "it is not relevant for the Court to examine whether the objectives have been achieved and that the Central government is the best judge." On the other hand, the dissenting judge seems to believe that it has caused severe financial crunch and socio-economic despair. There have been several studies on the impact of demonetisation on the Indian economy but none of them have been able to clearly quantify the extent of GDP loss, except to state that it affected the informal sector badly which was dependent on cash. In par-

ticular, it affected the agricultural sector, which was in the thick of harvesting and bereft of cash the small farmers were hugely affected. Also on the question of reducing black money, nearly 98% of demonetised notes came back to banks. On the stated objective of reducing terror financing, no incontrovertible evidence is available. However, most studies show that demonetisation has helped digitisation and fostered its usage. It's a pity that instead of leaving the government to adjudicate the intended objectives the court should have ideally examined the outcomes in a holistic manner and provided proper advisory to the government.

The stance taken by the majority is surprising as the Supreme Court has been abdicating its earlier stance that it will only look in to the procedural fairness and not merits of public policy. For instance, in the 2G case the court clearly ruled that the first come first serve policy goes against the policy of public auctioning and has caused huge loss to the public exchequer. This was proved to be a prescient verdict when the NDA government resorted to public auctioning, winning the government a bonanza. The Supreme Court thus acted as an ideal check and balance against arbitrary decision-making by the government, involving public in-

terest and economic justice.

Interestingly, when the Morarji Desai government decided to demonetise the high value currencies in January 1978, the then RBI Governor IG Patel had strong reservations. He writes in his autobiography 'Insider's View' that he spoke to HM Patel, the then HM, who advised him to speak to the PM. When IG told the PM not to play politics with economics, Desai apparently asked him not to interfere in the process. As per grapevine, Raghu Rajan was not in favour of the government's decision. However, the judgement does not bring out if the consultative process which started in May 2016 when Rajan was RBI Governor contained any dissenting opinion by him. Interestingly, the demonetisation decision in 1978 was challenged in the Supreme Court on the ground that it curtailed freedom of trade and commerce, a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(g).

The dissent by Justice Nagarathna reminds one of the famous quotes of Justice Hughes: "A dissent in a court of last resort is an appeal to the brooding spirit of law, to the intelligence of a future date, when a later decision may possibly correct the error into which the dissenting judge believes that the court seems to have been betrayed." Justice Nagarathna has been bold enough to conclude unlike four of her colleagues that that the recommendations were obtained from the board and did not originate from the RBI. Quite clearly the autonomy and professional independence of the RBI board was compromised at the altar of an authoritarian government. It is a pity that the court did not address the larger question of economic impact of demonetisation, particularly on 92% of the unorganised sector of the economy.

The writer is Professor Emeritus, KIIT University. Views are personal.

The Last Cannibal

Recall the story about the explorer who encounters an aboriginal tribe for the first time. "Are there cannibals among you?" he asks. "No," they reply. "We ate the last one yesterday." To constitute a civilised community by eating the last cannibal, the final act must be called something else. It is a kind of original sin that must be erased from memory.

Similarly, the transition to a modern legal order in the American "Wild West" was accomplished through brutal crimes and the creation of myths to cover them up. As a character in the John Ford western The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance put it, "When the legend becomes fact, print the legend."

But the "facts" that are born of legends are not verifiable truths. Rather, they are social artefacts: shared ideas that form the basis of the actually-existing sociopolitical order. If enough people were to reject them, the entire order would disintegrate.

These social artefacts allow a society's original sins to remain in the background, where they continue operating silently because modern civilisation still relies on barbarism. Recall how the legal apparatus of power was used to sanction the extralegal practice of torture by calling it "enhanced interrogation."

Yet now, a new type of political dispensation is emerging. As the philosopher Alenka Zupančič observes in her new book, Let Them Rot (on which I rely here extensively), we increasingly have leaders who take pride in their crimes "as if it amounted to some kind of fundamental moral difference or difference of character, namely, 'having the courage,' 'the guts,' to do it openly." But, Zupančič hastens to add, "what may appear to be their courageous transgression of state laws by avoiding the 'hypocrisy' that those laws sometimes demand is nothing more than a direct identification with the obscene other side of state power itself. It does not amount to anything else or different. They are 'transgressing' their own laws. This is why, even when they are in power, these leaders continue to act as if they are in opposition to the existing power, rebelling against it - call it the 'deep state' or something else."

Obviously, this description summons up images of Donald Trump, who just this month called for the "termination" of the US Constitution. But, of course, appearances have also been disintegrating in Russia. For ten months, President Vladimir Putin insisted that there was no war in Ukraine, and ordinary Russians risked criminal prosecution for suggesting otherwise. But now, Putin has broken his own rule and acknowledged that Russia is at war.

Likewise, Yevgeny Prigozhin, a Putin crony, long denied that he had anything to do with the Wagner Group of Russian mercenaries. He has, however, now admitted that he founded the group, and that he has interfered in US elections and will continue to do so.

For political figures like Trump and Putin, courage is redefined as a willingness to break the state's laws if the state's own interests - or their own - demand it. The implication is that civilisation endures only if there are brave patriots who will do the dirty work. This is a decidedly right-wing form of "heroism." It is easy to act nobly on behalf of one's country - short of sacrificing one's life for it - but only the strong of heart can bring themselves to commit crimes for it.

Hence, in 1943, Heinrich Himmler, the architect of the Holocaust, spoke of "a chapter of glory in our history which has never been written, and which never shall be written." The question was what do with Jewish women and children. "I decided here to find a completely clear solution," Himmler told a gathering of SS officers. "I did not regard myself as justified in exterminating the men ... and to allow the avengers in the shape of the children to grow up for our sons and grandchildren. The difficult decision had to be taken to have this people disappear from the earth."

But in today's Russia, the idea that atrocities "never shall be written" is increasingly out of fashion. Far from ignoring the eating of cannibals, such acts are being enshrined into law. On December 14, the Russian Duma (legislature) adopted a bill stating that any atrocities committed in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson before those Ukrainian regions' annexation "will not be considered a crime punishable by law" if they are deemed to have been "in the interest of the Russian Federation."

How this determination will be made is unclear; but it is safe to assume that all the torture, rape, murder, looting, and vandalism committed by Russian forces will be excused - even celebrated. One is reminded of the paradox in Sophocles' Antigone, where it is riskier to obey morality than to become complicit in criminality.

"Russian culture," the historian Timothy Garton Ash observes, has become "a collateral victim of Putin's self-devouring cannibalism." Accordingly, "The time has come to ask whether, objectively speaking, Vladimir Putin is an agent of American imperialism. For no American has ever done half as much damage to what Putin calls the 'Russian world' as the Russian leader himself has." Offering a similar analysis, Kazakh journalist Arman Shuraev recently excoriated Russia's bullying ambassador to his country: "Russophobia is all that you have achieved with your stupid actions. ... You are idiots. You are cannibals who eat themselves."

Paradoxically, Russia's exercise in false transparency makes the mystifications of state power even more dangerous, by eroding our moral sensitivities. It shows why we need figures like WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange more than ever. Assange is our Antigone. For years, he has been kept in an undead, isolated state, awaiting extradition to the United States for serving as a spy for the people, making public just one small part of the obscene dark side of US policy. Although Assange may have done some very problematic things, my wish for the New Year is that President Joe Biden will show true courage and drop the charges against him.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Slavoj Žižek

For political figures like Trump and Putin, courage is redefined as a willingness to break the state's laws if the state's own interests - or their own - demand it.

SPECTRUM UNEMPLOYMENT

Urban job creation crucial

The after effect of the pandemic looms large in the country with job creation being a critical challenge. Recently, the government's quarterly urban Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) and the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's Consumer Pyramids Household Survey has found India's unemployment rate at 7.2% and 8% as of September and November respectively. This means, around 3.8-3.9 crore Indians of the working age population, who are willing and able to search for jobs, are not able to get one.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

AROUND 3.8-3.9 CRORE INDIANS OF WORKING AGE POPULATION, WHO ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO SEARCH FOR JOBS, ARE NOT ABLE TO GET ONE

This is only part of the story as the total unemployed youths are not taken into consideration. Moreover, those who call themselves employed, may be working part-time and drawing a paltry remuneration. Joblessness plaguing the nation has got worse and despite promises the ruling dispensation needs to act. Another aspect requiring urgent attention is gender disparity. The female labour force participation is just 19% and even lower than a conservative Muslim country such as Saudi Arabia.

In 2019, only 30% of Indian females with tertiary education participated in the labour force as compared to around 81% males. Youth unemployment has also been increasing steadily. From 22% in 2019, it reached 28% in 2021 and will be perhaps 30% presently. But this figure is not quite indicative

as it does also include youth who earn but not enough for a decent livelihood.

The PLFS indicates that around 47% of labour force works in the agriculture sector today as compared to 42.5% in 2019. This increase is not just a pandemic effect. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, agricultural employment increased by 3.4 crore, whereas industry and services employment only grew by 93 lakhs.

In recent months, analysts have warned of lower formal sector employment and subdued rural wages which could prove to be a dampener on consumption. "Improving contact-intensive services amid stable urban consumption demand could continue at a slower pace for some more time," says a report by Emkay Global Financial on the second quarter GDP data, adding its channel checks depict quite mixed demand trends during the recent festive season. The formal sector employment growth seems to be reducing, indicated by the sequential fall in new Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) payrolls and the Naukri Job index. Additionally, subdued real rural wage growth is expected to further impact rural consumption.

CRISIL, the analytical company providing ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services, has noted that while domestic demand has stayed relatively resilient

so far, it would be tested next year by the current weakening industrial activity. Increasing transmission of interest rate hikes to consumers will also be a pressure point and rural income prospects remain dependent on vagaries of weather, it added. Some feel there is a lowering demand for MGNREGA jobs, which is debatable as rural economy is stagnating with depressed wages and with little or no likelihood of the demand picking up.

The government is trying to boost up industrial activity but there's not much increase in industrial output. In fact, in October it had shrunk 4% to a 26-month low and forex reserves had fallen by \$72 billion a year. Additionally, the government is not concentrating on the labour-intensive sector, where job potential is undeniably high.

Meanwhile, the forecast for this year is not quite encouraging, rather worrying thereby retarding the possibility of a growth in employment opportunities. With domestic demand being insufficient, it is difficult to presume expansion of the labour-intensive industrial sector, which can actually generate job opportunities. Moreover, there is the resource crunch aspect of most states which are busy with rather unproductive welfare schemes and don't have sufficient funds to promote industrial activity. However, it is time

that industrial clusters with small and cottage industries should be encouraged.

Besides, district infrastructure is rather poor and needs to be improved vastly to encourage setting up of manufacturing units that could promote employment creation. Experts need to be consulted, and universities tapped so as to prepare and frame a realistic and achievable policy so that government aid could be extended to units that generate employment. Plus, the service sector should be given additional impetus as it is contributing to employment creation.

Finally, it needs to be emphasised that the government must create adequate employment opportunities to ensure that the social fibre is maintained, and that social disturbance is checked given that the youth may be waylaid to anti-social activities. In this context, the government may seriously think of starting an urban job scheme for poor and economically weaker sections, as has been suggested by many experts. Undoubtedly, lack of productive work has a negative effect on the socio-economic structure, more so with widening inequality in wages and incomes. Corrections need to be made. And urgently.

The writer is Sr. Consultant & Guest Faculty at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kolkata. ©INFA

WISDOM CORNER

- A ship is always safe at the shore, but that is not what it is built for. ALBERT EINSTEIN
- The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do. STEVE JOBS
- Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going. JIM ROHN

WORDSWORTH

Ergophobia

It means a fear of work. Many people experience this as a chronic ailment that blights their weekends and accounts for much of that Monday-morning feeling or post-holiday blues. It is not a new problem: the word was coined by a doctor named WD Spanton, writing in the British Medical Journal in 1905. He did so in all seriousness, recognising that it can be a real medical condition, an abnormal or persistent fear of work and the workplace. Notwithstanding this, the word spends much of its life as the butt of heavy-handed humour, on the assumption that it is a mere synonym for laziness.

Unfortunate verdict

Sir, It is really unfortunate that constitutional guardians had no consideration for the welfare of citizens, otherwise the SC would not have validated the Central government's note-ban decision. Even the Cabinet was not taken into confidence while taking this decision. Parliament was totally bypassed and the RBI's autonomy was compromised since it did not exercise its application of mind independently. As regards the purpose for which the ban was ordered, no black money could be unearthed, fake currency notes still exist and terror funding did not stop. Instead, millions had to suffer untold hardships. Thousands of small businesses and small units had to be shut down and millions lost their jobs. The working of the banking system too seemed paralysed for months. The nation's development suffered a big setback.

Abhijit Roy JAMSHEDPUR

Shot in the arm

Sir, Rahul Gandhi through his Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) has not exactly set the Thames on fire but the former Congress president has certainly changed the perception of a large section of the society towards his intentions. The BGY is in its last leg, and the way commoners and intellectuals have embraced it is a shot in the arm for the Congress that was thought to be down and out not very long ago. The biggest myth associated with Rahul - that he was a non-serious politician - has been shattered by the success of the yatra. The steadfast focus displayed the man has been a revelation. Rahul has gone about the BGY with a single theme of uniting the country across every hue of the society. The secular credentials of Rahul need no reiteration. However, what he has done is to send a message to the common man that India can still breathe a whiff of fresh air devoid of religious animosities.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Terror returns

Sir, Terror has returned to haunt the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Two minors had their lives snuffed out and six others injured in an IED blast Monday in Dhangri village of Rajouri. This incident comes a day after four persons perished to firing by suspected militants in the same place. We believe that the attackers asked for the victims' identity cards before opening fire, hinting that they had planned to target a particular community. The authorities would do well to beef-up security and provide protection to Hindu-dominated areas to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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national

of the day quote

Great to meet Chairman and CEO of Microsoft Corporation @satyanadella. Discussed delivery, governance and security in the digital domain

Pariksha Pe Charcha is among the most exciting programmes, giving an opportunity to discuss ways to make exams stress-free and support our exam warriors. I look forward to the programme on the 27th of this month and urge you all to take part in this unique interaction

Modi government's latest assault on the poor is a backdoor move to reduce expenditure on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Forcing MGNREGA workers to register their attendance via an app will introduce new avenues of corruption, and disempower women, dalits and adivasis

SHORT TAKES

DRI arrests 2 Air India staff

Kochi: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) Wednesday arrested two staff of Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS) from the Cochin International Airport here for allegedly possessing over one kg of smuggled gold. The DRI sleuths said 1,375 grams of gold in compound form was seized from the staff of AISATS at the CIAL.

8 Maoists surrender

Ranchi: Eight Maoists associated with CPI(Maoist) central committee members Mishir Besra surrendered before security forces here Wednesday, the police said. All members of the banned outfit, including three women, who surrendered before officials of the Jharkhand police and CRPF are between 18 and 22 years of age, the police said. All of them are wanted in a number of cases and continuous operation by the joint security forces couple with the lucrative surrender policy of the state government prompted them to surrender, IG(Operation) Amol V Homkar said.

Woman stabbed

New Delhi: A 21-year-old woman was allegedly stabbed by her friend for ending friendship with him in northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar, police said Wednesday. The victim has been admitted to Babu Jagjivan Ram Hospital. Her condition is stated to be stable. She received injuries in the incident, police said.



Who is saying Jungle Raj in Bihar? It is not a Jungle Raj but it is a Rozgar Ka Raj

TEJ PRATAP YADAV | MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE OF BIHAR

MATTER OF CONCERN

63K animals died on rail tracks from 2017-18 to 2020-21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: Over 63,000 animals, including four Asiatic lions and 73 elephants, died on railway tracks between 2017-18 to 2020-21, the CAG has cited, raising concern over steps taken by the Union environment ministry as well as the railways in preventing such episodes.

In its report 'Performance Audit on Derailment in Indian Railways' submitted to Parliament last month, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) noted that the railways should ensure that 'joint advisories' issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forest and the Ministry of Railways be followed scrupulously to prevent animal deaths, which in turn will also help in preventing derailments on this account.

In these three years, the CAG found that 63,345 animals, including 73 elephants and four lions, had died after being run over. The CAG said that to prevent train accidents involving elephants, general advisories approved by both the ministries had been jointly issued to the railways in 2010.

The advisories include clearance of vegetation on sides of railway track, under passes/overpasses across railway track to allow elephants to escape, signage boards to pre-warn train drivers, sensitising programmes for train drivers, guards and station masters, engagement of elephant trackers, and to keep railway track free from food waste that attract elephants.

In these three years, the CAG found that 63,345 animals, including 73 elephants and four lions, had died after being run over

The CAG said that to prevent train accidents involving elephants, general advisories approved by both the ministries had been jointly issued to the railways in 2010

Joint inspections conducted in 102 sections across 18 divisions on nine ZRs (zonal railways) by officials of Audit Department and Engineering Department of ZRs show that there is a 76 per cent shortfall in construction of underpasses and ramps for the movement of elephants at identified locations, 41 per cent shortfall in fencing at isolated locations and 64 per cent shortfall in deployment of forest department staff in railway control offices.

"It can be seen that the important precautionary measures related to provision of signage boards, construction of underpasses, provision of fencing and deputation of forest staff in divisional offices had not been implemented in many sections, even after a lapse of more than 10 years period from the issue of Joint General Advisories by Ministry of Environment & Forests, and MoR," the report said.

With special reference to Asiatic lions, the report said that even these are not safe in the Gir Forest despite the existence of passages in the Bhavnagar Division.



BANK FRAUD CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: The CBI has filed a charge sheet against CG Power and Industrial Solutions and its former promoter Gautam Thapar in an alleged Rs 2435-crore bank fraud case that affected 12 banks, officials said.

This comes after the agency conducted a probe for nearly 19 months into the allegations of diversion of bank funds, and manipulation of account books among other charges against the company, Thapar and other senior executives, they said.

Thapar is already facing multiple probes into his alleged links with Yes Bank co-founder Rana Kapoor who was booked by the CBI under corruption and fraud charges.

In its charge sheet filed before a



special court, the CBI has alleged that huge amounts of bank loans were diverted by the accused to related parties for which adjustment entries were made in the account books, they said.

The investigations showed that the accused availed loans against

President inaugurates 18th National Scouts and Guides Jamboree



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Jan 4: President Droupadi Murmu Wednesday inaugurated the 18th National Scouts and Guides Jamboree at Rohat in Pali district. This jamboree is being organised in Rajasthan after a gap of 67 years. Welcoming more than 37,000 scouts and guides from India as well as other countries, the President said that there is unique enthusiasm and energy in this conference of youth.

"This gathering of youth is 'Mini Young India'. The scouts work wholeheartedly for humanity and social service. It is a matter of pride that the highest number of scouts in the entire country come from Rajasthan, a symbol of courage and valor," she said.

The President also unfurled the flag of the Bharat Scouts and Guides at the function. Various teams of scouts and guides from India and abroad took out a march past with the President as the guard of honour. Murmu said that the work of training the youth is being done by the Bharat Scouts and Guides for almost 115 years now. Even before Independence, many people, including Mahatma Gandhi, were admirers of this organisation, she said.

"There are more than 63 lakh scouts and guides in this organisation, which deserves congratulations for serving the society with discipline and dedication," she said.

"Scouts and guides do not work for their personal gain, but for the benefit of the society. There are many examples from all over the world. Martin Luther King Jr, who campaigned against racism, and Bill Gates, who revolutionised technology, were both scouts at one point in their lives.

The President also said that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Bharat Scouts and Guides had shown exemplary courage in serving the people.

LEOPARD IN GREATER NOIDA SOCIETY

Most residents of a Greater Noida (West) group housing society where a leopard was sighted continued to remain indoors, with many avoiding even going to the local shops for getting daily essentials as the operation to rescue the feline entered the second day. Home deliveries were also regulated after the leopard was spotted again Wednesday morning



KARNATAKA MUTT SEX SCANDAL

'No signs of rape of minor girls'

The medical examination report is likely to give a new twist to the scandal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bengaluru, Jan 4: In a major development the medical examination of the victims in the sensational Lingayat mutt sex scandal case has shown no signs of rape, according to sources.

Lingayat seer Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru of the influential Chitradurga Murugha Mutt has been accused of sexual exploitation of minor girls. He is presently in jail.

The medical examination report is likely to give a new twist to the scandal. The report submitted to the court has categorically stated that there was no penetrative sex with two minor girls who complained against the pontiff, sources said.

The sources said the Chief Medical Officer of the Chitradurga district hospital has conducted the medical tests on the minor victims in the first case lodged against the accused seer on August 27, 2022. The report also stated that the hymens of the minor girls are intact. Sources informed that one of



the minor girls refused to undergo the medical test initially and maintained that she was exploited sexually. Later, when the examination proved otherwise the girl said there was no penetration.

The accused seer has been booked under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and the Atrocity Act. He was arrested on September 1, 2022 amid high drama

and sent to judicial custody. The courts have rejected his bail pleas and the government has appointed an administrator for the mutt. In another development, the police had arrested a former administrator of the mutt S.K. Basavarajan, his wife Sowbhagya and others for hatching a conspiracy against the accused seer and tutoring the alleged minor victims.

HUMAN SACRIFICE CASE

Kerala HC dismisses bail plea of woman accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Jan 4: The Kerala High Court on Wednesday dismissed the bail plea of the woman accused in the human sacrifice case in which two other women were allegedly killed, saying granting of the relief could "thwart" justice and that the accused could influence witnesses.

The court said the probe was still going on in both cases of murder, in which the victims were allegedly killed in a brutal manner and if the accused was released on bail there was every chance that she may influence the witnesses. "If bail is granted, there is the stark reality of justice being thwarted. Thus the circumstances do not lean in favour of the grant of bail to the petitioner (accused)," Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas said and rejected the plea for bail moved by Laila Bhagawal Singh, one of the

If bail is granted, there is the stark reality of justice being thwarted. Thus the circumstances do not lean in favour of the grant of bail to the petitioner (accused)

Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas

three accused in the case. The court declined to also give her the benefit that a woman enjoys under the proviso to section 437 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc).

The proviso to section 437 of CrPc states that while considering a bail plea of an accused, if they are sick, infirm or a woman, the court may grant them the relief even if there were reasonable grounds to believe they are guilty of an offence for which the punishment is death or life imprisonment, the High Court noted.

Bharti appointed as special commissioner of Mumbai police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 4: Senior Indian Police Service officer Deven Bharti was Wednesday appointed as 'special commissioner of Mumbai police', officials said.

But the creation of this new post and Bharti's appointment came in for criticism from opposition Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) which accused deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis of trying to create a "parallel administration."

IPS officer Vivek Phansalkar is currently the Mumbai police commissioner. Bharti, an IPS officer of 1994 batch, is considered to be close to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. He was Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) when the BJP leader was the chief minister of the state from 2014 to 2019.

KANJHAWALA DEATH CASE Anjali's family rejects Nidhi's claims



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 4: The family of Anjali Singh, who was hit and dragged by a car, Wednesday rejected the statements of her 'friend' that she was drunk at the time of the incident, and said they had never seen or heard of Nidhi, while police quizzed seven people present at a New Year party attended by the two women before the accident.

Also, more CCTV footage emerged where Nidhi is seen returning home around 1.37 am, about five minutes after they left the party venue, leading to questions being raised about the timeline of the events on the fateful night.

A post-mortem report stated that Singh had sustained 40 injuries over her body due to the drag. Her "brain matter" is missing and she had multiple contusions, abrasions and lacerations, the doctors found.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia met Anjali's family and said the incident was an example of extreme brutality. He said efforts will be made to provide employment to one of Anjali's kin.

"If a piece of polythene or even paper is stuck, it is easily sensed and the driver stops the vehicle to check it. The incident is an example of extreme cruelty that shook one from inside," Sisodia said.

Police had Tuesday said they had traced Nidhi, who was riding pillion with Anjali Singh on her scooter but had fled after the incident, and recorded her statement. On Wednesday, Anjali Singh's mother Rekha Devi told reporters her daughter has never drunk alcohol in her life. "I never seen or heard of Nidhi. She never visited our home. She is lying. My daughter never consumed alcohol. She never came home drunk. Nidhi is lying."

The family doctor of the victim also rejected Nidhi's claims she was heavily drunk on the night of the incident, saying the autopsy report did not find any trace of alcohol in her stomach.

Police, however, said Nidhi will be their prime witness as they recovered more CCTV footage to piece together the events of the night when Anjali met her brutal death.

According to the footage recovered so far, it has been found that Anjali and Nidhi stepped out of the hotel at 1.16 am, then had a fight and subsequently left the hotel at 1.32 am.

Man dies after car drags him for 1km

Noida: A man working with a food company as a delivery agent died after his two-wheeler was hit by a speeding car that went on to drag him for around one kilometre. The accident took place in the early hours of January 1 at around 1 a.m. near the flyover at Sector 14-A in Noida. The deceased has been identified as Kaushal Yadav, a resident of Etawah in Uttar Pradesh.

GUJARAT ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Cong forms 3-member committee to evaluate poll results

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: The Congress on Wednesday set up a three-member fact-finding committee to evaluate the party's performance in the recently concluded Gujarat assembly elections and suggest corrective measures.

The committee will be chaired by former Maharashtra minister Nitin Raut, who also heads the party's SC department. The panel has been asked to submit its report to the party within two weeks.

The other members of the committee are Shakeel Ahmad Khan and Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, an official communication from the party said. The party has set up several



such panels in the past to assess the party's poll debacle in several states but none of the reports have been discussed within the party forums, Congress leaders maintained.

The formation of the committee comes in the wake of the Congress' worst-ever performance in the Gujarat assembly polls where it won only 17 seats out of total 182

assembly constituencies.

"The Congress president has constituted a fact-finding committee to evaluate the results of the recently concluded assembly elections in Gujarat and suggest measures to be taken, with immediate effect," it said.

"The committee will submit a report to Hon'ble Congress president within two weeks," All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary KC Venugopal said in the communication.

Many in the party, however, feel that reports of such committees are gathering dust in the party and the recommendations have not been implemented. Former Congress president Sonia

Gandhi had set up a committee headed by former Maharashtra chief minister Ashok Chavan after the party's poll debacle in Assam and Kerala and some other states, but the recommendations were not discussed at the party forum.

Veteran party leader A K Antony has in the past headed several such committees on fact-finding the party's performance in the past, but senior leaders point out that none of them have seen any of Antony's reports and wondered where they are.

The Congress performed poorly in the Gujarat assembly elections getting a vote share of 27.28 per cent. In the 2017 assembly polls in Gujarat, the party had won 77 seats.

2,000 CRPF personnel being deployed in Rajouri, Poonch

The development comes in view of twin terror attacks in Rajouri district in which six people of a minority community including two children were killed and 11 others were injured



Bandh enters second day

Jammu: The bandh against the twin terror attacks in Rajouri entered its second day in the border town of Poonch Wednesday while protests were held across the Jammu region. Security was beefed up in the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in view of the bandh, officials said. Shops and business establishments remained closed in the district as hundreds of people, braving cold weather, came out to hold protests. Raising anti-Pakistan slogans, the protesters burnt tyres and demanded enhancement of security in and around minority places in districts of the Jammu region. In Kathua, protesters assembled on the highway at Kalibari and blocked it, thereby disrupting the movement of the traffic for an hour. Kashmiri Pandit employees, who have been demanding relocation away from the Valley following the selective killings, took out a candle march in Jammu to protests against the twin attacks in Rajouri.

for the security of minority areas in Rajouri and Poonch.

There is a huge cry from the minority community people over the security of their areas in border districts after the Rajouri attack.

Two children were killed and six people were injured in an IED

explosion Monday near the house of one of the victims in Dangri village, officials said.

Sunday evening, terrorists opened fire on three houses of a minority community in the area in Rajouri district killing four civilians and injuring six.

95,000 beneficiaries reject AP govt's house sites

THE LAYOUTS PROPOSED ARE EITHER FAR AWAY FROM HUMAN HABITATIONS OR CLOSE TO BURIAL GROUNDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Jan 4: More than 95,000 women beneficiaries, who were given house sites in Andhra Pradesh two years ago, are now refusing to build houses under a government scheme for a variety of reasons, according to Housing Department officials.

The beneficiaries have been asking the state government to provide them sites at alternative locations as the layouts now proposed are either far away from human habitations or close to burial grounds, the officials said.

This has pushed the government into a quandary as it will be required to spend close to Rs 800 crore to find alternative sites.

"If we are to fulfil the demand, we will have to acquire more than 2,000 acres of land from private owners for these people. Previously, what we gave away was government land," a top official of the Housing Department said.

The department officials informed Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy recently that there were 95,106 'tough cases' where the beneficiaries were refusing to take the house site (1.5 cents each) and also build a house.

Officials pointed out that in at least 30 per cent of the cases, the new housing layouts were "located near unsuitable areas like burial grounds."

In another 30 per cent of the cases, the proposed layouts were far away from the existing habitations because of which the beneficiaries

were rejecting them.

Such problems have cropped up in many mandal headquarter towns and in some semi-urban areas. In some districts, the officials grouped people from two-three villages and sought to develop a single layout, away from the villages. Here, the beneficiaries are demanding that they be provided sites in their respective villages only.

Special Chief Secretary (Housing) Ajay Jain, however, maintained that the problem arose only in respect of about 50,000 beneficiaries.

"We have asked the district collectors to conduct a survey and identify alternative land for house sites. After the survey we will complete land acquisition and distribute house sites to the beneficiaries," Jain told PTI.

"In only 1.5 per cent of the total cases have the beneficiaries sought alternative land for various reasons. We have taken this to the notice of the Chief Minister, who asked us to provide alternative sites to the 100 per cent satisfaction of the beneficiaries," Jain pointed out.

Meanwhile, the government is going to acquire about 600 acres of land, at an estimated cost of Rs 251 crore, for another 24,068 beneficiaries in Prakasam and Anantapuramu districts as the sites previously allotted were under litigation.

The beneficiaries here could not go ahead with construction of houses. Housing department authorities said alternative lands



have been identified in the two districts and the acquisition process was on.

Two years ago, the state government distributed house sites to about 25 lakh women beneficiaries under the flagship 'Pedalankari Illu' (houses for all poor) programme and promised to build as many houses in new layouts.

The state government dovetailed this with the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and took up construction of 18.63 lakh houses in the first phase, targeting to complete them by June 2023.

However, construction of about two lakh houses has not yet begun because of legal issues and reluctance on part of the beneficiaries.

Of the 16.67 lakh houses started, only 6.96 lakh reached the basement and above level in over two years now while construction of only 2.09 lakh houses was com-

pleted, official said.

The Government of India released a sum of Rs 5,172 crore to the state for the housing programme so far during the current financial year but Rs 1,140 crore has not been spent on the intended purpose. The state government is also yet to release its share of Rs 888 crore for the housing works, severely hampering the progress, officials lament.

"Unless this Rs 2,028 crore is immediately released and utilised, the Centre will not release a further grant of Rs 2,488 crore. This will jeopardise the whole programme," the officials said.

For work done under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), the state government is yet to pay Rs 120 crore to the beneficiaries, even as the Housing department requested that Rs 220 crore be immediately released to put the programme on 'auto-pilot mode'.

BRS forays into neighbouring AP

WITH THIS TELANGANA'S RULING PARTY HAS MADE ITS FIRST BIG FORAY OUTSIDE THE STATE AFTER TELANGANA RASHTRA SAMITHI BECAME BHARAT RASHTRA SAMITHI TO EXPAND ITS ACTIVITIES TO VARIOUS STATES



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Jan 4: Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) expanded its activities to Andhra Pradesh with former minister Ravela Kishore Babu, former IAS officer Thota Chandrasekhar, and former IRS officer Chintala Partha Sarathi joining the party in the presence of party chief and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

At an event held at BRS headquarters Telangana Bhavan, the three leaders who were earlier with Jana Sena Party (JSP) of actor-politician Pawan Kalyan, formally joined the BRS.

Rao welcomed them into BRS fold by offering them pink colour party scarves and announced that Chandrasekhar will be the President of the party's Andhra Pradesh unit.

Chandrasekhar hails from Kapu community, which has a strong presence in Andhra. He was a member of the YSRCP in 2014 and, after losing the Eluru Lok Sabha poll, joined the Jana Sena.

KCR, as Rao is popularly known, said Kishore Babu, who worked with Bahujan Samaj Party's founder Kanshi Ram, will play a key role at the national level in designing party policies and programmes for the empowerment of Dalits.

Kishore Babu, who was elected to Andhra Pradesh Assembly from Prathipadu in 2014, had served as SC and ST welfare minister in the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) gov-

Naidu prevented from entering his constituency

The state government has ordered a ban on public meetings on roads in the wake of the December 28 stampede at Kandukur during Naidu's roadshow which had claimed eight lives

AGENCIES

Amaravati, Jan 4: The police Wednesday prevented Telugu Desam Party president N Chandrababu Naidu's entry into his Kuppam constituency days after the Andhra Pradesh government issued an order (GO No.1) prohibiting public meetings and rallies on roads across the state.

Police resorted to a lathi charge and seized several vehicles of TDP leaders, including Naidu's campaign vehicle, besides taking many party workers into custody.

As thousands of TDP workers welcomed him on his arrival from Bengaluru, the TDP supreme refused to take a notice served on him by the police denying him permission for his tour.

Naidu entered into a heated argument with the local Sub-Divisional Police Officer as the latter sought to stop the former Chief Minister's convoy saying there was



no permission for his rally. He demanded to know why permission was being denied for his visit but the SDPO did not give any reason and left.

Tension prevailed at Pedduru village, bordering Kuppam, as Naidu reached there from Bengaluru airport on the first day of his proposed three-day trip and the police blocked his entry.

Getting down from his bullet-proof vehicle, the former Chief Minister questioned the SDPO over the police action.

"I am the MLA from Kuppam for the past seven terms. It's my home. How can you prevent me from going to my own house," Naidu angrily questioned.

"What sanctity does the GO No. 1 have. The Police Act, 1861 is not

applicable to the state of Andhra Pradesh. How can the government issue an order based on that Act," he asked. Naidu pointed out that he had written to the Director General of Police several days ago informing about his Kuppam tour.

"We have applied for permission to the district Superintendent of Police. The illegal GO was issued on January 2 but the police claim the prohibitory orders came into force from January 1," he noted.

Defying the police, Naidu marched on the streets in Pedduru and addressed the people.

Lashing out at Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy, he charged him with "muzzling not just the Opposition's voice but the people's voice itself. We will fight it out," he asserted.

Bharat Jodo Yatra to enter J&K on Jan 20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathua/Jammu, Jan 4: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra will arrive in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district January 20 and will conclude in Srinagar summer capital January 30, a senior party leader said Tuesday.

Rajya Sabha MP and party in-charge J and K Rajni Patil said the Congress is focused on making the Yatra successful because it is the largest mass mobilisation programme being undertaken in independent India.

The Congress has put its heart, mind and soul in it, she added.

Patil, accompanied by J-K Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani, AICC joint secretary Manoj Yadav, coordinator of Bharat Jodo Yatra in J-K G A Mir and party senior leader Tariq Hamid Karra, visited Lakhapur to review the measures being undertaken for the Yatra.

"Rahul ji will arrive here January 20 and will conclude his journey January 30," Patil told reporters in Kathua.

She said the team had come to finalise the venue and review arrangements for the Yatra.

On terror attacks in Rajouri, she said the government has totally failed on the security front.

Patil said that Bharat Jodo Yatra was initiated by the Congress to bring together the entire nation



and to strengthen it.

"The Yatra stands as a turning point in the history of India and is the biggest mass conduct programme after independence. Everyone is excited and spirited to be a part of it," she said.

She said the Yatra is aimed to bring the people on the ground to raise their voices against issues that cause division in the country.

Patil said the BJP targeting the Bharat Jodo Yatra is a clear indication that it is a big success and troubling the saffron party very much.

"Why should we be worried, let them criticise," she added.

A village in Kashmir where taking dowry is crime

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Jan 4: Baba Vail village located in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir is emerging as a movement not only for Kashmiris but for others as dowry taking and giving have been banned there.

In this village, dowry is considered a crime and the marriage ceremony is performed with simplicity. If someone violates the decision not to take dowry, he is socially boycotted.

In fact, in 2004, the people here unanimously imposed a complete ban on dowry, for which a document was officially prepared. This document was signed by the elders and concerned people of the village and then a copy was also submitted to the District Development Office and Tehsil Office.

According to Maulvi Bashir Ahmad Shah, the imam of Jamia Masjid of the village, all villagers came together to control dowry



and abolish it completely.

According to this agreement, no one will have the right to demand jewellery, television, refrigerator, clothes and other things from the bride's family, while the bridegroom has to give Rs 50,000 to the

girl's family, out of which Rs 20,000 is 'mahar'. And the remaining Rs 30,000 will be kept for the expenses of the bride.

According to Maulvi Bashir Ahmad, in this agreement, it has also been decided that if anyone vi-

olates this decision, he will be socially boycotted, he will not be allowed to worship in the village mosque and if someone in that family dies, the body will not be buried in the local cemetery. According to him, all the villagers

have agreed to this decision and are following it.

Baba Vail is located at a distance of 30 km from Srinagar with a population of around 16,000. Most of the local population of Baba Vail is involved in the business of walnut cultivation and pashmina shawl weaving. The people of the village are very happy with this decision. According to them, there has not been a single incident of domestic violence in the said village due to this decision. The girls are married on time.

A local resident, named Rahim Rizwan, told IANS that because of the simplicity of the marriage ceremony by abandoning non-Islamic customs, every poor girl is able to get married now.

"Girls were not able to get married due to dowry and crossed the marriageable age while there are many parents who are indebted to raise money for dowry. That is why we want to eradicate this menace from the whole society," he said.

of the day quote

The central government has been providing huge funds to the Kumbh Mela. But it is not providing anything to Gangasagar Mela. That is the reason that I will request them to declare it as a national fair so that we can get some funds

MAMATA BANERJEE | WB CM

Since Kala-azar impacts those among the lower socio-economic strata of society, early diagnosis and complete case management, integrated control and surveillance along with the capacity building of human resource must be taken up on ground level

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | HEALTH MINISTER

The Supreme Court in its decision had announced that the SYL should be constructed but Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and his administrative wing are not ready to find any solution to this issue

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

SHORT TAKES

Four BF.7 cases detected in WB

Sagar Island (WB): Four cases of Omicron subvariant BF.7 were detected in West Bengal, a health official said Wednesday. Genome sequencing of the four people, who have recently returned from the US, confirmed that they were infected with the new variant of the coronavirus, he said. The condition of the four patients is stable, he said. Of the four people, three are of the same family and are native of Nadia district, while one person hails from Bihar but currently resides in Kolkata, the official told PTI.

Cheriyam sworn-in as Kerala Minister

Thiruvananthapuram: CPI(M) leader Saji Cheriyam was Wednesday again sworn in as Minister in the Pinarayi Vijayan government, nearly six months after he had resigned from the Cabinet following a furore over his alleged remarks against the Constitution.

WB gov provided Z+ security cover

Kolkata: Following an alert from central intelligence agencies about a life threat to newly-appointed West Bengal Governor, CV Ananda Bose, his security has been upgraded to the highest category of Z+. It is learnt that before becoming West Bengal Governor, Bose was a member of the central team that came to West Bengal on a fact-finding mission in 2021 to probe allegations of post-poll violence in the state after the Assembly polls.



“Since the media is not highlighting the issues of people, we thought of raising matters relating to demonetisation, wrong GST, price rise, unemployment in the Parliament, but there the mike was switched off. So we thought let’s walk from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, listen to the people”

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

SONIA HOSPITALISED

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi Wednesday for treatment of viral respiratory infection



People warm themselves near a bonfire during a cold winter morning in New Delhi. Delhi’s minimum temperature Wednesday morning plunged to 4.4 degrees Celsius — the season’s lowest -- making the national capital colder than Dharamsala, Nainital and Dehradun

DRUNK MAN ‘URINATES’ ON WOMAN IN FLIGHT

AI puts 30-day travel ban on passenger; FIR lodged

MEANWHILE, THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN HAS WRITTEN TO THE AIR INDIA LIMITED CHAIRMAN TO INTERVENE IN THE MATTER



WOMAN ‘STRIP-SEARCHED’ AT AIRPORT

Bangalore: A woman has alleged that she was asked to remove her shirt during a security check at the Kempegowda International Airport here, asking what was the need for the officials to do so. However, authorities at the airport sought to distance themselves away from the matter and said they cannot take any action on the matter as it pertains to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). “I was asked to remove my shirt at the Bangalore Airport during security check. It was really humiliating to stand there at the security checkpoint wearing just a camisole and getting the kind of attention you’d never want as a woman. @BLRAirport Why you need a woman to strip?” the woman passenger tweeted Tuesday. After tweeting, she de-activated her account. The airport authorities distanced themselves from the episode.

on part of the crew in addressing the situation.

Separately, aviation regulator DGCA said it has sought a report from the airline on the incident and will “take action against those found negligent”. On November 26, an inebriated male passenger had urinated on a female co-passenger during a flight from New York to Delhi, according to reports. Meanwhile, the National Commission for Women has written to Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran to intervene in the matter. The Commission said the horrendous behaviour of the man towards the woman violated her right to live a life of dignity and safety. The NCW said it has come across several media reports

wherein it has been alleged that a man in an inebriated state urinated on a woman co-passenger in an Air India flight in November but faced no action. It has also been reported that after urinating, the man allegedly did not move until another passenger asked him to, it said. The woman had complained to the crew, who reportedly just gave her a set of pyjamas and slippers and told her to return to her seat, claiming no other seat was available, the Commission said. It has written to Air India Chairman Chandrasekaran to intervene in the matter and take appropriate action against the culprit. The Commission has sought a detailed action taken report from Delhi Police within seven days.

SC grants bail to wife of aide of slain gangster Dubey in cops’ killing case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: The Supreme Court Wednesday granted bail to Khushi Dubey, the wife of a close aide of slain gangster Vikas Dubey, in a case related to the killing of eight policemen who had gone to arrest him in a Kanpur village in July 2020.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices S Abdul Nazeer and P S Narasimha took note of the submissions of senior lawyer Vivek Tankha that Khushi was a minor at the time of offence and regular bail be granted to her as the charge sheet has also been filed in the

Khushi’s counsel said it is a case of an innocent person at a wrong place at the wrong time as she was married to Amar only seven days before the July 3 incident

case. “Having regard to the... Facts and circumstances, we are of the view that the continued custody of the petitioner at this stage would not subserve the ends of justice. We accordingly direct that the petitioner be released on bail subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the Sessions Court in connection with Sessions Trial No...,” the bench said in its order.

The local court shall ensure that one of the conditions to be imposed for the grant of bail is that Khushi shall appear at least once every week before the station house officer (SHO) of the police station concerned and cooperate in the trial.

The top court took note of the submissions that the petitioner was a minor on the date of the incident.

Khushi is the wife of Amar Dubey, who was also killed in a police encounter later.

SC stays Allahabad HC order on OBC quota for UP civic body polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: In a major relief to the Uttar Pradesh government, the Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the Allahabad High Court order directing it to hold urban local body polls without reservation for the other backward classes (OBCs).

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha also ordered that the committee appointed by the state government to decide issues related to grant of OBC



quota for the local body polls will have to conclude the exercise within three months by March 31, 2023 instead of six months as stipulated earlier. The bench took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, that one of the directions issued by the high court with regard to the functioning of the local bodies under administrators after the expiry of the terms of the elected representatives can be allowed to operate. The top court permitted the state government to appoint administrators to run the affairs of the local bodies after the expiry of the

tenure of the elected representatives but said the administrators will not be empowered to take major policy decisions. “The high court by impugned judgement dated ... Has directed (to hold elections without OBC reservation) ... Pending further orders of this court, the operation of the above direction shall remain stayed,” the bench said in its order.

At the outset, the bench considered submissions of the solicitor general that the state government has set up the Uttar Pradesh State Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission in pursuance of the apex court judgements to decide the quota issue keeping in mind the political representation of different backward castes in local bodies.

The bench also took note of the submission of the state government that though the tenure of the newly appointed commission is six months, an effort will be made to ensure the exercise gets over as expeditiously as possible on or before March 31.

The top court also issued notices to those who had moved the high court against the notification of the state government and listed the matter for hearing after three weeks. Earlier, the state government had moved the top court with its appeal against the December 27 order of the high court, saying the high court cannot quash the December 5 draft notification which provided for reservation of seats in the urban civic body polls for other backward classes (OBCs) apart from those for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women.

Siddaramaiah calls Bommai a ‘puppy’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ballari (KTK), Jan 4: Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah Wednesday called Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai a puppy before Prime Minister Narendra Modi for alleged failure to bring ₹5,495 crore into the State as was recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.

Hitting back, Chief Minister Bommai said Siddaramaiah’s statement mirrors his personality. Just like a faithful dog, he is loyal to the people of the State.

Bommai said Modi is like a ‘kamadhenu’ (wish-fulfilling cow) who gave many projects to Karnataka, which never happened since Independence.

Addressing a public meeting today, Siddaramaiah challenged Bommai to show some courage. “Basavaraj Bommai, you are like a puppy in front of Narendra Modi. You tremble before him,” the Congress leader remarked.

The former Chief Minister pointed out that the 15th Finance Commission in its interim report recommended the ₹5,495 crore as a special allowance for Karnataka.

“But our Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaramam, a



Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, wrote to the Finance Commission chairperson N K Singh that it is not possible for us to give the ₹5,495 crore. She asked the chairperson to drop the issue,” Siddaramaiah claimed. “Karnataka sent 25 BJP MPs to the Lok Sabha. You (Bommai) came to power through ‘Operation Lotus’ in Karnataka. If you have guts and courage, then get ₹5,495 crore from the Centre,” the Congress said to the Chief Minister.

Reacting to that, Bommai said the people would give a befitting reply to the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly election which is about four months away. “The statement shows the personality of the Congress leader,” Bommai told reporters in Ballari.

He added that just like dog, which is a faithful animal, he would also remain faithful.

Over 5.7cr Indians affected by serious fungal diseases: Study

FUNGAL DISEASE IS FREQUENT IN INDIA, BUT ITS INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE ARE UNCLEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: Over 5.7 crore Indians are affected by serious fungal diseases, 10 per cent of which are from potentially deadly mold infections, according to a review of over 400 published research articles.

Fungal disease is frequent in India, but its incidence and prevalence are unclear. This review is the first to define the frequency or burden of various fungal infections in the country.

Researchers from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, AIIMS Kalyani, West Bengal and PGIMER, Chandigarh, along with The University of Manchester, UK, estimate that 57,250,826 (over 5.7 crore) – or 4.4 per cent of India’s

population -- are likely to be affected.

“The total burden due to fungal diseases is huge but underappreciated,” said Animesh Ray of AIIMS Delhi, the lead author of the article.

“While tuberculosis affects less than three million people in a year in India, the number of Indians affected by fungal disease are several times higher,” Ray said.

The review, published in the journal Open Forum Infectious Diseases, found that vaginal thrush -- or yeast infection of vagina -- affected around 2.4 crore women of reproductive age, with repeated attacks. Hair fungal infection -- known as tinea capitis -- in school-age children affected a similar number. It causes a painful infected



scalp and leaves many with hair loss, according to the study. Major contributors to death were mold infections of lungs and sinuses, affecting over 250,000 (2.5 lakh) people, the researchers said.

Another 1,738,400 (over 17 lakh) people had chronic aspergillosis -- an infection of respiratory system caused by a type of mold -- and there were 35 lakh people with serious allergic lung mold disease,

they said. The review shows that over 10 lakh people are thought to have potentially blinding fungal eye disease, and nearly two lakh had mucormycosis, so called “Black mold”.

This total burden of serious fungal infections is over 10 times the annual incidence of tuberculosis in India, indicating an enormous population of patients affected by fungal diseases, the researchers said.

Professor David Denning from The University of Manchester and Global Action For Fungal Disease noted that there have been major diagnostic improvements in re-

cent years, with public health services in India catching up with private hospitals in terms of capability.

“However, fungal disease continues to be a threat to public health and a cause of significant morbidity and mortality representing a considerable socio-economic burden to those who are infected by them,” Denning said.

“And there remain large parts of India with limited diagnostic capability, as evidenced by our inability to estimate some important diseases such as histoplasmosis and fungal asthma in children,” he added.

MEHRAULI KILLING CASE

Hair, bones confirmed to be of Shradha Walkar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: Hair and bone samples sent for DNA mitochondrial profiling by police have been confirmed to be of Shradha Walkar who was killed by her 28-year-old live-in partner Aaftab Amin Poonawala, a senior official said here Wednesday.

The bones and hair were recovered during searches from forest areas of Delhi NCR including Gurgaon and Mehrauli, the police said.

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Sagar Preet Hooda said the bone and hair samples from which DNA could not be extracted were sent to the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) Hyderabad for ‘DNA Mitochondrial profiling’.

international

of the day quote

His (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI) acute and gentle thought was not self-referential, but ecclesial, because he always wanted to accompany us in the encounter with Jesus

This is a decisive decade, and we are focused on how we compete vigorously to advance our interest while building diverse coalitions to address the biggest challenges of our time

The Pakistani side has a responsibility to resolve the situation, avoid baseless talks and provocative ideas, because such talks and mistrust are not in the interest of any side

SHORT TAKES

UNSC welcomes new members

United Nations: Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland got a formal welcome into the UN Security Council Tuesday, taking the two-year seats they won unopposed in June. In a tradition that Kazakhstan started in 2018, the five countries' ambassadors installed their national flags Tuesday alongside those of other members outside the council chambers.

Iran frees actress held over protests

Dubai: Iran released a prominent actress from an Oscar-winning film Wednesday, nearly three weeks after she was jailed for criticising a crackdown on anti-government protests, local reports said.

Germany rejects Poland's demand

Warsaw: Germany has formally rejected a World War II reparations claim estimated to be 1.3 trillion euros (\$1.4 trillion), the Polish foreign ministry said Tuesday.

Pak orders malls to close early

Islamabad: Authorities Wednesday ordered shopping malls and markets to close by 8.30 pm as part of a new energy conservation plan aimed at easing Pakistan's economic crisis, officials said.



Europeans needed a wake-up call to understand that the difficult aspects of life are not always taken care of by others, adding, no region will be stable if dominated by a single power

RECORD RESIDENCY BY CANADA

Canada set an immigration record last year by granting more than 437,000 foreigners permanent residency, the government said, as it ramps up immigration to fight a tight labour market

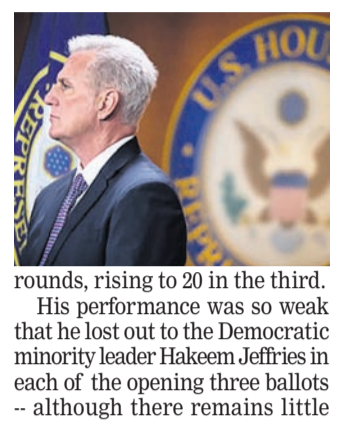


FIRST TIME IN A CENTURY US Cong fails to elect speaker in first ballot

RATHER THAN CELEBRATING THEIR NEW CONTROL OF THE HOUSE, REPUBLICANS INSTEAD FACE A DRAWN-OUT FIGHT TO ELECT A SPEAKER THAT COULD FURTHER DEEPEN INTERNAL DIVISIONS -- AND PUT MCCARTHY'S POLITICAL CAREER ON THE LINE

Washington, Jan 4: The new US Congress was plunged into disarray Tuesday as renegade right-wing Republicans blocked favorite Kevin McCarthy from becoming speaker of the House of Representatives in a series of humiliating votes seen as a rebuke to the party establishment.

But for the first time in a century, Republicans failed to elect a speaker in a nail-biting first three rounds of voting -- given blanket coverage across US television networks.



Kevin McCarthy, Republican, speaking at a podium during the first round of voting for speaker of the House.

doubt a Republican will ultimately claim the speaker's gavel. McCarthy has long coveted the role, having withdrawn from the race in 2015 amid a number of blunders and a right-wing revolt.

who is running for the White House again after losing to Biden in 2020. Lawmakers agreed to adjourn until Wednesday amid steadily building momentum among the Republicans to regroup overnight, lick their wounds and formulate a strategy to turn catastrophic defeat into an unlikely face-saving victory.

DRONE INTRUSION

SK warns of ending military pact with NK

Seoul, Jan 4: South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol said Wednesday he would consider suspending a 2018 inter-Korean military pact if the North violates its airspace again, his office said, amid tension over a recent intrusion by North Korean drones.

Russia plans to 'turn tide of war'

More than 10 months since Putin sent troops into Ukraine, there is no end in sight to the war which has descended into a grinding winter artillery battle that has killed and wounded tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides

Kyiv, Jan 4: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia was planning to call up more troops for a major new offensive, even as Moscow was facing some of its biggest internal criticism of the war over a strike that killed scores of fresh conscripts.

undermine morale. Hundreds of thousands of men fled Russia when Putin ordered the first call-up of reservists since World War Two in September after military setbacks.



Russia will throw 'everything they have left' into war - Kyiv. 89 Russian troops killed in New Year's strike: Defence Ministry. Bakhmut on eastern front still scene of intense fighting.

PUTIN SENDS ZIRCON HYPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILES TO ATLANTIC

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin sent a frigate to the Atlantic Ocean armed with new generation hypersonic cruise missiles Wednesday, a signal to the West that Russia will not back down over the war in Ukraine.

A Ukrainian strike on New Year's Eve had killed 89 servicemen, the deadliest incident Moscow has acknowledged for its troops since the start of the war.

base in Makiivka, twin city of regional capital Donetsk. Russia has effectively shut down all direct opposition to the war, with open criticism banned by severe media rules.

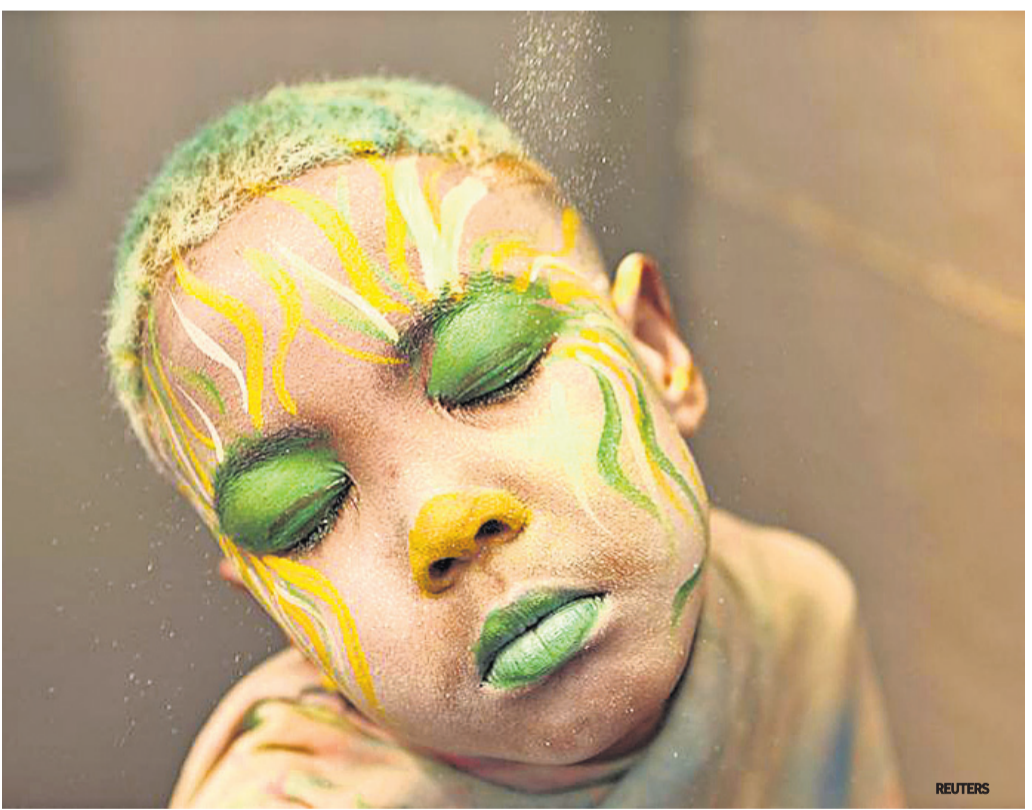
China Covid outbreak stokes global fears

China is convinced of 'final victory' over Covid as world awaits virus data

Beijing, Jan 4: China's state media rallied citizens Wednesday for a "final victory" over Covid-19 as health officials abroad tried to work out the scale of its raging outbreak and how to stop it spreading.



Virus spreading fast in China after policy U-turn. Who holds briefing after talks with Chinese scientists. More countries seek pre-boarding tests from China arrivals.



Junior Lambrechts has his face painted in preparation for the Cape Minstrel Carnival in Cape Town, South Africa

DEMOGRAPHIC DISTURBANCE Japan to pay families 1mn yen/child to leave Tokyo

WITH MORE YOUNG PEOPLE MOVING AWAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES IN CITIES, JAPAN'S RURAL AREAS HAVE SEEN RAPID DEPOPULATION IN RECENT YEARS

Agencies Tokyo, Jan 4: According to reports, Japan government is going to pay families 1 million yen per child to move out of Tokyo this year to combat the rapid depopulation in the country's rural areas.

to rural areas by 2027 under this scheme which began in 2019. Last year, the government supported 1,184 families, while 290 in 2020 and 71 in 2019.



local municipalities are splitting the cost of the funds. Additional support would also be provided if the families want to start a business in the local area.

business. Those who move out before five years have passed will have to return the cash. In an attempt to draw crowds, the benefits of Japan's towns and villages are being constantly highlighted. Among them is the availability of "eligible men", as in the case of Otari village, and easy access to childcare.

business

of the day quote

As India enters the 5G era, Indus Towers stands to play a crucial role in partnership with various stakeholders including mobile operators

PRACHUR SAH | MD AND CEO, INDUS TOWERS

The investments that have been undertaken in a challenging time period, span across all the key tyre segments with major beneficiary being truck and bus radials (TBR) and passenger car radials (PCR) manufacturing

SATISH SHARMA | CHAIRMAN, ATMA

India is a growing economy and is an interesting market with vast demographics therefore, we aim to further strengthen our consumer base by introducing a product portfolio that is developed basis the insights of the consumers

HONG JU JEON | MD, LG ELECTRONICS

SHORT TAKES

HDFC posts 19.5% loan growth in Q3

New Delhi: Private sector lender HDFC Bank Wednesday said it has recorded a 19.5 per cent increase in credit growth to ₹15 lakh crore for the third quarter ended December 2022. The bank had outstanding credit at ₹12.6 lakh crore at the end of December 31, 2021, HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing. On a sequential basis, the bank posted a 1.8 per cent growth over the September 2022 quarter's figure of ₹14.7 lakh crore. As per the bank's internal business classification, domestic retail loans grew by around 21.5 per cent over December 31, 2021 and around 5 per cent over September 30, 2022; commercial and rural banking loans grew by around 30 per cent over December 31, 2021 and around 5 per cent over September 30, 2022.

Twitter to relax ban on political adverts

Washington: Twitter says it will ease up on its 3-year-old ban on political advertising, the latest change by Elon Musk as he tries to pump up revenue after purchasing the social media platform last year. The company tweeted late Tuesday that "we're relaxing our ads policy for cause-based ads in the US." Twitter banned all political advertising in 2019, reacting to growing concern about misinformation spreading on social media.

Walmart gets \$1bn tax bill

Bangalore: Walmart Inc and other PhonePe shareholders will have to pay nearly \$1 billion in tax after the digital payments company shifted its headquarters to India, Bloomberg News reported Wednesday, citing people familiar with the matter. PhonePe is raising funds at a \$12 billion pre-money valuation from General Atlantic, Qatar Investment Authority and others, triggering the hefty charge, according to the report. The fintech firm was last valued at around \$5.5 billion in December 2020.

Volkswagen sales grow 85% in 2022

New Delhi: German automotive group Volkswagen's sales in India grew 85.48 per cent to 1,01,270 units in 2022, SKODA AUTO Volkswagen India Pvt Ltd said Wednesday. The group's sales in India stood at 54,598 units in 2021. The strategy of the group, which is present in India through brands SKODA, Volkswagen, Audi, Porsche and Lamborghini, is spearheaded by SKODA AUTO Volkswagen India Pvt.



We have demanded from the government that the e-commerce policy should be rolled out immediately. Likewise, a national policy for retail trade should also be declared as soon as possible and a Regulatory Authority should be constituted

PRAVEEN KHANDEWAL | SECRETARY GENERAL, CAIT

BYJU'S FOUNDERS TO RAISE STAKE

Edtech major BYJU's founders Byju Raveendran and Divya Gokulnath are planning to increase their stake in the company to about 40 per cent and have initiated discussion with investors, sources said Wednesday. The founders jointly hold around 25 per cent stake in the company at present



Apple loses \$1trn in m-cap in a year

A year ago, Apple became the first public tech firm valued at \$3 trillion and now its market cap has fallen below \$2 trillion

trillion. The fall meant that in just one year, the tech giant lost \$1 trillion in market capitalisation.

According to CNN, like many other tech companies, Apple has been hit by supply chain issues. Its manufacturing in China has taken a hit due to a fresh wave of Covid infections in the only major economy combating such a crisis.

On January 3, Apple's shares were down by nearly 4 per cent after a report raised concerns about consumer demand for its products, according to the report. Nikkei Asia reported Monday



that Apple recently notified several suppliers to build fewer parts for some of its most popular devices for the first quarter, including AirPods, the Apple Watch, and MacBooks. Such reports have raised

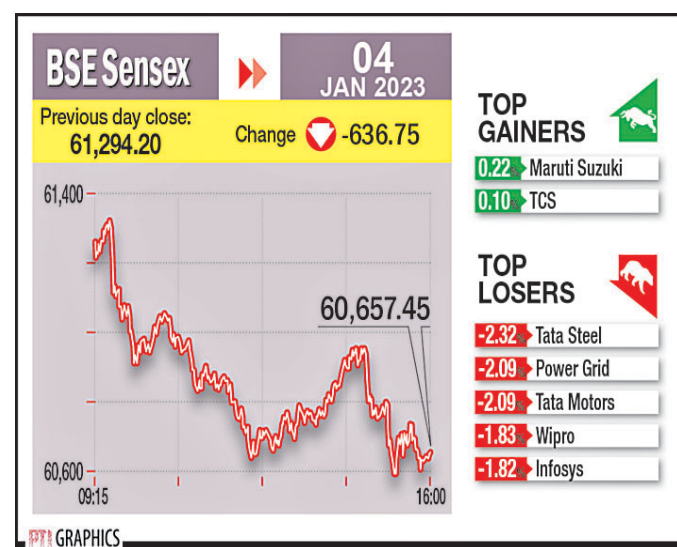
concern about demand for Apple products as well.

However, Apple is not the only company to suffer a massive reduction in market capitalisation.

While Apple's market value has declined significantly, other major technology companies have experienced steeper percentage declines. Amazon and Facebook-parent Meta's shares have fallen by about 50 per cent and 63 per cent, respectively, over the past year, said the report.

In comparison, Apple was down about 31 per cent over the same time period, the report added.

Sensex snaps 2-day rally, slides 637 pts to close below 61K



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 4: The Sensex skidded 637 points while the Nifty plunged below the 18,050-level Wednesday as investors took money off the table after a two-day rally ahead of the release of US Fed meeting minutes.

Unabated foreign fund outflows also weighed on sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 636.75 points or 1.04 per cent to settle at 60,657.45. The broader NSE Nifty ended lower by 189.60 points or 1.04 per cent at 18,042.95.

Tata Steel was the biggest loser among Sensex components, slipping 2.32 per cent, followed by Power Grid, Tata Motors, Wipro, Infosys, HDFC Bank, HDFC and Reliance Industries.

Only two counters managed to end in the green - Maruti Suzuki and TCS, rising up to 0.22 per cent.

"The domestic market affected by the worries in the global market, traded with deep cuts. Fears over aggressive rate hikes resurfaced ahead of the release of Fed meeting minutes, a meeting that left the door open for additional hikes. Apart from global cues, the domestic market will pay close attention to corporate earnings," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said cau-

RUPEE RECOVERED FROM ITS ALL-TIME LOW LEVEL AND SETTLED 23 PAISE HIGHER AT 82.77 AGAINST US DOLLAR

tiousness ahead of the release of FOMC meeting minutes led to some profit booking in the index heavyweights.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.97 per cent and the smallcap index dipped 0.79 per cent. Among sectoral indices, metal tanked 2.83 per cent, realty went lower by 1.99 per cent, utilities (1.74 per cent), energy (1.70 per cent), oil & gas (1.52 per cent) and power (1.51 per cent).

International oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 1.86 per cent to \$80.57 per barrel.

The rupee recovered from its all-time low level and settled 23 paise higher at 82.77 against the US dollar Wednesday, supported by easing crude oil prices.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets as they offloaded shares worth ₹2,620.89 crore.

Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Tokyo settled lower. Equity exchanges in Europe were trading in the positive zone in mid-session deals. Markets in the had US ended lower Tuesday.

CUTTING EMISSIONS

Govt boost to green hydrogen industry

India aims to produce 5 million tonne of green hydrogen per annum in the next five years and the incentives would help bring down the cost

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet Wednesday approved a ₹19,744 crore incentive plan to promote the manufacturing of green hydrogen in the country in a bid to cut emissions.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the Cabinet approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission which is expected to attract ₹8 lakh crore of investment in the green hydrogen chain.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved National Green Hydrogen Mission," Thakur said while briefing reporters about the Cabinet decisions.

Carbon-free hydrogen, which can be used as fuel in automobiles and as an energy source in industries such as oil refineries and steel plants, is produced by splitting water. When electricity generated from renewable sources such as the sun is used to split water through electrolysis, green hydrogen is produced. Oxygen is a by-product of such a process.

The initial outlay for the mission will be ₹19,744 crore, including an outlay of ₹17,490 crore for the SIGHT programme, ₹1,466 crore



Cabinet okays ₹19,744cr incentive plan to promote the manufacturing of green hydrogen

It envisages an investment of over ₹8 lakh crore and creation of over 6 lakh jobs by 2030

Indian hydrogen demand is anticipated to see a five-fold jump to 28 MT by 2050

It will provide a much-needed boost to encourage the green hydrogen industry. This intervention is even more significant because it comes at a time when India has the G20 presidency, clearly showcasing India's commitment to lead the global energy transition

VINEET MITTAL | CHAIRMAN, AVAADA GROUP

for pilot projects, ₹400 crore for R&D, and ₹388 crore towards other mission components.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will formulate the scheme guidelines for implementation. The mission seeks to promote development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of

SERVICES GROWTH AT 6-MONTH HIGH IN DEC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: The Indian services sector growth touched a six-month high in December, supported by a robust intake of new work and favourable market conditions, a monthly survey said Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from 56.4 in November to 58.5 in December, highlighting the strongest rate of expansion since mid-2022.

For the 17th straight month, the headline figure was above the

neutral 50 threshold. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

On the inflation front, input costs at services companies rose further, with companies mentioning wage pressures and higher prices for energy, food and transportation.

Meanwhile, the S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index - which measures combined services and manufacturing output - rose from 56.7 in November to 59.4 in December.

Public Sector Banks are set on a journey towards ₹1 lakh-cr profit milestone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: Public sector Banks have travelled a long distance since 2017 when they posted a net loss of ₹85,390 crore to a profit of ₹66,539 crore in FY22 and are estimated to touch a milestone of ₹1 lakh crore by the end of the current fiscal.

There was a time when 11 out of 21 PSBs were placed under the prompt corrective framework of the Reserve Bank due to deteriorating financial health on account of mounting bad loans to alarming levels of 14.58 per cent of the total credit. PSBs suffered from a host of problems, including a dismally low capital base, unprofessional management, demoralised staff and huge inefficiencies.

Many of them were on the brink of default posing a threat to the financial security of the country. Their share prices were hitting a rock bottom.

The doom-to-bloom story of the

Turnaround of PSBs: A story from doom to bloom

public sector banking industry can be attributed to the initiatives and spate of reforms undertaken by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with the then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar.

As part of the strategy, the government infused an unprecedented ₹3,10,997 crore to recapitalise PSBs during the last five financial years - from 2016-17 to 2020-21. The recapitalisation programme provided much-needed support to the PSBs and prevented the possibility of any default on their part.

Also, the methodology of providing capital through the issuance of recapitalisation bonds is undertaken without impacting the fiscal deficit of the government, except for the interest outgo.

While announcing the recapitalisation programme in October 2017, Kumar had termed PSBs as 'Article of Faith' and the very faith is being validated by the financial sector experts and markets.



PSBs are now in a golden period in terms of their profitability. Although income on investment was constrained due to rising yield, it will improve next year with yields stabilizing

SWARUP KUMAR SAHA | MD, PUNJAB AND SIND BANK

Simultaneously, efforts were made to curb the circulation of black money in a layered fashion. Days after joining the Department of Financial Services, Kumar froze bank accounts of about 3.38 lakh shell companies that were being used for creating fictitious equity.

Due to record recovery in FY19, PSBs' Credit Risk-weighted Assets (RWAs) to Gross Advances ratio decreased from 80.3 per cent in September 2017 to 63.9 per cent in December 2019.

As part of the reform agenda, the politically sensitive decision of

AGENCIES

Gurugram, Jan 4: Droupadi Murmu, President of India, virtually dedicated transmission system built for evacuation of 8.9 GW of solar power in Bhadla, Fatehgarh and Bikaner regions of Rajasthan at a function held at Raj Bhavan in Jaipur January 3.

The transmission system has been built by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna company of Ministry of Power, Government of India. Governor of Rajasthan, Kalraj Mishra, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot, senior officials of Government of Rajasthan, Central



Government and POWERGRID were also present.

Energy transition in the country is happening at an accelerated pace through large scale grid integration of Renewable Energy. By the year 2030, more than 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-

based generation capacity is envisaged. Government has planned various inter-state transmission scheme for renewable energy integration.

Under Phase-I, 8.9 GW of solar power was envisaged from Rajasthan and POWERGRID has developed

inter-state transmission system for evacuation of power from various complexes such as Bhadla-3.55 GW, Fatehgarh-3.5 GW and Bikaner-1.85 GW. 3 sub-stations at Fatehgarh, Bhadla & Khetri, 1872 circuit kms of EHV transmission lines and 12,500 MVA transformation capacity have been added to the Inter State Transmission System. The solar complexes in the region have now been connected to the National Grid.

The total cost of the project is ₹4,928 crore. After completion of the project, renewable energy from solar complexes of Rajasthan is easily accessible to millions of consumers across the country.

FROM RAGS TO RICHES

PSBs booked collective losses to the tune of ₹2,07,329 crore for five straight years - from 2015-16 to 2019-20.

The highest amount of net loss was registered in 2017-18 at ₹85,370 crore, followed by ₹66,636 crore in 2018-19; ₹25,941 crore in 2019-20; ₹17,993 crore in 2015-16 and ₹11,389 crore in 2016-17

In FY22 PSBs witnessed profit of ₹66,539 crore despite Covid-19 woes

privatising a PSB was taken to give a signal that the government is really committed to reforms and can bite the bullet. After hectic parleys, the majority 51 per cent stake of IDBI Bank was sold to LIC in January 2019, making it a private sector bank.

Aided by the capital infusion and nudge from the Department of Financial Services compelled

PSBs to step up action on defaulters who committed fraud. Action against big defaulters like Bhusan Steel, Jet Airways, Essar Steel, Nirav Modi and Rotomac along with bankers like Yes Bank, DHFL, IL&FS, etc. Fundamentally corrected the imbalance in the creditor-debtor relationship.

As a result, the PSBs, which reeled under the stressed assets, bounced back with a vengeance and have started giving a tough fight to private sector peers on all counts. They turned the corner during 2020-21 with a combined net profit of ₹31,820 crore, supported by impressive loan recovery, reduction in NPAs and windfall gains on their bond portfolio.

Subsequently, the combined profit more than doubled to ₹66,539 crore in 2021-22 despite Covid-19 pressure. Many state-owned banks after a hiatus also declared dividends in the last financial year. In all, nine banks, including SBI, declared dividends of ₹7,867 crore to shareholders.

India aim to seal series

Mavi makes intention clear

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 4: Fresh from a hugely successful India debut, pacer Shivam Mavi has made his intention clear of becoming the country's strike bowler, saying he wants to take early wickets in powerplays by targeting the stumps.

Playing in his maiden T20I at the Wankhede against Sri Lanka on Tuesday, the 24-year-old Mavi took two wickets in powerplay to dismiss dangerous opener Pathum Nissanka (1) and Dhananjaya de Silva (8), reducing the visitors to 51/4 in the ninth over.

Mavi had match figures of 4/22, which will warm the hearts of the selectors, who are looking for someone to pair with Jasprit Bumrah in white-ball cricket.

Following India's two-run win in the opening game of the three-match T20I series, the team's bowling coach, Paras Mhambrey, asked the young Mavi what went through his mind when skipper Hardik Pandya handed the new ball to him.

"My main agenda is to attack first in the powerplay as I always go for lbw bowled... Whether the boundaries happen or not, my mindset is to get wickets," said the Noida cricketer, who had been waiting for the India debut for the last six years.

Mhambrey, while praising Mavi's work ethic since his Under-19 days, complimented his "hardworking attitude" and also his resolution to come back from injuries and play in the domestic circuit.

"After the U-19 (World Cup in 2018) when I played in the IPL, I had injuries but I decided to level up my fitness because I was getting injured in between my performance. I decided to work hard on my fitness and it paid me back in this



match," said Mavi. Mavi said it was a "dream come true" for him as getting the opportunity to play for India is in itself a big ask.

"It is difficult to get a chance in the first match. Also, it is my first tour. You must have seen that it's not easy to get chance and I had been waiting for this moment from the last six years when I was injured after the U-19 (World Cup). But I be-

lieved in myself and have kept working hard with the faith that I have to play and perform for India," said Mavi.

Mavi said he will not rest on his laurels in the opening match and needs to catch up on his sleep for the hectic series. "Honestly, I will call up my family, then I will sleep... Because the series is very hectic ahead."

ing their heels in the dugout.

It is expected that both Gill and Ishan Kishan will get all three games in the series and an impactful Powerplay will also give the batters coming down the order more confidence to play fearless cricket.

The batting unit will like to score more runs in the second game and a lot will depend on the manner in which new vice-captain Suryakumar Yadav does what is known as 'front-loading' (heavy-duty hitting in the first 10 overs) in cricketing jargon.

Surya was dismissed cheaply, one of his rare T20 failures after a golden 2022 but it was more to do with a bit of less pace off the surface unlike Australia and New Zealand where the 'blind scoop' over '45', would normally go for a six.

But the smart operator that he is, Surya will find a way to manoeuvre against a Sri Lankan bowling attack which is more dependant on spinners Wanindu Hasaranga and Mahesh Theekshana who accounted for two wickets, giving away only 51 runs in their cumulative eight overs.

Deepak Hooda and Axar Patel's batting effort was lauded by one and all and their utility is there to be seen. Shivam Mavi's dream debut is certainly a big relief for skipper Pandya, who could be lauded for taking the new ball and bowling an incisive first spell alongside the newcomer.

Mavi (4/22), with his ability to swing the ball, and Umran Malik's (2/27) raw pace is welcome addition to this T20 playing XI and seem to be long-term investments going into the 2024 T20 World Cup.



However the worry will be leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who must have lost a bit of confidence after being ignored during the T20

World Cup. In fact, Chahal went for 26 in his first two overs and the skipper couldn't let him complete his spell.

WICKETKEEPER-BATTER TO UNDERGO SURGERY, STATES BCCI

Pant airlifted to Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: Star India batter Rishabh Pant is all set to "undergo surgery for ligament tears", the BCCI stated Wednesday, effectively ruling him out of competitive cricket for an indefinite period.

Pant has been airlifted from a Dehradun hospital to Mumbai where he will undergo extensive treatment for ligament injuries in the knee and ankle which he had sustained during a car crash December 30, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a press release.

The BCCI decided to shift Pant to Mumbai by air ambulance since he is not in a position to fly by a commercial airline.

"Rishabh, who is currently receiving treatment for his injuries at Max Hospital, Dehradun following a car accident December 30, will be brought to Mumbai in an air ambulance," Shah said in the release.

As reported earlier by PTI, Pant will be treated by noted sports orthopaedic surgeon Dinshaw Pardiwala. "He will be admitted to Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Medical Research Institute and will be under the direct supervision of Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, Head - the Centre for Sports Medicine, and Director - Arthroscopy & Shoulder Service at the hospital," Shah said.

"Rishabh will undergo surgery and subsequent procedures for ligament tears and will continue to be monitored by the BCCI Medical Team throughout his recovery and rehabilitation. "The Board will make every effort to aid and expedite the recovery process of Rishabh and will provide him with all the support he needs during this period," he added.

Pant, 25, survived a horrific car accident when he was driving from Delhi to his hometown Rourkee but lost control on the NH-58 high-

way before hitting the divider.

Pant sustained cuts on his forehead, have a severely bruised back along with injuries on his knee and ankle. While most injuries are superficial, the worrying factor will be the ankle and knee. Being a centrally-contracted cricketer, his treatment is the board's prerogative.

The MRIs of his injured knee and ankle couldn't be performed as there was extensive swelling and hence the degree of tear is yet to be ascertained.

However, it is understood that any sports-related injury diagnosis and prognosis for a centrally-contracted cricketer will be done by the BCCI's panel of doctors and the rehabilitation and recuperation will be managed by the Sports and Medical Science team at NCA, led by Dr Nitin Patel. Pant will now be missing the Test series against Australia and also the cash-rich IPL.



Rishabh Pant was being airlifted from Dehradun to Mumbai, Wednesday

Nasser and said he had turned down "many clubs" around the world to complete one of the most surprising moves in soccer history.

"I want to give a different vision of this country and football. This is why I took this opportunity," he said. "I know the league is very competitive. People don't know that, but I know because I saw many games."

Ronaldo has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract to play in the Saudi Pro League and will reportedly earn up to USD 200 million a year. The former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus forward also said is ready to play straight away with Al Nassr facing Al Ta'ee Thursday.

However, the 37-year-old Ronaldo was handed a two-match suspension by the English Football Association in November for knocking a mobile phone out of the hand of a supporter after a game against Everton last April. He had already left United by the time of the ruling, but the FA said the suspension would be transferred to any new club.

After what was clearly a slip of the tongue, Ronaldo went on to outline his reasons for joining Al

Unintentional slip up mars CR7 presentation



Cristiano Ronaldo, alongside his family, speaks during his official presentation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riyadh, Jan 4: Cristiano Ronaldo has just completed a move to Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr; but made a slip up during his official presentation in Riyadh when mistakenly saying he had "come to South Africa."

Perhaps the Portugal great was disorientated by the whirlwind nature of his arrival at his new club, which saw him fly out to Saudi Monday night, before undergoing a medical the next morning and then being greeted by thousands of cheering fans at Al Nassr's Mrsool Park stadium Tuesday.

"For me it is not the end of my career to come to South Africa," Ronaldo said at a news conference before stepping out on the field at the 25,000 capacity stadium. "I really don't worry about what people say. I took my decision and I have responsibility to change that, but for me I'm really, really happy to be here."

After what was clearly a slip of the tongue, Ronaldo went on to outline his reasons for joining Al

Prannoy, Sindhu to lead India in Asian mixed team tourney



HS PRANNOY



PV SINDHU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 4: World No.8 HS Prannoy and Commonwealth Games gold medalist PV Sindhu will lead a strong Indian contingent in the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships, to be played in Dubai from February 14-19.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) had once again followed the system of picking the top players directly and conducting trials for the rest of the squad to select a team that is capable of challenging for a medal in the prestigious continental competition.

The last edition of the event in 2021 had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic and the Indian contingent would be keen to show how far they have come since 2019.

Lakshya Sen would be the second men's singles player in the squad

while Aakarshi Kashyap would provide backup to Sindhu in women's singles.

French Open champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty would have to shoulder the men's doubles burden with Krishna Prasad G and Vishnuvardhan Goud making it to the team as the second pair.

"We have picked a very strong team that is capable of beating any top nation on their day. Our men's team had showed during the Thomas Cup last year what happens when they find their rhythm and I am confident that this team can also finish on the podium," said BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra.

All England semifinalists Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly will be the main women's doubles pair with Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Castro expected to be picked for the mixed doubles.

DELMEE WARY OF NETHERLANDS' INEXPERIENCE

Odisha make strong start vs Nagaland

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 4: Netherlands chief coach Jeroen Delmee believes his team will need to overcome inexperience as they aim to win their fourth trophy at the Men's hockey World Cup, beginning here January 13.

Three-time World Champions Netherlands arrived in Bhubaneswar Wednesday. The silver medallists of the previous edition, who are being led by Thierry Brinkman, will complete their final preparations here before travelling to Rourkela where they will face Malaysia in their first match January 14.

The Dutch are one of the most decorated hockey teams in the world, having won the trophy in 1973, 1990, and 1998, and reaching the finals in the last two editions. But coach Delmee said on arrival that he will see how his boys are able to overcome the challenge of inexperience.

"The biggest challenge will be the inexperience in the team and may be the surprises we could face in the World Cup. It will be interesting to see how we will overcome the challenges in the tournament. I have full confidence in my team," said Delmee.

The Dutch are placed in Pool C, along with Chile, Malaysia

and New Zealand. After their match against Malaysia, they will face New Zealand in Rourkela on January 16 and round off their group stage campaign against Chile in Bhubaneswar January 19.

"I think we will have to fight from game to game and then we will see where we end up in the tournament. Our first target is to reach the quarter-final and then make the semis.

"We will then see how things go on in the final. Of course, if we reach the final then we will hope to turn it around and win the tournament. However, we have a completely different team this time

and you cannot compare the current players from the last edition's team," added Delmee.

Captain Brinkman said the team will take a very short break before getting into the rigours of training. "The last few months in the build-up to the World Cup have been pretty good for us. The team is completely ready. We have just reached India and will have some rest before starting our preparation for the first match. It is amazing to be here again."

He believes midfielders Jorrit Croon and Jonas de Geus, along with goalkeeper Pirmin Blakk, are exciting prospects and hoped they would light up the tournament.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 4: Odisha were off to a strong start after conceding 433 runs in the first innings against Nagaland in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match at the DRIEMS Ground in Tangi, Wednesday.

Odisha bowlers failed to impress as Nagaland's tailenders - bottom four batters - scored a combined 120 runs, despite one of the batters getting out for a duck. A result is quite unlikely considering two days' play left and the pitch isn't offering much to the bowlers.

Odisha openers Anurag Sarangi (75 batting, 112b, 15x4) and Shantanu

Mishra (31 batting, 75b, 3x4) remained unperturbed during their 31-over stay on the second day of the match as the hosts reached 111 for no loss at stumps.

Having 322 runs behind the Nagaland's total and taking the note of the pitch's behaviour, Odisha would look to take a first innings lead to bag three points.

Earlier, resuming the play at 291/6, Nagaland went on to score 433, courtesy No.8 batter Sudezhali Rupero (71 n o, 174b, 8x4, 1x6). Overnight batters Chetan Bist (129, 213b, 16x4, 1x6) and Rupero continued to frustrate Odisha bowlers in the morning session as the vis-

itors went past 350.

Jayanta Behera (2/94) broke the 75-run seventh wicket partnership dismissing the centurion Bist. New batter Imliwati Lemtur couldn't open his account before being run out.

Rupero, however, held his nerves and added 40 runs with Nagaho Chishi (31) and another 38 runs with Chopise Hopongkyu (17) to help his side post a competitive total.

BRIEF SCORES

Nagaland 433 (Chetan Bist 129, Sudezhali Rupero 71 n o; Jayanta Behera 2/94); Odisha 111 for no loss (Anurag Sarangi 75 batting). Match to continue.