

DSPL-401



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Mission Shakti loan at  % interest upto 5 lakh.

Place: State Convention Centre

Date: 09/01/2023

Empowered Women | Empowered Odisha

Department of Mission Shakti
Government of Odisha

leisure



KYLIE, TRAVIS PART WAYS AHEAD OF THEIR SON'S FIRST BIRTHDAY!

Kylie Jenner has reportedly split from her boyfriend Travis Scott after less than a year since welcoming their son together. The 25-year-old makeup mogul gave birth to their second child in February last year. The couple also share four-year-old daughter Stormi Webster, reports *The Mirror*.

OSCAR WINNER CHASTAIN HEAPS PRAISE ON RRR

Oscar winner Jessica Chastain is the latest Hollywood A-lister to come out in praise of SS Rajamouli's magnum opus *RRR*. Sharing her excitement in a Twitter post *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* actress wrote "Watching this film was such a party."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

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

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

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

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

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

VIRGO
The thinking cap is on your head, and a passionate pulse shall run through you today. Yet, by the mid-day, expect a laid-back, cavalier attitude to grip you. Government officials and other professionals will have an inspiring assenting day. Your professionalism will shine through, and you may be in for some serious praise from the superiors. Smile and accept the positive feedback graciously.

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

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

SAGITTARIUS
You are in a mood to spend money of home décor, paintings or artefacts. Go ahead, and decorate your home. Ganesh foresees success on your cards today. Workplace has never been such an interesting place before. Planning and implementation will make your day easier.

CAPRICORN
You'll have apparently no time for anything else, as partnerships and projects will keep you on your toes. Your communication skills and diplomacy will fetch you accolades in meetings, and also enable you to judge a person or a situation correctly, and form the right opinion. The efforts you have in the past may come to fruition today, feels Ganesh.

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

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

CURTAINS DOWN ON SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI'S DRAMA FEST ON ODIA LEGENDS

Swabhimani Gajapati highlights MKCG's fight for a linguistic state

Bhubaneswar: Maharaja Krushnachandra Gajapati Narayan Deo, also known as MKCG, was one of the chief architects of an independent Odia language speaking state Odisha. He managed to unite the Odias living in Bengal, Bihar, Andhra and erstwhile Madras. He made several painstaking trips to London and played a key role in the formation of India's first state on linguistic basis. No wonder, a scion of Paralakhemundi Estate (then Ganjam district of Odisha and Srikakulam taluk of Andhrapradesh) became the first Prime Minister of erstwhile Orissa and effected a lot of development in the state.

His life and activities were the highlight of the play *Swabhimani Gajapati* staged at Rabindra Mandap here Sunday on the fifth and last day of Natak Utsav. The event was organised by Odisha Sangeeta Natak Akademi (OSNA) in collaboration with the Culture Department to celebrate *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, on the lives of five legendary personalities of Odisha.



A scene from the play staged at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Sunday

Written by Manmath Kumar Satpathy, the vice-president of OSNA, the play was presented by Bhubaneswar-based theatre troupe Nabina Barnali and directed by its founder

Nabin Kumar Parida. Actors who performed on stage included Dharmashis, Satya, Pragyan, Shubhakarta, Sankarshan, Mrutyunjay and Saunika. PNN

Priyanka's Chhello Show screening for Oscar voters

Los Angeles: Priyanka Chopra Jonas hosted a special screening of *Chhello Show* (Last Film Show), India's official entry for the Academy Awards, for the voters who decide the Oscars in Los Angeles.

The screening was followed by a dinner reception in Los Angeles for members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. *Last Film Show* is one of 15 movies, along with the Korean *Decision to Leave*, Denmark's *Holy Spider* and Pakistan's *Joyland*, on the Best International Feature Film short list for the 95th Academy Awards.

The Los Angeles event was attended by the film's lead actor, Bhavin Rabari, along with director Pan Nalin and producer Dheer Momaya and a host of Academy members.

Sharing her thoughts, Priyanka told the guests at the event: "I feel it's a really great time for our movies and I feel so great to be able to always be the shoulders for people from my country, from my industry. Obviously Pan Nalin, he is one of the most prolific filmmakers from our country." IANS



SALMAN REPORTEDLY TOLD EX-GIRLFRIEND

'Men can cheat, not women'



Mumbai: Former actress and now social activist Somy Ali, who has never shied away from speaking about her abusive relationship with superstar Salman Khan, has once again touched upon the topic and said that the eight years she spent with him were the worst years of her entire existence.

Somy's Instagram post reads: "The eight years spent with him were the worst years of my entire existence. In addition to tons of affairs and flings, he would constantly belittle me by calling me ugly, stupid and dumb."

"He would not acknowledge me as his girlfriend in public for years and when he finally did, he would insult me in front of his

friends and berate me non-stop." She shared that she has "no qualms in saying that given his treatment of me I chose to have affairs which essentially defined as a search for someone who would care for me and love me."

"Unfortunately, I was unaware that these men were simply using me. When Salman learned of these affairs he had the guts to, after beating me, say that 'I am a man and only men can cheat not women.' I was aghast at that statement and the sexism that reeked from it."

Salman and Somy's relationship was very publicised in the 1990's. IANS

Nayanthara on her journey in showbiz

Mumbai: Nayanthara is undoubtedly one of the most talented and loved actresses of Indian film industry. The actress recently opened up about her journey in showbiz.

Talking about the same, she said, "There is so much that I have learnt, so much that I have gone through, but it is all been nice. Whatever mistakes I have made, the good and bad phases (I have been through), everything is good now. It is all a learning experience. It is not easy to be in the industry for 18-19 years, but the audience and God has been kind to me. I feel blessed."

Elaborating further, she

spoke about her plans to make good films through her production company. "My only thing is to try and make good films, whether it is us producing or buying the film or me acting in a film. We want good films to reach the audience. For me, it is always about providing good content and making decent films," she said.

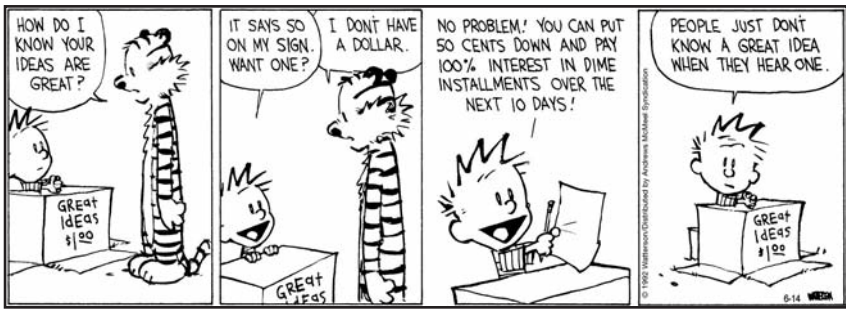
On the work front, she will be making her debut in the Hindi film industry with Atlee's *Jawan* co-starring Shah Rukh Khan in the lead role. The film also features Sanya Malhotra and Vijay Sethupathi in key roles. PNN



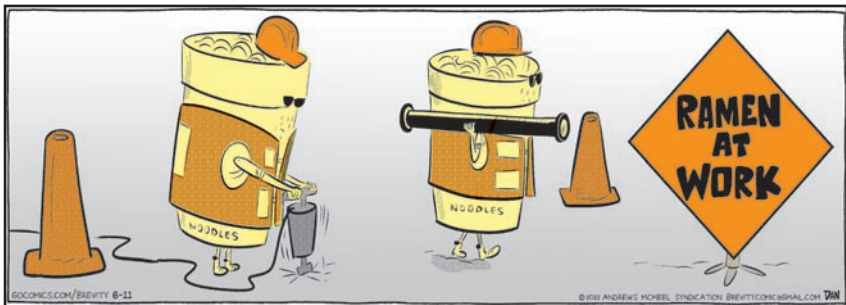
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

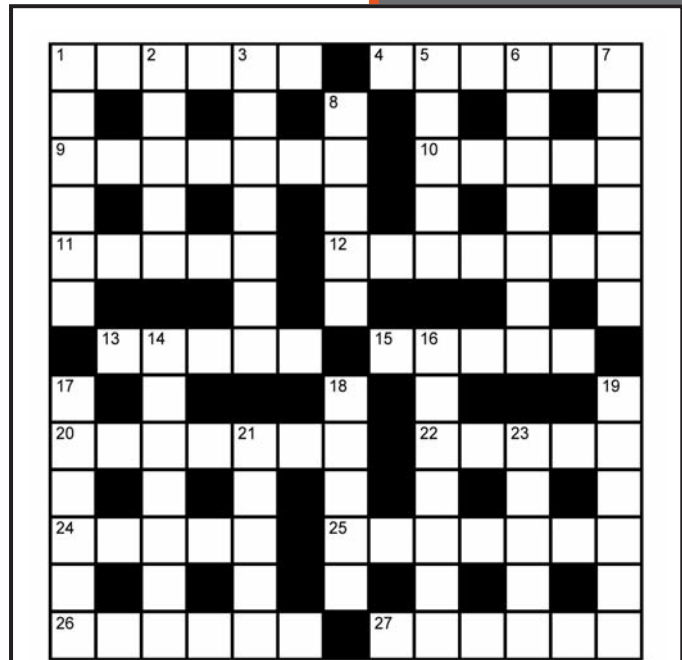


BREVITY



FUN post

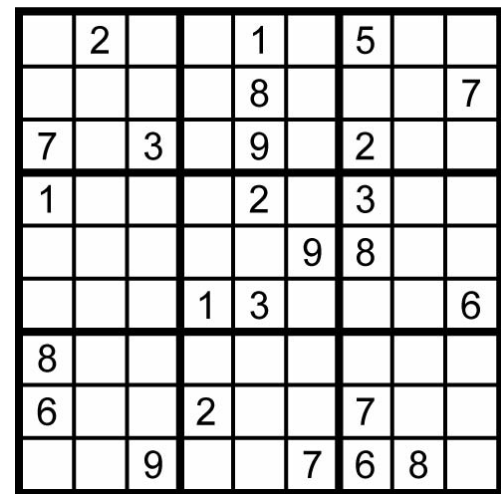
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Hare
 - 4 No-show
 - 9 Hazelnut
 - 10 Appeal
 - 11 Fashion
 - 12 Dinner course
 - 13 Chevron
 - 15 Musical drama
 - 20 Spicy
 - 22 Excuse
 - 24 Mellowing
- Down**
- 25 Do away with
 - 26 Family members
 - 27 Garden tools
 - 1 Just say no
 - 2 Mild and pleasant, like the weather
 - 3 Titanic sinker
 - 5 Stones
 - 6 Unpaid athlete
 - 7 Mildly acidic pulpy fruit
 - 8 Opus
 - 14 Purchase
 - 16 Pureed dish (3,4)
 - 17 Injury
 - 18 Digress
 - 19 Reading aids
 - 21 Quarrel
 - 23 Greek epic poem

SUDOKU

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

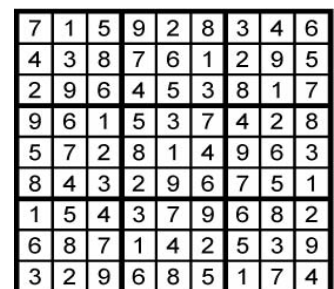


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



OSCAR RACE

Priyanka Chopra hosts screening of Chhello Show, India's official entry for Oscars

LEISURE



CHINA REOPENS BORDERS

Travellers stream into China by air, land and sea, many eager for reunions, as Beijing opens borders

INTERNATIONAL P8



INDIA EYE WC MEDAL

The Indian hockey team will look to end their 47-year wait for a medal at the FIH World Cup

SPORTS BACK PAGE

3 killed as gas tanker hits bike

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Jan 8: Three youths were killed when a speeding gas tanker hit their motorcycle at Belamal Square on National Highway-26 under Sadar police limits here in Kalahandi district, Sunday evening.

The deceased were identified as Akshaya Goud, Tutu Chandi and Raghu Goud, all residents of Dakabahal village.

The mishap occurred when the three friends were returning home after playing cricket at Utkela. The driver of the truck apparently lost control on the wheels and hit the motorcycle.



The mishap sparked tension in the area as locals and the kin of the deceased staged a blockade on the national highway demanding adequate compensation to the bereaved families. They also demanded stringent action against the truck driver.

The blockade disrupted traffic on the highway as hundreds of vehicles were left stranded on either side of the road. Bhawanipatna police reached the spot and tried to placate the irate protesters but the protest was continuing when reports last came in.

Police seized the truck, while the driver is reportedly on the run. An investigation into the mishap has been launched, the police said.

Miscreants castrate 2-yr-old in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Jan 8: In a shocking incident, miscreants castrated a 26-month-old boy allegedly over past enmity with his family at Bhrungarajpashi village under Chemena panchayat of this block in Keonjhar district, Saturday.

The family of the victim alleged that the miscreants cut off the genital of the boy when he was playing outside the house.

The child's grandmother said that it was an inhuman act perpetrated over past enmity. Family members rescued the child and rushed him to the Keonjhar district headquarters hospital from where he was shifted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for further treatment.

The incident has spread panic among the villagers, while the victim's family members have demanded stringent action against those involved in the gruesome act.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Here's another proof that our govt is busy doing some rapid development...

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	28.7°C	27.6°C
MIN	10.5°C	11.5°C
Humidity	56%	62%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Shallow to moderate Fog very likely

Joshimath declared landslide zone

AGENCIES

Dehradun, Jan 8: Joshimath has been declared a landslide-subsidence zone and over 60 families living in damaged houses in the sinking town have been evacuated to temporary relief centres, a senior official said Sunday.

At least 90 more families have to be evacuated. The local administration has set up relief centres at four-five places in the Himalayan town, Garhwal Commissioner Sushil Kumar said.

Meanwhile, Chamoli District Magistrate (DM) Himanshu Khurana went from door to door in the affected area to assess the extent of damage and appealed to the people living in houses that have developed cracks to move to the relief centres.

Joshimath has been declared a landslide-subsidence zone. More than 60 families living in uninhabitable houses have been evacuated to temporary relief centres, Kumar said.

Considering the extent of the damage, at least 90 more families will have to be evacuated as soon as possible, he said.

Kumar, who has been camping in Joshimath since Thursday, heads a committee tasked with monitoring the situation on the ground level.

There are a total of 4,500 buildings in Joshimath and 610 of these have developed huge cracks, making them unfit for habitation, he said.

A survey is underway and the number of affected buildings could go up, he added.

Kumar said the affected area, including houses that developed cracks earlier and the ones damaged recently, forms a big arch which could be spread over 1.5 km.

Temporary relief centres have been set up at four-five safe places within Joshimath. Some more buildings, including a few hotels,



A temple collapses after the gradual 'sinking' of Joshimath in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

TICKING TIME BOMB

A town of around 17,000 people, Joshimath is a gateway to pilgrimages to Hindu and Sikh shrines, and popular with tourists looking to trek parts of the Himalayas

There are a total of 4,500 buildings in Joshimath and 610 of these have developed huge cracks, making them unfit for habitation

For years, experts have warned that large-scale construction work, including hydro-power projects, in and around Joshimath could lead to land subsidence - the sinking or settling of the ground surface

A FLASH FLOOD IN FEBRUARY 2021 IN CHAMOLI DISTRICT KILLED OVER 200 PEOPLE AND SWEEPED AWAY TWO HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECTS, ALARMING SOME SCIENTISTS STUDYING CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOW IT IS AFFECTING THE WORLD'S HIGHEST MOUNTAINS

a gurdwara and two inter-colleges, makeshift shelters that can accommodate around 1,500 people, he

said. "Land subsidence has been going on slowly in Joshimath for quite some time but it has increased over the past week with huge cracks appearing in houses, fields and roads," the Garhwal commissioner said.

"The situation worsened apparently after a water channel beneath the town erupted last week," he said. The priority at present is evacuating the affected people to safety, he said.

Kumar said long-term measures being explored to deal with the situation range from reconstruction to retrofitting.

Chamoli DM Khurana surveyed the affected area.

People were told to move out of unsafe and uninhabitable houses as arrangements for their stay have been made in hotels, homestays and other safe places, the DM said.

The state government will pay Rs 4,000 per month for up to six months to those who want to move to rented accommodations, he said, asking people not to risk their lives by choosing to continue living in the damaged houses.

No relief from cold wave in 5 districts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 8: Cold wave condition are likely to prevail over five districts of Odisha -- Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar and Angul, the India Meteorological Department said Sunday.

The IMD in its prediction said that the cold wave situation will continue as no large change in minimum temperature is expected during the next two days in the state.

The IMD further advised people to avoid travelling on two-wheelers and roofless cars in the night. Besides this, people were advised to make arrangements to keep livestock indoors during nights. The chilly weather condition will prevail in some parts of the state as dry and cold northerly/northerly wind is blowing into the state, said



the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre.

As per the IMD's latest weather bulletin, Semiliguda in Koraput district recorded the lowest minimum (night) temperature of 2 degree Celsius Sunday night.

The twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar recorded minimum temperature of 11.5 and 10.5 degree Celsius respectively.

Earlier Saturday, the office of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) had put all the District

Collectors on cold wave alert.

In its bulletin, the IMD said cold wave condition is very likely to prevail in Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Boudh, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Angul and Dhenkanal from 8:30am of January 8 to the next day morning. The Met department has issued yellow warning for these districts.

There is an increased likelihood of cold related illnesses among people, which may get aggravated due to prolonged exposure to cold.

For the last two days, G. Udaygiri in Kandhamal district has been shivering, as temperature Sunday plunged below 4.6 degree Celsius. According to officials of the local metrological unit, temperature in G Udaygiri was recorded at 4.6 degree Sunday while it was 7 degree Saturday.

'What if it's poisoned?' says Akhilesh as cops offer tea

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Jan 8: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav Sunday refused to have tea offered to him at the UP Police Headquarters apparently joking that it may be 'poisoned.'

A Samajwadi Party office bearer, Manish Jagan Agarwal, was arrested here earlier in the day for allegedly making indecent and derogatory remarks on social media. Angry over Agarwal's arrest, scores of SP workers gathered outside the Uttar Pradesh Police headquarters demanding his immediate release.

Yadav, while he was at the headquarters, was offered tea, which he refused.

In a video which was flashed on several news channels, Yadav was heard saying, "I will not drink the tea of this place. I will have tea from outside. What if it's poisoned?"

Yadav went on to ask a worker to see if any tea shop was open in the neighbourhood.

"When I reached the Police Headquarters, there was no one inside. If there is no one to listen to in the Police Headquarters, then imagine what would be the state of the rest of UP," Yadav told reporters.

Additional DG Law and order Prashant Kumar; later in his response, said "Since it was Sunday, officials were present as per requirement, and he spoke with them."

MP STRUGGLES TO RETAIN 'TIGER STATE' TAG

THE CENTRAL STATE LOST 34 BIG CATS IN 2022 AS COMPARED TO 15 IN KARNATAKA, ITS NEAREST COMPETITOR IN HOUSING THE NUMBER OF TIGERS IN THE COUNTRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Jan 8: Facing the challenge of retaining the status of India's 'tiger state', Madhya Pradesh lost 34 big cats in 2022 as compared to just 15 in Karnataka, its nearest competitor in housing the number of tigers in the country, according to official data. The deaths were reported in the

survey for the country's tiger census, whose results will be announced later in 2023.

A senior forest department official said it is a 'mystery' as to why Madhya Pradesh has recorded higher tiger deaths than the southern state though both had almost the same number of big cats as per the 2018 count.

Karnataka, home to 524 tigers as per the 2018 census, is competing with Madhya Pradesh (526) for the tag of India's 'tiger state'.

The national tiger census is conducted once in every four years. The latest All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) was conducted in 2022 and its report is scheduled to be released this year, a forest department official said.

As the country eagerly awaits findings of the quadrennial count to know which state stands where in terms of tiger population, data on how many big cats India lost

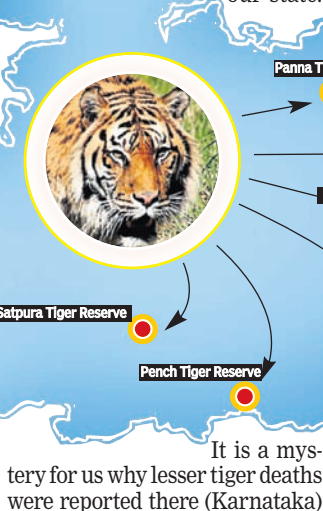
in the year just gone by is now available.

Madhya Pradesh lost 34 tigers in 2022, while its nearest rival for the 'tiger state' status, Karnataka recorded the death of 15 big cats, according to data uploaded on the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) website. The causes of these deaths were not mentioned.

Total tiger deaths in India in the previous year stood at 117, as per the NTCA website.

"We (MP) have the maximum number of tigers and we take

into account all the carcasses found in our state.



when the number of big cats is almost the same," Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) JS Chauhan told PTI when asked about the wide gap in mortality figures in the two states.

He said the average age of tigers is 12 to 18 years.

If longevity criteria are taken into account, then about 40 deaths annually should be considered natural as the state had recorded the presence of 526 tigers in the last estimation conducted in 2018, he said.

In 2021, Madhya Pradesh lost 42 tigers out of 127 fatalities recorded in the country that year.

"I don't know about other states but no tiger death goes unreported in Madhya Pradesh. We investigate every case of tiger death and take legal steps if something suspicious is found," said the senior forest department official.

Chouhan said sometimes big cats die naturally deep inside forests and caves which can't be spotted.

Asked about the birth rate of the feline, the forest officer said around 250 cubs are born annually in Madhya Pradesh, which is home to six tiger reserves - Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Satpura, Panna and Sanjay-Dubri.

Of the 34 tiger fatalities recorded in Madhya Pradesh during 2022, the biggest loss was suffered by the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, where nine big cats died in the 12-month period, followed by Pench (five) and Kanha (four), according to the NTCA website.

ED to file chargesheet today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 8: The Enforcement Directorate is reportedly going to submit chargesheet against Archana Nag and others in connection with the money laundering case before the court here Monday. Sources in the ED claimed that the central agency is likely to submit the primary chargesheet of 1,300 pages against Archana, her husband Jagabandhu Chand and their business partner Khageswar Patra.

The ED has reportedly collected vital evidence against the trio in connection with the money laundering charges. The trio has allegedly amassed huge movable and immovable assets through illegal means. The ED had also issued notices to the trio seeking their reply as to why their ill-gotten assets should not be attached. The agency sleuths recently visited the residence of



ARCHANA CASE

The agency sleuths recently visited the Nag's residence to make valuations of the building and other assets inside

Archana to make valuations of the building and other assets inside it.

The Enforcement Directorate arrested Archana Nag, who has been accused of amassing wealth by blackmailing prominent people in Odisha using sexually explicit videos, under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and took

her on remand even as she refused to cooperate in the probe. The 28-year-old Nag, arrested by Odisha police in October following two FIRs including one by filmmaker Akshay Parija who alleged that he was blackmailed to pay Rs 3 crore to her, has so far not disclosed any information into her alleged business of honey-trapping of influential people of Odisha even though she was taken on remand by ED.

The ED had earlier lodged a case of money laundering against Archana, husband Jagabandhu, business associates Khageswar Patra and Shradhanjali Behera.

The central agency had also interrogated several people including Odia film producer Akshay Parija, filmmaker Pramod Swain, businessman Amiyakant Das, BJD MLA Sudhir Samal's brother Gangadhar Samal, property dealer Prabhath Ranjan Pati, hotelier Siba Prasad Das and architect Ranjit Behera.



Eminent scribe Rabi Das gets Chanakya award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 8: Senior journalist Rabi Das has been felicitated with prestigious Chanakya award at the annual function of Chanakya Public School held at Soochana Bhawan here.

Joining the event as chief guest, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das said that every child has some inherent quality and each one has immense talent. Das gave away the prizes to the winners of various competitions.

Speaking on the occasion, Chanakya Public School chairman Jyotishankar Mohanty advised every student to get inspired by the ideals of Chanakya and become a nationalist.

A cultural programme was held on the occasion.

Among others, BMC corporators Rajkishore Das and Manasi Sundaray noted film producer, director and actor Shakti Baral, Godrej Odisha's chief assistant manager Rupesh Singh and Chanakya Public School director Ellora Ray were present.

87 feted for donating Phasi trees for chariots

AGENCIES

Puri, Jan 8: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has felicitated 87 persons who have donated Phasi trees for the construction of three chariots used in the annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings.

Since seasoned Phasi trees became scarce in the forests, the temple administration had appealed to the devotees a decade ago to donate mature Phasi trees from their yards for construction of the chariots.

The donors were presented mementos, Khandua and Mahaprasad every year after the conclusion of the grand event in recognition of their services to the temple and the Lord.

Though the annual Rath Yatra was held during the pandemic, the donors were not felicitated.

Earlier, the Forest department used to provide the required timber logs of Phasi, Asan and Dhaura. However, in course of time, Phasi became scarce.

To mitigate the crisis, the state government had launched a programme to raise Phasi forest under the Jagannath Bana Prakalp. Under the initiative, Phasi plantations were raised in about a thousand acres spread over in Nayagarh and Khurda forest divisions but these plantations needed over 50 years to mature for use in the chariots.

The donors mostly hail from Nayagarh and Khurda districts.

SJTA chairperson Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb, the principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF) and Srimandir Chief Administrator Vir Vikram Yadav were present at the function.

BEACHES, TRIBAL TOURISM DRAW RUSSIANS TO STATE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Jan 8: In the wake of the mysterious deaths of two Russians in Odisha, a question has arisen why the foreign tourists are visiting the state even though it is not on the international tourism map.

According to local tour operators, foreign tourists including Russians visit Odisha to see the Kalinga architecture in the golden triangle - Bhubaneswar, Puri and Konark.

A visit to the eastern triangle makes the tourists explore the affluent cultural heritage, famous temples, natural wonders, beaches and much more. The vibrant markets of Bhubaneswar and Puri are another attraction.

Many of the tourists also visit Odisha to explore the ancient Buddhist sites like Ratnagiri, Udayagiri and Khandagiri. The foreign tourists, who have spent their entire life in concrete jungles, also show interest in visiting wildlife sanctuaries in Odisha like Bhitarkanika, Similipal and Satkosia.



Some of the foreigners, including those from Russia and Italy, come to Odisha to enjoy the beaches at Puri and Gopalpur and explore tribal or rural tourism, said Benjamin Simon, a leading tour operator of Odisha.

The foreigners, who come to Odisha for a break from the hectic concrete jungle life, want to spend some time in the rural areas and tribal pockets. Such tourists usually visit Rayagada, Kandhamal and Koraput, he said.

They love to spend time in the tribal areas to witness their lifestyle, art, culture, handicrafts and handlooms, said the tour operator.

"There was a time when Russian

tourists frequently visited Odisha. They came to Odisha directly through charter planes. Most of them wanted to spend time on the beaches. But now very few Russians come to Odisha," Benjamin said.

The Odisha government has imposed a ban on the visits of foreign nationals to Bonda Ghat which is home to the primitive Bonda tribe and is also a Maoist-infested area.

The state government had prohibited the entry of foreign nationals to the Maoist-prone areas of the state after two Italians - Paolo Bosusco (who ran an adventure holiday firm in the state) and Claudio Colangelo (a doctor from Rome) - were abducted by Maoists in March 2012 in Kandhamal district and were kept as hostages. The ultras later released the duo.

Following this incident, the state government made it mandatory for international tourists to seek the administration's permission before going to Maoist-prone areas and only use tourist guides approved by the state government.

Hit by DMD, parents seek treatment aid

POST NEWS NETWORK



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 8: Parents and guardians of over a dozen of children suffering from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a genetic disorder with progressive muscle degeneration and weakness, Sunday sought the state government's intervention into their plight.

Under the banner of Odisha Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) Members' Association, they assembled at a physiotherapy centre in CDA Sector 10 area here and narrated their ordeal. Lilima Maharana, a resident of Mangalabag area in Cuttack, said her two sons are suffering from the rare disease.

"Biswajit, 16, and Dibyajit, 8, are suffering from DMD. So far, we have consulted with many doctors, but to no avail. And all of them were unanimous there's no medication for it. With limited earning, we are spending a huge sum of money on their physiotherapy and tests. Only state government can help us," Maharana said.

According to Ratan Kumar Pradhan, father of a 13-year-old girl with DMD, the state government should undertake a survey to detect DMD patients at GP and ULB levels. Besides, every district headquarters hospital (DHH) should

have a registry for DMD patients. "There is a Rare Disease Policy of the Centre. However, funds available under it remain idle. Although the Orissa High Court has directed AIIMS, Bhubaneswar to treat the DMD patients through AIIMS, Kolkata, a little has been done in this regard. We need immediate assistance of Rs 6 lakh as directed by HC in its recent order," he points out.

Pradhan further said that the Centre must release funds for undertaking clinical and human trials of DMD drugs, and most significantly gene therapy, which would go a long way in curbing the disease.

DMD is a muscular dystrophy, marked by progressive muscle degeneration and weakness due to alterations of a protein called 'dystrophin' that helps keep muscle cells intact. The condition is predominantly seen in boys, but in rare cases, it can also affect girls.

The current therapeutic options available to treat DMD are minimal and highly expensive treatment with costs shooting up to Rs 2-3 crore per child a year and are mostly imported from abroad, accelerating dosing costs and putting them out of reach for most families.

HC: Sex with major on promise of marriage isn't rape

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack: The Orissa High Court has held that it is not rape if consensual physical relationship with an adult woman was based on a promise of marriage.

The HC bench, led by Justice Sanjeeb Panigrahi, made the observation while hearing a bail plea in an alleged rape case. The state's apex court ordered the lower court to grant conditional bail to the rape accused. "The lower court may allow the accused to walk out on bail upon conditions that he would cooperate with the investigating agency and wouldn't threaten the victim," a senior lawyer said, quoting the court ruling. According to the case details, a youth had a physical relationship with a woman in Puri district on the promise of marriage. However, he later the accused fled away after some days. Following a complaint from the victim at Nimapara police station, the accused was arrested and forwarded to court. Subsequently, the accused moved to High Court when his bail petition was rejected by the lower court.

Twin City cops arrest 31 under Arms Act in 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police arrested 31 persons, including gun runners and dreaded criminals, under the Arms Act in 2022. Meanwhile, as many as 16 cases were registered at the police stations of Capital City under the said act in the past year. Among the weapons seized by the police last year, there were 11 country-made pistols, three revolvers, one .22 rifle and one double-barreled rifle, two magazines and 53 live ammunitions. This apart, two toy guns have also been seized from the robbers in different cases in 2022. The City Police managed to arrest six criminals and recovered seven illegal arms and 14 live bullets from their possession during August last year.



RICH TRIBUTE: Artists perform during Antardrishti, a cultural programme organised by Srian on the 97th birth anniversary of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, at GKCM Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Sunday. OP PHOTO

2 host stadiums in state synonymous with hockey

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 8: The 15th edition of the FIH Men's World Cup is all set to kickstart in Odisha January 13. With each passing day, the anticipation around the event keeps growing and it is pretty much visible to everybody.

The mineral-rich state's relationship with hockey dates back several decades. Odisha has produced over a hundred national-level players, including Dilip Tirkey, Ignace Tirkey, Lazarus Barla, Jyoti Sunita Kullu and Sunita Lakra, for the Indian team.

The present Indian men's and women's national squads also include many Odisha players, including Amit Rohidas, Shilanand Lakra, Deep Grace Ekka, Nilam Xess and Namita Toppo.

Over the past two decades, the Odisha government has also actively and heavily invested in international hockey, hosting various large-scale multi-nation events like the FIH World Cup, FIH Men's Junior World Cup, FIH Series Finals, FIH World League, FIH



Champions Trophy and the FIH Hockey Pro League.

Before the start of the mega sporting spectacle, IANS brings you the venues where the world's best hockey teams will compete for the coveted trophy.

Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar

Kalinga Stadium is one of the two venues for the FIH Men's World Cup 2023. The stadium gets its name 'Kalinga' from the historical region in the east of India of the same name, which encompasses the modern-day state of Odisha in entirety, along with parts of two other Indian states: Andhra Pradesh

and Chhattisgarh.

The Kalinga Hockey Stadium is a part of the multi-purpose complex collectively referred to as Kalinga International Stadium, which also includes an eight-lane synthetic athletics track, various high-performance centres, a football stadium, an Olympic swimming facility and plenty more.

It houses resources for athletics, football, hockey, tennis, table tennis, basketball, volleyball, sport climbing and swimming.

The citizens of Bhubaneswar are well-known in the hockey world for the vast numbers they turn out in for international hockey matches



hosted in the City.

Many players from various hockey-playing nations also describe Bhubaneswar as their favourite place to play hockey due to the atmosphere created by the crowds.

The Kalinga Hockey Stadium has become a global hub for hockey for nearly a decade now. The stadium had hosted its first major international tournament when it was awarded the hosting rights to the Champions Trophy in 2014.

The success of the event prompted further action, as the 2017 Hockey World League Finals saw the best eight teams in the

world converge in Odisha to play in front of a packed audience. A year later, the Kalinga Stadium took centre stage once again as the premier men's hockey tournament, the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup, was played in Bhubaneswar.

Since then, the Kalinga Stadium has been the home of the Indian hockey team, with not only the men's and women's teams training in the stadium, but it is also where they have played their home matches during the FIH Hockey Pro League.

In 2021, the FIH Men's Junior World Cup was also played in the Kalinga Stadium.

Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela

Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in of Rourkela is one of the two venues for the FIH Men's World Cup 2023.

The stadium is named after Birsa Munda, a tribal freedom fighter and folk hero who spearheaded the millenarian movement that arose in the Bengal Presidency in the late 19th century, making him an important figure in the history of the Independence movement.

Rourkela is one of the biggest cities in Odisha, well-known for being home to various industrial establishments, including one of India's first steel plants.

The city also occupies a central position in the Sundargarh district, in the eastern hockey belt of Odisha, which has produced scores of top hockey talents for India, including former India skipper Dilip Tirkey, who is the most capped player in the history of Indian men's hockey, and currently serves as the president of Hockey India.

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5G a distant dream for Sambalpur residents

MANY POINTED OUT THAT WHEN 2G SERVICES ARE NOT PROPERLY AVAILABLE, IT IS USELESS TO TALK ABOUT 5G

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 8: The Union Government has launched the high speed fifth generation (5G) telecom services in the state from Thursday. Initially, the services will be available in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. Later, the services will be extended to Puri, Sambalpur, Berhampur and some other towns by February-end, telecom officials had said during the launch.

However, doubts have surfaced over the availability of 5G services in many parts of Odisha due to lack of infrastructure. Providing 5G services in all parts of Sambalpur district is a distant dream, locals pointed out. They said remote areas of Sambalpur district do not have the type of infrastructure required for providing 5G services.

There are hundreds of villages in the district where mobile network, leave aside 5G, is not available. People have lodged complaints with the district administration in this regard, but their pleas are yet to be addressed. Residents of Sambalpur district said that even 2G services are not properly available.

Sources said that Tamparsingha



under Meghpal panchayat of Jujumura block in the district is a tribal dominated region and infested by Maoists. The area lacks cellular network services except in some places. As a result, people have to travel a minimum of two kilometres to make a phone call. People have been demanding for installation of a mobile tower in Panimara panchayat of Naktideula block for quite some time now, but nothing has materialised.

People travelling on the Redhakholi-Naktideula road also have to struggle to establish mobile connection in and around the Daincha panchayat. Officials of the office of the Wildlife department at Badrama area under Jamankira block said that the area is completely out of network coverage. They stated that they have to carry their laptops for three kilometres to get internet connection and do official work. People also pointed

out that villages which are 40-50 kilometres away from this town face great difficulty in getting mobile connections.

The residents of Bamra block are the worst hit over mobile network issues. A person wishing to make an emergency call has to travel to a place where network is available. The mobile connectivity in the area is so low that people cannot even make a call or get internet services.

The students feel the pinch during online classes. Few months back, pictures of students climbing on water tanks and trees to get internet service on their mobile phones were published by various media houses and the issue triggered a huge row.

Sudipta Patel of Bamra block said that they have towers of two private firms, but even then connectivity suffers. Patel stated that the government should first ensure availability of round the clock mobile connectivity in the area before talking of 5G services. Mita Majhi, samiti member of Jamankira block said several BSNL towers in the block are lying unused. They should be utilised properly to provide proper mobile connectivity in the locality, she added.

Professor BB Mishra appointed VC of Sambalpur varsity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 8: Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal appointed Sunday Professor Bidhu Bhusan Mishra as the vice-chancellor (VC) of Sambalpur University.

Mishra has recently retired as Professor of the Department of Business Administration in Utkal University. As per the notification issued, Mishra has been appointed for a period of four years.

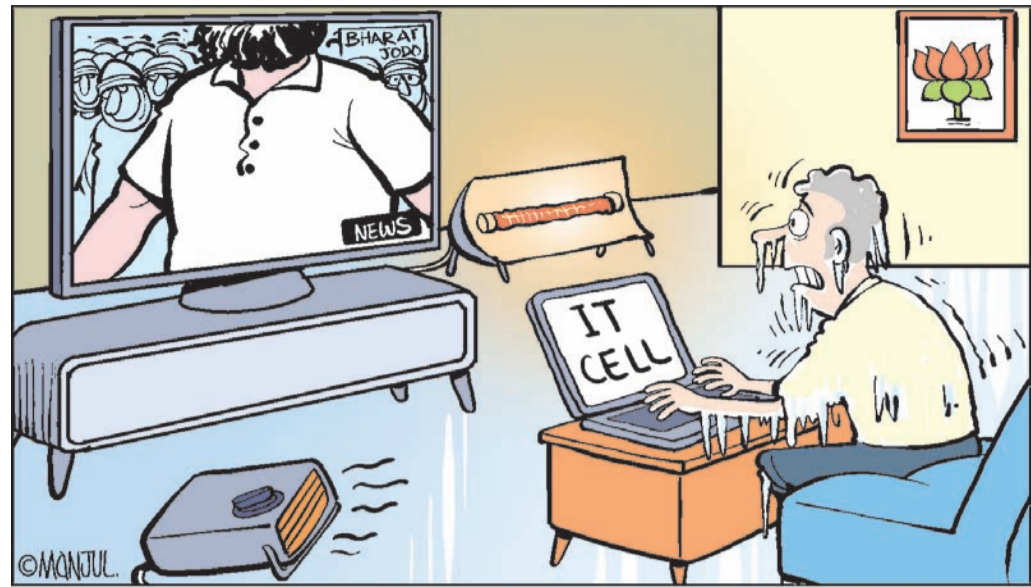
The VC chair had been lying vacant for the last 10 months. Chairman of PG Council and Registrar Sanjukta Das had been discharging the responsibilities of the vice-chancellor's office.



Mishra has authored nine books and contributed 122 articles to reputed journals. He has more than 34 years of teaching experience and has successfully guided one D Litt, 39 PhD and three Mphil scholars.

Reacting on his appointment, Mishra said that he will seek divine blessings before he assumes charge. "I would expect suggestions from officials and employees of the university, guardians and local intelligentsia for better administration," Mishra said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Facelift of Chandili hill on cards

₹10 lakh allocated for a road to the hilltop

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Jan 8: In order to boost tourism, a decision has been taken to develop Chandili hill, a scenic place under Deogaon block in Bolangir district.

Notably, Bhimadunguri hill, another attractive place nearby, has already been developed and beautified.

"Like Bhimadunguri hill, a lot of development work will be taken up for Chandili hill," said MLA and senior Congress leader Narasingha Mishra while taking part in 'Chandili Hill Mahotsav' recently. He added that a path will

be constructed from the main road to the hilltop while various protective measures will be taken up to maintain the greenery.

In order to attract tourists to the place, there will be provision of toilets, lighting facility and resting arrangements.

Besides, various developmental work will be taken up on 72 acre of land at Bhuliakata.

Organisers of the festival and locals said that the legislator has sanctioned ₹10 lakh from his MLALAD.

Various outfits have welcomed the government initiative for boosting the tourism sector in the locality.

Man nabbed for making wife's obscene pics viral

POST NEWS NETWORK

Buguda, Jan 8: Police arrested a man Sunday over torturing his wife over dowry. It has been alleged that the accused Rajendra Pradhan, 30, a resident of Buguda area in Ganjam district, has also shot obscene pictures of his wife and uploaded those on various social media platforms.

A case has been registered in this connection and Rajendra was produced in court and sent to judicial custody Saturday. The accused also returned all the items received as dowry to the family members of his wife in the presence of police.

Police informed that Rajendra married a woman of Jeka village under Karchuli panchayat, February 11, last year. However, soon after his marriage he started doubting his wife regarding her character. He used to regularly abuse his wife on this issue.

The woman registered a complaint at the Buguda police station, alleging torture for dowry. She also accused her husband of uploading her pictures on various social media platforms.

Jumbo electrocuted

Sambalpur: An elephant was electrocuted after coming in contact with live wires at Hatibari-Bander reserve forest under Sadar range in Sambalpur division, department officials said Sunday. The matter came to the fore after Forest department personnel recovered its carcass, Sunday. On being informed, a special task force (STF) team from Bhubaneswar accompanied by RCCF Arun Mishra and DFO Biswanath Nilambar started a probe into its death.

MGNREGS funds embezzled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nugaon, Jan 8: Some officials working on soil conservation and watershed projects have allegedly misappropriated lakhs of rupees in coconut farming, which is being executed under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Nugaon block of Nayagarh district.

Farmers are encouraged to dig farm ponds in their land and take up horticulture under MGNREGS, but irregularities have scuttled its objectives, it was alleged.

Here is a case in point. Bamadev Nayak, a farmer of Maskabari in Paradhipi panchayat had applied for coconut farming June 30, 2022. The soil conservation and watershed department sanctioned ₹1.75 lakh for the coconut farming and looked after the plantation care



and maintenance. Nearly 200 coconut saplings had been planted, but only 30 coconut saplings have survived. The officials have misappropriated ₹42, 624 towards wage of job card holders, it was alleged.

When asked about alleged scam, project director of the soil conservation and watershed department Sudhakar Satpathy said that after receiving a complaint he had asked an official to stop the bill of the work.

Five injured as bus collides with truck

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Jan 8: Five passengers were injured when the bus they were travelling in collided with a container truck at Judia Ghati on NH-49 in Keonjhar, late Saturday night. The bus was going from Angul to Tata Nagar. All the five injured have been admitted to a local hospital close to the accident spot.

The conditions of three of the injured are stated to be critical. They are Bijay Kumar Patra (43), Gema Kandhalkel (23) and Manu Nayak (35). Locals alleged that random and illegal parking of vehicles along NH-49 through the hilly terrain is the main reason for the rising number of mishaps.



SPLENDID PERFORMANCE: Girls performed Sambalpuri dance at the annual function of Nua Rampela Government High School in Rengali of Sambalpur district, Sunday

Angul man wins gold medal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Jan 8: Sarthak Pradhan has been honoured with a gold medal for securing the highest marks and highest cumulative grade point average (CGPA) in his post-graduate course in Personal Management and Industrial Relations from Utkal University.

Pradhan was awarded the medal by Chancellor Prof Ganeshi Lal at the 52nd convocation of Utkal University in the presence of former Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, V Gopal Gouda, VC Sabita Acharya and Secretary of Higher Education department, Bishmupada Sathy. Sarthak, son of Snehalata and Birat Keshari Pradhan of Bolangir district, is currently working in the HR wing of JSPL here.

Illegal Bangla immigrants harming Odia language in Kendrapara

Number of Bengali-speaking people has drastically gone up in the district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Jan 8: The Odia language is facing threats of extinction in many localities under Rajnagar and Mahakalapara blocks of Kendrapara district due to continuous influx of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, sources said Sunday.

The issue assumes significance in the backdrop of the House Committee of the Odisha Assembly holding a meeting January 4 and expressing grave concern over steep decrease in use of Odia language in remote parts of the state. The meeting was presided over by Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha. Reports said that things have

come to such a stage that over 90 per cent of the people residing in Rajnagar and Mahakalapara blocks speak Bengali. Teachers in the schools speak Bengali too instead of Odia.

Pratayush Nayak, a resident of Rajnagar, alleged that infiltration of Bangladeshi settlers is responsible for the decline in numbers of Odia-speaking people. He pointed out that 1,237 Bangladeshis were rehabilitated in Kendrapara district during the Civil war in 1950. However, the numbers since then have grown drastically.

A survey regarding the infiltration was conducted in 2005 following a direction from the Centre.



It found 1,551 illegal Bangladeshis residing in Mahakalapara area, 90 in Pattamundai area and 30 in Rajnagar locality.

The illegal immigrants living in Mahakalapara tehsil area were issued deportation orders, but it has

still not been carried out. The district administration is yet to take a firm stand despite having information about infiltration by Bangladeshis. Similarly, political leaders also remain silent on the issue fearing that it may affect

their vote banks, it was alleged. During the 2011 census, the Bengali-speaking population in the district had increased to over 78,000. Among them, over 44,000 had voter identity cards.

Tapan Kumar Kar of Rajnagar said protests were held in the past against illegal immigrants, but those failed to make any impact in the concerned areas. Houses of Bengali-speaking immigrants have mushroomed in Rajnagar, Suniti, Babar, Dangamala, Talachua, Bhekta, Rangani, Gupti, Bhitarkanika, Gahirmatha, Benakanda, Jambu, Kharinasi, Batighar, Pitapata, Ahirajpur, Baraji Bahakud, Amarabati, Manjulapalli, Daityaprasad, Ranipatna, Birabhanjapur, Bhanjaprasad, Tikayatnagar, Krushnanagar, Rajendranagar and Kanaknagar

villages under Rajnagar and Mahakalapara blocks.

Maheswar Jena, a local resident said the use of Odia language is declining fast due to the Bangladeshis. He said that conversations in Odia are rarely heard as most of the people speak in Bengali. Also books and calendars are available only in Bengali and not in Odia in the shops of these two blocks. He added that even political leaders are speaking in Bengali to woo voters.

When contacted, Dasharathi Patnaik, a member of the House Committee and former district collector, confirmed that the use of Odia language is declining fast in remote parts of Kendrapara district. He said that the House Committee members will visit the remote areas to review the situation.

Annual bird census at Hirakud reservoir held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 8: The annual census of migratory birds at Hirakud reservoir was conducted Sunday from 6.00am till 5.00pm. A total of 30 teams were engaged in the enumeration process which was carried out throughout the entire reservoir spread over Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Bargarh districts.

More than 60 enumerators, including 30 Forest department officials and some ornithologists participated in the census.

A total of 35 fishermen who are experts on identifying birds' nests were engaged in the annual exercise. Tourists and fishermen were prohibited to enter the area for a day. All team members were equipped with binoculars, life



jackets and other essential gadgets and articles to carry out the exercise, a senior Forest official said.

Around 104 species of birds visited the Hirakud reservoir as per the annual migratory bird census in 2022. A total of 2.08 lakh birds arrived at the reservoir while there were 19 species of migratory birds.

Salandi embankment collapses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aradi, Jan 8: A stretch of embankment along Salandi river near Shitalpur village in Bhadrak district caved into the river Sunday while the stone-packing of the embankment was underway. The incident triggered panic among the locals, who feared that further collapse of the embankment cannot be ruled out, as it is being continuously battered by tides. They have alleged that stone packing of the embankment has not been done in a proper manner leading to the collapse of the embankment spread over 40 metres.

"The contractor is carrying out the work, but sporadically. As a result, tides are eroding the banks," locals said. "Stone packing for this started a year back, but it is yet to be completed. Embankments have been swept away in many other areas," they added. Junior engineer of the Water Resources division Kishore Das however, said that stone packing is being carried out in a proper manner. He assured that the department will find a permanent solution to the problem.

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FOCUS SOCIETY

DEFENDING ECO-ACTIVISTS

established democracy.”

Yet activists for climate change have a powerful response to this argument. Today, it seems self-evident that democracy requires allowing women to vote, but not much more than a century ago, conservatives argued that women had no need to vote because their interests were already protected by their husbands or fathers. We laugh at that argument now, but we may be equally blind to serious flaws in our own democracies.

Ask yourself who will suffer the most if we fail to prevent catastrophic climate change. The answer is the young and those yet to be born – both categories unrepresented in our political systems. In ‘Justice Across Ages’, Juliana Uhuru Bidadanure, a professor at Stanford University, cites statistics showing that even among people old enough to vote, those aged 18-35 are significantly unrepresented in legislatures. In the US, this bias against the young is built into the constitution, which restricts membership of the House of Representatives and the Senate to those who are at least 25 and 30 years old, respectively, and the US president may not be younger than 35.

For countries that do not have constitutional barriers against younger legislators, Bidadanure suggests a remedy. Following the example of countries that have quotas to ensure a voice for indigenous people, or other minorities, we could have quotas for younger people. Thomas Wells, of the Leiden Institute for Philosophy, has suggested electing representatives who serve as trustees for future generations. And, of course, we could lower the voting age, to 16 or even lower.

In the absence of any such measures, eco-activists can properly claim that their non-violent civil disobedience is justified by the failure of our democracies to show sufficient concern for the interests of future generations. Like the suffragettes more than a century ago, today’s young people have no voice.

The writer is Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University.
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Ask yourself who will suffer the most if we fail to prevent catastrophic climate change. The answer is the young and those yet to be born – both categories unrepresented in our political systems

Last July, two activists from Just Stop Oil entered London’s National Gallery and made their way to John Constable’s ‘The Hay Wain’, an iconic painting of rural England as it was 200 years ago. After covering the painting with an image of environmental destruction, they glued their hands to the frame and awaited arrest.

Three months later, another pair of activists went to the National Gallery and threw tomato soup at Vincent van Gogh’s ‘Sunflowers’. In the Netherlands, one activist glued his head to Johannes Vermeer’s ‘Girl with a Pearl Earring’, while another poured something red over him. In Vienna, members of Last Generation, an organisation named to make the point that we are the last generation able to prevent catastrophic climate change, poured black oily liquid over Gustav Klimt’s ‘Death and Life’. And in Potsdam, others smeared mashed potatoes onto Claude Monet’s ‘Haystacks’.

In all these incidents, the activists chose paintings protected by glass, drawing attention to great works of art, but not damaging them. With ‘The Hay Wain’, the message was that if we do not stop using fossil fuels, scenes like the one Constable painted will be gone forever.

The title of the Klimt reminds us that climate change is a life-and-death issue. The activists used the ‘Girl with a Pearl Earring’ to challenge our values, asking the shocked onlookers how they felt when they saw the beautiful painting apparently being ruined. “Do you feel outraged?” they asked – and then answered their own question: “Good. Where is that feeling when you see the planet being destroyed before your very eyes?”

We value art, but what we stand to lose from climate change is incomparably more significant. Everything we value on this planet is at stake, including the continuity of both human and non-human life. Why, then, do many people support the goal of stronger action against climate change, yet oppose the actions taken by Just Stop Oil and Last Generation?

It’s happened before. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” is a response to eight white clergymen who, writing in a Birmingham, Alabama, newspaper, had agreed with King’s goals, but not with his “extreme” actions (which were entirely non-violent). They urged King to wait patiently for “a more convenient season.” King replied that he found this lukewarm acceptance “more bewildering than outright rejection.” Eco-activists may experience a similar bewilderment when they are criticized by people who say that they share their goals but object to their non-violent attempts, which, while taking care to avoid damaging the art, seek to raise awareness of the importance of avoiding fossil fuels.

We honour many protesters, past and present, who broke the law to advance a good cause. Suffragettes targeted great art in their struggle to obtain votes for

women, and, unlike today’s eco-activists, deliberately slashed paintings. Today, however, we regard them as heroic feminist pioneers. In the United States, King’s birthday is a federal holiday. We support the courageous women of Iran in their protests against theocracy there. And yet we do not also support non-violent protests against government policies that are manifestly insufficient to achieve the goal, embodied in the 2015 Paris climate agreement, of limiting global warming to 2° Celsius, and preferably 1.5°C, above pre-industrial levels?

In seeking a conviction against the people who glued their hands to the frame of ‘The Hay Wain’, the prosecutor sought to distinguish the actions of the suffragettes from those of the activists on trial by saying that the former “had no democratic means by which they could further their cause,” whereas today “We have an es-



Peter Singer

LIKE THE SUFFRAGETTES MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO, TODAY’S YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE NO VOICE

Maturity, not Mar-a-Lago

Republican Kevin McCarthy’s election as the Speaker of the US House of Representatives after five days of chaotic voting marks the beginning of a new phase of confrontation between the Republicans and Democrats thereby casting a shadow on the functioning of President Joe Biden’s administration. The fear of possible governance paralysis stems from the fact that McCarthy’s elevation was bought with a heavy price conceding major concessions to an ultraconservative bloc of his own party.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) delivered a rousing speech to the newly-seated House of Representatives in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The chamber had just elected Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) Speaker of the House on the 15th vote held since Tuesday. It was the first time since 1923 that the House failed to elect a speaker on the first ballot.

Hakeem Jeffries told the new Congress that Democrats will put ‘Maturity Over Mar-a-Lago’ in a rousing speech as GOP sat quietly.

The wrangling between McCarthy and the pro-Donald Trump ultra-right Republican Representatives during the past few days prolonged the voting process making the congressional dysfunction the deepest in more than nearly 100 years. The issue was clinched only in the 15th ballot when the obdurate and ultra-conservative Representative Matt Gaetz, accused of being involved in a sex-peddling racket, voted in McCarthy’s favour. When asked by reporters why he eventually changed his mind, Gaetz said it was because he got from McCarthy all the concessions he and his group had demanded. Earlier, Gaetz had been so stubborn in withholding his vote that he almost came to blows with a fellow Republican Mike Rogers who had to be physically pulled away to avoid violence. The whole episode shows the difficulties McCarthy is in all likelihood to face in leading a narrow and deeply polarised majority.

In fact, McCarthy has had a chequered career as a Republican. Considered liberal among the ultra-right Republicans, he had in the past criticised his party’s policies, condemned the attack on the Capitol during the Presidential race between Trump and Biden and even blamed Trump for inciting the mob to resort to violence. Though he changed his position and met Trump the very next day, he is considered by many of the ultra-conservative Republicans as someone “devoid of any ideology” and working in the interests of both sides. This is the reason why the resistance to his elevation by his own party representatives continued so agonisingly. The Republicans’ weaker-than-expected performance in November’s midterm elections left them with a narrow 222-212 majority, which has given a bargaining chip to the radical right-wingers who opposed McCarthy’s leadership.

Typically, McCarthy’s inaugural speech as House Speaker reflected his mindset of juggling with both Republicans and Democrats. He said the country’s “system is built on checks and balances and it is time for us to be a check and provide some balance to the president’s policies.” He also outlined a wide range of priorities for fellow-Republicans to regulate the government’s policies, including cutting spending and immigration.

The chaos witnessed in the past few days of House voting is but a prelude to the highly uncertain path McCarthy will have to tread while trying to lead an unruly Republican majority determined to achieve its priorities and confront President Biden’s agenda at all points. This may even result in shutting down the government which may not get funds approved by the House for running the administration. House Republicans are eager to confront Biden on crucial issues such as the White House’s handling of the US-Mexico border, the COVID-19 crisis and investigations of Biden, his family and his administration. The government will have to restock a military whose supplies have been depleted by decades of war and aid to Ukraine, authorise farming programmes and raise the nation’s borrowing limit to avert an unprecedented federal default.

One-third of seats on the influential rules committee will go to the conservative wing of the party. This is likely to spell danger for the government since this committee clears all legislations prior to allowing them to go to the floor for debate or for a vote.

The desperation to realise his dream of becoming Speaker at any cost is evident from McCarthy’s assertion that the tumultuous voting was “the great part and because it took this long, now we learned how to govern.”

In fact, McCarthy has emerged as a weakened speaker with less authority on paper than his predecessor, Democrat Nancy Pelosi. This is primarily because he conceded a key demand by hard-liners that a single House representative be able to call for his removal at any time. That will sharply compromise his power when trying to pass legislation on critical issues including funding the government, addressing the nation’s looming debt ceiling and other crises that may arise. However, his ideas on ‘check and balances’ are like a breath of fresh air for those who believe in democracy and its current heightened relevance.

WISDOM CORNER

Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in character and goodness. People are just people, and all people have faults and shortcomings, but all of us are born with a basic goodness.

ANNE FRANK

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.

STEPHEN HAWKING

WORDSWORTH

Estovers

This is one of the rights that were granted to some tenants under the medieval manorial system; it allowed them to take wood from the estates of the manor. It has almost totally died out except as an esoteric historical and legal term, though a very few people still retain the right, for example in the ancient New Forest in southern England (which was indeed once new, but that was shortly after the Norman Conquest, more than 900 years ago). It’s usually described as the right to take dead wood for fuel. This was certainly one of its meanings, with the common proviso that tenants were allowed only to take dead wood from the ground or pull down dead branches. This may be the source of the idiom by hook or by crook, “by any means possible”. However, estovers was a much broader term than that. It encompassed any legitimate cutting of timber, for a variety of purposes. Before the word came into the language in the thirteenth century, such a right was usually called a boot or a bote, from Old English bot, an expiation, compensation or remedy, literally a making better. (Our fossil phrase to boot, as well as or in addition to, comes from the same source.) In this situation it meant something useful or profitable. Examples were housebote, the right to take timber with which to repair your house; haybote or hedgebote, to repair fences, and ploughbote, to repair agricultural implements. Another was firebote, which was the one that referred specifically to fuel. Estovers is from Old French estovoir, to be necessary. So they were literally the necessities allowed by law. In later centuries, the term was extended to refer to an allowance of food and clothing to imprisoned felons, and to a pension given to a widow.

SPECTRUM NATION

Economy, a no go area for top court

The judgement on demonetisation is not unexpected, but the Supreme Court’s missive giving unfettered freedom to all governments to act on economic issues is more than it could have bargained for.

The impact of the note ban is deeper and has apparently affected government finances as well as the overall economy including employment generation as the latest Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) figures indicate. The court may not discuss these, but the country would have tough moments dealing with the world economy, one-third of which, the IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva says, faces recession.

Perhaps no longer can any government decision on the economy be ever questioned or the apex court be approached for its opinion. The court says it has no knowledge of the economy and it has taken the most sanguine approach of keeping off an area that is the domain of the government. The majority judgement is the withdrawal of the courts’ powers on economic issues.

Demonetisation could not have been undone six years after the action. It is good academics. So, right-

fully the court has preferred not to consider it. It was only on October 12 that the court decided to hear the case. It might have been wary of its political import. The cases were argued by Congress leader and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram and lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan.

The apex court has largely agreed with Attorney General R Venkatramani who argued that even if it is assumed that demonetisation has not succeeded, it cannot be the reason to invalidate the decision judicially as it was taken in good faith. It also did not oblige Chidambaram, who sought laying down of norms so that “no misadventures” are carried out by a future government.

Justice Nagarathna, who dissented says, “On looking at the records (submitted by RBI), I find the use of the words and phrases there “as desired by the Central Govt”, “Govt has recommended the withdrawal of legal tender of 500 and 1000 notes”, “recommendation has been obtained” are self-explanatory. “This demonstrates that there was no independent application of mind by the (Reserve) Bank. Neither was there any time for the RBI to apply its mind in

such a serious issue. This observation is being made having regard to the fact that the entire exercise of demonetisation of all series of bank notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 was carried out in 24 hours,” she observed.

Whenever currency is tinkered with it impacts the economy. Tughlaq’s move had hit the economy for a hundred years. Even 1967 devaluation by Indira Gandhi under US pressure led to a historic inflation. It led to a tumult, Navnirman movement, Total Revolution of Jayaprakash Narayan and the Emergency. That’s not for the court certainly.

On 8 August 2022, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhury told the Lok Sabha the value of the counterfeit currency in the banking system was Rs 43.47 crore as announced by RBI in 2016-17. In 2022, it was reported at about Rs 8.26 crore “amounting to a sharp decline of more than 80 per cent.” The number of counterfeit bank notes has come down from 7.62 lakh pieces in 2016-17 to 2.09 lakh pieces in 2020-21, not a small number.

In November 2016, the then Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi told the Supreme Court that the estimate for the amount that will

get wiped out is about Rs 4-5 lakh crore, or 25 per cent of the total value of the banned notes at Rs 15.44 lakh crore (total value). It was later corrected to Rs 17.7 lakh crore. But instead of 25 per cent, the RBI, in 2017, said that only 1 per cent of the cash did not return.

The unemployment figures remain at 8.3 per cent, according to CMIE. It was 6.7 per cent in October 2017. Interestingly, contrary to expectation of reducing currency circulation, it has almost doubled (83 per cent rise) at Rs 32.4 crore as on 23 December 2022. Cash remains the king!

The redeeming feature is the core sector growth at 8 per cent during April-November. Coal production at 12.3 per cent and steel production at over 10.8 per cent are significant pointers to a possible return of buoyancy. However, the index for industrial production (IIP) shows contraction from 4.2 per cent in October 2021 to 3.1 per cent in September 2022. This almost conforms to the IMF projections. It may be noted that the note ban started the lag in growth, which aggravated to -23.9 per cent during the lockdown. The country has yet to come out of the twin shocks.

INF A



Shivaji Sarkar

THE SUPREME COURT’S MISSIVE GIVING UNFETTERED FREEDOM TO ALL GOVERNMENTS TO ACT ON ECONOMIC ISSUES IS MORE THAN IT COULD HAVE BARGAINED FOR

Indo-Israel ties

Sir, Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel for a total of 15 years, returns after a year’s hiatus. Netanyahu is set to rule Israel at least till 2025 until which elections are not proposed to be held in the country. The 73-year-old leader has made tall promises, he has to keep them. Resolution of the long standing, never ending conflict with Palestine is one. Jewish violence against Arabs in West Bank is another excruciating issue that is on the rise. It is preposterous to expect Netanyahu to settle all the issues overnight. However, Indo-Israel ties are here to stay and prosper. Both countries have common interests in agriculture, rural development, communication, irrigation and military development. Under PV Narasimha Rao, New Delhi resumed its full diplomatic relation with Tel Aviv. A large Jewish population in India aided in thawing of bilateral relations. India’s dehyphenation policy helped it to nurture its ties with Israel without offending Palestine. So, it’s a win-win situation for India and Israel.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Address agrarian distress

Sir, Agrarian distress, built-up steadily, has further deteriorated recently. At the height of the farm output, farmers are a discontented lot. Despite spectacular rise in agricultural production, they continue to languish in poverty. The underlying reasons are: a) unviable agriculture; b) ineffective Minimum Support Prices system; c) adverse terms of trade; d) rural indebtedness; and e) inefficient value chain in agriculture. With illiteracy and insufficient knowledge, decision making becomes a major problem for the farmers. Farming has become an extremely unrewarding, unattractive profession. Stress becomes distressed when it is beyond the control of the individual. Little stress is good for achieving the target in fact. Prolonged, uninterrupted, unexpected, and unmanageable stresses are the most damaging types, leading to distress. A holistic approach should be taken up for an enduring solution by involving all stakeholders - Central government, state governments, banks, co-operatives and farmers through concerted efforts to invigorate agriculture. For distressed farmers, a scheme of exit route from agriculture, through creation of employment opportunities in rural areas would reduce disguised unemployment to a great extent. Solution to agrarian distress lies in improving farm productivity and revamping agricultural chain, integration of rural supply with urban demand, and smart farming by using latest technology.

Bhagaban Nayak, BERHAMPUR

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

Orissa POST

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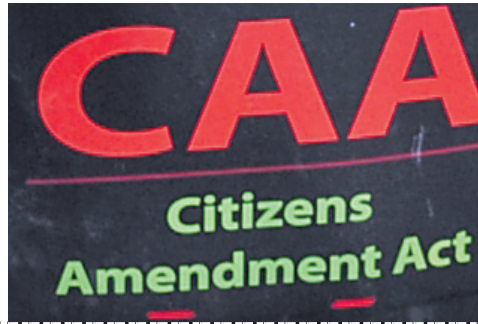
national



The pictures coming from Joshimath in Uttarakhand are horrifying... I am deeply disturbed. Wide cracks in houses, seepage of water, cracks in the ground and subsidence of roads are a matter of great concern. Going against nature by continuous digging and unplanned construction on the mountains has led to the people of Joshimath facing a terrible crisis today

CENTRE GETS EXTENSION TO FRAME CAA RULES

The Rajya Sabha committee has accepted the Centre's request for six more months to frame rules under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) for the seventh time in a row



of the day quote

Rahul Gandhi has raised three big issues during the Bharat Jodo Yatra -- economic inequality, social polarisation and political authoritarianism. He is raising these issues everyday during his walking interactions, his talking interactions, in his corner speeches, in his rallies. So I think it is unfair for you to ask this question -- 'are we projecting him as a prime ministerial face?' We are not. This is not an election yatra

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

No patient has so far benefitted from a health ministry scheme which assures an assistance of Rs 50 lakh to people with rare diseases

VARUN GANDHI | BJP MP

Efforts are being made to make the country free of Naxalism before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

India's longest train 'Vivek Express' to run 4 days a week

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Jan 8: India's longest train -- Vivek Express, which covers a distance of 4,189 km traversing through nine states, would now run four days a week from Dibrugarh in Assam, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) officials said Sunday.

NFR's chief public relations officer, Sabyasachi De, said that the railway authority has decided to increase the frequency of Vivek Express which runs on the Dibrugarh - Kanniyakumari (Tamil Nadu) - Dibrugarh route from bi-weekly to four days a week.

Vivek Express, which previously ran only on Saturday and then increased to bi-weekly from Dibrugarh, would now run on four days a week -- Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday from May 7 onwards.

Similarly, the train (Kanniyakumari - Dibrugarh) Vivek Express which is now running on Thursday and Sunday, will be run on every Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Monday from May 11 onwards.

The train, which has 59 halts across its 4,189 km route, was started on November 19, 2011.

In the last 11 years, the train has been relentlessly serving the people, the CPRO said.

Existing timings and stoppages of the train will remain unchanged. The details of stoppages and timings of this train are available at IRCTC website and through NTES.

The NFR, one among the 17 railway zones in India, operates fully and partially in six of the eight northeastern states, excluding Meghalaya and Sikkim, seven districts of West Bengal and five districts of Bihar.

Drone equipped with radars deployed near Pak border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Jammu, Jan 8: Drone-mounted ground penetration radars have been deployed for the first time by the Border Security Force (BSF) to check for the presence of under-ground tunnels used by terrorists to infiltrate the India-Pakistan International Border in Jammu region, officials said.

The ingeniously-made technical gadget has been pressed into action at this front recently as part of the below-the-earth tunnel detection exercise carried out by the force to ensure no terrorist is able to sneak into Indian territory and conduct strikes in Jammu and Kashmir or any other location of the country. These structures have also been used to smuggle narcotics, arms and ammunition.

The BSF has unearthed at least five under-ground tunnels in the about 192 km of the Jammu front (of the India-Pakistan IB) in the last three years. According to official data, two such cross-border tunnels were detected in 2020 and 2021 each, while one was found last year and all of them were detected in the Indreshwar Nagar sector of Jammu.

"The force has procured a smart technical tool to counter the menace of under-ground tunnels that have been reported regularly along the Jammu region of the India-Pakistan IB. More than one drone-mounted ground penetration radars have been deployed in the region to check these clandestine structures used by terrorists to infiltrate into India from Pakistan," a senior BSF officer said.

Officials working on the ground



The BSF has unearthed at least five under-ground tunnels in the about 192 km of the Jammu front (of the India-Pakistan IB) in the last three years

Officials working on the ground said the radars being currently deployed have been developed by an Indian manufacturer and they work by emitting strong radio waves to check for the presence of tunnels under the ground and to map their stretch

said the radars being currently deployed have been developed by an Indian manufacturer and they work by emitting strong radio waves to check for the presence of tunnels under the ground and to map their stretch. While the specific details of the radars cannot be disclosed, the new tools have been added to the BSF surveillance paraphernalia for assisting ground troops undertaking anti-tunnelling exercise. Its efficacy is under study as of now, the officials said. The radars are mounted on the drones in order to give them better access to such terrain along this front, which is difficult for the ground teams to reach, they said. Usually the surveillance for hidden tunnels is undertaken in the range of about 400 metres from the border fence.

The anti-tunnelling surveillance teams of the BSF remotely con-

trol the drone when they are out to comb a specific area on the front and they backup the 'flying radar' with their traditional system of checking for tunnels with the help of hand-held deep search and mine detection tools, they said.

"One problem that these radars come across is the amount of dust that generates due to the flying of drones and they clash with the radio waves being emitted by the radars to scan the earth below. This is a start and the new tool is still to be called accurate," another officer said.

The usual system of ground troops checking for tunnels is being followed too. The 'man behind the machine' concept will always be the most important tool despite the best technical gadgetry available, the officer working along the Jammu front said.

'AI action should have been swifter'



The incident on Air India flight AI102 on November 26, 2022, has been a matter of personal anguish to me and my colleagues at Air India. Air India's response should have been much swifter. We fell short of addressing this situation the way it should have been

N CHANDRASEKARAN | TATA GROUP CHAIRMAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 8: More questions were raised Sunday on Air India's handling of the incident in which an inebriated male flier urinated on an elderly woman co-passenger, even as Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran admitted the airline's response should have been "much swifter".

A US-based doctor who was seated next to the accused spoke out about the November 26 incident, alleging the flight crew showed "no compassion" and failed in their responsibility on several counts as they made the woman talk to the man after his "indecent exposure" and she was made to go back to her soiled seat.

Dr Sugata Bhattacharjee said that he wrote an elaborate complaint to Air India immediately after the flight landed and is speaking out now because of claims by accused Shankar Mishra's father that his son is innocent and may have been a victim of extortion. However, a section of serving and retired pilots alleged that the flight captain and the crew were being made a scapegoat by the airline "just to avoid embarrassment and their own fault".

They claimed the airline did not read or react promptly to the report on the incident, which according to sources was filed by the cabin crew and counter-signed by the captain after the

flight landed. On Saturday, Air India's CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson issued a statement in which he said that four cabin crew and one pilot have been issued show cause notices and de-rostered pending investigation. He hasn't specified any reason for taking action against all five of them.

In a statement, which came days after the aviation regulator DGCA pulled up the Tata-owned full-service carrier, group chairman Chandrasekaran said on Sunday that "we fell short of addressing this situation the way we should have."

"The incident on Air India flight AI102 on November 26, 2022, has been a matter of personal anguish to me and my colleagues at Air India. Air India's response should have been much swifter. We fell short of addressing this situation the way it should have been," he said, adding they will "review and repair every process to prevent or address any incidents of such unruly nature".

Mishra, 34, who was missing for a few days after the incident came to light has been arrested from Bengaluru and sent to judicial remand for 14 days by a Delhi court. Sugata Bhattacharjee, who was seated next to Mishra, narrated to PTI the sordid events of the business class cabin which have become front-page news after they came to light last week.

SHORT TAKES

PM Modi to launch Ganga Vilas cruise

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the world's longest river cruise with MV Ganga Vilas on January 13. Minister for shipping, ports and waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Sunday said that it will herald a new age of river cruise tourism for India. The luxury cruise will cover a distance of more than 3,200 km across 27 river systems in five states in India and Bangladesh.

Human hair worth Rs 30 lakh seized

Shillong: The BSF troopers in Meghalaya have seized 300 kg of human hair worth Rs 30 lakh meant to be smuggled to Bangladesh, officials said. A BSF spokesman said that the human hair was seized after they were ferried from Shillong to bordering Jamador village before being smuggled to Bangladesh through the riverine route along the South West Khasi Hills district.

Three killed

Palghar (Maharashtra): Three persons were killed and four others seriously injured -- all from a single family -- in a ghastly road accident while proceeding from Nala Sopara town here to Bhilad in Gujarat, police said Sunday. The accident occurred this afternoon shortly after the van in which they were travelling crosses the Mahalaxmi Bridge on the road towards Gujarat, under the jurisdiction of the Palghar police.



A woman feeds pigeons at Marina beach in Chennai

PTI PHOTO

North India shivers in biting cold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 8: A blinding layer of fog over north India and eastern parts of the country affected the schedule of over 480 trains and over 25 flights on Sunday even as an intense cold wave walloped the plains, including Delhi, where the minimum temperature plunged to a numbing 1.9 degrees Celsius.

Delhi's minimum temperature was lower than most places in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand -- both north of the national capital -- for the fourth consecutive day. The cold snap, which is straining power grids and posing challenges to the homeless and animals, prompted the Delhi government to extend winter vacation in schools till January 15. The IMD has issued an "orange" alert for certain parts of north India, including Delhi, for Monday, warning that dense fog, cold day and cold wave conditions would persist. A senior IMD meteorologist said short-term relief is likely after a couple of days under the influence of back-to-back western disturbances.



When a Western disturbance -- a weather system characterised by warm moist winds from the Middle East -- approaches a region, the wind direction changes. Hence, the chilly northwesterly winds from the mountains will stop blowing for a few days leading to an increase in temperatures, he said.

"Cold wave and cold day conditions over northwest India (are) likely to abate after 48 hours. Dense to very dense fog conditions over many parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (are likely) during the next 48 hours and decrease in intensity and distribution thereafter," the IMD said in a statement. A dense layer of fog persisted over north, east and northeast India, affecting road, rail and air traffic movement.

Centre bans 2 groups linked to Lashkar, Jaish

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 8: Continuing its crackdown on terrorism sponsored from across the border, the Centre banned two proxy organisations of the dreaded Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad and declared four individuals terrorists in last four days.

The action against the terror groups and terrorists came amidst the repeated assertions by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah that the central government has adopted a zero tolerance policy towards terrorism.

January 4, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a notification stating that Aijaz Ahmad Ahanger alias Abu Usman Al-Kashmiri, a Kashmir-born terrorist who has contacts with al-Qaeda and other global terrorist groups and is engaged in restarting the Islamic State (IS) in India, was declared an individual



terrorist. Aijaz Ahmad, presently based in Afghanistan, is one of the chief recruiters of Islamic State Jammu and Kashmir (ISJK). Aijaz Ahmad, who was born in Srinagar in 1974, is a wanted terrorist in Jammu and Kashmir for more than two decades and has started planning terror-related strategies in the Union Territory by building coordination channels between various terrorist groups.

According to the MHA, Aijaz Ahmad is working towards providing traction to militancy in Kashmir and has started the process of identifying people for inclusion in his Kashmir-based network.

Five chargesheeted in court blast case

New Delhi: Five people including a Pakistani national were chargesheeted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a case related to a bomb explosion in a Ludhiana court in December 2021 that left a suspected terrorist dead and six civilians injured, an official said on Sunday. The agency filed the chargesheet against the accused in a special NIA court, Mohali in Punjab on Saturday, a spokesperson for the federal agency said. The case was initially registered on December 23 at Police Station Division -5, Ludhiana Commissionerate, Punjab and re-registered by the NIA on January 13, 2022. During investigation, the spokesperson said it has been revealed that Pakistan-based International Sikh Youth Federation and Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) terrorist handler Lakhbir Singh Rode had planned to execute IED blasts at various locations in Punjab.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to call that I, Joga Maya Padhi, W/o. Kailash Chandra Padhi, New Colony, Rayagada, Odisha is also known as Jogamaya Padhi, W/o. Kailash Chandra Padhi for all purposes and intents. Joga Maya Padhi and Jogamaya Padhi are one and same. Deponent Jogamaya Padhi

NATIONAL HOUSING BANK
Statutory Body under the Government of India
The National Housing Bank, apex institution for housing finance in the country, invites applications from eligible and enthusiastic persons for the following posts. Submission of online application - from 14.01.2023 to 06.02.2023:
Table with columns: Post, SC, ST, OBC NCL, EWS, UR, Total
Regular Recruitment (including Backlog Vacancies)
1. General Manager - - - - 01 01
2. Dy. General Manager - - 01 - 01 02
3. Assistant General Manager 01 01 - 01 02 05
4. Regional Manager 01 - 03 01 03 08
5. Manager - - 02 - 01 03 06
6. Dy. Manager 02 - 03 01 04 10
Contractual Positions
7. Chief Economist - - - - 01 01
8. Protocol Officer - - - - 02 02
(Delhi - 01 and Mumbai-01)
Total 04 03 07 04 17 35
All addendums, corrigendum etc. related to the aforesaid recruitment shall be published on Bank's website only. For detailed advertisement, please visit Bank's website www.nhb.org.in. Head Office: Core 5A, 3rd-5th Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003. Regional & Representative Office: Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi, Gowahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata & Lucknow. CBC 62102/12/0017/2223

DRUNK DRIVING

Kolkata bars asked to start breathalyser tests on customers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 8: Bars in Kolkata were directed by the police to use breathalysers on customers, and prevent those found to be drunk beyond the permissible limit from driving back home. Kolkata Police commissioner Vineet Goyal Saturday said the directive was issued to all bars in the city to prevent drunk driving. "Drunk driving is a legal offence. It's the reason for several road accidents. We have already sent a directive to all the bars in the city to purchase breathalysers to test every person leaving the bar after drinking. The bars must not allow them to drive back home in case

they are found intoxicated beyond a certain level," he said. If a person is found to be drinking excessively, the bars must ensure that he is not driving or riding a bike, Goyal said. "The bar will arrange for the person to reach home by other means. If necessary, they can also take the help of the police," he added. The bars would give slips to those undergoing the tests, and these slips can be shown at checkpoints to prevent further tests, the officer said. Deaths due to road accidents in Kolkata have reduced from 450 in 2016 to 185 in 2022, he said. Goyal was speaking at a session on 'Kolkata - Safety and Security -



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow', organised by the Bharat Chamber of Commerce. Joint Commissioner (Crime) Murlidhar, Joint Commissioner (Intelligence) Kalyan Mukhopadhyay, Deputy Commissioner (Traffic) SK Yadav and Deputy Commissioner (South East Division) Sudeep Sarkar also attended the programme. The Kolkata Police has also decided to install 3,000 more CCTV cameras across the city, includ-

Kolkata Police commissioner said the directive was issued to all bars in the city to prevent drunk driving

ing the narrow lanes, Goyal said. Expressing concern over the rising number of cyber crimes, he said every police station in the city will have at least four trained police personnel to deal with such incidents. "Already 3,000 police personnel have been trained in this regard, while another 2,000 are undergoing training," he said. Referring to National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data, Murlidhar said crimes against women were lowest in Kolkata among the 19 metros in India in 2021. "To strengthen the safety of women, 50 bikes will be kept at various police stations in the city to reach a spot quickly," he said.

Public reluctance to go for Covid booster dose worries WB govt

INFO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 8: Amid fresh Covid-19 scare, the West Bengal health department is worried over the increasing reluctance of people to go for booster vaccine dose shots. Rough figures compiled by the state health department show reluctance and most people take booster doses unnecessary.



The figures also reveal how the public sincerity in going for the first dose declined marginally for the second dose and finally nosedived in case of the booster dose. A state health department official said that over seven crore people went for the first dose, which slid down for the second dose. However, when it came to third and booster dose the number fell to just 1.5 crore.

As a result several doses of vaccines at the state health department's family welfare stores at Bagbazar in north Kolkata have expired. A state health department official said that up to December last year 80,000 doses of COVAXIN expired and more will expire by the current month of January.

Renowned physician from the city, Dr Arindam Biswas, however, does not want to blame only the public reluctance in the matter.

"There is a major reason that prompted this reluctance and the reason is economical. Unlike the first two doses, the third and the booster dose was not provided free by the government. Now coming to the point of nasal vaccine, the government introduced it at a very late stage, and that too has restricted its supply to private hospitals only. So, in my opinion if the government is really keen that people shed their reluctance about the third dose, it should introduce provisions for providing them free also," Biswas added.

50% of rural devpt funds in Bengal remain unspent

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 8: With less than three months remaining for the current financial year to end, the West Bengal government is yet to spend almost 50 per cent of central funds for rural development works received by the state under the 15th Finance Commission allocation. Understanding the gravity of the matter, the state panchayat affairs & rural development minister, Pradip Majumdar is holding regular meetings with the bureaucrats of his department, district magistrates and panchayat functionaries to accelerate the pace of ongoing development activities so that as much of fund as possible can be spent by the end of the financial year. State government sources said that the situation on this count would not have been so critical had a uniform pace of work in the ongoing projects would have been maintained since the beginning of the financial year.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

The state panchayat affairs & rural development department has already directed the district magistrates to conduct general body meetings of the three tiers of the panchayat system in their districts and finalise the planned projects and the estimated expenditure behind them by January 10.

As per the directives of the department, focus should be given on development of toilets, sewerage system and waste management.

"It is too ambitious to think that the entire 50 per cent fund would be utilized in the remaining three months. But yes, a substantial portion of it can be achieved if the elected representatives in the three tiers of the panchayat system work in proper coordination with the district bureaucracy. The role of the elected representatives in the panchayat system is extremely important on this count," said a senior bureaucrat.

Majority of KPs have returned to work in Kashmir: Official



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jan 8: A majority of Kashmiri Pandit employees, who had struck work following the killing of Rahul Bhat by terrorists last year, have returned to work, a senior official of the Jammu and Kashmir administration said here. "I reject this notion that all Kashmiri Pandit employees are protesting in Jammu. A majority of these employees have already joined their offices (and) we are releasing their salaries. They have understood the importance of reporting to work," Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang Kundbarao Pole told PTI.

Though the administration agreed to look into most of the demands of the Kashmiri Pandits (KPs), it refused to relocate them out of Kashmir. It further hardened its stand against the protesting employees and stopped salaries of those who did not return to work. Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir police stated that work was going on to expeditiously complete transit accommodations for the Kashmiri Pandit employees posted in the Valley.

"The government has reserved 6,000 jobs for the Kashmiri Pandits under the Prime Minister employment package. The selection process is almost complete and 6,000 flats are being raised at 17 places in Kashmir for them," a police officer said.

- Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit employee, was shot dead by the ultras inside his office at Chadoora in Budgam district in May last year
- The killing had sparked off protests by the Kashmiri Pandit employees who refused to return to work
- A group of protesting employees left the Valley and demonstrated in Jammu, demanding that they be relocated out of Kashmir till the security situation improved

"We have tried to establish these accommodations near main roads and not in the interiors. However, this also depends on the availability of government land," he said. Pole said while police personnel will be deployed for the security of these accommodations, preference has been given to set up these flats near CRPF camps so that the occupants feel a sense of security and protection.

He said the compounds for Kashmiri Pandits employees will have other facilities like mini hospitals, anganwari centres and fair price retail shops. While 600 flats for the employees are already operational, another 500 will be completed by March-end. The total number of flats is expected to go up to 2,000 by June this year.

"Till now, 600 flats are completed at Vessu (Kulgam) and Sheikhpora (Budgam) area. Prefabricated huts have been provided at Natnusa and Veerwan in Baramulla. By March 2023, nearly 500 flats will be completed and in June 2023, we are expecting the completion of 2,000 flats," the divisional commissioner added.

Even as the administration asserts that the employees from the community have nothing to fear in the Valley, political parties maintain that a sense of security among the minority community members was as important as physical security. "It is not about one-room or two-room apartments. The government thinks that providing accommodation will resolve the entire issue about Kashmiri Pandits, but that is not the case. "The government has to build a sense of security and confidence among the Kashmiri Pandits," PDP spokesman Mohit Bhan said. He said the Kashmiri Pandit employees came back to the Valley in 2010 to restore the community's essence and culture. "BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur had a different take to offer on the issue. "The biggest security for the Kashmiri Pandits are the majority Muslims living in the Valley..." he said.

Thakur said security forces are capable enough to fight against terrorists and provide adequate security to the Kashmiri Pandits.

PANCHAYAT POLLS

BJP plans six Ratha Yatras in West Bengal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 8: West Bengal BJP is planning to organise six separate 'Rath Yatras' in the state this year keeping in mind the elections for the three-tier panchayat system as well as the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Although, top state BJP leaders are unwilling to divulge the details of the plan, sources from the state committee of the party said that this six different 'Rath Yatras' are aimed at covering the entire state starting from the hills in North Bengal to the mangrove forests of Sunderbans in South Bengal.

Sources said that the six yatras will be 'Darjeeling Rath' covering north Bengal districts of Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts, 'Gaurbang Rath' covering parts of Malda, South Dinajpur and North Dinajpur districts, 'Nabadwip Rath' covering parts of Murshidabad, Nadia and North 24 Parganas districts, 'Rarbang Rath' covering Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, West Midnapore and Hooghly district, 'Sunderbans Rath' covering South 24 Parganas district and finally 'Kolkata Rath'



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

covering the entire state capital. State BJP sources said already they have received the green signals from the party's state leadership that top leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the party's national president J.P. Nadda will be visiting the states in the next few months.

"Attempts are on to bring Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to the state. So we want to convert those occasions into mega events through these Rath Yatras," said a state BJP leader who did not wish to be named.

Online services for artisans rolled out

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Jan 8: The Handicrafts And Handloom department of Jammu and Kashmir Friday launched eight online services for the artisans, weavers, trainees and other stakeholders.

These services are integrated with the single window system, with aim to provide all Handicrafts and handloom services under "One Umbrella Single Window System". He said the Kashmiri Pandit employees came back to the Valley in 2010 to restore the community's essence and culture. "BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur had a different take to offer on the issue. "The biggest security for the Kashmiri Pandits are the majority Muslims living in the Valley..." he said. Thakur said security forces are capable enough to fight against terrorists and provide adequate security to the Kashmiri Pandits.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

ment Friday registered the Kani-Shawl artisans who are the trainees of the department and generated their artisan cards online. It was directed that now onwards all the trainees will be imparted a separate training with regard to the single window system so that they are fully aware of how to use and avail benefits using the online platform."

Mahmood Shah, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir on this occasion said, "the move is aimed to improve ease of doing business and to facilitate stakeholders without any hassle".

These services are also integrated with the Rapid Assessment system (RAS). The purpose of the RAS interface is to enable the citizens to provide prompt feedback about the quality of service after the citizen avails an e-service of the government. The analytic features of the RAS help integrated departments in system improvement and better delivery of services.

A dedicated Grievance Redressal Cell (GRC) with the aim to look into the complaints and grievances lodged by any stakeholder and redress it as per requirement within the stipulated time has also been set up.

BAL JARALLAN MASSACRE

Fear palpable in terror-hit Dhangri village

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri/Jammu, Jan 8: The recent terror attack in Dhangri village of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri not only created a fear psychosis among the people particularly the minority community, but also opened the wounds of Bal Jarallan massacre that had taken place over two decades ago.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Bal Jarallan is a village four kms ahead of Dhangri, the scene of deadly terrorist firing January 1 and subsequent Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion the next morning which left a total of six civilians, including two cousin sisters, dead and several others injured. The Bal Jarallan massacre had taken place February 19, 1999 when terrorists had entered a marriage hall and sprayed bullets on the guests waiting for 'Bharat'. Seven persons belonging to the minority community were killed and an equal num-

ber injured in that incident. Dalip Singh, a resident of Dhangri, said the latest incident had opened the old wounds and caused a scare among the local populace about the revival of terrorism in the border district.

"A number of my close relatives had gone to attend the marriage ceremony and we came to know about the incident only when the victims were being evacuated to hospital while passing in front of our homes as that time," he said in a statement.

MUSHROOM FARMING

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Jan 8: On August 5, 2019, a courageous decision was taken by the Central government to revoke the special status granted to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution. The historic decision set off a major political as well as social makeover of the region, which had enjoyed 'so-called' special rights since Independence.

With the latest technological interventions of the Central government and the J&K administration, the mushroom production has registered a substantial boost across the Union Territory.

With the recent government interventions, forest dwellers in Jammu Shivaliks are being given formal training and instructions about mushroom collection and processing techniques, market knowledge as well as market access, so that their efforts pay them their rightly earned share.

A new form of employment in J&K



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

The J&K government is emphasising upon stakeholders for encouraging and promoting Mushroom Cultivation, a potential entrepreneurship for youth in a big way

Mushroom cultivation is one important tool in not only enhancing agricultural income of the farming community but also securing it against rising changes in climate and soil resources. With this in mind, the government of Jammu and Kashmir is implementing a full-fledged project on 'Promotion of Round the

Year Mushroom Cultivation' (PRYMC) across the UT.

The project to be implemented at a cost of around Rs 42 crore over the next three years by the Agriculture Production Department of J&K will increase the production of mushrooms by 3.5 times and revolutionise the mushroom cultivation here.

The project will also increase employment generation by 3 times and more than 768 new enterprises are also being created in the process to ensure sustainability of the interventions.

"Mushroom farming generates revenue and helps to reduce poverty. The production of mushrooms creates a significant

amount of direct and indirect employment opportunities in the fields of cultivation and marketing, as well as providing opportunities for processing businesses and labour-intensive management," said Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo.

He added that Mushroom farming requires little capital, little technical expertise, and it is even possible to grow mushrooms indoors on a small scale and easily earn a high return on investment. "Promotion of Round the Year Mushroom Cultivation' is one among the 29 projects, which were approved by the Jammu and Kashmir administration after being recommended by the UT Level Apex Committee for holistic development of Agriculture and Allied Sectors in the union territory of J&K.

The prestigious committee is headed by Dr Mangala Rai, Former DG ICAR and has other experts.

of the day quote

I do not worry whether 10 or 12 leaders go to Delhi. Till the time the voters are with me, I do not worry for the leaders. You (voters) make the leaders. I used to give tickets, you made them win... Now, those who used to give tickets and those who made them win have come together. Let us see how many will win

GHULAM NABI AZAD | DEMOCRATIC AZAD PARTY CHAIRMAN

The state Cabinet expansion would take place soon. We had a detailed discussion a few days ago. As per the information I have received, a meeting will be convened soon and a decision will be taken

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

If we do any reform, the opposition should also appreciate some things, only then their credibility will increase. There is no anger against the Congress government in the state and BJP's Jan Aakrosh rallies are a damp squib

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

Three killed

Hyderabad: Three persons were killed and six injured in a road accident in Telangana's Nalgonda district early Sunday, police said. The accident occurred when a car overturned after hitting a divider near Yarsaniguda village in Kattangur mandal. Three of the occupants died on the spot while six others were injured. The injured were shifted to Kamineni Hospital at Narketpally. The police shifted the bodies to the government hospital at Nakrekal for autopsy.

Teen injured

Amroha: A boy sustained injuries in the fingers when his mobile phone exploded while he was speaking to a relative on his mobile phone. "My mobile phone caught fire when I was on a call. My finger got injured in this. I purchased the mobile in August from Amroha," said Himanshu, a resident of Hijampur village.

Two die in TN

Chennai: Two people were killed when a Karnataka State Transport Corporation bus rammmed into a two-wheeler on which they were travelling. The incident occurred at Krishnagiri on the Karnataka border on Sunday. The Karnataka transport bus that rammmed into the two-wheeler caught fire and was completely burnt.

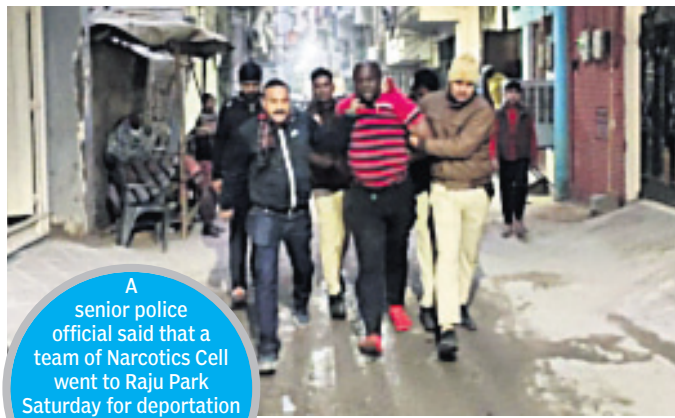
Two arrested

Kolkata: Two Bangladeshi citizens with huge consignments of gold biscuits have been arrested by the BSF personnel from near the Benapole-Petrapole border in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, officials informed on Sunday. Working on a tip-off that a huge consignment of gold was being smuggled through a bus, the BSF jawans of the 145 battalion stopped the vehicle, that was coming to Kolkata from Agartala via Dhaka, near the border checkpoint.

5-yr-old boy swallows magnet

Lucknow: A five-year-old boy, son of a Bharatiya Janata Party leader, accidentally swallowed a magnet while playing. The boy, Partha Sarthi, son of UP BJP general secretary Amarpal Maurya, was rushed to the Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences from where he was discharged after treatment.

Huge mob attacks Delhi cops



A senior police official said that a team of Narcotics Cell went to Raju Park Saturday for deportation proceedings of overstaying foreign nationals

The accused Nigerians identified as Igwe Emmanuel Chimezie, Aziege John, Queen Godwin were held in second round of visit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 8: Delhi Police officials were Saturday attacked by a violent mob of 100 African nationals who helped in escaping of three African nationals who were caught by the police for living in India illegally.

When police again went to Neb Sarai's Raju Park, the police team was again attacked by the African nationals, but police managed to ap-

prehend four of them.

A senior police official said that a team of Narcotics Cell went to Raju Park on Saturday for deportation proceedings of overstaying foreign nationals. The official said that at about 2:30 p.m., the team apprehended three African nationals whose visas had expired.

"The team was trying to bring them to the police station but suddenly about 100 African nationals gathered there and obstructed the

police team and in the meantime two of the detained African Nationals managed to escape. Later on, one Philip was successfully apprehended," the official said.

The official said that again at about 6:30 p.m., a joint team of narcotics squad and Police Station Neb Sarai reached Raju Park in search of the overstaying foreign nationals and detained four African nationals including one woman namely Kene Chukwu David Williams.

A case under section 420/120B of IPC read with 14 Foreigners Act has been registered against the accused at Crime Branch, and passports have also been seized there. The accused Nigerians identified as Igwe Emmanuel Chimezie, Aziege John, Queen Godwin were held in second round of visit.

But again about 150-200 African nationals gathered there. They were also trying to help the detained African nationals to escape but after sincere efforts, the police team succeeded to bring them in Police Station Neb Sarai. The official said that further the deportation proceedings for apprehended overstaying foreign Nationals are being taken up.

Himachal CM expands cabinet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Jan 8: After a four-week wait, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu expanded his cabinet Sunday with the induction of seven ministers, including Vikramaditya Singh - the son of former chief minister Virbhadr Singh and state Congress president Pratibha Singh.

The strength of the cabinet has now risen to nine. Only Sukhu and his deputy Mukesh Agnihotri were sworn in on December 11 following Congress' win in the hill state. Three berths are still vacant as the maximum number of ministers, including the chief minister, cannot exceed 12.

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office to the newly inducted ministers at the Raj Bhawan. The party apparently tried to placate Sukhu's rival camp led by Pratibha Singh, who lost out in the chief ministerial race, with the induction of her son Vikramaditya Singh, two-time MLA from Shimla (Rural).

Among the new ministers, Harshwardhan Chauhan, a six-time MLA elected from Shillai, three-time MLA elected from Kasumpti Anirudh Singh and four-time MLA Rohit Thakur from

Jubbal-Kotkhai are considered close to the chief minister.

The other ministers are eldest MLA Dhani Ram Shandil, a former minister elected from Solan; Chander Kumar, a former minister and six-time MLA from Jawali in Kangra district; and Jagat Singh Negi, a former deputy speaker and five-time MLA from tribal Kinnaur district.

Shimla district with seven MLAs has been given the lion's share in the cabinet with three ministers while Bilaspur, Mandi, Kullu and Lahaul and Spiti districts are unrepresented in the cabinet. Kangra with 10 MLAs got one berth. Chief Minister Sukhu also appointed six

Chief Parliamentary Secretaries (CPS), who enjoy the same facilities as ministers. Leader of Opposition in Himachal Pradesh Assembly Jai Ram Thakur alleged that the Congress government has failed to give adequate representation to various regions in the cabinet expansion.

The BJP leader and former chief minister also criticised the government over the appointment of six chief parliamentary secretaries, saying it would put a burden of crores of rupees on the state exchequer.

Chief Minister Sukhu appointed six Chief Parliamentary Secretaries who enjoy the same facilities as ministers



Pradesh while in Nagaland and Mizoram, the ruling NDDP and MNF are part of the NDA. In Meghalaya, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma's NPP walked out of the NDA leaving the BJP in a lurch. The BJP is already facing a serious challenge in Tripura where more than half a dozen MLAs have quit and a key regional ally broke ties with the BJP. In Karnataka, the BJP leadership is trying hard to placate B S Yediyurappa and has inducted him in the parliamentary board. But BSY is insisting on the inclusion of his MLA son in the Bommai ministry. The Cabinet expansion will now take place but the last word on inclusion of BSY's son is yet to be written. The BJP's next big worry is Madhya Pradesh where it has been receiving adverse ground reports and toying with the idea of implementing the "Gujarat Model". The Assembly polls are due in MP in November-December this

Kuru Kolumn

No cake walk for BJP

The 'Modi magic' notwithstanding, the BJP leadership is finding it difficult to implement its "Gujarat Model" in some of the poll-bound states in 2023. Of the nine states set to go to polls this year, the BJP is in power in Tripura, Karnataka and Madhya

Pradesh while in Nagaland and Mizoram, the ruling NDDP and MNF are part of the NDA. In Meghalaya, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma's NPP walked out of the NDA leaving the BJP in a lurch. The BJP is already facing a serious challenge in Tripura where more than half a dozen MLAs have quit and a key regional ally broke ties with the BJP. In Karnataka, the BJP leadership is trying hard to placate B S Yediyurappa and has inducted him in the parliamentary board. But BSY is insisting on the inclusion of his MLA son in the Bommai ministry. The Cabinet expansion will now take place but the last word on inclusion of BSY's son is yet to be written. The BJP's next big worry is Madhya Pradesh where it has been receiving adverse ground reports and toying with the idea of implementing the "Gujarat Model". The Assembly polls are due in MP in November-December this

Rajouri attack: One more dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri/Jammu, Jan 8: The death toll in the terrorist attacks in Dhangri village of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri has risen to seven with one more civilian succumbing to injuries at a hospital in Jammu on Sunday, officials said.

Prince Sharma, who was in his early 20s, died at the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital Jammu, where he was shifted for specialised treatment along with several others after getting critically injured in the firing by terrorists in Dhangri on January 1, they said.

The attacks in the village had left six people, including Sharma's elder brother Deepak Kumar dead. While four persons were killed and six others injured in the terrorist firing on January 1, two cousins were killed and nine other persons injured in a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast in the village the next morning. The IED was planted by terrorists before fleeing.

A massive search operation is on to neutralise the terrorists behind the attack, officials said.

A pall of gloom descended on the terror-hit village as the body of the deceased reached his home in the afternoon with villagers led by Sarpanch Dheeraj Sharma demanding handing over the investigation of the case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Hundreds of people gathered



A view of the annual fair of Magh Mela on the banks of Ganga in Prayagraj

PTI PHOTO

Train accident averted

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 8: The 22861 Howrah-Kantabanji Ispat Express escaped a major rail mishap near Santragachi station in Howrah district Sunday.

After departing from Howrah station, as the train crossed Banksara rail-gate after Santragachi station, one of the couplets connecting two compartments got uncoupled.

As a result, the engine of the train kept on rushing towards the destination with only the first two compartments, while the remaining compartments slowed down and got stranded near the rail-gate.

Eastern Railway officials informed that the time when the couplets connecting the two compartments got uncoupled, the speed of the engine was quite slow and hence a major danger could be averted.

However, the passengers travelling by the train became panicky because of the development. They blamed the railway staff for allowing the train to leave Howrah station without properly checking the couplets connecting two compartments.

The compartments that got uncoupled from the engine remained stranded at Santragachi station for a long time.

However, railway sources said that an alternative engine was brought and Ispat Express has again departed for its destination. An internal enquiry in the matter has started.



A massive search operation is on to neutralise the terrorists behind the attack, officials said

at the residence of the deceased to share the grief of Suraj Devi, who lost her both sons to the terrorist attack.

Her husband Rajinder Kumar had died about four years ago

due to illness. She was inconsolable on seeing the body of her younger son. "We appeal to Home Minister (Amit Shah) to hand over this case to the NIA immediately... We will not cremate the boy till our demand for NIA probe is met," sarpanch Sharma said at Dhangri.

He said over a week has passed but the security agencies have failed to make any breakthrough and bring the culprits to book.

TN's first Jallikattu festival held, 74 injured

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 8: Thousands of people gathered at Thatchankurichi in Gandarvakottai taluk of Tamil Nadu's Pudukottai district on Sunday to watch and participate in the first Jallikattu festival of the season, while 74 people were injured after trying to tame the bulls.

Hundreds of bulls were brought to Thatchankurichi village in mini freight carriers, while a heavy police posse was present to regulate and control the crowd that thronged at the venue. The festival was to be



held on January 6 but was postponed by a couple of days due to some security reasons. As many as 485 bulls were let

off to the field one after the other and the tamers tried to tackle and control them in a marked area filled with coir pith. The tamers had to produce a negative RT-PCR test report taken a day before for participating in the tournament.

The bulls had also undergone dope tests before they were allowed to march to the 'Vadivasaal' or entry point to the ground. A 20-member medical team was deployed at the venue and a fleet of '108' Ambulances was deployed to rush the injured to the nearby Thanjavur Medical College Hospital.



National role for new Chanakya!

There are signs that Gujarat BJP chief and Lok Sabha MP C R Patil may be given a key role at the national level. He may be a little-known politician but maintains a low-profile though he was in charge of PM Modi's Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency since 2014. With the Prime Minister showering praises on him after BJP broke all records in the recently concluding Gujarat Assembly polls, it was widely speculated that Patil may be new party chief in place of J P Nadda. But reports emanating from BJP headquarters suggest that Nadda will continue in his post until 2024 Lok Sabha polls. However, Patil may be given a key role in the party as an election strategist for key states other than Gujarat. There are reports that Patil may be

given charge of Maharashtra as well where the BJP needs strengthening its position.

OPS, Modi's new headache

The Prime Minister has a new headache in hand; growing demand in states for revival of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for government employees which was discontinued in 2004 and New Pension Scheme (NPS) was brought in. Modi is strongly opposed to the revival of OPS. When the BJP's Himachal unit wanted to include the OPS in its manifesto, the proposal was shot down. One of the major reasons for BJP's defeat in Himachal Assembly polls is that government employees voted for the Congress. Now the BJP leadership is in a dilemma as to what it should do in nine states which are set to go to polls during 2023.

PM's foreign visits

The Prime Minister is set to surpass former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's record with regard to foreign visits. Manmohan Singh undertook 73 foreign trips (35 during 2004-2009 and 38 during the second term 2009-2014) and an amount of Rs 699 crores was spent on these trips during his ten-year period. In comparison, PM Modi has undertaken 69 foreign visits ever since he came to power in May 2014 until November 2022. During his first stint in office, he undertook 49 foreign visits and 20 trips in his second stint so far. Modi has 17 more months to complete his 10 years rule and it is possible that he will surpass Dr Manmohan Singh's record.

international



We should be making use of the independent sector so patients could choose where they have treatment

RISHI SUNAK | UK PM

IRAQ GOVT REOPENS BAGHDAD'S GREEN ZONE

Iraqi authorities reopened Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone Sunday in an attempt to ease traffic jams in the capital after it was closed and reopened several times in recent years



of the day quote

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

KHAWAJA ASIF | PAK DEFENCE MINISTER

Our friends are not entering through the front door. They are trying to come by jumping over the wall to meddle in our internal affairs, which is not possible. Such type of act was not expected from a neighbor

KP SHARMA OLI | PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF NEPAL

Our objective is to ensure peace and tranquility in the region, and to let peace prevail in the region

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

40 people killed in bus accident

Dakar: Forty people were killed and several others injured in a collision between two buses in the Kaffrine region, Senegal, Sunday. Senegalese President Macky Sall declared a three-day national mourning following the traffic accident, Xinhua News Agency reported quoting local authorities of Senegal. "Following today's serious accident in Gniby (in Kaffrine region) which caused 40 deaths, I have decided on a national mourning of 3 days from Jan. 9th," he said on his Twitter account.

Road accident claims 19 lives

Beijing: At least 19 people were killed and 20 others injured Sunday when a truck hit a funeral procession in eastern China's Jiangxi Province, authorities said. A brief report carried by the official media here said that the "major road traffic accident" took place in Nanchang County and the injured were taken to hospital. At least 19 people were killed and 20 others injured in the accident, reports said. An investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.

NATO declines Serbia's request

Shterpece, Kosovo: NATO's mission in Kosovo, KFOR, has declined a Serbian government request to send up to 1,000 police and army personnel to Kosovo after clashes between Serbs and the Kosovo authorities, President Aleksandar Vucic said Sunday.

Dozens kidnapped

Abuja: Nigerian police Sunday said they have launched a manhunt for unknown gunmen who attacked a train station in Nigeria's southern state of Edo, kidnapping dozens of passengers. Chidi Nwabuzor, a spokesman for the police in Edo, told Xinhua via telephone that the police were yet to ascertain the exact number of kidnapped passengers at the Igueben train station Saturday evening.

Quake hits Vanuatu

Wellington (New Zealand): The US Geological Survey says a powerful 7.0 magnitude earthquake shook the Pacific archipelago of Vanuatu Sunday, and a tsunami warning has been issued for possible hazardous waves in nearby waters. The quake was centered 23 kilometers (15 miles) from Port Olry and hit at a depth of 27 kilometers (17 miles), the agency said. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a tsunami warning for coasts located within 300 kilometers (186 miles) of the epicenter.

Harry interviews set to raise heat on UK royal family

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Jan 8: Prince Harry is expected to lob more criticism at the UK royal family in broadcast interviews to promote his soul-baring new memoir, which has generated incendiary headlines even before its official release.

A prerecorded interview with Britain's ITV is scheduled to air Sunday evening. CBS show "60 Minutes" is set to run a conversation with the prince later, and he is appearing on "Good Morning

America" and "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

In extracts released in advance, Harry tells ITV journalist Tom Bradby that he cried only once after his mother, Prince Diana, died in 1997 — at her burial. He said he feels guilty about not showing emotion when he and his brother Prince William greeted crowds of mourners outside Kensington Palace, Diana's London home.

In the book, "Spare," Harry blames his family's stiff-upper-lip



ethos, saying he had "learned too well ... the family maxim that cry-

ing is not an option." "There were 50,000 bouquets of flowers to our mother and there we were shaking people's hands, smiling," Harry told ITV. "I've seen the videos, right, I looked back over it all. And the wet hands that we were shaking, we couldn't understand why their hands were wet, but it was all the tears that they were wiping away. "Everyone thought and felt like they knew our mum, and the two closest people to her, the two most loved people by her, were unable to show any emotion in that moment."

"Spare" is the latest in a string of public pronouncements by the prince and his wife Meghan since they quit royal life and moved to California in 2020, citing what they saw as the media's racist treatment of Meghan, who is biracial, and a lack of support from the palace. It follows an interview with Oprah Winfrey and a six-part Netflix documentary released last month.

The Associated Press purchased a Spanish-language copy of the book in advance of its publication around the world Tuesday.

India provides 75 buses to SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Jan 8: India has handed 75 passenger buses to Sri Lanka as part of its assistance towards strengthening public transport infrastructure in the cash-strapped country.

As part of its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India has extended multi-pronged assistance to Sri Lanka to help the country tide over its worst economic and humanitarian crisis since its independence from Great Britain in 1948. "Supporting mobility and accessibility in Sri Lanka, High Commissioner handed over 75 buses for use by Transport Board. 500 buses are being supplied to Sri Lanka through Indian assistance towards strengthening public transport infrastructure," the Indian High Commission here said in a statement.



In a similar move, India handed 125 SUVs to the Sri Lanka Police under a line of credit in December to support the island nation and help it address the serious mobility restriction issues faced by the police, due to the non-availability of vehicles. The Sri Lankan government in May last year declared a debt default on over \$51 billion in the foreign loan — a first in the country's history. Extending a much-needed lifeline to a neighbour in need, India gave financial assistance of nearly \$4 billion to Colombo during the year. In January, India announced a USD 900 million loan to Sri Lanka to build up its depleted foreign reserves as the financial crisis began to unfold.

IMF REJECTS PAK'S CLAIM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, Jan 8: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Sunday said that a call between Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took place on the request of the PM -- a statement that indicates Islamabad has not refrained from doing politics despite nearing default, media report said.

"The call took place in response to a request by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to discuss the International Conference on resilient Pakistan," Esther Perez, the resident representative of the IMF confirmed to The Express Tribune.

It is pertinent to note that Friday an official handout released by the Prime Minister's Office had read that "the IMF managing director called premier Shehbaz on the phone." During his speech, the Prime Minister had also claimed that the Fund's managing director had contacted him.

CHINA REOPENS BORDERS

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS, CHINA SUNDAY OPENED ITS BORDERS AND WELCOMED INT'L TRAVELLERS AND RETURNING RESIDENTS WITHOUT THE NEED FOR THEM TO GO UNDER QUARANTINE

AGENCIES

Hong Kong/Beijing, Jan 8: Travellers streamed into China by air, land and sea Sunday, many eager for long-awaited reunions, as Beijing opened borders that have been all but shut since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

After three years, mainland China opened sea and land crossings with Hong Kong and ended a requirement for incoming travellers to quarantine, dismantling a final pillar of a zero-Covid policy that had shielded China's 1.4 billion



People embrace at the international arrivals gate at Beijing Capital International Airport

people from the virus but also cut them off from the rest of the world.

China's easing over the past month of one of the world's tightest Covid regimes followed historic protests against a policy that included frequent testing, curbs on movement and mass lockdowns that heavily damaged the second-biggest economy. Long queues formed at the Hong Kong international airport's check-in counters for flights to mainland cities including Beijing, Tianjin and Xiamen. Hong Kong media outlets estimated that thousands were crossing.

Investors hope the reopening will reinvigorate a \$17-trillion economy suffering its slowest growth in nearly half a century. But the abrupt policy reversal has triggered a massive wave of infections that is overwhelming some hospitals and causing business disruptions.

The border opening follows Saturday's start of "chun yun", the 40-day period of Lunar New Year travel, which before the pandemic was the world's largest annual migration, as people returned to their hometowns or took holidays with family. Some 2 billion trips

Biden to visit Mexico border in migrant push



REUTERS

tentially give him another chance to push Congress to pass new laws to fix a broken system.

However, Republicans' newly assumed control of the House of Representatives essentially blocks prospects for any legislative fixes, leaving Biden with few good options. "The trip is recognition that this is a serious issue, one with real hardships, but it's also one that will only get solved with the help of Republicans, said Karen Finney, a Democratic consultant.

Republicans have continually used the border issue as a cudgel against Biden, blaming him for failing to crack down harder. And with a thin Republican majority in the House that gives the party's hardliners greater clout, there is little hope for compromise.

Biden - joined by Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas - is expected to meet at the border with Congressional lawmakers, local officials and community leaders.

The White House said the president would assess border enforcement operations in El Paso, where the Democratic mayor declared a state of emergency last month, citing hundreds of migrants' sleeping on the streets in cold temperatures and thousands being apprehended every day.



People kneel as the Ukrainian servicemen carry the coffin of their comrade Oleh Yurchenko killed in a battlefield with Russian forces in the Donetsk region during a commemoration ceremony in Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine

Russia says it killed over 600 Ukrainian soldiers

The ministry said in a statement that it had used what it called reliable intelligence to target the Ukrainian troops

AGENCIES

Kramatorsk, Jan 8: Russia's defence ministry said on Sunday it had killed more than 600 Ukrainian servicemen in a massive rocket strike on two buildings in eastern Ukraine temporarily housing Ukrainian forces.

Reuters could not immediately verify the defence ministry's assertion. There was no immediate comment on the Russian claim from Ukraine, though the mayor of Kramatorsk, the eastern Ukrainian town Russia said it had targeted, said earlier on Sunday on Facebook that nobody had been killed in an attack on var-



ious buildings in the city. Russia's defence ministry said the strike on the buildings in Kramatorsk was revenge for a deadly

Ukrainian attack earlier this year on a Russian barracks in Makiivka in part of the Donetsk region controlled by Moscow's forces in which at least 89 servicemen were killed.

The ministry said in a statement that it had used what it called reliable intelligence to target the Ukrainian troops. It said more than 700 Ukrainian troops had been housed in one hostel and more than 600 in another.

Your daily cup of coffee is costly to the planet

THE POLLUTION RESULTING FROM THE PREPARATION OF COFFEE AT HOME IS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. BEFORE YOU CAN ENJOY A CUP OF COFFEE, IT GOES THROUGH SEVERAL STEPS, STARTING FROM THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF THE COFFEE BEANS, THEIR TRANSPORT, THE ROASTING AND GRINDING OF THE BEANS, RIGHT UP TO THE HEATING OF THE WATER FOR THE COFFEE AND THE WASHING OF THE CUPS IT IS POURED IN

Global coffee consumption has been increasing steadily for almost 30 years.

With a daily average consumption of 2.7 cups of coffee per person, coffee is now Canada's most popular drink. It is estimated that around two billion cups of coffee are consumed daily worldwide.

This demand has led to considerable diversification in the ways of preparing coffee as well, including the creation of coffee capsules. The popularity of these capsules has divided the public opinion because this method of preparation, which uses single-use individual

packaging, is harmful to the environment.

As researchers working on assessing the environmental impacts of products and services, we often discuss coffee's carbon footprint. We decided to study the carbon footprint of several techniques used to prepare coffee at home, and it turns out that coffee capsules aren't the biggest carbon culprits.

The life cycle of coffee

The pollution resulting from the preparation of coffee at home is just the tip of the iceberg. Before you can enjoy a cup of coffee, it goes through several steps, starting



CHANGE BEGINS AT HOME REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

from the agricultural production of the coffee beans, their transport, the roasting and grinding of the beans, right up to the heating of the water for the coffee and the washing of the cups it is poured in.

These steps, common to all modes of coffee preparation, consume resources and emit greenhouse gases (GHG).

To adequately compare the carbon footprint of several coffee preparation methods, it is important to consider their entire life cycle: from the production of coffee, through the manufacture of packaging and machinery, to the preparation of cof-

fee and the waste produced.

Coffee production Regardless of the type of coffee preparation, coffee production is the most GHG-emitting phase. It contributed to around 40 per cent to 80 per cent of the total emission. There are many reasons for this.

The coffee plant is a small stunted tree or shrub that was traditionally grown in the shade of the forest canopy. The modernisation of the sector led to the transformation of many coffee plantations into vast fields that were fully exposed to the Sun. THE CONVERSATION

of the day quote

Our EV business has made a turnaround 10 years after we entered the market. Now that the business is on the highway, all there is left to do is to step on the accelerator

CHO JOO-WAN | CEO, LG ELECTRONICS

Our sales in India rose 41% last year to 15,822 cars, highest ever in the country, and we have an order backlog of around 6,000 vehicles

SANTOSH IYER | MD, MERCEDES-BENZ

We will invest fresh investment of up to ₹1,500 crore to make the plant operational. The amount will be invested over the period of the next 12-18 months

BIMLENDRA JHA | MD, JSPL

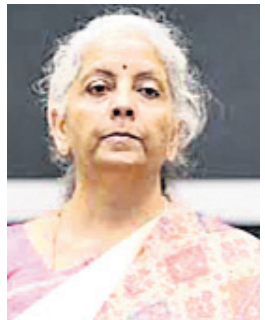
SHORT TAKES

Coal-based power generation up 15%

New Delhi: Country's coal-fired power generation increased by 15.03 per cent to 98,443 million units (MU) in December, as per official data. Coal-based power generation - which accounts for 76.59 per cent of the total power generation in the country - stood at 85,579 MU in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal. According to the monthly statistics (provisional) of December, 2022 of the coal ministry, both coal-based power generation and overall power generation has registered a year-on-year increase in December 2022.

Ceiling fans get dearer by 8-20%

New Delhi: Ceiling fans would get costlier by 8 to 20 per cent as the category comes under the ambit of mandatory star labelling from January 1, as per the revised Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) norms. Star labelling denotes energy savings of minimum 30 per cent for 1-star rated fans to over 50 per cent for 5-star rated fans. Though leading manufacturers such as Havells, Orient Electric and Usha International have welcomed the move, they also believe it would lead to cost increase of 5 to 20 per cent as high energy efficient 5-star rated fans will require new imported motors and electronic components. Under the new mandate, now manufacturers would have to display star ratings between 1 to 5 stars on their fans. The star rating is dependent on service value (air delivery in cubic meters per minute divided by energy consumption in wattage).



The government is engaging with states and local administrations to ensure that benefits of Ease of Doing Business initiatives reach the ground

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

AUTO EXPO RETURNS AFTER 3 YEARS

India's flagship motor show Auto Expo returns this week after three years having been hit by the pandemic, albeit some of the major manufacturers staying away from the event. The likes of Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Tata Motors, Kia India, Toyota Kirloskar and MG Motor India will lead the traditional automakers at the show at Greater Noida that will witness five global launches and 75 product launches and unveils



MEETING DEMAND

Airlines to expand fleet size

With tailwinds of high domestic air passenger traffic and airlines' ambitious expansion plans, the country's civil aviation sector is firmly on a V-shaped recovery trajectory but the gathering Covid clouds and geopolitical headwinds could cause turbulence in 2023

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 8: As Indigo Airline has expanded its fleet to 300 aircraft, the country's airlines' fleet is likely to add over 100 aircraft every year till the next few years as per the expected growth in the aviation sector.

Civil Aviation Ministry officials said that there were about 400 aircraft in 2013 and in 2021-22, the number increased to 700. Airlines in India are going to add 15 per cent capacity or 100 to 110 aircraft per year and the aviation sector is looking at close to 1,200 aircraft by 2027.

Officials said that expansion of the fleet size of an airline is a commercial decision and therefore each airline decides induction of aircraft keeping in view commercial viability, traffic demand and its business plan.

Air India's plans for expansion and consolidation of operations, IndiGo's focus on wide-body planes, Jet Airways' future flight path and airlines' overall profitability will be key factors for the aviation sector, which has been witnessing more than four lakh domestic passengers daily for the past few weeks.

Barring the Covid period, the aviation traffic has witnessed consistent growth. The all-India passenger growth as projected by the Airports Authority of India for the next few years is 371 million passengers in 2023-24 and 412 million in 2024-25.



Similarly, airport infrastructure has also recorded corresponding growth in the last few years. Officials said that the total number of airports has nearly doubled from 74 in 2014 to over 141 in 2022.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Mopa International Airport in Goa for which the foundation stone was laid in November 2016. Developed at a cost of around ₹2,870 crore, the airport has been built on the theme of sustainable infrastructure.

Before this, Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar, the first Greenfield Airport of Arunachal Pradesh, was inaugurated in November, 2022.

Keeping in view the growth in

aviation traffic, the government has accorded in-principle approval for setting up 21 Greenfield Airports across the country.

In keeping with the growth in the aircraft and passenger traffic, the aviation regulator has issued nearly 1100 commercial pilot licenses in 2022 as against 862 licenses in 2021. Officials said that there are 34 DGCA approved Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) operating at 52 bases in the country. Of these, IGRUA at Amethi (UP) is under the Central government, eight are under state governments and 25 are in the private sector.

Officials said that the government has been promoting and facilitating the manufacturing of

▶ Airlines' fleet is likely to add over 100 aircraft every year till the next few years

▶ In 2013 there were about 400 aircraft which rose to 700 in 2021-22

▶ The aviation sector is looking at close to 1,200 aircraft by 2027

▶ India is the third-largest civil aviation market in the world as of 2021

▶ Air India close to placing a massive order of around 500 jetliners

▶ In a first, IndiGo to induct wide-body planes, seeks regulatory approval

aircraft, including a Regional Transport Aircraft, and associated equipment by public and private enterprises in India.

Hindustan-228 (Upgraded) civil aircraft developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is a 19 seater turbo prop aircraft suitable for regional connectivity. HAL has also signed a MoU with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) for Design, Development and Certification of a 19 seater Light Transport Aircraft - SARAS MKII and subsequent production, marketing and lifestyle maintenance of the aircraft.

FPIs begin 2023 in sell-off mode

2022 WAS THE WORST YEAR FOR THE FPIs IN TERMS OF FLOW AND WITHDRAWAL FROM EQUITIES COMES FOLLOWING A NET INVESTMENT IN THE PRECEDING THREE YEARS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 8: Foreign investors offloaded nearly ₹5,900 crore from the Indian equity markets in the first week of January on growing concerns over the re-emergence of Covid in some parts of the world and recession worries in the US.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have been adopting a cautious stance toward Indian equity markets for the past few weeks.

Going forward, FPIs flow is expected to remain volatile amid GDP growth concerns, high global interest rates, and muted earnings expectations in the third quarter. Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail) at Kotak Securities Ltd, said,



FOREIGN INVESTORS WITHDRAW ₹5,900 CR FROM EQUITIES IN A WEEK

FPIs MADE A NET WITHDRAWAL OF ₹1.21 LAKH CRORE LAST YEAR

FPIs OFFLOADED DEBT SECURITIES TO THE TUNE OF ₹1,240CR

According to data with the depositories, FPIs have made a net pull out of ₹5,872 crore from the Indian equity markets during January 2-6. In fact, foreign investors have been selling for 11 consecutive days, taking the cumulative selling to ₹14,300 crore. This came following a net inflow of ₹11,119 crore in December and ₹36,239 crore in November.

Overall, FPIs have made a net withdrawal of ₹1.21 lakh crore from the Indian equity markets in 2022 on an aggressive rate hike by the central banks globally, particularly the US Federal Reserve, volatile crude, rising commodity

The money taken out from India is being invested in the underperformers of last year like China and Europe, which are doing well now. Clearly, FPI money is chasing lower valuations by selling in overvalued markets like India

VK VIJAYAKUMAR | CHIEF INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

prices along with Russia and Ukraine conflict.

The latest outflow in January could be attributed to the concerning cues emanating from both global as well as domestic quarters.

Also, in the midst of the ongoing uncertainty, many investors would have also chosen to book profits with Indian markets, touching all-time highs in the recent past.

Last year, too, selling by FPIs in banks turned out to be an opportunity for domestic investors.

In addition to equities, FPIs have offloaded debt securities to the tune of ₹1,240 crore during the first week of January.

Apart from India, FPI flows were negative for Taiwan and Indonesia so far this month, while it was positive for the Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand.

Musk launches fresh Twitter user interface

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 8: Elon Musk Sunday announced that users can swipe right or left to move between recommended vs followed tweets, and long form tweets will come in early February.

This is part of the marker user interface (UI) overhaul he has been planning since taking over Twitter. "Easy swipe right/left to move between recommended vs followed tweets rolls out later this week," Musk said in a tweet.

This feature is "first part of a much larger UI overhaul".

He said that the bookmark button on Tweet details will roll out a week later this month. "Long form tweets early February," Musk posted.

Twitter is also bringing a much

Discoms' outstanding dues to gencos nearly halved in January YoY

Discoms' dues now at ₹62,681.68cr compared to ₹1,21,030cr in Jan 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 8: Total outstanding dues owed by electricity distribution companies (discoms) to power producers (gencos) almost halved to ₹62,681.68 crore in January, compared to ₹1,21,030 crore in same month in 2022.

Experts said this substantial reduction in the discoms' total outstanding is mainly due to various steps taken by the government, like implementation of late payment surcharge rules and providing facility of equated monthly installments (EMIs) to utilities.

According to the portal PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators), the total outstanding dues of discoms stood at ₹62,681.68 crore in January, 2023, which included ₹25,526.42 crore overdue amount, that was not cleared even after 45 days of grace period offered by generators.

In January 2022, the total outstanding dues of discoms stood at ₹1,21,030 crore, which included the total overdue amount of ₹1,01,357 crore.

Power producers give 45 days to discoms to pay bills for electricity supply. After that, outstanding dues become overdue and generators charge penal interest on that in



most cases.

The PRAAPTI portal was launched in May 2018, to bring in transparency in power-purchase transactions between generators and discoms. The portal has been revamped recently.

Earlier in November, 2022, the power ministry had stated that with the implementation of Electricity (LPS and Related Matters) Rules, 2022, remarkable improvement has been seen in recovery of outstanding dues of Suppliers including Generating Companies, Transmission Companies and Traders.

The total outstanding dues of States which were at ₹1,37,949 crore as June 3, 2022, have been reduced by ₹24,680 crore to ₹1,13,269 crore with timely payment of just four EMIs, it had stated.

For payment of EMI of ₹24,680 crore, five states had taken a loan of ₹16,812 crore from Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Ltd and eight states had opted to make their own arrangement, it has stated.

Eight of top 10 companies lose ₹1L-cr in mcap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 8: Eight of the top 10 most valued firms faced a combined erosion of ₹1,06,991.42 crore in market valuation last week, with IT majors Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services along with HDFC Bank taking the biggest hit.

Last week, the Sensex declined 940.37 points or 1.55 per cent. Barring Hindustan Unilever and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), eight firms suffered erosion from their market capitalisation (mcap).

The market valuation of Infosys tumbled ₹25,185.37 crore to ₹6,09,687.79 crore, the most among the top 10 firms. The mcap of HDFC Bank tanked ₹18,375.41 crore to ₹8,89,130 crore.

The valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) eroded by ₹17,289.02 crore to ₹11,75,287.30 crore and that of ICICI Bank diminished by ₹14,447.69 crore to ₹6,07,140.65 crore.

State Bank of India's market valuation slumped ₹11,245.01 crore to ₹5,36,012.18 crore. HDFC's valuation declined by ₹7,419.45 crore to ₹4,74,018.02 crore and that of Reliance Industries Limited fell by ₹7,408.2 crore to ₹17,16,571.25 crore. The mcap of Bharti Airtel dipped ₹5,621.27 crore to ₹4,43,356.45 crore.

However, LIC added ₹14,105.09 crore, taking its valuation to ₹4,47,114.09 crore. The mcap of Hindustan Unilever jumped ₹4,053.05 crore to ₹6,05,489.67 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India, HDFC, LIC and Bharti Airtel.



INDIAN OIL CHAIRMAN TO ALSO BE MANAGING DIRECTOR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 8: Most big listed companies globally are run by a managing director or CEO and a chairman presiding over the board of directors with the primary responsibility of protecting the interests of investors.

But, India's largest oil company Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is an exception for never having a managing director or CEO in its 63 years of existence.

IOC, the nation's largest oil refiner and retailer of fuels like petrol and diesel, has always been headed by a chairman, who has also discharged the role of a managing director or CEO. But this is likely to change soon with the Oil Ministry agreeing to redesignate the top job as chairman and managing director, sources aware of the matter said.

The company has long been demanding for such a change to bring it on par with other large public sec-

tor and private firms. That demand has now been agreed to by the firm's parent administrative ministry and is now awaiting concurrence of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), they added.

IOC currently has a chairman - Shrikant Madhav Vaidya - and seven functional directors responsible for finance, marketing, human resources, pipelines, refining, planning and business development, and R&D.

The sources said the director for research and development (R&D) post is likely to be extinguished as it makes no commercial sense to have a director for a division with just 400 persons.

No major company has a director for R&D, and the function in the case of IOC is likely to be merged with one of the directors, they said.

All state-owned firms as well as the private sector either have a chairman and managing director or a CEO looking after the day-to-



day functioning of the company and a chairman heading the board.

Recently, the government appointed Arun Kumar Singh as the chairman of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) but not as managing director. ONGC was previously headed by a chairman and

managing director, and it is likely that the government may name a separate CEO or managing director of the company.

Typically, the chairman is not present for the day-to-day operations of a company, which is the job of the CEO or managing director. The

chairman is the most senior member of the board of directors or trustees while the CEO is the highest-ranking executive in the organisation's operating hierarchy.

The chairman directly manages the company's board members, while the CEO directly manages the company's senior executives.

Beyond the operations of a business, the chairman may guide high-level policy decisions, and the CEO generally leads from within the operational framework of the business, overseeing activities.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had previously mandated the separation of the roles of chairperson and managing director/ chief executive officer (MD/CEO) of a company, but last year it stated that this was no longer compulsory and firms can do so on a "voluntary basis".

Most large companies, particularly family-run ones, in India have the same person as the chairman

and managing director. Mukesh Ambani is the chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Ltd, India's most valuable company.

Richest Asian Gautam Adani is the chairman and managing director of the Adani Group.

Tatas on the other hand has a chairman at the group level and managing directors or CEOs at different companies of the group.

The sources said the chairman of IOC in its early days was a political appointee and so was more responsible for managing the board than running the company. But, over the years, when professionals got appointed to the post, they also were expected to discharge the job of a managing director.

Now, to get the role aligned in conformity with the corporate governance standards, the role is being strengthened by redesignating it as chairman and managing director, they added.

India keen to end medal wait

SINCE WINNING GOLD IN 1975, INDIA HAVE NEVER MADE IT TO THE SEMIFINALS OF THE WORLD CUP



Team India have the power and the ability to beat the best teams in the world; (Inset): Head coach Graham Reid

OP PHOTO

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 8: In 2021, the Indian men's hockey team ended a 41-year-long drought to claim a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games. The achievement has also raised hopes that the Indians will end their 47-year wait for a medal at the FIH World Cup. The last time India won a medal at the World Cup was in 1975 when they emerged champions in Kuala Lumpur.

More embarrassing is the fact that since winning their first gold in the men's World Cup in 1975, India have failed to even reach the semifinals once. So the eight-time Olympic gold winners are under tremendous pressure to continue their recent resurgence and claim

their second medal in the World Cup. Fans expect Graham Reid's team, that ended the Olympic drought in Tokyo, will do the same at the World Cup when the tournament begins January 13.

The expectations are backed by some good performances by the team in the last couple of years. The Indian team won the bronze medal at the Olympics and then bagged a silver in the Commonwealth Games. They also finished third in the FIH Pro League. So overall they are a force to reckon it.

"I understand the high stakes of placing on the podium at the World Cup. To live up to the public's expectations, I hope the Indian squad perform at the top of their game. Touchwood the preparations

are going well," Reid said Sunday.

Hockey India (HI) had organised a specialised camp for drag-flickers and goalkeepers a few weeks back and the 18-member team moved to Rourkela well in advance to get acclimatised to the conditions ahead of their opening January 13 against Spain.

Dutch drag-flick expert Bram Lomans, who conducted a special camp for Indian penalty corner experts, recently said the home team can win the title if the players manage to cope with the enormous pressure.

"I think if India can cope with the enormous pressure, and if the players do not get too excited, they have a really good chance of winning the title. India have got good

strikers, good corner-takers, and a good goalkeeper. So they have all the ingredients to go far," the 1998 World Cup winner said recently.

"If they get too excited or emotional, things can fall apart. But if they can keep their focus, then they are one of the biggest candidates, along with Australia," Lomans added.

Ranked fifth in FIH world rankings, India are placed in Group D for the preliminary phase with England, Spain and Wales.

While local fans will be keeping a hawk's eye on the Indian team, experts have placed their bets on reigning champions Belgium, who are also the Olympic gold medallists, and World No. 1 Australia.

HOCKEY TRIVIA



- 2023 edition of World Cup will be the first time a nation has played host for two successive times
- The first edition of the tournament was played in 1971 in Spain
- The idea of a hockey World Cup was jointly proposed by India and Pakistan in 1969
- Pakistan with four gold medals have won the tournament the maximum number of times
- Australia and the Netherlands have each won gold medals on three occasions
- Australia with 10 medals (3 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze) have been on the podium, the most
- Germany have won the title twice, while India have bagged gold in 1975
- Belgium are the reigning World and Olympic champions
- Australia have the highest percentage winning 69 of their 92 games (75%)
- The Netherlands (100 games) have played the most number of matches
- Australia with 307 goals have scored the maximum in the World Cup at a rate of 3.3 goals per game
- India, Netherlands and Spain are the only teams to have appeared in all 14 editions so far

Wales banking on past experience

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Jan 8: "We are here to cause an upset," Wales captain Rupert Shipperley had asserted after the team's arrival here to participate in the FIH Hockey World Cup.

Shipperley said Sunday that his side are keen to ensure the year begins with a bang. Wales open their campaign against England January 13 and play Spain January 15, with both games at the newly built Birsas Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela.

"We are here to win, it's as simple as that. We are not here to just make up the numbers, we are here to cause an upset," said Shipperley.

The debutants had recently played India at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, and had lost 1-4. However, Shipperley said his side have worked on their game, and is ready to take on the hosts here January 19 at the Kalinga Stadium.

"We are looking forward to playing India in front of their fans; it is going to be a special occasion. We have faced all the teams in our pool before and we know what to expect, we are just raring to go now. Yes we are excited, but not

"We have played all the teams in our group, so we know what to expect and we are ready for the challenges"

RUPERT SHIPPERLEY

nervous," asserted Shipperley.

Head coach Danny Newcombe is also eagerly waiting for the game against India. "We are really excited to come and play our first World Cup in India. It really is a privilege to be here but ultimately we are here to play hockey, playing against India in front of the Indian fans is the icing on the cake," Newcombe pointed out.

The chief coach also sounded off a warning to all the other teams in Pool D, which includes hosts India, Spain and England. He said that the Welsh team are not going to crumble under any kind of pressure.

"This player group is quite experienced, most of us have been together for almost six years and we earned the right to be here. So we are determined to give a tough fight to all opposition," Newcombe stated.



Welsh players during a training session in Rourkela, Sunday

OP PHOTO

SHORT TAKES

Hemraj, Chhavi bag 10-km national titles

Saalkuchi (Assam): Hemraj Gurjar of Rajasthan sprang a surprise with a start-to-finish effort and Railways' Chhavi Yadav outspurred Sanjivani Jadhav on the home stretch to win the men and women's 10km titles in the 57th National Cross Country Championships here Sunday. The 23-year-old Hemraj strode to pole position not long after the start and held that place till the very end. By the seven-kilometre mark, he opened up a 25 second lead over Services' Anand Singh Rawat. Even though he slowed down a bit, he powered on to win by a 10-second margin. Chhavi on the other hand, won her race by a margin of one second against Jadhav of Maharashtra.

Racing driver dead

Chennai: KE Kumar, a well-respected racer, died Sunday following a crash in the second round of the MRF MMSI Indian National Car Racing Championships at the Madras International Circuit here. He was 59. The incident occurred when Kumar's vehicle came in contact with that of a competitor during the 'saloon cars' race. Kumar's vehicle slid across the track and landed on the roof after slamming into a fence. Kumar, who was severely injured, was immediately shifted to a hospital. However, he succumbed to his injuries.

Easy for MCFC

Mumbai: Mumbai City FC (MCFC) registered a commanding 4-0 win against Kerala Blasters to move to the top of the ISL points table here Sunday. The goalscorers for Mumbai City were Jorge Diaz (4th and 22nd), Greg Stewart (10th) and Bipin Singh (12th). The win brought an end to Kerala Blasters' eight-match unbeaten run. The visitors tried to keep pace with Mumbai City FC for the opening 10 minutes of the game, but couldn't keep pace with the forwards of the hosts. In the second session also MCFC dominated proceedings.

AGENCIES

'Mom' Deepika targets elusive Olympic medal

Archer back to training 20 days after giving birth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 8: Exactly a month ago, Deepika Kumari, the most decorated Indian archer, became a mother. Twenty days later, the 28-year-old was back on the field at the SAI campus here with her 44-pound bow and arrows, leaving the newly-born daughter with her 'really supportive' in-laws.

It's a routine Deepika has been following for the past 10 days to make up for her lost time and pave the way for an India comeback through the upcoming Open Senior National trials slated here from January 10-17.

"Kya karein koi aur option hi nahin hai (I've no other option left)," the three-time Olympian said. "Of course, I will be there. If I don't appear for trials, I will be out of the Indian team for the whole year," she added.

So Deepika has no other option but to hit the training ground with

"My first target is to finish among the top 16 in the trials and then I will try to be among the top eight"

DEEPIKA KUMARI

her husband and India No.1 Atanu Das who too was axed from the Indian team after the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. The couple failed to make the cut for the World Cup and Asian Games trials last year. But after the Hangzhou showpiece was postponed to 2023, Deepika made a comeback at World Cup Stage 3 at Paris in June last year, winning a team silver before going into maternity break.

"Till about seventh month (of pregnancy) I was training but then I developed some issues, so had to stop practicing. There was a complete gap of three months," Deepika informed. "Fortunately, it was a normal delivery so I could hit the ground in 20 days' time," the renowned archer added. But it's not that easy and Deepika is having a tough time.

Reds lucky to escape with draw

DAY OF STUNNING UPSETS IN FA CUP

AGENCIES

London, Jan 8: Premier League high-flyers Newcastle suffered a shock FA Cup exit against Sheffield Wednesday and holders Liverpool rode their luck in a 2-2 draw with Wolverhampton (Wolves), while Nottingham Forest and Bournemouth crashed out on a day of third round surprises Sunday. However, it was Wednesday, second in League One, who stole the show Saturday with their impressive 2-1 victory at Hillsborough against a Newcastle team sitting third in the Premier League.

Wednesday went ahead in the 52nd minute when Windass, who looked in an off-side position, diverted Dennis Adeniran's ball across from close-range. Windass scored his second 13 minutes later, coolly converting after being put through by Michael Smith.



Mo Salah celebrates after scoring for Liverpool as other goalscorer Darwin Nunez runs to congratulate the Egyptian

At Anfield, a difficult week for Liverpool that started with a Premier League loss at Brentford, concluded with a fortuitous 2-2 draw against Wolves. Liverpool keeper Alisson Becker was guilty of a woeful error when his pass was intercepted by Goncalo Guedes, who slotted Wolves' 26th minute opener.

Darwin Nunez cushioned a superb volley past Matija Sarkic to equalise on the stroke of half time and Mohamed Salah's deft finish in the 52nd minute put Liverpool

SKY attributes success to delayed selection

BATTER SAYS HE TRIES TO STAY A STEP AHEAD OF THE BOWLER AT ALL TIMES

AGENCIES

Rajkot, Jan 8: Suryakumar Yadav was well past 30 when he made his India debut, but the swashbuckling batter said his belated selection had only strengthened his resolve and made him even hungrier to succeed in the top-flight. Surya or SKY, as he is popularly called hit a 51-ball 112 not out as India outplayed Sri Lanka by 91 runs in the third T20I to secure 2-1 series win here Saturday.

"It does make me even more hungrier (sic) now," Surya told India head coach Rahul Dravid when asked if the long wait has taught him to value his success a lot more. "I mean the amount of domestic cricket I have played, I have always enjoyed playing that for my state side Mumbai and I always try to put up a show. The passion for this game kept me driving so I just kept going," Surya added.

Surya's batting is a stark contrast to the way Dravid played his cricket. The latter then asked Surya if he could pick one or two knocks that he feels are his best.



"It is actually difficult for me to pick any one innings... I enjoyed batting in all the difficult situations where I went into bat. I just enjoyed myself, whatever I did in the last one year. I have been doing the same thing again," Surya stated.

"As I said before as well, I just try to enjoy and express myself as much as possible. In those difficult situations, teams try to pull the game off. I try to take the game on. If it works well for me and the team, I'm happy," pointed out Surya.

The middle-order batter's century was his third in the format in just seven months, making him the first player in the history of the game to score three T20I hundreds when not opening the batting. So how many shots from his bat are pre-determined?

"I mean obviously in this format you have to be a little bit pre-determined, and at the same time you have to have another stroke as well if the bowler is a step ahead of you during that time. But yes, I

'Nehra helped me develop as captain'

Rajkot: There has been no looking back for Hardik Pandya since he led Gujarat Titans to an IPL triumph in their maiden appearance last year, and the new Indian T20I skipper credits his franchise coach Ashish Nehra for making 'a big difference' to his captaincy. "What has been very important from Gujarat point of view is the kind of coach I worked with. Ashish Nehra made a big difference in my life, because of our mindsets. We might be two different personalities, but we have very similar cricketing thoughts," Pandya said Saturday. "Because I was with him, it added value to my captaincy. It helped me to get exactly what I wanted to know," Pandya added.

try to play to the field, what fielders are in, what bowler can bowl at that time and it works out," Surya pointed out.

11th career title for Sabalenka at Adelaide

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Adelaide, Jan 8: Aryna Sabalenka ended her 20-month title drought, as she claimed her 11th career singles title with a 6-3, 7-6(7-4) victory over Czech player Linda Noskova in the Adelaide International 1 tennis tournament final Sunday. This is World No.5 Sabalenka's first title since she took the crown at Madrid in May 2021, where she beat Australian Ashleigh Barty.

It is the third time Sabalenka has won a title in the opening week of the season. She pulled off the same feat with Week 1 titles in both 2019 (Shenzhen) and 2021 (Abu Dhabi), according to WTA.

Sabalenka hit 12 aces and saved all three breakpoints she faced in the final. Both players dodged a pair of early breakpoints, but Sabalenka took control by breaking for 4-2 behind a powerful backhand. She raced through the rest

Gauff shines on Auckland courts

Auckland: Top-seeded American Coco Gauff capped a commanding start to the new season Sunday by beating Spanish qualifier Viktoria Masarova 6-1, 6-1 in the final of the ASB Classic tennis tournament here. Gauff claimed her third WTA Tour title but her first in years on hard courts, boosting her confidence ahead of the Australian Open. "It's been a great week for me despite the rain," Gauff said. "I couldn't ask for a better start to my season."

of the first set, dropping only one more point.

Noskova, who was playing in her first career final, did much better in the second set. However, two double faults on her serve during the tie-breaker cost Noskova dearly. Sabalenka built up a healthy 5-1 lead in the tie-breaker and quickly sealed the set and the match.

Sandeep ton props Odisha



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 8: A brilliant unbeaten century by Sandeep Pattanaik (110 batting, 199b, 14x4) helped Odisha score a healthy 281 for the loss of four wickets at stumps in their under-25 Col CK Nayudu Trophy game against hosts Vidarbha Sunday, the first day of the game. Sandeep batted fluently after Odisha had lost a couple of wickets early on to take his side to a respectable position.

Sandeep was well supported by Om T Munde (85, 173b, 11x4), who also deserved a century. Munde was confidence personified at the wicket as he dealt with the opposition bowlers quite confidently.