



RADHIKA'S CONFESSION

Actor Radhika Madan says she has learnt the importance of chasing honesty in her performances from director Vishal Bhardwaj

LEISURE P2



HARRY SPILLS BEANS

Prince Harry makes bombshell revelations about his stepmother, Camilla, Queen Consort

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA FACE SL TODAY

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli return as India lock horns with Sri Lanka in the first match of the three-ODI series

SPORTS P12

HC breather for Kochhars in loan fraud

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Jan 9: The Bombay High Court (HC) Monday granted interim bail to former ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar in a loan fraud case, and came down heavily on the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for making the arrest in a 'casual and mechanical' manner and without application of mind.

The CBI arrested Kochhars December 23, 2022 in connection with the Videocon-ICICI Bank loan case, and they are presently in judicial custody. The couple had filed petitions in the HC challenging their arrest. The duo had sought to be released on bail by way of an interim order.

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and PK Chavan in its 49-page judgment Monday said their arrest was not in accordance with the provisions of law.

The petitioners are entitled to be released on bail, pending the hearing and final disposal of the petitions, the HC said and listed the petitions for hearing February 6.

The court noted that in the present case, the grounds of arrest are merely stated as non-co-operation and not giving full and correct disclosure. "The reason given in the arrest memos to arrest the petitioners, having regard to the facts as stated aforesaid, appears to us, to be casual, mechanical and perfunctory, clearly without application of mind," the court said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	60747.31 ↑ 846.94
NIFTY	18101.20 ↑ 241.75
DOLLAR	82.63 ↓ ₹0.13
EURO	88.30 ↑ ₹0.73
GOLD	₹55,993 ↑ ₹250
SILVER	₹69,393 ↑ ₹238

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	28.1°C	28.5°C
TEMP MIN	12.5°C	12.4°C
Humidity	60%	69%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Shallow to moderate Fog likely

PRO-BOLSONARO RIOTERS STORM BRAZIL'S CONGRESS



Supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro demonstrate against President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva while security forces operate, outside the National Congress in Brasilia, Monday

AGENCIES

Rio de Janeiro, Jan 9: Supporters of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro who refuse to accept his election defeat stormed Congress, the Supreme Court and presidential palace Sunday, a week after the inauguration of his leftist rival, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Thousands of demonstrators bypassed security barricades, climbed on roofs, smashed windows and invaded all three buildings, which were believed to be largely vacant on the weekend. Some of the demonstrators called for a military intervention to either restore the far-right Bolsonaro to power or oust Lula from the presidency.

Hours went by before control of the buildings on Brasilia's vast Three Powers Square was reestablished, with hundreds of the participants arrested.

In a news conference from Sao Paulo state, Lula accused Bolsonaro of encouraging the uprising by those he termed "fascist fanatics," and he read a freshly signed decree for the federal government to take control of security in the fed-

eral district. "There is no precedent for what they did and these people need to be punished," Lula said.

TV channel Globo News showed protesters wearing the green and yellow colours of the national flag that also have come to symbolise the nation's conservative movement and were adopted by Bolsonaro's supporters.

Bolsonaro has repeatedly sparred with Supreme Court justices, and the room where they convene was trashed by the rioters.

They sprayed fire hoses inside the Congress building and ransacked offices at the presidential palace. Windows were broken in all of the buildings. Bolsonaro, who flew to Florida ahead of Lula's inauguration, repudiated the president's accusation late Sunday. He wrote on Twitter that peaceful protest is part of democracy but vandalism and invasion of public buildings are 'exceptions to the rule'.

Police fired tear gas in their efforts to recover the buildings, and were shown on television in the late afternoon marching protesters down a ramp from the presidential palace with their hands secured behind their backs. **MORE P10**

3,700 dams may lose 26% storage capacity

A study by the UN shows that 6,316 billion cubic metre of initial global storage in 47,403 large dams in 150 countries, including over 3,000 in India, will decline to 4,665 billion cubic metre by 2050 due to sedimentation

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 9: Around 3,700 dams in India will lose 26 per cent of their total storage by 2050 due to accumulation of sediments which can undermine water security, irrigation and power generation in future, warns a new study by the United Nations (UN).

The Central Water Commission (CWC), had in 2015, reported that among 141 large reservoirs which are over 50-years-old, one quarter had lost at least 30 per cent of their initial storage capacity.

Trapped sediment has already robbed roughly 50,000 large dams worldwide of an estimated 13 to 19 per cent of their combined original storage capacity. The study by the United Nations University Institute on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), also known as the UN's think tank on water, shows that 6,316 billion cubic metre of initial global storage in 47,403 large dams in 150 countries will decline to 4,665 billion cubic metre, causing 26 per cent storage loss by 2050.

The loss of 1,650 billion cubic metre storage capacity is roughly equal to the annual water use of India, China, Indonesia, France and Canada combined.

In 2022, the Asia-Pacific region, the world's most heavily dammed region, is estimated to have lost



- In 2022, the Asia-Pacific region, the world's most heavily dammed region, is estimated to have lost 13% of its initial dam storage capacity
- It will have lost nearly a quarter (23%) of initial storage capacity by mid-century
- The region is home to 60% of the world's population and water storage is crucial for sustaining water and food security

Odisha government had on several occasions tried to clear sediments from dams like Hirakud. However, a precious little could be done due to financial constraints and lack of concrete mechanism. Interstate collaboration and afforestation would go a long way in addressing the issue

RANJAN PANDA | WATER ACTIVIST

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13 per cent of its initial dam storage capacity. It will have lost nearly a quarter (23 per cent) of initial storage capacity by mid-century.

The region is home to 60 per cent of the world's population and water storage is crucial for sus-

taining water and food security. "UNU-INWEH estimates that India's 3,700 large dams will have lost on average 26 per cent of their initial total storage by 2050," the report said.

Continued on P4

CM launches interest subvention for SHGs

Under the programme, interest of ₹125 crore on loans taken by 2.5 lakh Mission Shakti self-help groups will be reimbursed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Launching an interest subvention programme for around 2.5 lakh self-help groups (SHGs) operating under the Mission Shakti department, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday said empowerment of women is not a slogan for his government.

Under the programme, a total interest amount of ₹125 crore on loans taken by the SHGs will be reimbursed, he said.

The Mission Shakti has provisioned interest subvention benefits amounting to ₹1,200 crore for extending to SHGs in the next five years, the CM said. The interest subvention benefits of ₹125 crore for the first two quarters of the current 2022-23 financial year was extended directly to SHG accounts through a technology platform.

As part of the launch, the CM handed over cheques to members of five Mission Shakti SHGs, who were present at the programme at the Lok Seva Bhawan here. Members of many SHGs from var-

ious districts joined the programme through video conference.

Patnaik also lauded steps taken by women in different businesses and productive activities.

Noting that women are now playing a major role in the decision-making process, the Chief Minister said they have the responsibility to transform Odisha and ensure overall development in the state.

"Mission Shakti initiative is not just a slogan but has become a way of life for women in the state. It is a non-negotiable code for the Odisha government. The initiative has now become a major institution with active participation of 70 lakh women, creating a new history in the state's development," he said.

Patnaik also mentioned that loans up to ₹5 lakh are being credited to SHGs without charging any interest.

A provision has been made for revolving funds of ₹1 crore for district-level federation and ₹50 lakh for block federation to promote entrepreneurship among women.

In the next five years, loans worth ₹50,000 crore will be provided without any interest, as an interest amount of ₹1,200 crore for these advances will be borne by the government, he said.

Patnaik also inaugurated the Jajpur district-level federation building through video conference.



In a first, free canteen for farmers visiting state-run mandis

AGENCIES

Berhampur, Jan 9: For the first time, free canteens for farmers have been opened in Odisha near paddy procurement centres to provide lunch to those who bring their produce from distant villages.

The canteens have been set up in Gajapati district and at least four such canteens have been opened at Paralakhemundi, Kashinganagar, Upalada and Garabandh, a district administration official said Monday.

Vegetable meals prepared by the women self-help groups (WSHGs) of the areas are being served to

the farmers at the free canteens being run by the Paralakhemundi regulated market committee (RMC), Gajapati Collector Lingraj Panda said.

"We have launched the canteen system to provide free lunch to farmers who come to the procurement centres with their produce and cannot return home for their meal," Panda said.

Besides food, the farmers are also being provided free soft drinks and drinking water at the procurement centres by the RMC.

"The objective of the programme is that farmers should not face problems when they visit the man-



dis with their produce. We have plans to open at least 10 to 15 such

canteens in the district in the coming days," he said.

We have launched the canteen system to provide free lunch to farmers who come to the procurement centres with their produce and cannot return home for their meal. We have plans to open at least 10 to 15 such canteens in the district in the coming days

LINGRAJ PANDA | GAJAPATI COLLECTOR

farmers were being served free meals in each canteen every day and the RMC is bearing the expenditure to run them.

The RMC secretary L Raghu Babu said the WSHGs are given ₹60 per meal. At present four WSHGs have been given the responsibility and discussions are on with others for preparing meals in some other areas.

Behera said there are 66 mandis in Gajapati district to procure paddy from 14,320 farmers who have registered willingly to supply their produce. As many as 21 WSHGs have also been engaged in the paddy procurement activity.

Baripada road mishap claims 3

Baripada: Three persons were killed and four others injured Monday after an auto-rickshaw collided with a vehicle laden with water bottles in Mayurbhanj district, police said. The accident occurred on Baripada-Deuli Road near Kainfulia village, a senior officer said. The deceased were identified as Surendra Naik, 35, the driver of the auto-rickshaw, and two passengers - Dillip Naik, 30, and Kalipada Naik, 25, Baripada Sadar police station in-charge Madhumita Mohanty said.

leisure



CARA DELEVINGNE SHOWS OFF NUDE YOGA SESSION

Months after sparking concern over her erratic behaviour, actress-model Cara Delevingne made use of her social media account to show off her nude yoga session. In the picture, though her face was out of the frame, fans pointed out that the tattoos on the ribs obviously match hers.

'EMINEM REJECTED \$8 MN TO PERFORM AT QATAR WC'

Rapper Eminem turned down an \$8 million offer to perform at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, according to his longtime friend and rapper 50 Cent. The *Power* star/co-executive producer made the revelation when appearing on Real 92.3's *Big Boy's Neighborhood*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Joining a yoga class will be a good decision. You should try ayurvedic foodstuffs too. You may expect a lot of new things to happen today. Ganेशa advises you not to worry as there is a good amount of money coming up for you.

TAURUS
Your thoughts are not likely to remain focused in your business or profession. Ganेशa sees them drifting from such issues and moving towards your home and family members. You will be keenly aware of the fact that you have been neglecting your family interests and affairs on account of your professional involvement.

GEMINI
You will be unable to cope with the flurry of demands made upon your time and person by those around you. You will try to break free of the rut and look for some new things to do in the evening. Some creative and constructive work will provide you with much needed respite from the demands of the day, says Ganेशa.

CANCER
You will trail a path of success in the face of hurdles. You will spare no efforts in achieving your goal. You will try to somehow procure your favourite things. So Ganेशa counsels you to guard your prestige, at any price.

LEO
You will need to pay more attention to your family members. You need to have a larger perspective in all matters. The later half of the day will see you engaged in finding the solutions to some problem or the other. You will also need to give equal importance to all your colleagues. You will learn a lot of important lessons in life today, says Ganेशa.

VIRGO
You will be inclined towards increasing your fitness, and hence will switch to a better diet and exercise regimen. However, you may savour some delicious food today. Ganेशa foretells that later today, you may find yourself at a turning point in life.

LIBRA
Ganेशa says today is a day where your attention will be on your family. You will give prime importance to them and may even keep aside work to pay attention to the happiness and well being of your family members. This is a good opportunity to plan an outing with your family members. Work wise too you will be getting golden opportunities to move up.

SCORPIO
You may be at your creative best today. You may help out your siblings in all the creative activities and even solve your troubles with much ease. Personally, you are a good soul and may help someone in the evening by a doing a good deed.

SAGITTARIUS
You are in a mood to entertain your family and friends today, predicts Ganेशa. Jovial and cheerful you, a family tour is on your mind. Meanwhile, you even decide to catch up on your work, and you may receive accolades for the work delivered. Ganेशa truly showers his blessings on you today!

CAPRICORN
You don't trust anyone easily, and because of that you have never entered into a partnership so far, but it is a different day today. Ganेशa foresees a partnership for you today. You will perform exceptionally well in your job, raise the bar and eventually will win praises from everyone at work.

AQUARIUS
You have been very busy, but today it is a different day. You will make efforts to be calm and relaxed, and go on the path of spirituality. You may visit a temple or any other religious place, or meditate to find solace, foretells Ganेशa.

PISCES
You will become the cynosure of all eyes owing to your kind and generous nature. You will prove the worth of the old adage that a friend in need is a friend indeed. People living far away from you will also seek your advice.



Priyanka flaunts her 'convoy'

Los Angeles: Actor Priyanka Chopra was all jolly and giddy as she shared a fun banter with fellow actor

Huma Qureshi. The *Quantico* star was spotted in a video posted to the Instagram stories of Huma, dressed in a black jacket along with denim jeans with a handbag.

"This is how @priyankachopra packs all of us off for the concert #convoy #2023," the *Bell Bottom* actor captioned the video.

"We'll miss you," Huma was heard saying to Priyanka from behind the lens.

"I know. Look at my convoy," Priyanka replied with a giddy laugh as Huma panned the camera around to showcase the numerous black limousines standing in a line.

"Bye! Enjoy London," Huma replied before the video ended with Priyanka making a victory sign with her hands and smiling as she bade farewell.

In earlier Instagram stories, the *Maharani* actor shared snippets from a concert of Jonas Brothers, including one where Priyanka's husband, singer Nick Jonas was performing.

"Jiju is a rockstar .. uff @nickjonas," she wrote with star emojis alongside the video. AGENCIES



RRR will win an Oscar: Hollywood producer

Mumbai: Hollywood producer Jason Blum is sure that Indian filmmaker SS Rajamouli's magnum opus *RRR* will be feted with the Best Film honour at this year's Oscar awards.

The founder of Hollywood studio Blumhouse, who has produced Oscar-winning movies such as *Get Out* and horror movies such as *Paranormal Activity* and *Insidious* took to Twitter and wrote: "I'm going with *RRR* winning best pic. You heard it here first.

Mark it down, please. "If I'm right, I am awarding myself my own Oscar," he added.

RRR stars NTR Jr., Ram Charan, Ajay Devgn, Alia Bhatt, Shriya Saran, Samuthirakani, Ray Stevenson, Alison Doody and Olivia Morris.

It centres around two real-life Indian revolutionaries, Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem, their fictional friendship and their fight against the British Raj. IANS

Radhika on how she lives by her truth

Mumbai: Importance of chasing honesty in her performances is something actor Radhika Madan says she has learnt from director Vishal Bhardwaj, who launched her in Hindi film industry with his 2018 drama *Pataakha*. As a ritual, the actor seeks the director's blessings before starting work on a new film. The same happened with her next movie *Kutney*, which marks the directorial debut of the critically-acclaimed filmmaker's son, Aasmaan Bhardwaj.

"Vishal ji is like family to me. The one thing he has taught me is to live by my truth and not get lured by the delusion and superficiality of the industry. Always chase the truth and be honest. He doesn't tell me what to do and what not to do. He wants me to make my own career fall, rise and learn from my mistakes," said the Delhi-born actress.

"When Vishal ji called me, I was like, 'I am doing it'. But he said I must read the script. I read it and called him after two hours and said, 'I will do it', as it was an amazing script. The cast of *Kutney* was a cherry on the cake. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity," she added.

Billed as a caper-thriller, *Kutney* will see the 27-year-old actor play Lovely, a character she describes as edgy and short tempered. PTI

Manana's 5-day state level drama fest kicks off

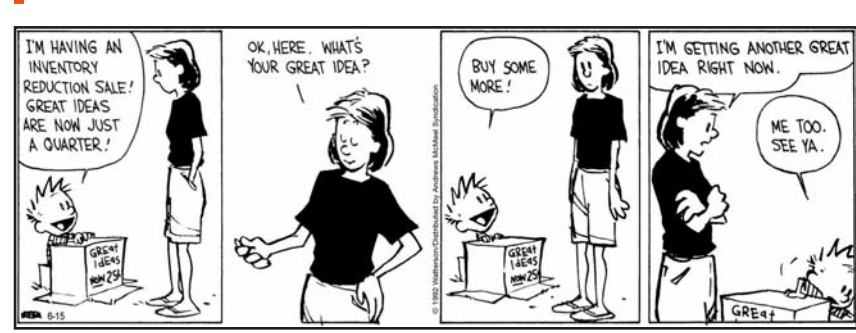


Members of Bhubaneswar-based Manana Natya Sanstha, one of the oldest theatre troupes of the city, presented Odia play *Ghadi Ghadike Ghoda Chhutuchi* here at Rabindra Mandap, Monday to celebrate its 44th foundation day. Written by Sankar Tripathy, the play was directed by Manoj Pattanayak who was recently feted with Sangeet Natak Akademi honour for his contribution to Odia theatre. Four more Odia plays, by established drama groups of Odisha, will be staged over the next four days. OP PHOTO

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

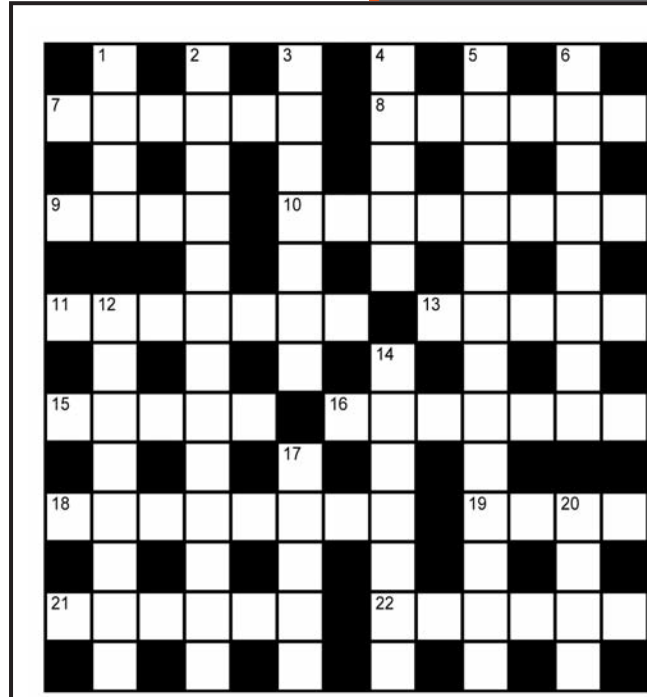


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

7 Recently
8 Energy type
9 Submerged ridge
10 Resident
11 Body organs
13 Seashore
15 Family member
16 Sudden desire

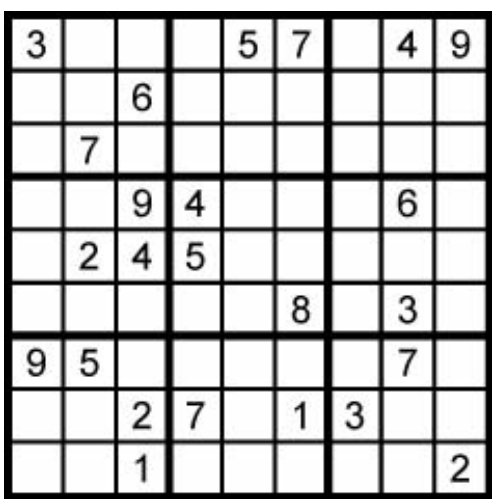
18 Musical passage
19 Tenuous
21 Humble
22 Coveted

Down

1 Bird enclosure
2 Injury designation (4-9)
3 Equivalent word
4 Broad satire
5 Bearing no results
6 Certain musicians
12 Jaguar or Volvo starter?
14 Visits without an invitation
17 Adhesive
20 March date

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

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

SUDOKU

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

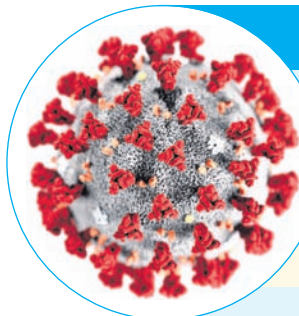
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



DOCTORS' MEET

OPSC chairman Satyajit Mohanty lighting the lamp to inaugurate the Junior Doctors' Meet and annual function at SCBMCH in Cuttack, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	66,88,17,175	64,00,49,705	67,14,408
India	4,46,80,094	4,41,47,002	5,30,721
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

Finish textbook distribution by March 31: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash Monday started the distribution of textbooks for 2023-24 academic year.

The minister directed the officials concerned to complete the distribution of textbooks by March 31 at all the schools in 314 blocks of the state.

The department aims to complete the textbook distribution in order to ensure that from April 2023, when the schools would reopen, all the students will have the textbooks. The department aims to distribute 2.5 crore textbooks for the year 2023-24. "The office of the Director, Textbook Production & Marketing, has been directed accordingly," said Dash.



SPORTY LOOK: Beautification drive in Capital city has reached the last leg for the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup that would commence January 13

Cold wave grips state; Semiliguda at 3.7 deg C

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Cold wave conditions gripped the state Monday with the mercury dipping to as low as 3.7 degrees Celsius in Semiliguda in Koraput district, the weather office said.

Fourteen weather stations in the state recorded temperatures of 10 degrees Celsius. While Sundargarh was at 4.3 degrees Celsius, Phulbani recorded 4.9 degrees Celsius and Jharsuguda recorded 7.8 degrees Celsius.

In state capital Bhubaneswar, the minimum temperature was 12.5 degrees Celsius, which was 2.7 notches below the normal. The weather office issued a yellow warning for Jharsuguda, Deogarh and Angul, stating that

these districts could experience severe cold wave conditions.

There will be no large change in the minimum temperature over the next two days, and then it will gradually rise by 2-3 degrees Celsius, it added. The drop in the temperature was due to north-westerly dry and cold wind at lower levels, the weather office said, adding that there would be no relief from the chill till Tuesday.

The state government has asked the district administrations to keep a close watch on the situation and take necessary steps. In a letter to all district Collectors, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena said all school buildings and other community buildings will be available for distressed people as night-shelter.

The weather office also suggested people to stay indoors.

While Sundargarh was at 4.3 degrees Celsius, Phulbani recorded 4.9 degrees Celsius and Jharsuguda 7.8 degrees Celsius

ED files chargesheet against Archana, aides

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Monday filed a chargesheet in a court here against lady blackmailer Archana Nag and other accused involved in a high-profile sextortion racket. The ED has been investigating the illegal financial transactions angle in the sextortion racket.

Sources claimed that the Central probe agency has submitted the chargesheet of more than 2,200 pages containing details of the illegal financial transactions made by Archana, her husband Jagabandhu Chand, their business partner Khageswar Patra and the lady blackmailer's estranged associate, Shradhanjali Behera. The ED sleuths have reportedly produced the statements of as many as 15 witnesses in the chargesheet.

The Central agency has also informed the court in the chargesheet that the process has been initiated to attach the residence of Archana and Jagabandhu at Satya Vihar in Mancheswar area. As per the sources, the ED experts have estimated the cost of the lavish building of lady blackmailer to be around Rs 3.40 crore.

Meanwhile, the lawyers of both Jagabandhu and Archana said that they have applied for the chargesheet copy



SEXTORTION CASE

The ED has submitted the chargesheet of more than 2,200 pages containing details of the illegal financial transactions made by Archana, her husband Jagabandhu Chand, their business partner Khageswar Patra and the lady blackmailer's estranged associate, Shradhanjali Behera

and will lay their counter before the court during the next hearing scheduled for February 13. They also denied receiving any notice from the ED regarding the attachment of any of the properties of Archana. Earlier, the ED had seized a costly four-wheeler, an SUV, reg-

istered in the name of Archana from Mancheswar area. Lawyers of Jagabandhu and Archana said that they have applied for the chargesheet copy and will lay their counter before the court during the next hearing scheduled to be held February 13

Notably, the Commissionerate Police had arrested Archana October 6, 2022 while her husband was held October 21 on charges of extorting huge money by honey-trapping influential persons.

Cops, farmers clash near CM's residence

THIS WAS A TRAILER, THE PROTEST WILL BE INTENSIFIED, SAYS AN NKS MEMBER, ADDING THAT THEY ARE READY TO GO TO JAIL FOR THEIR RIGHTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Protesting farmers scuffled with the police here Monday when they were stopped from proceeding to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's residence to press for demands regard-



ing paddy procurement in the state.

Some agitators were taken to custody as a preventive measure, the police said.

A large number of farmers under the aegis of Navnirman Krushak Sangathan (NKS) waved placards and shouted slogans against deducting five

to 7 kg of paddy in every quintal allegedly under the pretext of bad quality produce.

They also alleged denial of proper minimum support price (MSP) on the sale of paddy. The sangathan claimed that the farmers were forced to hit the street as they are yet to get the MSP for paddy and

are suffering as middlemen make profit at their cost.

Unable to reach Naveen Niwas, the Chief Minister's residence, the agitators staged a demonstration near the Airport police station and threatened to hold protests across the state if their demands are not met.

"This was a trailer, the protest will be intensified. The farmers are ready to go to jail for their rights," an NKS member said.

They also placed bags of paddy on the streets here as a mark of protest.

"The government is focussing on the Men's Hockey World Cup and farmers are left to be exploited by middlemen and officials at the paddy procurement centers," the sangathan said.

Nat'l Hockey Conclave at Konark today

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: The Hockey Association of Odisha, in association with the Sports & Youth Services department, is organising the National Hockey Conclave 2023 at the Eco-Retreat, Konark in Puri district Tuesday.

The conclave will provide a platform to various stakeholders from more than 20 states and Union Territories around the country for discussing ways to develop Indian hockey holistically starting from player performance, coaching, grassroots talent identification, administration as well as global emerging trends, opportunities and challenges, an official said here Monday.

The Hockey World Cup will be hosted at the iconic Kalinga Stadium at Bhubaneswar and the newly-constructed Birsu Munda Hockey Stadium at Rourkela from January 13 to 29.

President of Hockey India, Dilip Tirkey said this is the first time it is taking place in the state with support from the Hockey Association of Odisha and the government. The conclave will witness participation from more than 50 distinguished delegates consisting of senior-level government officials, former hockey legends, presidents and secretaries of various state associations, and other esteemed dignitaries, he said.

Hockey anthem released

Bhubaneswar: A hockey anthem "Ek Naye Kahani Likhi Hai Odisha" was released at the Press Club of Odisha here Monday. The song was composed by Santosh Panda and eminent Bollywood singer Abhijeet has given it his voice. A press conference-cum-full-video-release was held at the Press Club in the presence City Mayor Sulochana Das, Khadi Board chairman Sangram Paikaray, noted poet and dramatist Ramakanta Mishra and others. The video, which focused on the state's commitment to sports and its achievements in sports infrastructure development, especially hockey, also contained performances of Prince Dance Group, and students from Sai International School and Mother's Public School to the tune of the song. "The shooting for the video was done at the Kalinga Stadium, KIIT Stadium and various other locations of Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. Stock footage and match clipping of Sports and Youth Services department has been used for the song too," said an official involved in the video production. "The song would reach out to many and people would recognise the efforts of Odisha towards promoting sports, hockey in particular," said Santosh Panda.



"The Conclave will see discussions on the development of hockey in India, the transition of playing style over the years, what are the changes that have happened and how the game has changed overall, among other topics," the

Hockey India president added. Speaking about the conclave, joint secretary, Sports & Youth Services department, Shailendra Jena, said, "We look forward to this National Hockey Conclave and welcoming the delegates. The

The conclave will provide a platform to various stakeholders from more than 20 states and UTs for discussing ways to develop Indian hockey holistically

conclave is aimed at bringing the hockey fraternity together and will be the first of a kind that the state is spearheading for the development of a national-level sport."

It is being organised on the occasion of the state hosting the FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 for the second consecutive time. The Odisha government has taken several steps to promote hockey and its players, Jena stated. It has also constructed the world's largest seated hockey stadium in Rourkela, as a tribute to the hockey players of the nation, which will play a pivotal role in the development of Indian Hockey, he said, adding, "We look forward to showing them around and making them a part of this World Cup."

Following the conclave, the representatives of Hockey India member units will also get to experience the Hockey World Cup celebrations in Cuttack, witness the World Cup matches and visit the Panposh Sports Hostel in Rourkela.

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Regional Office: Sambalpur
1st Floor, Balaji Midtown,
Budharaja, Dist.: Sambalpur,
PIN-768004, Odisha

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable/Movable Properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Debt is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by Authorised Office of Union Bank of India, (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is" and "whatever there is" on **01.01.2023** (Date of Sale) for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit are also Mentioned hereunder.

Date & Time of E-Auction: 25.01.2023 between 10.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M. (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension)				
Sl. No.	BRANCH / NAME OF THE BRANCH MANAGER	Description of Properties to be Auctioned	Total Dues (in Rs.)	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment
1.	JHARSUGUDA-1 BRANCH (Sri Manoj Kumar Mahakud, Mob.: 9162710795) / Brooker: M/s. Mahalaxmi Rice Mill, Prop.: Sri Chitanya Biswal, At/P.O.: Patrapali, Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Orissa	All that piece and parcel of Land and Building At Mouza: Patrapali, Khata No.: 21, Plot No.: 1192, Area: Ac. 0.25 dec., in the name of Sri Chitanya Biswal	₹ 22,26,861.38 as on 07.01.2023 with further interest, cost & expenses	₹24,00,000/- ₹2,40,000/- ₹10,000/-
2.	HIRAKUD BRANCH (MR. BISWAKANTA MOHAPATRA- MOB.: 8807250062) / Borrowers: 1) M/s. P. K. Giri, Prop.: Mr. Pradeep Kumar Giri, S/o- Prafulla Chandra Giri, Mouza: Khuruntia, P.S.: Morada, Tehasil: Rasgobindpur, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, PIN-757073, 2) Mr. Shaila Giri, W/o- Prafulla Chandra Giri, 3. Mr. Kulda Singh, S/o- Hari Singh, Both are At/P.O.: Khuruntia, P.S.: Morada, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, PIN-757073	All that piece and parcel of land situated at Khata No.: 152/167, Plot No.: 187, Plot No.: 157/1332 and Plot No.: 156 with Area: Ac. 0.350 dec., Ac. 190 dec., Ac. 0.040 dec. Respectively at Mouza: Lambadunguri, Thana: Hiraakud No.- 8, Tehasil: Sambalpur-168, Dist.: Sambalpur in the name of Sri Kulda Singh	₹ 95,96,769.63 as on 07.01.2023 with further interest, cost & expenses	₹ 48,15,000/- ₹4,81,500/- ₹10,000/-
3.	SONEPUR-1 BRANCH (SRI SANJAY KUMAR MINZ, MOB.: 9584210718) / Borrower: M/s. Ram Orissa IKTA Handloom Pvt. Ltd., At: Khairmal, P.O.: Manamunda, Dist.: Boudh-762016 / Partners: 1) Mr. Saroj Kumar Guru (MD), S/o- Sitaram Guru, At: Kumarkeli, P.O.: Jogindrapur, Dist.: Boudh-762016, 2) Mr. Poulasti Meher (Director), S/o- Mr. Chaturbhuj Meher, At/P.O.: Sonapur, Dist.: Subarnapur, PIN-767017, 3) Mr. Baneswar Meher (Director), S/o- Bharat Meher, At: Patavadi, P.O.: Sonapur, Dist.: Subarnapur, PIN-767017, 4. Mrs. Tanuja Meher, W/o- Mr. Ashish Meher, At: Badbazar, P.O.: Sonapur, Dist.: Subarnapur, PIN- 767017	EM of Rural Residential Land with semi constructed building at Khata No.: 131/63 in the name of M/s. Neha Handloom, Prop.: Mr. Poulasti Kumar Meher, Plot No.: 7, Area: Ac. 0.52dec., Plot No.: 8, Area: Ac.0.27dec., Mouza: Khairmal, P.S.: Manamunda, Tehasil: Kantamal, Dist.: Boudh	₹ 66,41,343.88 as on 07.01.2023 with further interest, cost & expenses	₹ 41, 69,360/- ₹4,20,000/- ₹10,000/-
4.	JHARSUGUDA-1 BRANCH (Sri Manoj Kumar Mahakud, Mob.: 9162710795) / Borrower: M/s. Tulshyan Stoneware Pvt. Ltd., Hariom Complex, Bengali Para, Opposite Manmohan ME School, Ward No.: 3, Jharsuguda-768201(Odisha)/Directors: 1) Mr. Sanwar Mal Tulshyan (Managing Director), S/o- Late Govind Ram Tulshyan, 2) Mrs. Manisha Tulshyan, W/o- Suresh Kumar Tulshyan, Both are At: Hari Om Complex, Bengali Para, Ward No: 3, Opposite Manmohan ME School, Jharsuguda, Odisha - 768201 / Guarantors: 1) Suresh Kumar Tulshyan, S/o- Sanwar Mal Tulshyan, At: Hari Om Complex, Ward No: 3, Bengali Para, Opposite Manmohan ME School, Jharsuguda, Odisha - 768201, 2) Rajesh Agrawal, S/o-Om Prakash Agrawal, Jhanda Chowk, Jharsuguda, Odisha -768201, 3) Hema Agrawal, W/o- Rajesh Agrawal, Singhal Tiles & Marbles, Main Road, Jharsuguda, Odisha-768201	1) All that piece and parcel of vacant Land situated at Mouza: Jharsuguda Town Unit No.: 6, Nua Jharsuguda, Tehasil: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Over the Plot No.: 2474/5425, under Khata No.: 929/979 to an extent of Area: Ac.0.107dec., favoring Smt. Hema Agrawal	₹ 3,53,00,565.24 as on 07.01.2023 with further interest, cost & expenses	₹ 83,50,000/- ₹8,35,000/- ₹10,000/-
		2) All that piece and parcel of vacant Land situated at Mouza: Jharsuguda Town Unit No.: 6, Nua Jharsuguda, Tehasil: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Over the Plot No.: 2474/5424, under Khata No.: 929/978 to an extent of Area: Ac.0.026dec. favoring Sri Rajesh Agrawal	₹ 19,00,000/- / ₹1,90,000/- / ₹10,000/-	
		3) All that piece and parcel of Factory Land Plant and machineries & Building situated at Mouza: Kukurjangha, Tehasil: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, over Plot No.: 698 & 699 under Khata No.: 200/540 to an extent of Area: Ac. 1.650dec., favoring Smt. Manisha Tulshyan and over Plot No.: 696 & 697 under Khata No.: 200/553 to an extent of Area: Ac. 1.510 dec., favoring Sri Suresh Kumar Tulshyan	₹ 3,55,66,000/- / ₹35,56,600/- / ₹10,000/-	

Date & Time of Inspection of Property for intending Purchasers: on or before 24.01.2023 during banking hours

Details of encumbrances over the if any: NIL

For registration and login and bidding rules visit <https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/indx.jsp>, www.unionbankofindia.co.in

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/RULE 9(1) OF STATUTORY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6)/ RULE 9(1) OF Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to deborrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Place : Sambalpur Date : 09.01.2023

Sd/- Authorised Officer Union Bank of India

CM to CP: Enhance capacity to deal with cybercrimes



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the 15th Raising Day celebrations of Commissionerate Police at 7th battalion ground in Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday exhorted the Commissionerate Police to enhance its capabilities to deal with rising number of cyber crimes. While addressing the gathering at the 15th Raising day celebrations at 7th battalion ground, Patnaik said, "Cybercrime has emerged as a big challenge. I want Commissionerate Police to improve its capacity to deal with it effectively so that it can become a model for the country."

Patnaik also hailed the steps taken by Commissionerate Police to reach out to the senior citizens of the twin-city area. The Commissionerate Police Monday launched a software application dedicated solely to redress the grievances of the senior citizens.

"The Senior Citizen Security Cells of Commissionerate Police are actively trying to reach out and help senior citizens. Today, one dedicated Mobile Application for Senior Citizens grievance redressal shall start functioning" noted CM Patnaik.

I expect the Commissionerate Police to be more vigilant and effective in the areas of crime control, traffic management and other areas of security issues

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

He also praised the twin-city police's citizen centric initiatives like "Basti Ku Chala", Dreams- The De-Addiction Programme during



CM inaugurated Maitri Vihar police station in Bhubaneswar, Monday

his address.

"I expect the Commissionerate Police to be more vigilant and effective in the areas of crime control, crime detection, law and order management, disaster management, traffic management and anti-narcotics drive, and other areas of security issues," added Patnaik.

He said that many police stations in the twin-city are now child-friendly while all the police stations will follow suit gradually.

The Chief Minister said in his address that he is personally monitoring the implementation of 5T in police department and expressed satisfaction over the positive feedbacks from people.

"I will be very happy if the experience of visitors to police stations is improved further. I also desire that more technological interventions be introduced to enhance the effectiveness of various policing tasks," CM added.

Meanwhile, speaking on the occasion, DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal said that the twin-city police are the best police commissionerate in the country. The CM later inaugurated the Maitri Vihar police station along with 28 other police stations across the state.



RAZING DOWN: An excavator deployed by BDA demolishing an illegally built structure at Aiginia in Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

Continued from P1 3,700 dams...

China, meanwhile, the world's most heavily dammed nation, has lost about 10 per cent of its storage and will lose a further 10 per cent by 2050, it said.

Water storage infrastructure is critical for development. Large dams and reservoirs provide hydroelectricity, flood control, irrigation, and drinking water.

According to experts, Odisha has 163 large dams of which 26 were identified for rehabilitation and improvement works under Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) by the WR department.

When asked about the scenario in Odisha, water activist Ranjan Panda said Odisha government had on several occasions tried to clear sediments from dams like Hirakud. "However, a precious little could be done due to financial constraints and lack of concrete mechanism. Interstate collaboration and afforestation would go a long way in addressing the issue," Panda, famous as Odisha's waterman, said.

Techie arrested over DA worth ₹3.13cr

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: State Vigilance Monday arrested Bijayananda Sahoo, an engineer, after detecting disproportionate assets worth ₹3.13 crore, an official said.

According to the Vigilance Official, Sahoo, working as a superintendent engineer in the rural water supply and sanitation (RWSS) division Bhubaneswar, was found in possession of disproportionate assets to the tune of ₹3.13 crore, which is 221 per cent more than his known sources of income.

The anti-corruption wing officials have unearthed two triple storeyed buildings, one double storeyed building and 14 plots in prime areas of Bhubaneswar, Angul and Dhenkanal during raids.

Out of the 14 plots, six have been found in the name of the engineer's sister-in-law and five in the name of his brother-in-law. The Vigilance suspects that all these



The anti-corruption wing officials have unearthed two triple storeyed buildings, one double storeyed building and 14 plots in prime areas of Bhubaneswar, Angul and Dhenkanal during raids

properties have been acquired by Sahoo as benami properties.

Besides, cash of ₹1.81 lakh, bank, postal & insurance deposits worth ₹44.84 lakh, one four-wheeler, gold jewellery of 237 grams and silver ornaments worth over ₹10 lakh have been found by the Vigilance.

A case has been registered against Sahoo. Following the arrest, he is being forwarded to the court of special judge, Vigilance, Dhenkanal, the official informed.

Vigilance officials informed media that investigation of the case is in progress.

WCD creates awareness on gender-based violence

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Gender based violence constitutes one of the most prevalent forms of human rights violations in the world. Worldwide, an estimated one in three women experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime. And this type of violence undermines health, dignity, security and autonomy of these women.

In the state, Women and Child Development (WCD) department, which is responsible for the welfare of women and children, undertakes various activities to create awareness about gender based violence. In December, the depart-

ment organised a series of events at the departmental level and at educational institutions and in communities through its implementing partners.

One stop centres, Swadhar greh and Ujjwala homes, family counselling centres, and women helpline centres organised several programmes. Besides, in the Advika-adolescent life skill education programme, being implemented at the level of Anganwadi centres and directly reaching out to young boys and girls, communities were informed about gender discrimination and various forms of gender based violence existing in society. The children



were also made aware of the legal provisions to protect the rights of the victims and the support systems available for survivors of violence.

"The department organised two days training program for members of internal committees. 2 members from each department were

oriented on aspects of gender discrimination, gender based violence including sexual harassment at workplace and how the committee can play proactive role to not only sensitively deal with the cases that come to it but also take on initiatives to create awareness amongst the officials and department staff on the issue," said a department official.

Similar training programs were organised by one stop centres that are formed at the Collectorate Office at the district level for members of local committees for addressing issues of violence especially faced by women in

unorganised sectors and where internal committees are not present, added the official.

"Lawyers from district legal services authority were invited to these homes to make the inmates aware of their rights. Legal counselling was provided by the lawyers to the inmates of the home. Signature campaigns were undertaken at the district level to reinforce the commitment of all to create a violence free society. And leaflets on 181 women helpline and one stop centres were distributed by the team to create awareness on the services," informed the official giving a list of all the activities that the department undertook.

17 industry heads bag CSR award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: 'The Odisha Development Leadership Summit' was organised by Odisha CSR Forum to felicitate the corporate with 'Odisha CSR Excellence Award 2022' for their CSR work at Hotel Mayfair here recently. At least 17 industry head were given away the award.

Government Chief Whip Prasanta Kumar Muduli, Minister of State (MoS) for Labour and Employees' State Insurance Shrikant Sahu and FM University VCD Satasya Shadangi attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, Muduli, also the Jagatsinghpur MLA, asked all the corporate bodies to come forward for the betterment of the society and requested them to extend their helping hand for the betterment and development of the weaker sections.

The seminar featured two panel discussions - 'CSR in India and its Future' and 'Managing CSR Projects Using Technology and Tools'. In the seminar, corporates, 130 representatives from prominent NGOs, educational institutions, civil society organisations,

policy makers, environmentalists, administrators, judges, economists and agriculture experts participated.

Odisha CSR Forum Convener BK Mishra said, "Corporates, NGOs, policy makers, CSOs, academic development institutions and media are a platform at the state level through which opportunities, hopes and issues can be created for the inclusive growth and balanced development of Odisha."

In this seminar, 17 directors/ED/CEO/COO/president/unit heads/plant heads of PSUs and private sectors, who have done excellent work in their areas through CSR, were felicitated.

Corporate CSR Excellence Award-2022 was presented to 20 individuals who have contributed significantly to the improvement of society through innovative and sustainable CSR initiatives.

Gunangun Nirlipta thanked all the guests at the end of the program. RSP, OMC, MCL, JSPL Foundation, AM/NS India, Dalmia Cement, Vedanta Limited Lanjigarh, Utkal Alumina, OSL, JK Paper Limited and many more corporate organisations were felicitated.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, I have changed my name from Shantanu Kumar Patel to Shantanu Patel for all purposes.

LOST

Before the Notary Public, Kesinga I Jajati Keshari Deo, S/o. Sridhara Deo, Vill-Kesinga, Ward No.02 (Bagad), PO/PS-Kesinga, Dist-Kalahandi do hereby declare that I have lost Original ROR & Sale deed land of Mouza-Bagad vide Khata No. 144/1030, bearing Sale deed No.198210200139. While I was at Kesinga Market on dt.29.12.2022 and couldn't trace out the same. If somebody found and misuse the same I will not be held responsible. If any body found please contact me, Mob-7008516395.

Eating almonds boosts recovery molecule

Eating almonds daily has been found to support metabolic recovery following strenuous exercise by increasing beneficial fat by 69 per cent, according to a new study.

The researchers concluded that daily consumption of almonds leads to a change in metabolism, down regulating inflammation and oxidative stress from exercise and enabling the body to recover faster.

"We conclude that almonds provide a unique and complex nutrient and polyphenol mixture that may support metabolic recovery from stressful levels of exercise," corresponding author Dr David C Nieman, a professor at the North Carolina Research Campus, said. The findings have been published in Frontiers in Nutrition.

"Almonds have high amounts of protein, healthy types of fats, vitamin E, minerals, and fibre. And the brown skin of almonds contains polyphenols that end up in the large intestine and help control inflammation and oxidative stress," said Nieman.

According to the study, a randomized controlled trial showed that female and male participants



who ate 57g almonds daily for one month had more of the beneficial fat 12, 13-DiHOME (12, 13-dihydroxy-9Z-octadecenoic acid) in their blood immediately after a session of intense exercise than control participants.

This molecule, a so-called oxylipin, an oxidized fat, is synthesized from linoleic acid by brown fat tissue, and has a beneficial effect on metabolic health and energy regulation, the study said.

"Here we show that volunteers who consumed 57g of almonds daily for one month before a single 'weekend warrior' exercise bout had more beneficial 12,13-DiHOME in their blood immediately after ex-

ercising than control volunteers.

"They also reported feeling less fatigue and tension, better leg-back strength, and decreased muscle damage after exercise than control volunteers," said Nieman. Immediately after exercise, the concentration of the beneficial 12, 13-DiHOME was 69 per cent higher in blood

plasma of participants in the almond group than in participants in the control group. 12, 13-DiHOME is known to increase the transport of fatty acid and its uptake by skeletal muscle, with the overall effect of stimulating metabolic recovery after exercise.

The reverse pattern was found for another oxylipin, the mildly toxic 9, 10-Dihydroxy-12-octadecenoic acid (9, 10-diHOME), which was 40 per cent higher immediately after exercise in the blood of the control group than in the almond group.

Unlike 12, 13-DiHOME, 9, 10-diHOME has been shown have negative effects on overall health and

the body's recovery to exercise.

According to the research, the clinical trial involved 38 men and 26 women between the ages of 30 and 65, who didn't engage in regular weight training. Approximately half were randomized to the almond diet group, and the other half to the control group, who daily ate a calorie-matched cereal bar.

The researchers took blood and urine samples before and after the four-week period of dietary supplementation. Performance measures included a 30 second Wingate anaerobic test, a 50 metre shuttle run test, and vertical jump, bench press, and leg-back strength exercises, the study said.

Additional blood and urine samples were taken immediately after this 90 minute session of "eccentric exercise" and daily for four days afterwards, the study said.

After each blood draw, the participants filled out the 'Profile of Mood States' (POMS) questionnaire to quantify their mental state, and rated their delayed onset muscle soreness - that is, pain and stiffness felt after unaccustomed or strenuous exercise - on a 10-interval scale, the study said.

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Water crisis looms large in Kendrapara district

Decrease in water level in the Mahanadi leading to drying up of its tributaries



Birupa at Chowdwar. The Kendrapara canal originating from Cuttack supplies water from the Mahanadi to Gobari, Pattamundai and some more extension canals. Farmers working on 41,681 hectare of land in Kendrapara district are thus completely dependent on water from the Mahanadi and its tributaries, Samal added.

Moreover, Mahanadi is the main source of drinking water to residents of Rajnagar and Mahakalapara blocks and to Kendrapara town.

Former councillor Hiranya Kumar Panda said that Odisha and Chhattisgarh are locked in a bitter dispute over sharing of Mahanadi water. However, its impact is being felt as the water flow in the Mahanadi is decreasing. Panda said that the dispute should be solved as quickly as possible for the benefit of the people in Odisha.

Shaikh Fazrul Haque, president of Patkura Anchalik Vikash Committee said that the Chitrotpala which originates from Mahanadi, flows for a stretch of 36km from Mohammedpur to Kuanrpur in Kendrapara district.

The river is the lifeline of farmers living along the coast. River water is used for cultivation as well as for their daily chores. Chitrotpala will soon dry up and become a dead river if the water flow declines in Mahanadi. In the process, the normal life of the residents will be severely affected, Haque said.

Farmer leader Gayadhar Dhal urged for an early solution to Mahanadi water sharing dispute. He warned that normal life will be disrupted in Kendrapara district if the ruling goes in favour of Chhattisgarh. "The decline in water flow will destroy agriculture, affect supply of drinking water and many areas will turn into saline land," he added.

People said that if measures are not taken for the revival of the rivers, there will be an acute shortage of drinking and agriculture water in summer

in water flow on the Mahanadi upstream. He pointed out that Kendrapara district is on the downstream. So it will face acute crisis if the water flow reduces in the upstream.

Samal pointed out that the Mahanadi river flows for a stretch of 10km from Mahanagar to Gadaramit under Mahakalapara block. The Chitrotpala river originates from the Mahanadi at Gualnasi in Cuttack district while the Luna river is a sub-tributary of Chitrotpala.

Similarly, Paika river originates at Tendakura near Jagatpur and

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Jan 9: Decrease in water level in the Mahanadi river from the beginning of this year has sparked fear of a major crisis in summer. Alarm bells over water crisis in the district have already started ringing, sources said.

Due to the declining water level in the Mahanadi, its tributaries and other rivers flowing through Kendrapara district are also drying up. Among the rivers losing water are Luna, Chitrotpala and Birupa.

Lack of water has also had an impact on cultivation of rabi and winter crops. People said that if measures are not taken for the revival of the rivers, there will be an acute shortage of drinking and agriculture water in summer. Doubts have also been cast on the feasibility of establishing a riverine port at Akhadashali in the district, sources said.

Speaking on the water crisis, former Zilla Parishad member Ganesh Chandra Samal said that it has happened due to reduction



FOLK DANCE: Artistes performed a traditional tribal dance on the third evening of Shita Utsav at Daringbadi in Kandhamal district, Monday

Goons loot ₹15 lakh from store manager

POST NEWS NETWORK

Parjang, Jan 9: Three bike-borne miscreants looted Monday ₹15 lakh from the store manager of a trading firm just outside the Odisha Gramya Bank branch at Lodhani village under Parjang police limits in Dhenkanal district. They attacked Jayant Kumar Acharya with sharp weapons before snatching the bag containing the amount and fleeing the spot.

Jayant was on his way to the bank to deposit the money when he was attacked. He had just got down from the office vehicle when the miscreants waylaid him. He was coming from the Bhalumunda-based godown belonging to trader Khirod Kumar Sahu.

A critically injured Jayant was first admitted to the Parjang community health centre and later shifted to the Angul district headquarters hospital.

Eyewitnesses said that Jayant refused to part with the bag despite being attacked by the ruffi-



ans. Then one of the miscreants assaulted Jayant with a sharp weapon injuring the latter severely. The miscreants then snatched the bag and fled the spot on a two-wheeler, with one of them brandishing a revolver to keep the crowd away.

On being informed, Kamakhyanager SDPO Ranjan Kumar Deo, Parjang police station IIC Prasant Kumar Patra reached the spot and launched an investigation. A case was registered in this connection and further investigations are on. A manhunt has been launched to nab the accused, police said.

2-yr RI to man for murder bid

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Jan 9: A local court here sentenced Monday a man to two years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him of a murder bid.

The District and Sessions Judge's court here announced the verdict against Sandip Sahu, 42, alias Mogli on the basis of available evidences under Section-324 of the Indian Penal Code. The judge had earlier, awarded two years imprisonment and slapped a penalty of ₹3,000 to another co-accused in the case, Ajit Kumar Jena alias Mantu. The judge passed the order after examining the statements recorded by eight witnesses and the police chargesheet.

According to the case diary, Ramesh Sahu a resident of Tulsinagar locality here was on his way to work to Ramharinaraj, September 27, 2007 when Sandip and Ajit attacked him. Sandip threatened to shoot Ramesh while brandishing a revolver.

Miscreants then snatched the bag and fled the spot on a two-wheeler, with one of them brandishing a revolver to keep the crowd at bay

When contacted, SP Gyana Ranjan Mohapatra said he is new to the place but will take measures to curb crime in Parjang locality. Parjang IIC assured that very soon the accused will be arrested.

'Mathkhai Samman' for Chandrasekhar Hota

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Jan 9: Eminent litterateur, critic and Kendra Sahitya Akademi Yuva Purashkar award winner Chandrasekhar Hota was awarded with the prestigious Mathkhai Samman-2023 at the Mathkhai Mahotsav and All India Multi-Lingual Drama festival organised by *Bhumika* in this town, officials said Monday.



Hota was handed the award by Bolangir MP Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo at a function presided over by Byasadev Nanda. Also present on the occasion were Bolangir MLA Narasingha Mishra and Professor Madhusudan Pati.

After receiving the award, Hota said that it will always hold a special place in his heart.

Brown sugar worth ₹1cr seized in Nayagarh district

Bhubaneswar: Brown sugar worth rupees one crore was seized Sunday in Nayagarh district, police said Monday. Acting on a tip-off, the Special Task Force (STF) of the state police conducted a raid at Narayani Pitha locality in Kantilo under Fategarh police station late Sunday night and seized the contraband, police informed. One person, identified as Hara Prasad Prusty has been arrested in this connection. A motorcycle and other incriminating materials were also seized, they added.

College girl run over by bus on annual sports day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Jan 9: The annual sports meet of Satyam Shivam Sundaram College in this district turned sour Monday as a girl student of the institution was run over by a bus at Baghalunda Square on National Highway-55 under Motanga police limits. The deceased was identified as Ipsita Baral of Belapada village. She was a Plus-II first year student.

The mishap occurred when Ipsita was on her way to attend the sports meet as a pillion rider on a scooter with one of her kin. The two fell from the two-wheeler as a bus car-



rying the staff of a local company hit them at Baghalunda Square.

Locals rushed the two in a critical condition to the district headquarters hospital here. However, doctors pronounced Ipsita dead on arrival. Her relative is currently

undergoing treatment.

A pall of gloom descended in the college after news of Ipsita's death spread. The mishap sparked tension in the area as irate students staged a road block on the highway. They demanded ₹50 lakh

compensation for Ipsita's family.

The road block disrupted traffic on the highway as many vehicles were left stranded. Movement of vehicles between Dhenkanal and Angul was also affected. The students called off their protests only after SDPO Suryamani Pradhan and Motanga IIC Niranjan Sethi reached the spot and held talks with them.

The students alleged that fly ash powder being used for road expansion on the highway has reduced visibility leading to accidents. They held the NHAI authorities responsible for the mishap.

GOVT QUICKENS RESTORATION OF RAIBANIA FORT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaleswar, Jan 5: After much delay, the Odisha government has finally initiated the process for protection and renovation of the ancient Raibania fort in Balasore district. Work is moving speedily for restoration of the fort, sources said Monday.

The state Tourism department has taken up a number of projects for restoring the fort to its old glory. Funds have been allocated for building well-decorated welcome gates on the four sides of the fort. The construction of the first gate was completed a couple of months ago. Minister of Language, Literature, Culture and Tourism, Ashwini Kumar Patra has laid the foundation stone for the second welcome gate recently. An estimated ₹25 lakh will be spent on it.



The Tourism department has allocated ₹6 crore for laying of roads, electrification, beautification and infrastructure development, sources informed. Various outfits have pointed out that scores of stone sculptures are lying scattered all over the fort premises. They said these sculptures should be pieced together to complete the half-built Jagannath temple. They have demanded construction of a Panthasala and a park to attract more tourists from both within Odisha and also outside the state.



AWARENESS DRIVE: An awareness vehicle on millet consumption was flagged off by block chairman Premananda Sahu, BDO Bikash Kumar Mohanty and others at Kamakhyanager in Dhenkanal district, Monday

Slight increase in migratory bird count

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Jan 9: The number of winged guests flocking to the Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) has increased marginally this year, the census report on birds released Monday by the Forest department, said. The number of migratory birds has gone up to 1,39,959 this winter in comparison to the 1,38,107 that were spotted last year.

The report said a total of 140 avian species were counted this year in comparison to the 144 identified last year. Several rare and endangered species were spotted this time, the report added. Bhitarkanika National

BHITARKANIKA NATIONAL PARK



Park is located about 130 km from Odisha capital Bhubaneswar. "The enumerators have sighted

rare groups of winged species at the wetland spots of the national park. It is a clear indicator that

Bhitarkanika is still a congenial spot for attracting birds," divisional officer, Rajnagar Mangrove (Wildlife) Forest division, Adhir Behera, said.

Around 81,930 geese and ducks were spotted. Also identified during the census conducted January 6, were grebes, rails, gallinules, finfoots, jacanas, gulls, terns, and sandpipers.

"It was a treat to watch feathered species with their chirpy cacophony adding colour to the vibrant eco-system of this region," said a wildlife staff engaged in the annual headcount of birds.

The Chilka and Bhitarkanika wetlands in Odisha are favoured destinations of winter migratory birds.

Notice

1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations '1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2014 & 2019 for i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for Assets under "Transmission System for Phase-I Generation Projects in Jharkhand & West Bengal-Part-A2".

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (1) Ajmer Vidut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (2) Jaipur Vidut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (3) Jodhpur Vidut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (4) Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd. (5) Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. (6) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (7) Jammu Kashmir Power Corporation Limited (8) Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (9) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (10) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (11) Tala Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (12) Chandigarh Administration. (13) Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd. (14) North Central Railway (15) New Delhi Municipal Council (16) Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd. (17) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited. (18) Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (19) Jharkhand Biji Vitran Nigam Ltd. (20) Damodar Valley Corporation (21) Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok.

3. Tariff details: a) 2014-19 Block

Asset no	True-up Transmission Tariff for 2014-19				
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Asset-1	97.98	515.01	566.77	577.71	572.29
Asset-2	109.74	478.84	603.76	709.09	750.55
Asset-3	-	-	12540.8	12769.2	12660.7
Asset-4	-	-	2345.48	2706.45	2726.93
Asset-5	-	-	10906.5	11592.5	11373.9
Asset-6	-	3476.94	13347.3	13158.7	12847.6
Asset-7	-	152.24	663.65	724.21	798.69
Asset-8(A)	-	-	-	978.48	1031.56
Asset-8(B)	-	-	-	405.79	413.7

b) 2019-24 Block

Asset no	DOCO	Tariff for 2019-24 block				
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	
Combined Asset	10.03.2016 (Effective)	42039.80	41193.59	40277.81	39253.19	38220.20

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergrid.in.

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandraklok Building, Jantpah, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
B. B. Rath
Date: 05.01.2023
Sr., General Manager (Commercial)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office : B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016
Corporate Office : Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 001
Website: www.powergrid.in, CIN: L40101DL1989GO1038121

A Maharatna PSU

Government of Odisha
"e"-Procurement Notice
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
RAYAGADA FOREST DIVISION

e-Mail ID- dfo_rayagada@odisha.gov.in

1st Corrigendum to Tender Call Notice No: DFO-RGDA-12/2022-23
Dated. 03.01.2023 (Online Tender)
No.144/1F (Accts.), Dated, Rayagada the 07th January '2023.

CORRIGENDUM

No.MM-403: The following modification has been made for Bid Identification No. DFO-RGDA-12/2022-23 dated. 03.01.2023 (Online Tender) against the following works.

- The work Sl. No. 1, Construction of Watch Tower at Gumma RF of Rayagada Range, the Estimated cost of the Work may be read as Rs. 16,78,137.00 only instead of Rs. 20,00,000.00 and the Class of Contractor of the Work may be read as 'D' & 'C' instead of 'C' & 'B'.
- The work Sl. No. 2, Construction of Watch Tower at Bhimpur RF of Gunupur Range, the Estimated cost of the Work may be read as Rs. 16,78,137.00 only instead of Rs. 20,00,000.00 and the Class of Contractor of the Work may be read as 'D' & 'C' instead of 'C' & 'B'.

The other terms and conditions are remaining unchanged. Inconvenience is however regretted.

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
Rayagada Division
OIPR-08062/11/0006/2223

FOCUS NATION

THE CENSUS DELAY



Effectively, it appears that the 2021 census has been put off by four years, using the pandemic and vaccination drive as an alibi

India has had a tradition of conducting a national census, every ten years, for more than a century. It is one of the few countries in the world, not just among developing ones, to have had and maintained this hallowed tradition. The data that is collected is fairly authentic, and the exercise is done with a great deal of integrity. Research using India's census data has produced thousands of doctorates, new insights into historic policies (both blunders and successes), assisted in various fields, and areas besides which the census data has also provided a reliable economic history of the nation. The decadal census not only captures increases in population, households, family units, but also gives detailed granular data on distribution of age, literacy, fertility and migration.



Ajit Ranade

CREDIBLE, AUTHENTIC DATA IS LIKE A PUBLIC GOOD. HENCE ITS COLLECTION REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF INTEGRITY, AND ALSO REGULARITY AND PREDICTABILITY

The census can also throw light on economic status indicators such as employment and income, although the latter is in the domain of the National Statistical Office (NSO). The conduct of the census is under the Registrar General of India, which is under the Home Ministry, whereas the NSSO is under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The 2021 census of India was to be carried out in two phases, the first is counting of dwellings and houses, and the second is enumeration of the population. The government notified its intent via a gazette in March 2019 of conducting the once-in-a-decade census. Before a census exercise commences, it is important to freeze the jurisdictional limits such as towns, villages, districts and census towns. The first phase was to be conducted from April to September 2020, and the second phase thereafter, so that by mid 2021 the preliminary numbers would be ready for release. The pandemic upset this timetable. Initially the freezing of boundaries was postponed till the end of 2020, and then again till the end of 2021. There have been three postponements since then, and the latest

notice from the Registrar General of India says that the deadline for freezing of boundaries is extended to the end of June 2023. Given that it takes about ten or eleven months for the census exercise to be properly conducted, it could interfere with the national elections due to be held in April or May 2024. Effectively it thus appears that the 2021 census has been put off by four years, using the pandemic and vaccination drive as an alibi. It will be difficult to conduct the census unless a much shortened and hence an imperfect method is used between July 2023 and March 2024. But that is unlikely.

This has huge consequences. Firstly, the National Food Security Act mandates that 75% of rural, and 50% of urban households be covered by it. The government recently made NFSA entitlement free for 81 crore people. But this number is based on the 2011 census. Population projections till 2022, suggest that the number is short by at least 10 crore. That has serious implications for the food security and nutrition status of a large number of households, especially children. Secondly, various other government schemes, like pensions for elderly could miss their target by a huge margin since accurate cen-

sus estimates are not available. The budgeting for these programmes needs to have an accurate estimate of the size of beneficiaries.

Thirdly, India badly needs accurate information about migrants. A migrant is defined in the census as one who works in a place different from the place of birth. How many migrants are there? How many seasonal and how many long term? The COVID lockdown revealed lakhs (or maybe crores) of people who were migrant city workers. Only a proper and updated census can throw light on the true migrant picture. Fourth, is the assessment of various government schemes and programmes. What is the status of the PM Awas (housing) Yojana? How many toilets built under Swachh Bharat are functioning? What is the status of piped water supply to households? Thousands of such questions can be answered when we analyse granular data from the census. The census is not a substitute for a government audit or a social audit. But since its data is authentic and verifiable, it can throw an effective spotlight and serves as a tool for ensuring accountability from the government.

That is why the 2001 Dr. Rangarajan Commission report

on an overhaul of India's Statistical System is very important. It has recommended the establishment of a permanent commission on statistics to serve as a nodal and empowered body, answerable to Parliament and not to the government. That is still an unfinished business in spirit at least. An empowered NSC (National Statistical Commission) would work in coordination with the Registrar General of India who is responsible for the census.

Credible, authentic data is like a public good. Hence its collection requires a great deal of integrity, and also regularity and predictability. A lot of public and private planning as well as economic activity depends on public data, be it on population, GDP, consumption, movement of migrants or distribution of income and wealth. A few years ago, the detailed survey-based data on consumer expenditure, conducted under the authority of NSC was suppressed. In protest or otherwise, all members of the NSC resigned. Now the NSC has been reconstituted. But this is reason for disquiet. The basis for authenticity and reliability of public data, be it census or economy is the trust people place in the bodies entrusted with collecting the data. Any delay or abrupt suppression is cause for distrust. Even if there are imperfections it is best to release the data for the public at large, and experts to analyse and dissect it. The present delay in conducting the national census, when even our South Asian neighbours have conducted theirs, despite COVID difficulties, is cause for concern. It is best if the government finds a way of shortening the process, using modern digital techniques to quickly and in real-time triangulate and validate the data, and release preliminary data into the public domain at the earliest.

The writer is a noted economist.
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SPECTRUM MIDDLE EAST

Bashar Al-Assad, a pariah no more

Russia, Turkey and the UAE have initiated plans to start talks with Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, an unthinkable step till date, and establish peace once again in the war-torn nation. It seems as if the pariah of the Arab world, Assad, may soon get a reprieve, as the global and regional powers rally together to forgive him and try to bolster his regime. The latest efforts may also result in further weakening of the US influence in the region. This change in Turkish stand is sponsored by Assad's major military ally Russia and the UAE, which have sought to improve his standing in the Middle East to help balance Iranian influence in Syria. Whereas several years ago countries in the region would have looked on such a rapprochement negatively, they are now supportive and that may be construed as an important shift.



Asad Mirza

ANKARA'S NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH DAMASCUS WILL STRENGTHEN THE KREMLIN'S ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND PUT PRESSURE ON WASHINGTON TO PULL OUT ITS REMAINING FOOTHOLD IN SYRIA

Events of the last week report that regional players Turkey and UAE, in partnership with global player Russia have initiated diplomatic efforts to rehabilitate Assad, and try to find an end to the decade-old war in Syria. Turkey, which previously backed the 2011 rebellion against Assad, is now prepared to publicly recognise his rule over Syria and work to rebuild diplomatic, security and trade ties, in a complete about turn, in order to ensure peace on its south-western border. Basically, Turkey wants Assad to rule out allowing US-backed Kurdish domi-

nated People's Protection Units (YPG) to form an autonomous area in northern parts of the country that they now control, as part of any future peace agreement, if Recep Tayyip Erdogan restarts any reconciliatory process.

Reports say that Erdogan floated the idea of meeting with Assad as recently as last Thursday, after high-level meetings between Syrian and Turkish officials earlier in Moscow. Erdogan has been reported as saying that, "we will come together as leaders according to the developments," hinting at a meeting with Assad and Putin, soon. Turkey has lately indicated that it was preparing to put aside hostilities with neighbouring Syria. Frustrated by Washington's refusal to end military assistance to Kurdish militia in Syria, Erdogan is seeking to resolve the matter through other brokers in the conflict.

For Russia, such a deal will help it show it can successfully challenge US influence in Syria and the region. Putin ordered his military to intervene in support of Assad in 2015, helping to tip the balance in the civil war in Syria, in favour of the latter's regime.

As part of a flurry of diplomatic activity around Syria, the UAE's foreign minister met Assad in Damascus last week and reiterated support for a political solution to the conflict. The UAE has moved closer to Assad, with the Syrian presi-

dent visiting the country last year, his first trip to an Arab state since the start of the civil war. The visit signalled strongly that Gulf leaders who initially supported a rebellion against him are ready to welcome Damascus back into Arab fold. Syria's uprising quickly morphed into an international conflict drawing in Russia, Iran, Turkey and the US and reverberating across the Middle East and Europe. Assad remains under US and European sanctions over the war, which according to UN estimates has killed more than 350,000 civilians.

Reportedly, the US is 'very concerned' about possible Turkish meddling in Syria. The US State Department spokesperson Ned Price when asked last week, about a potential Erdogan-Assad meeting said that the US will not normalise and "we do not support other countries normalising relations with the Assad regime." But there are voices in the region that the US needs to understand that its presence in Syria is unnecessary and unjustified and further, countries in the region are increasingly acting independently of the US. Earlier, the Defence Ministers from Turkey and Syria met for the first time in December last year since the civil war erupted in the Arab state in 2011, the high point so far in a rapprochement that's been months in the making.

Turkey's Hulusi Akar and his Syrian counterpart Ali Mahmoud

Abbas held talks at a summit in Moscow, hosted by Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu. The discussions focused on Syrian civil war and collaboration against "all terrorist groups" in the country, Turkey said, in a thinly veiled reference to Kurdish militia in Syria.

Syria remains under strict Western sanctions and is suspended from the Arab League. Improved relations between Turkey and Syria will be a major success for Russia. Ankara's new partnership with Damascus will strengthen the Kremlin's role in the Middle East and put pressure on Washington to pull out its remaining foothold in Syria. Putin had originally proposed Turkey repair ties with Assad last year during a meeting with Erdogan in Sochi. Now Erdogan has warmed up to such a deal as he heads into elections this summer, the people said, as he seeks to use foreign policy to bolster his popularity at home.

Erdogan has asked Russia to ensure the safety of Syrian refugees who could return home as fighting eases. He wants to ease the political and economic cost of hosting the world's largest refugee population, some 3.5 million people, according to UN estimates. Pushing for a return, or the start of one, may help boost his popularity ahead of elections.

The writer is a political commentator based in New Delhi. ©IANS

Whatever is the difficulty if we keep truly quiet the solution will come.

THE MOTHER



Myanmar Poll Eyewash

At a time when autocratic regimes and Far-Right outfits across the globe have been making a mockery of the democratic process, Myanmar's ruling military leader Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing has announced elections will be held in the country later this year and called for national unity. He unveiled his plan in a speech delivered to mark the 75th anniversary of independence from Britain. He urged other nations and international organisations, apart from the people of his own country, to support "the genuine, discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system." This is a concept the ruling military junta has banded about as its goal since it ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi February 1, 2021.

Min Aung Hlaing also announced a pardon for 7,012 prisoners to mark the occasion, along with a partial commutation of sentences of other inmates not convicted of serious crimes. Some political detainees are among those to be released. But there is no sign that the face of Myanmar's hybrid democracy, Suu Kyi, jailed by the military regime, could be set free to take part in the electoral process. 77-year-old Suu Kyi is currently serving 33 years imprisonment after being convicted of a series of charges brought by the military. Some of the charges are illegal importing and possession of walkie-talkies, violating coronavirus restrictions, breaching the country's official secrets act, sedition, election fraud and corruption. She has been held since June in a custom-built bungalow at the main prison in the capital, Naypyidaw. Three women guards keep watch on her and she is isolated from other prisoners.

According to Suu Kyi's party - National League for Democracy (NLD) - the cases against her are nothing but an attempt to discredit her and legitimise the military's seizure of power while keeping her from taking part in the impending elections.

The first real move towards holding the elections is expected to be made when the latest six-month extension period of the state of emergency expires next month. The state of emergency was instituted to allow military rule after its takeover in February, 2021.

The plan for a general election is widely seen as an attempt to legitimise the junta's seizure of power through the ballot box. The intent also appears to be to make sure through the sham democratic process that a manipulated result helps the generals retain control. Such fears stem from the fact that the military will control the entire election process and has already used the past two years to break the backbone of the Opposition. Over 15,000 political activists have been thrown into prison during this period. All forms of dissent are currently suppressed by the security forces, sometimes with lethal force.

The army's takeover reversed nearly a decade of progress toward democracy after five decades of military rule. The junta's explanation for the coup is that it acted due to massive voting fraud in the poll, though independent election observers did not find any major irregularities.

Min Aung Hlaing's declaration is significant since he made it clear that the elections will be held as per "the 2008 Constitution." The NLD's key agenda is to change that Constitution so as to weaken the military's power to interfere with government functioning. The 2008 Constitution accords a large role for the military. The political party propped up by the junta fared poorly in the last election and Suu Kyi had hoped that her party's huge win would enable the government to rewrite the Constitution. This would have clipped the wings of the military. The general and other high ranking officers are known for promoting their personal interests with the help of the Constitution. In fact, the NLD was not allowed to assume the reins of government after its huge win for its pledge to rewrite the Constitution.

The US and Malaysia have criticised the move to hold elections under military supervision and have called upon the international community to reject it outright. But, the junta is likely to go ahead with its plan to make a farce of democracy since it has the backing of China.

WISDOM CORNER

People do not seem to realize that their opinion of the world is also a confession of character. **RALPH WALDO EMERSON**

One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between Man and Nature shall not be broken. **LEO TOLSTOY**

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. **THOMAS A. EDISON**

WORDSWORTH

Ethnic

A headline in the Times of London read: "Leicester to be first city with ethnic majority". It sounds daft since, when you think about it, most cities have an ethnic majority of one sort or another. But that wasn't what the Times' headline writer had in mind, of course. Ethnic has had an interesting history. It started its life in English as long ago as the fourteenth century; it came from the Greek ethnikos, heathen, from ethnos, nation. It meant the same in English as it did in Greek, and it was applied indiscriminately to anyone who was not a Christian or a Jew: a pagan. Thomas Carlyle used it this way in 1851 in his Life of John Sterling: "I find at this time his religion is as good as altogether Ethnic, Greekish, what Goethe calls the Heathen form of religion". By that time, it seems that for most people the word had lost the connection with religion - disparaging in effect if not in intent - and had adopted a more neutral one of a person belonging to an identifiable culture with common racial, social, religious, or linguistic characteristics, very much the way we use it now when we speak formally. By the time Carlyle was writing, the Greek root had been used to make ethnography and ethnology for the study of other cultures. The word never quite lost its disparaging edge, however, being so often attached in Europe and North America to people who were considered "lesser breeds". It was only from the 1950s onwards that the term started to be applied widely and generally to aspects of cultures, especially from non-Western traditions. By the seventies ethnobotany, ethnoarchaeology, ethnoscience and others had been invented. We also began to see phrases like ethnic music and ethnic clothing in this period, causing ethnic to soften in sense until in everyday use now it often means little more than "exotic" or "foreign". But by 1991 the awful term ethnic cleansing had begun to appear, first in the former Yugoslavia, probably as a loan translation of a Serbian term dating from the 1940s, a usage from which ethnic may never quite recover. By then we had also seen ethnic minority coined to describe a distinctive minority group within another, dominant culture. It's this phrase that the headline writer in the Times was playing with when writing about the racial mix in Leicester, where many local people have their origins in the Caribbean, the Indian subcontinent and China. The headline really says that in Leicester "the foreigners are outnumbering us", an understandable reference, though one that gives rise to suspicions of unconscious xenophobia. It would be a great pity if that were the case, since Leicester is easily the most racially harmonious multicultural city in the UK.

LOL

Knitting & driving

A policeman spots a woman driving and knitting at the same time. Driving up beside her, he shouts out the window... "Pull over!"



"No," she shouts back, "a pair of socks!"

Outrageous conduct

Sir, In a deplorable incident in the New York-Delhi flight last week, an inebriated passenger subjected an elderly woman to indecent exposure and urinated on her. Aggravating her trauma is the failure of the airline crew to immediately take action against the gross offender for outraging her modesty with the obscene and undignified act. Add to this, defying all sense of propriety and professionalism, the woman was allegedly forced to sit in the soiled seat for the remaining journey. The late reaction by AI management renders the action as amounting to too little. There are several questions about the speed with which AI moved. Did the airline follow protocol or did it require escalation of the complaint to the company's highest levels before action was initiated? That the culprit had the luxury of absconding to evade the arrest shows that AI's procedural failures compounded its in-flight failures. As important as it is to punish the criminally loutish culprit, the delay makes AI equally culpable as it allegedly remained silent over an indefensible occurrence on its flight. An inquiry into the crew's handling of the situation is called for and stern action should be taken against them for the lapse. However, unruly behaviour of the passenger mid air needs to be dealt with zero tolerance. **N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE**

Reminiscing a giant

Sir, Dr Hargobind Khurana (9, January 1922 - 9, November 2011), who held India's name high in the world of science, belonged to the only educated family in his village. He was one of the few scientists who played an important role in the foundation of biotechnology. He won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1968. Khurana is also credited with the creation of artificial genes. It is important to know how he enhanced the reputation of the country. In 1952, Khurana moved to Canada to work at the prestigious University of British Columbia, where his work began to really take shape with the support of the university. There he was free to do whatever he wanted to. He started research programmes in phosphate esters and nucleic acids. But in 1960, he went to the University of Wisconsin in the US for enzyme research and stayed there permanently. There he did outstanding work on gene decoding and protein synthesis. In 1972, Khurana created the world's first artificial gene. His contributions paved the way for advances in genetic engineering and biotechnology. Khurana's work is seen as the foundation of research in the field of genetics. **Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR**

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**

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

national

of the day quote

There is only one Shiv Sena. There is just one Shiv Sena which is founded by Balasaheb Thackeray and one which is being led by Uddhav Thackeray. The entire Shiv Sena is with them

SANJAY RAUT | RAJYA SABHA MP

The year 2023 has been declared as 'International Millet Year' by the United Nations on the initiative of the Indian government and such crops can play an important role in controlling anaemia and malnutrition

BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM

It is our request to the NRI community to connect with us through technology and work together in the interest of not only India but also of the entire world. You have resources and we have human resources

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Army officer commits suicide

Ferozepur (Punjab): An Army officer allegedly shot dead his wife and later committed suicide here, police said on Monday. The officer and his wife were found dead at their official residence Sunday night, they said. The deceased officer has been identified as Lt Col Nishant and his wife Dimple, Station House Officer, Ferozepur Cantt, Inspector Naveen Kumar said. He said the couple was going through a marital discord which took an ugly turn Sunday night around 9 pm.

Flight makes emergency landing

Jamnagar/Panaji: A Moscow to Goa international flight made an emergency landing at Jamnagar airport in Gujarat Monday night following a bomb threat, police said. All the 236 passengers and crew members were evacuated safely and the plane is being checked by local authorities along with the police and Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad, said Inspector General of Police (Rajkot and Jamnagar Range), Ashok Kumar Yadav. "The plane going from Moscow to Goa was forced to make an emergency landing at Jamnagar airport due to a bomb threat. After landing, all 236 passengers and crew members were deboarded safely. Police, BDDS and local authorities are now searching the entire plane," said Yadav.

Woman set ablaze

Hazaribag (Jharkhand): A 23-year-old woman was doused with petrol and set on fire in her home in Hazaribag allegedly by four persons for resisting a rape attempt, police said Monday. The woman sustained 70 per cent burns and is under treatment in a Ranchi hospital, Hazaribag superintendent of police Manoj Ratan Chothe said. In her statement to the police the woman said the incident took place on Saturday night in Charhi area of Hazaribag, around 90 km from here, and three of her attackers are her relatives. The fourth person was a neighbour.

Two dead

Mumbai: Two labourers were killed after a lift trolley crashed at a 15-storey under construction building in Worli area of central Mumbai Monday, an official from the fire brigade said. The incident took place at Avighna Tower around 4.30 pm, when the labourers were cleaning the glass on the exterior of the building, the official said.



Rahul Gandhi is on a 3,500 km-long march. For me, kilometres do not matter. I have been walking non-stop since October. But I do not want to show it off as evidence of my physical fitness

PRASHANT KISHOR | POLITICAL STRATEGIST-TURNED-ACTIVIST

CURBING AIR POLLUTION

The Delhi government has decided to impose a temporary ban on plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in the national capital from Tuesday in view of the worsening air quality



High drama in TN Assembly



Congress Legislative Party leader K. Selvaraj with other MLAs speaks to media after staging a walkout during Tamil Nadu Governor's address at the first session of the year of Tamil Nadu Assembly, at Fort St George, in Chennai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Jan 9: Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi Monday staged an unprecedented walkout from the state Assembly following a face-off with Chief Minister MK Stalin over the former's customary address to members of the house in its first session of the year.

In his address, Ravi skipped a few portions of the draft prepared by the government, prompting Stalin to move a resolution to expunge from records all such comments made by the governor that didn't conform to the draft. It is customary that the governor adheres to the draft of his speech prepared by the government. The incident on Monday marked yet another low point in an already tenuous relationship between the governor and the political executive in the southern state.

The high drama on the floor of the House soon snowballed into a heated debate online between the supporters and critics of the ruling DMK, even as "#GetOutRavi" trended on Twitter, with many calling for the ouster of Ravi from the gubernatorial post.

However, the state BJP threw its weight behind Ravi, describing as "disrespectful and amateurish," Stalin moving a resolution against the Governor whilst Ravi was still seated in the House. The DMK-dominated House had convened for the first session of the year with the Governor's customary address to the members, which the main opposition AIADMK dubbed as a "disappointment," and said it was "indecent" on the part of the CM to have "spoken" when the Governor was seated, alluding to

the resolution moved by Stalin.

Earlier, Ravi began his address amid slogan shouting against him by MLAs belonging to allies of the ruling DMK.

As soon as he began his address in Tamil, greeting members on the New Year and the harvest festival 'Pongal,' legislators raised slogans including 'Tamil Nadu Vazhga' (Long live Tamil Nadu) and 'Engal Nadu Tamil Nadu' (Our land is Tamil Nadu). The slogans later ceased.

Ravi made a reference to Swami Vivekananda, much to the indignance of the treasury benches, skipping certain portions from his customary speech. He omitted the names of Dravidian stalwarts including the late EV Ramasamy Periyar and CN Ammadurai.

From the commencement of his speech, the Governor encountered opposition from the DMK's allies, which attempted to disrupt his speech by rushing to the well of the House and raising slogans against him.

But an unruffled Ravi continued his speech, sticking to major portions of the text on the initiatives of the State government, especially the "Ilam Thedi Kalvi" and "Makkalai thedi maruthuvam," in the Education and Health sectors.

He skipped the 65th point of the speech which says the government is founded on the ideals of social justice, self-respect, inclusive growth, equality, women empowerment, secularism and compassion towards all.

'Dravidian model' were among the words skipped by the Governor and he also spoke on his own on certain aspects.

PLACES OF WORSHIP ACT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: The Supreme Court Monday asked the Union government to file its reply to a batch of PILs challenging the validity of certain provisions of a 1991 law which prohibit filing of a lawsuit to reclaim a place of worship or seek a change in its character from what prevailed on August 15, 1947.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha gave the Centre time till the end of February to submit its response to the petitions against some provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for some of the intervenors, raised the preliminary objection to the challenge of a statute through PILs, calling it a serious issue. 'I have certain points to make. First, that this challenge has been made through PILs...I can understand if there is a dispute concerning a structure. This is an Act in regard to which certain observations have been made in Ram Jannabhoomi case (Ayodhya verdict). "My pre-

SC gives more time to Centre for its response



A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha gave the Centre time till the end of February to submit its response to the petitions against some provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991

liminary objection is that these PILs cannot be entertained unless they relate to a particular structure. There cannot be a public interest qua judgement of a court taking a certain view," Sibal said.

He added that before the court goes into final hearing of the matter, these preliminary issues needed to be dealt with. The bench noted the objection raised by Sibal and said it will take that into account during the final hearing by the end of February.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay, said the challenge has been made to the legislation and not

against any observations made by the court in the judgement. Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for one of the parties, said it is not clear what the Union government has to say on the issue as it has not submitted its stand in an affidavit.

"While these petitions are pending, there are disputes such as the Gyanvapi mosque (dispute in Varanasi), Idgah mosque (Mathura) which are in direct breach of the statute. Litigations of all manner have been taking place, while the Centre is yet to place on record its stand on the statute," she said.

Two arrested for drinking on flight

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Dec 9: Two passengers on board an IndiGo flight from Delhi were arrested in Patna on Monday for travelling in an inebriated condition.

The accused, identified as Nitish Kumar and Rohit Kumar, were travelling on flight 6E-6383. The alleged passengers were kept under check by the marshal inside the flight. The pilots informed the ATC Patna about the incident and it was further communicated to CISF officials at the airport.

When the flight landed, the CISF officials took them and were handed over to the Patna police. An FIR has been registered on the complaint of an airline manager in the airport police station. "We have arrested two persons for travelling in a drunken state. It landed at the Patna airport at 10 p.m. Sunday. The alleged passengers were in a drunken stage and smelled at a time when placing their luggage overhead the seat. The air hostess smelled it and informed the pilots. The passengers, after placing the luggage, slept on the seats. When the flight reached Patna airport, the CISF officials handed them over to us," said Vinod Peter, SHO of airport police station Patna.



A man prepares kites ahead of Lohri and Makar Sankranti in Amritsar

PTI PHOTO

Pregnant woman suffers burn injuries; FIR filed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: A seven-month pregnant woman received burn injuries after she was allegedly set ablaze in outer Delhi's Bawana, police said Monday.

The police said an FIR is being lodged against her husband after the woman, in her statement to the executive magistrate, accused him of harassing her and setting her on fire. Earlier, the woman who has been identified as Khusboo, had told the police that it was an accident.

Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson Swati Maliwal had also alleged that the woman was set ablaze by her in-laws and husband. The woman was sitting by a bonfire along with her husband Veer Pratap and a boy to keep them-



selves warm in the cold. The fire was dying down and the boy poured paint thinner into it, causing it to suddenly spread, police had earlier said.

The police had said Khusboo sustained "superficial" burns on her face and limbs, while her husband sustained burns on his legs and left hand. Both of them are undergoing treatment at the Safdarjung Hospital, they said.

Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal had also alleged that the woman was set ablaze by her in-laws and husband

"She has accused her husband in her statement in front of the executive magistrate. No allegations have been levelled against the in-laws. "Considering her statement to executive magistrate to be the true narration of facts, we are proceeding accordingly with registration of FIR under 307 (attempt to murder) and 498A (husband or the relative of the husband of a

woman subjecting her to cruelty. The husband is still in hospital due to burn injuries. Therefore, no arrest as of now," a senior police officer said. Another officer had earlier said that Khusboo's statement has been recorded in which she has stated that it was an accident. The woman's brother Sandeep has also alleged that she was being harassed by her in-laws and was set ablaze by them, he said.

Khusboo had married Veer Pratap in August last year. The police had said that since less than seven years have passed since the marriage and the woman's brother has also levelled allegations of harassment by her in-laws, the matter was brought to the notice of Narela's sub-divisional magistrate and her statement was recorded before the magistrate.

SC junks PIL challenging committees for UCC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain a PIL challenging the decisions of the Uttarakhand and Gujarat governments to constitute committees for implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), saying the petition was devoid of merit and the Constitution empowers the states to institute such panels.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha said the plea filed by Anoop Baranwal and others does not warrant to be entertained.

The bench said the constitution of such committees by the states

cannot be challenged for being ultra vires the constitution.

"There was nothing wrong for the states to constitute committees under Article 162 of the Constitution, which gives the power to the executive to do so," the court said.

It said, "The Constitution of the committees set by the state governments is challenged in this PIL. Article 162 of the Constitution empowers the State to constitute such committees. What is wrong with it? Entry 5 of the 7th schedule of the Constitution gives such power to the States to form a committee. Setting up such committees cannot be said to be ultra-vires the Constitution".

Soon watch Doordarshan channels without set top boxes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 9: Soon television viewers would be able to watch all free to air channels of official broadcaster Doordarshan without set top boxes, with the help of digital television receivers with built-in satellite tuners.

These tuners would enable reception of free-to-air TV and radio channels by just connecting a dish antenna with LNB mounted on a roof top or side wall of the building. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on Monday came out with specifications for digital television receivers with built-in satellite tuners.

Television manufacturers would have to follow these specifications

while manufacturing such television sets. Currently, television viewers are required to purchase set-top boxes for viewing various paid and free channels.

The viewer is required to use set top box even for the reception of free to air channels (non-encrypted) transmitted by Doordarshan. Now, Doordarshan is in the process of phasing out analogue transmission. Free to air channels will continue to be broadcast using digital satellite transmission by Doordarshan.

To enable the reception of these free to air channels without use of set top box, there is a need for television receivers with inbuilt suitable satellite tuner. Apart from specifications for television re-



ceivers, BIS has published two more standards for common chargers and video surveillance systems.

The second standard published

The Bureau of Indian Standards Monday came out with specifications for digital television receivers with built-in satellite tuners

various electronic devices like mobile phone, laptop, notebook etc. This standard would provide common charging solutions for smartphones and other electronic devices sold in the country. This would facilitate in reduction in number of charger per consumer as consumers will no longer need

to buy different chargers every time they buy a new device.

Earlier consumers have to keep different chargers for various electronic devices they possess which leads to extra expenditure, increase in e-waste and a lot of inconvenience. Countries worldwide are working to address these issues. The third standard is for video surveillance systems.

This specification provides a detailed outline of all the aspects of a video surveillance system such as requirements for its components like camera devices, interfaces, system requirements and tests to ascertain the image quality of the camera devices and also specifies guidelines on efficient installation of the system.

More houses develop cracks in sinking Joshimath

The Congress says the land subsidence situation should be declared a national calamity and all developmental projects in the area halted till a report by experts and environmentalists is submitted on the issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Jan 9: Every minute is important, the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary said Monday as more houses, buildings and roads developed cracks in the sinking town of Joshimath, red crosses came up on hundreds of unsafe structures and many residents stayed on despite the imminent danger.

The number of subsidence-affected homes rose to 678 while 27 more families were evacuated to safety, a bulletin from the Disaster Management Authority in Chamoli said, adding so far 82 families have been shifted to safe locations in the town.

Chief Secretary SS Sandhu held a meeting with officials at the state secretariat to review the situation in Joshimath and asked them to speed up the evacuation exercise to ensure the safety of residents as 'every minute is important'.

The district administration had put red cross marks on more than 200 houses in the sinking town that are unsafe for living. It asked their occupants to either shift to the temporary relief centres or rented accommodation for which each family will get assistance of Rs 4000 per month for the next six months from the state government.

Personnel of the National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force have been deployed for the relief and rescue efforts.

There are 16 places in Joshimath where temporary relief centres have been built for the affected people. Apart from them, 19 more hotels, guest houses and school buildings have been identified for the affected people in Joshimath and 20 outside the town in Pipalkoti.

Sandhu said the work on stopping toe erosion in the subsidence-hit areas should be started immediately and dilapidated houses that have developed huge cracks should be razed soon so that they do not cause further damage.

Broken drinking water pipelines and sewer lines should also be repaired immediately as they might complicate things in the subsidence zone, he said.

Many families in the affected area are finding it hard to sever their emotional ties with their homes



A man shows the cracks that appeared in his house at Joshimath in Chamoli district in Uttarakhand.

PTI PHOTO

and move out.

Even those who have shifted to temporary shelters keep returning to their abandoned houses in the danger zone, unable to overcome the pull of home.

Parmeshwari Devi, an elderly resident of Marwari ward which is one of the worst-hit in the town, said she spent her entire savings on having a house of her own and now she is being asked to leave it and shift to a relief camp.

"I would prefer dying where I belong rather than going anywhere else. Where will I get the comfort of my own home," Devi told a private news channel.

Suraj Kaparwan, a resident of Manoharbhag in Joshimath, has a similar story. The family is still trying to make up its mind to leave

their home.

The house of Rishi Devi, a resident of Singdhar, is caving in gradually and she has had to shift along with her family to a safe location but she returns to her home every day despite her kin stopping her from doing so.

Devi now sits in the courtyard and keeps staring at its walls riddled with cracks.

Rama Devi's family was forced to sleep on the inner verandah of their home after the rooms developed cracks but then had to finally leave the house in a panic.

"Our room used to shake every now and then, scaring us. So we began to sleep on the verandah. But even the verandah developed cracks last night. Now we are moving into rented accommodation,"

Rami Devi of Gandhinagar said.

Lakshmi, a resident of Singdhar who has taken shelter in a primary school building, says she wants permanent rehabilitation.

"For how long shall we stay in this temporary relief camp," she asked.

The Congress Monday demanded that the land subsidence situation in Uttarakhand's Joshimath should be declared a national calamity and all developmental projects in the area halted till a report by experts and environmentalists is submitted on the issue.

The opposition party described it as a man-made disaster and sought enhanced compensation for each house affected due to the 'unbridled development' in the area. It asked the government to preserve the old Joshimath town and develop a new

town to rehabilitate the residents.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Protect nature. The whole country is worried and is with the people of Joshimath, where unbridled development has created cracks in Uttarakhand's 'Devsthal'."

"We have three demands from the Modi government - The Joshimath tragedy should be declared a 'national calamity'. Stop all new projects, including of railways and hydel power, until a newly appointed high-level committee of experts, scientists, environmentalists and local people submits its report," he said in a series of tweets in Hindi.

"The ostees of Joshimath be given adequate compensation from PM CARES fund, instead of only Rs 5000," Kharge said.

'Govt apathy towards warnings root cause of Joshimath crisis'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gopeshwar, Jan 9: Geological factors apart, the failure of successive governments to act on the warnings by experts about possible hazards in Joshimath and adjoining areas has emerged as a major reason behind the land subsidence crisis that has now gripped the town, environmentalist Chandhi Prasad Bhatt said Monday.

Yet another effort has been made by the state government for a scientific study with the help of satellite imagery of the crisis in the sinking town, Bhatt, who is associated with the Chipko Movement, said.

However, a detailed zonation mapping of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, warning of the lurking dangers in Joshimath, had been submitted to the state government more than two decades ago, he said.

The study carried out using remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) by around twelve leading scientific organisations of the country including the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) had been submitted to the state government way back in 2001, he said.

The mapping of the area covering the entire Char Dham and Mansarovar yatra routes including Joshimath had also been submitted to the district administrations of Dehradun, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Pauri, Rudrapur, Pithoragarh, Nainital and Chamoli at that time.

In this zonation mapping report 124.54 sq km area of Joshimath had been divided into six parts in accordance with their susceptibility to landslides, Bhatt said.

Over 99 per cent of the mapped area had been shown as landslide-prone in varying degrees, he said, adding 39 per cent of the area was identified as a high-risk zone, 28 per cent as a moderate-risk zone and

29 per cent as a low-risk zone and the rest in the lowest.

Subsequently, a daylong meeting was also held between senior administrative officials, experts, people's representatives and social workers in Dehradun over the study in which the district magistrates concerned had agreed to take the required safety measures in light of the study.

However, nothing was done and the state government had to face a lot of criticism for not acting on the study in the wake of the 2013

Kedarnath disaster -- the 'Himalayan tsunami'

which killed more than four thousand people, Bhatt, a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay, Padma Bhushan and Gandhi Peace award said.

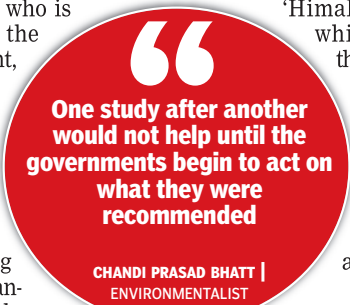
"Failure of successive governments to act on expert warnings seems to be at the root of the Joshimath crisis," he said.

"One study after another would not help until the governments begin to act on what they were recommended," the nonagenarian on whose request to the state government, the then ISRO Chairman K Kasturirangan constituted a group of organisations headed by NRSA to do zonation mapping of the region.

Bhatt, who was part of various discussions held with the government on the vulnerability of the region to disasters as an advisor, said, "Once again the problem is being ignored in the name of conducting studies."

"The NRSA's landslide hazard zonation mapping submitted in 2001 and the 1976 report of the Mishra Committee of which I too was a part contain enough suggestions about the safety measures to be adopted to save towns like Joshimath and their residents," he said.

"What is needed is action, not just another study," Bhatt said.



CHANDHI PRASAD BHATT | ENVIRONMENTALIST

From Akbar to Nehru, country's first Constitution Park honours all



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Jan 9: The country's first Constitution Park has been set up at the Raj Bhavan in Rajasthan. In this park, the Constitution has been explained differently via beautiful sculptures and art work.

The park also shows the first original copy of the Constitution, the Constituent Assembly and its 15 women members through stone art. Along with ancient Nalanda University, Akbar's court and Jhansi's Rani Lakshmi Bai also feature in the park

making a separate column. The entire journey of the making of the Constitution is shown.

Right from the Cabinet Mission to the formation of the Constituent Assembly, the meetings and debates in the first Constituent Assembly are shown in the part along with famous members of the Constituent Assembly and prominent leaders.

There are statues of Dr BR Ambedkar, the country's first President Rajendra Prasad, the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru along with the draft copy of the Constitution.

The Constitution Park will soon be opened to the public for two days a week. Its time table is being prepared.

Governor Kalraj Mishra said that such parks are also being set up in every government university in the state so that university students can learn about the constitution and understand it easily.

The Constitution Park was inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu recently.

Speaking on the occasion, she appreciated the flag post, Mayur Stambh, Gandhi statue and Maharana Pratap's statue installed in the Raj Bhavan. Describing the artistic and elaborate presentation and craft of the Constitution Park as important, she said that people coming here would connect with the culture of the Constitution.

Kalraj Mishra said that our Constitution is a living philosophy of Indian culture.

"The writing of the Constitution, the Constituent Assembly formed to prepare it, the meetings of the Constituent Assembly, the role of the great men involved in the making of the Constitution and the journey of its implementation are very significant. In the Constitution Park, an attempt has been made to bring alive this journey through various sculptures, images, models and other artistic mediums," the Governor said.

RAJASTHAN MODEL STATE FOR ENTIRE COUNTRY: GEHLOT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Jan 9: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Monday said Rajasthan has emerged a model state and its public welfare schemes are a subject of discussion in the entire country.

He said there will be no shortage of budget for schemes run in the public interest in the state.

Gehlot was addressing public representatives and people from different regions of the state at the chief minister's residence here.

He said every section of the society is benefiting from the public welfare schemes of the state government.

Women and girls are being given 12 sanitary napkins free of cost every month through the Udaan scheme, the chief minister said.

Similarly, nutritious food is being served to people at Indira Rasoi for Rs 8, he added.

Rajasthan has emerged as a model state in every field be it electricity, water, education, health or social security, the chief minister said.

Gehlot said the central government should give the right of social security to people of the country by enacting a law.

In Rajasthan, the government is giving pension to one crore elderly people, widows and disabled so that they can get financial support, he said, according to an official statement.

The Old Pension Scheme (OPS) has been restored from the humanitarian point of view. This has brought a sense of security among

the government employees about their future, Gehlot said.

He said through the Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme, people have got freedom from the worry of expensive medical treatment.

Earlier, the chief minister met delegations from across the state, listened to their problems and assured them of appropriate solutions. During this, former deputy chief minister of Punjab Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa was also present, the statement said.

GIVING BACK BIG CATS THEIR SPACE

Jaipur only Indian city to have leopard safaris

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Jan 9: Rajasthan and leopard safaris seem to have become synonymous to each other as the desert state accommodates many cities which have gained credence across the world for their distinguished feature in terms of leopard safaris.

For instance, Jaipur has become the only city in the country with two leopard reserves offering safaris, namely, Jhalana and Aamagarh.

While the state capital is drawing attention with man-animal conflict as the western and the southern boundary of the Jhalana forest share thick suburbs of Jaipur City, and the eastern boundary has villages and some new settlements, there is yet another place in the desert state where leopards cohabit with the villagers and other domesticated animals with minimal man-animal conflict.

Situated about halfway between Mumbai and New Delhi, this region of Jawai has been rising to fame as it has one of the largest concentrations of wild leopards in the world.

This small municipality in Rajasthan traces its roots back to the days of the maharajas. But what makes Jawai unique is that the leopards cohabit with the villagers and other domesticated animals with minimal man-animal conflict.

"The leopards have been here since centuries staying in these hills. However, it is us, humans who have encroached on their land," says Pushpendra Singh Ranawat, whose family settled here generations ago as custodians of the forests upon invitation from the then Maharaja of Udaipur.

Talking to IANS, he says, "Jawai is famous for being the only place



in world in which human habitat is so close to that of leopard, and there is no conflict."

"The lava rocks are like rooms for leopards here. These are inside hills where leopard feels safe to stay. However in other places, leopards stay in jungle which is an open area and they fear that humans can walk in and attack them which causes the man-animal conflict."

When leopards enter caves, they are confident that humans will not enter caves, which is not the case in other safaris.

"Villagers here know that they need to give space to leopards for they have equal rights too to stay here," he says.

However, expressing concern, he said that things have started changing. "While officials are busy in showing bedazzling facts that are alluring tourists and are fake, nobody is showing the real fact that Jawai is under threat. Like-minded people are not coming here but DJ party properties are coming in. Administration should understand that such parties should not be allowed in Jawai. People are getting NOC to make property right in front of leopard caves which will increase man animal conflict."

Ranawat adds, "Encroachment is increasing in this place, wildlife was seen blooming on grazing land and revenue land, now people are coming in from other places, and have started farming on grazing land, so there is no space left for wildlife. Revenue land and grazing needs to be preserved," he said in a choking voice fearing that Jawai might lose its identity for what it is known for if timely attention is not given to the present challenges.

international



It's time for Sweden to join NATO because it has done what's necessary to secure Turkey's approval for membership
JENS STOLTENBERG | SECRETARY-GENERAL, NATO

PARADE OF CYCLONES

California braces for 'parade of cyclones' after a week of torrential downpours and damaging winds killed at least 12 people in the past 10 days and knocked out power for hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses



of the day quote

The right to life is also threatened in those places where the death penalty continues to be imposed, as is the case in these days in Iran, following the recent demonstrations demanding greater respect for the dignity of women

POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

These (military) supplies can only add to the pain of the Ukrainian people and prolong their suffering. They are not capable of stopping us from achieving the goals of the special military operation

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

Turkey both confirms that we have done what we would do, but they also say that they want things that we cannot or do not want to give them

ULF KRISTERSSON | PM, SWEDEN

Brazil stir mirrors US Capitol riot

SUPPORTERS OF BRAZIL'S FAR-RIGHT FORMER PRESIDENT JAIR BOLSONARO INVADED AND DEFACED THE COUNTRY'S CONGRESS, PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND SUPREME COURT, IN A GRIM ECHO OF THE US CAPITOL INVASION TWO YEARS AGO BY FANS OF FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



Brasilia, Jan 9: Brazilian police deployed at a camp of supporters of far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro in the capital Monday, a day after rioters launched the worst attack on Brazil's state institutions since its return to democracy in the 1980s.

Hundreds of police in riot gear and some on horseback amassed at the encampment near Brasilia's army headquarters, while soldiers in the area withdrew, Reuters witnesses said, after Sunday's storming by thousands of Bolsonaro's backers of Congress, the Supreme Court and the presidential palace.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Bolsonaro's leftist rival who took office January 1 after a narrow October election win, promised to bring those responsible for the violence to justice, after demonstrators broke windows and furniture, destroyed art work and stole guns and artifacts.

Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes ordered the governor of Brasilia removed from office late Sunday for 90 days over alleged security failings. He also ordered social media platforms Facebook, Twitter and TikTok to block accounts of users spreading anti-democratic propaganda.

Lula, a former union organizer who was also president from 2003 to 2010, said the local militarized police force that reports to Brasilia Governor Ibaneis Rocha, a former Bolsonaro ally, did nothing to stop the protesters advancing. He blamed Bolsonaro for inflaming his supporters after a campaign of baseless allegations about election fraud



Lula blames Bolsonaro supporters, promises justice
Lula took office in January after narrow October win

Justice Minister said 200 demonstrators arrested
Police retook the damaged public buildings

after the end of his rule marked by divisive nationalist populism.

The assault raised questions among Lula's allies about how security forces in the capital were so unprepared and easily overwhelmed by rioters who had discussed plans on social media for days about gathering for weekend demonstrations.

FASCIST FANATICS: PREZ LULA

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva condemned the invasion of Brazil's Congress, Supreme Court and presidential palace Sunday by "fascist fanatics," after supporters of far-right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro unleashed scenes of chaos in the capital. "We will find out who these vandals are, and they will be brought down with the full force of the law," Lula said from the southeastern city of Araraquara, where he was visiting a region hit by severe floods.

BOLSONARO DENIES ANY ROLE

Brazil's far-right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro condemned "pillaging and invasions of public buildings" Sunday adding that rioters "crossed the line." Bolsonaro rejected what he called new President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's "baseless" accusations that he incited the invasion of the seat of power in Brasilia. Writing on Twitter, the ex-president - who left Brazil for the US state of Florida last month on the second-to-last day of his term - also defended the right to "peaceful protests."

WORLD REACTS

We condemn the attacks on Brazil's Presidency, Congress, and Supreme Court today. Using violence to attack democratic institutions is always unacceptable. We join @lulaofficial in urging an immediate end to these actions
ANTHONY BLINKEN | UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE

Appalled by the acts of violence and illegal occupation of Brasilia's government quarter by violent extremists today. Full support to Lula and his government, to Congress and to the Federal Supreme Court. Brazilian democracy will prevail over violence and extremism
JOSEP BORRELL | EUROPEAN UNION FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF

Deeply concerned about the news of rioting and vandalism against the State institutions in Brasilia. Democratic traditions must be respected by everyone. We extend our full support to the Brazilian authorities
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER, INDIA

ROYAL RIFT

Prince Harry's 'Spare' making waves

Harry's book "Spare" mistakenly went on sale in Spain five days before its official release, chronicling not only hugely personal details, such as how he lost his virginity and took illegal drugs, but more intimate private instances of family disharmony

REUTERS



London, Jan 9: Prince Harry has said he had made public his rifts with the British royal family and taken on the press to try to help the monarchy and change the media, the latter described by his father King Charles as a "suicide mission".

It all comes just four months after Queen Elizabeth died and Charles acceded to the throne. In the ITV interview, Harry repeated and elaborated on accusations that he and Meghan have made since they left royal duties; that the royals and their aides not only failed to protect them from a hostile and sometimes racist press, but actively leaked stories about them via anonymous sources.

her after the death of their mother Princess Diana.

During the interview, Prince Harry shared that he always wanted his stepmother to be happy so that she could be less "dangerous". He added, "She was the villain. She was the third person in their marriage. She needed to rehabilitate her image."

He wrote that after Diana's death, Camilla "began playing the long game: a campaign aimed at marriage and eventually the crown".

CONFLICT "The saddest part of that is certain members of my family and the people that work for them are complicit in that conflict," he said, indicating that included both Charles and Camilla.

So far, there has been no comment from Buckingham Palace. Harry said he didn't think his father or brother would read his book.

An unnamed friend of William told the Sunday Times that the Prince of Wales was "burning" with anger, but would not respond "for the good of his family and the country".

Commentators say the book has plunged the monarchy into its biggest crisis since the days of the royal soap opera in the 1990s around the break-up of Charles' marriage to his late first wife Princess Diana, the mother of William and Harry. It all comes just four months after Queen Elizabeth died and Charles acceded to the throne.

SHORT TAKES

89% infected with Covid in China city

Beijing: Almost 90 percent of people in China's third most populous province have now been infected with Covid-19, a top official said Monday, as the country battles an unprecedented surge in cases. Kan Quancheng, director of the health commission for central Henan province, told a press conference that "as of January 6, 2023, the province's Covid infection rate is 89.0 percent." With a population of 99.4 million, the figures suggest about 88.5 million people in Henan may now have been infected. Official data showed last week that just 120,000 people have been infected and 30 died since China relaxed Covid curbs in early December.

Israel to remove Palestine flags

Jerusalem: Israel's new far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said Sunday that he instructed police to remove Palestinian flags from public spaces. Israeli law does not outlaw Palestinian flags but police and soldiers have the right to remove them in cases where they deem there is a threat to public order. The directive from Ben-Gvir, who heads an ultranationalist party in Benjamin Netanyahu's new government and as minister oversees the police, seems to take a hard line in requiring their removal.

Argentina, China okay currency deal

Buenos Aires: Argentina and China have formalized the expansion of a currency swap deal, allowing the South American country to increase its depleted foreign currency reserves, the Argentine central bank said Sunday. Argentina's government needs to rebuild reserves to cover trade costs and future debt repayments, and more reserves are a key objective of a major debt deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). President Alberto Fernandez announced the deal in November last year and said at the time it was worth \$5 billion.

Thailand U-turns on Covid vax rule

Bangkok: Thailand has rescinded an entry policy announced at the weekend requiring visitors to show proof of a Covid-19 vaccination, its health minister said Monday, citing sufficient immunisation levels in China and globally. Anutin Charnvirakul said checking evidence of vaccinations was inconvenient and a panel of health experts had agreed to withdraw the new rule.

Int'l community to give Pak \$8.57bn for flood damage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Geneva, Jan 9: Pakistan said Monday that the international community generously responded to its call for support by pledging more than \$8 billion to help the cash-strapped country rebuild in a climate-resilient manner after last year's ravaging floods that killed 1,739 people and affected 33 million people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had sought \$8 billion assistance over the next three years in his remarks earlier in the day at the opening session of the 'International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan' in Geneva, which he co-hosted with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

"The first part of the plan reflects the recovery and reconstruction, bearing in mind that the minimum funding of \$16.3 billion is required, half of which will be met with domestic resources, half from foreign resources," Sharif said. Pakistan estimated that about \$30 billion were needed to come out of the deadly impact of the floods which was the worst in the last three decades.

Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said the first plenary of the conference had culminated in a "generous outpouring" from the international community.

"The European Union pledged \$93 million, Germany \$88m, China \$100m, Islamic Development Bank \$42 billion, World Bank \$2bn, Japan \$77m, Asian Development Bank \$1.5bn, USAID \$100m, France \$345m," she said on Twitter. She added that a total of \$8.75 billion had been pledged so far.

Apparently, the amount was more than Pakistan initially needed as it was looking to get half of \$16.3 required for the first three years or the first phase of reconstruction.

The purpose of the day-long conference - attended by heads of state and government and other stakeholders - is to raise funds for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of flood-hit Pakistan in a climate-resilient manner.

Earlier, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Public Policy and Strategic Communication Fahd Husain quoted the UN chief as saying that approximately \$7.2 billion had been raised at the Geneva conference.

In his remarks, Sharif said Pakistan witnessed a "monsoon on steroids this year" that affected 30 million people, displaced more than eight million and washed away roads spread over 8,000 kilometres but the government responded quickly and the help of the world community restored the communication system while delivering cash and food to affected families.

HOW IT UNFOLDED

2022

Oct 30 - Lula, who was president from 2003 to 2011, narrowly beats Bolsonaro in a run-off vote. Bolsonaro supporters begin gathering for the first time outside military bases across Brazil, calling for a military intervention to prevent Lula from returning to office.

Oct 30 and 31 - Truckers who support Bolsonaro block roads throughout the country after his defeat.

Nov 2 - Bolsonaro supporters hold rallies across the country, asking for an armed force intervention.

Nov 22 - Bolsonaro challenges the results of the Brazilian election, arguing votes from some machines should be "invalidated" in a complaint that election authorities rebuffed.

Dec 12 - Lula's election victory is certified by the federal electoral court. Later that day, after the arrest of a pro-Bolsonaro indigenous leader for alleged anti-democratic acts, Bolsonaro supporters try to invade the federal police headquarters in Brasilia, the capital.

Dec 24 - A man is arrested for attempting to set off a bomb in protest against Brazil's election results. A copy of George Washington de Oliveira Sousa's police statement, showed he was inspired to build up an arsenal by Bolsonaro's traditional support of the arming of civilians.

Dec 29 - At least four people are arrested by Brazilian police for an alleged coup attempt during riots by Bolsonaro supporters.

Dec 30 - Bolsonaro lands in Florida less than two days before Lula is set to take office.

2023

Jan 1 - Lula is sworn in as president for the third time, saying that democracy was the true winner of the presidential election.

Jan 8 - Bolsonaro supporters invade Brazil presidential palace, Congress and Supreme Court in Brasilia

UAE says it will teach Holocaust in schools

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Jan 9: The United Arab Emirates will begin teaching about the Holocaust in history classes in primary and secondary schools across the country, the country's embassy in the United States said.

The embassy provided no details on the curriculum and education authorities in the Emirates, a federation of seven sheikhdoms, on Monday did not acknowledge the announcement. However, the announcement comes after the UAE normalised relations with Israel in 2020 as part of a deal brokered by the administration of President Donald Trump.

"In the wake of the historic (hashtag)AbrahamAccords, (the UAE) will now include the Holocaust in the curriculum for primary and secondary schools," the embassy said in a tweet, referring to the normalisation deal that also saw Bahrain and ultimately Morocco also recognize Israel.

Ambassador Deborah E Lipstadt, the US special envoy to monitor and combat anti-semitism, praised the announcement in her own tweet. "Holocaust education is an imperative for humanity and too many countries, for too long, continue to downplay the Shoah for political reasons," Lipstadt wrote,

using a Hebrew word for the Holocaust. "I commend the UAE for this step and expect others to follow suit soon."

The announcement comes as a meeting of the Negev Forum Working Groups, which grew out of the normalisation, began in Abu Dhabi Monday.

Israel, founded in 1948 as a haven for Jews in the wake of the Holocaust, grants automatic citizenship to anyone of Jewish descent. Other Arab nations have refused to diplomatically recognise Israel over its decades-long occupation of land Palestinians want for their future state.

In the Holocaust, Nazi Germany systematically killed 6 million European Jews during World War II. Israel, founded in 1948 as a haven for Jews in the wake of the Holocaust, grants automatic citizenship to anyone of Jewish descent.



BIG GUNS RETURN FOR ODIs



Opener Rohit and No.3 Kohli pick themselves, while on form, it will be tough to drop Ishan Kishan and Iyer. Kishan played a sensational knock in his last ODI in Bangladesh recently when he scored a career-best 210. The youngster could be in a direct clash with Shubman Gill to open with Rohit. While Gill did not play the Bangladesh series in December last year, he has proved his worth as an ODI format player.

Iyer had a dream run in ODIs last year and scored 724 runs at an average of 55.69 in 15 innings. He was the backbone of India's batting with his ability to rotate the strike and tackle spin in the middle overs – a key skill on sub-continent tracks.

Then there's the phenomenon named Suryakumar Yadav, whose T20 exploits have forced the management to explore his utility in the 50-over format. The middle-order batter is fresh from a 51-ball unbeaten 112 in their 91-run win over Sri Lanka in the third and final T20I at Rajkot.

It was Surya's third century in the format in seven months, making him the first player in the history of the game to score three T20I ton while not opening the batting.

However, his ODI career hasn't really taken off so far. Surya has scored 384 runs in 16 matches with just two half-centuries but he could get full back-

ing from the team management to improve on his 50-over numbers in the lead-up to the World Cup.

With veteran quick Mohammed Shami also back in the ranks, he too should be in the playing XI along with either of Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh and Umran Malik.

New vice captain Hardik Pandya's bowling skills will also come in handy, but for someone who missed more than a year due to back injury in the lead-up to IPL 2022, it remains to be seen how many overs the skipper gets out from India's premier all-rounder.

It will be a happy headache for India as they would look to dominate the ODI leg and do a double against the visitors, who have an almost similar side that lost the T20I series 2-1.

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



City rout Chelsea 4-0 in FA Cup tie

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Jan 9: Different competition, same outcome. Manchester City beat Chelsea for the second time in less than three days, on this occasion in the FA Cup. And this time it was a 4-0 thrashing, without even needing Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne.

City's top two players were given a rest after the 1-0 win over Chelsea in the Premier League Thursday yet they weren't especially missed, with Riyad Mahrez, Julian Alvarez and Phil Foden scoring first-half goals and Mahrez adding another late on in a third-round cruise.

Next up for City in world football's oldest knockout competition is a rival that is likely to be its biggest threat to the defense of the Premier League title. Arsenal, which leads second-place City by five points in the league, will be heading to Etihad Stadium in the fourth round if it beats third-tier Oxford United Monday.

Mahrez scored the only goal in the teams' league match at Stamford Bridge Thursday. While that was a tap-in, this one in the cup was a curling shot from a direct free kick that sailed into the top corner in the 23rd minute.

Alvarez, making his first start for City since winning the World

Cup with Argentina, converted a 30th-minute penalty after Chelsea forward Kai Havertz bizarrely chose to lead with his left arm as he attempted a headed clearance at a corner and succeeded only in punching the ball away to concede a spot kick.

Foden capped a three-goal flurry in a 15-minute span at the Etihad when he guided home a close-range finish at the end of a flowing team move involving Rodri, Mahrez and then Kyle Walker, who sprinted upfield to deliver a cross for Foden. Mahrez scored his second from the penalty spot in the 85th after Foden was bundled over by Kalidou Koulibaly.

The problems mount for Chelsea manager Graham Potter, whose injury-hit squad is in 10th place in the Premier League and is already out of both cups — having already lost to City in the League Cup in November.

Chelsea fans sang the name of the team's former manager, Thomas Tuchel, during the game and many left the stadium early. It was the first time since 1998 that Chelsea exited the FA Cup in the third round.

Man City are still in the hunt for trophies in all four competitions and play Southampton away in the League Cup quarterfinals Wednesday.



Julian Alvarez (L) and Phil Foden celebrate a goal against Chelsea, Sunday

BUMRAH RULED OUT OF ODIs AGAINST SRI LANKA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 9: Jasprit Bumrah's return to action has been delayed further as he has failed to recover fully from his lower back stress fracture, ruling out the senior India pacer from the ODI series against Sri Lanka.

Bumrah was named in the squad for the three-match series against Sri Lanka, starting Tuesday, but the BCCI's support staff and medical team have collectively decided that his "return to play" should be pushed back, keeping the all-important Border Gavaskar Trophy in mind.

"Team India pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the upcoming 3-match ODI series

against Sri Lanka. Bumrah, who was set to join the team in Guwahati ahead of the ODI series, will need some more time to build bowling resilience. This decision has been taken as a precautionary measure," the BCCI said in a statement.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has not named any replacement for Jasprit Bumrah," added the BCCI. It will be interesting to see if Bumrah recovers to compete against New Zealand for the ODI series, starting January 18 and is fielded without playing even one domestic game.

"The committee under MSK Prasad and earlier team management had made a rule that a player in order to return from injury must play at least one or if possible two

domestic games before being termed ready for international comeback," a former office bearer recalled.

Bumrah sustained a lower back stress fracture post England tour and missed the Asia Cup last year. To enhance the team's chances at the T20 World Cup, Bumrah was rushed to the T20 side during a home series against Australia, where he broke down once again and was ruled out for an indefinite period.

It will not be a surprise if Bumrah does not play the entire four-match Border Gavaskar Trophy, starting February 9. He is expected to be used sparingly as he would be needed for the marquee ODI World Cup at home later this year.



Barca edge past Atletico

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Jan 9: Playing without Robert Lewandowski wasn't so bad for Barcelona after all. Barcelona overcame the absence of their top striker to win 1-0 at Atletico Madrid and open a three-point lead over rival Real Madrid in the Spanish league Sunday.

Madrid had lost 1-2 at Villarreal Saturday for their second league loss of the season. Atletico dropped to fifth place, seeing their gap to the lead reach 14 points.

Ousmane Dembele scored in the first half and Barcelona held on for its first league win of the year. Dembele scored with a low shot from close range after a set up by Gavi in the 22nd minute.

Barcelona were without Lewandowski, the league's leading scorer with 13 goals, because the Poland striker began serving a

three-game suspension from before the World Cup break.

Barcelona coach Xavi started with Ansu Fati in Lewandowski's position. Fati had come off the bench to score the winning goal in extra time and help Barcelona escape elimination against third-division club Inter City in the Copa del Rey midweek.

Forward Antoine Griezmann had a couple of good opportunities to equalise for Atletico but couldn't capitalize on them at the Metropolitan stadium in the Spanish capital.

It was Barcelona's first league win at Atletico since 2019. Barcelona will now travel to Saudi Arabia to play in the Spanish Super Cup along with Madrid, Real Betis and Valencia. The Catalan club takes on defending Copa del Rey champion Betis Thursday in one of the semifinals. Madrid and Valencia play in the other semifinal Wednesday.



Ousmane Dembele wheels away in celebration after scoring against Atletico

MESSI VS MBAPPE II: WORLD CUP STARS CHASE BALLON D'OR

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Jan 9: Lionel Messi finally has something Kylian Mbappe already had with a World Cup winners' medal. Now Mbappe wants what Messi has won many times: the Ballon d'Or. After their fascinating duel in a wild World Cup final, the tournament's best player Messi and its top scorer Mbappe are firm front-runners to win the next men's Ballon d'Or.

Call it Messi vs Mbappe part II, and it continues Wednesday when the PSG teammates face Angers in a French league game. Messi was given an extended break back home in Argentina after the World Cup, but has resumed full training and PSG coach Christophe Galtier hopes he'll be ready to play. Because they play for the same team, their rivalry could intensify over the rest of this season.

The 35-year-old Messi has won a record seven Ballon d'Or trophies given to the best player in Europe. Only five Frenchmen — including Zinedine Zidane and Karim Benzema — have won it but the 24-year-old Mbappe has never been on the podium.

Mbappe made his goals clear while at the ceremony when Benzema won: "For me, of course it's an objective to win one or many of

them. But of course there's a process to reach that. I think I'm on the right track."

A challenger this time could be prolific Manchester City striker Erling Haaland, but he didn't play at the World Cup — let alone star in it — after Norway failed to qualify.

Mbappe won the 2018 World Cup with France when he was just 19. Messi waited agonisingly long to get

his hands on the Jules Rimet trophy, losing in the 2014 final. He did so in style last month, when Argentina beat France to win their third World Cup title in arguably the most intense final in the tournament's 92-year history.

Messi's two goals in the final capped a remarkable tournament where he scored seven times, finished as the best player, and reached a whopping 98 goals overall for Argentina.

The good news for Argentina fans is that he wants to play a little while longer wearing the Albiceleste jersey.

Mbappe, meanwhile, became only the second player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final and finished one ahead of Messi on eight goals as tournament's top

scorer — the first to reach that haul since Brazil's Ronaldo in 2002.

Mbappe's overall tally of 12 World Cup goals puts him level with Brazil great Pele — and one behind Messi and Frenchman Just Fontaine, the single-tournament record holder with 13 in 1958.

Former West Germany striker Gerd Mueller (14), Ronaldo (15) and record holder Miroslav Klose of Germany (16) are well within Mbappe's sights considering the young Frenchman may have three more World Cups ahead of him.

By the time the next World Cup comes around, Messi will be nearly 39 and perhaps retired from soccer altogether. So the coast is clear for Mbappe to pulverise World Cup scoring records.

But before he starts thinking about that he has the pressing matter of a first Ballon d'Or to win, and it's a tall order with Messi as his main rival. But what a treat in store for French football fans if they both keep raising their game.

The Ballon d'Or race has the makings of a classic contest between the teammates, since they were both in fine form for PSG before heading to the World Cup. Mbappe tops the league scoring charts with 13 goals and Messi is tied with PSG teammate Neymar for the most assists (10). Mbappe is co-top scorer in the Champions League with seven goals, while Messi again heads the assists chart with four.

Bale calls time on his playing career at 33

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles, Jan 9: Gareth Bale is retiring from soccer at age 33 after setting a Wales record with 41 international goals. Bale's last match was a 3-0 loss to England at the World Cup November 29, his 111th international appearance. "My decision to retire from international football has been by far the hardest of my career," Bale said in a statement Monday.

"My journey on the international stage is one that has changed not only my life but who I am. The fortune of being Welsh and being selected to play for and captain Wales, has given me something incomparable to anything else I've experienced. I am honored and humbled to have been able to play a part in the history of this incredible country, to have felt the support and passion of the red wall, and together have been to unexpected and amazing places."

Bale also said he is retiring from club football. He scored 53 Premier League goals and 81 in La Liga, finishing last season by helping LAFC win the MLS title. Bale won five Champions League titles, three Spanish league titles, one Copa del Rey and one League Cup.

Bale made his Wales debut May 27, 2006 and the helped Wales reach the semifinals of the 2016 Euro. Wales qualified for their second World Cup and first since 1958. Bale broke the previous Wales record of 28 goals set by Ian Rush.