

#### **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 hear-

ing and final disposal of the petitions, the HC said and listed the petitions for hearing February 6. The court noted that in the pres-

ent 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 applica-tion of mind," the court said.

#### **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



# LSONARO 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

# 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

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.

AGENCIES

### CM launches interest subvention for SHGs ious districts joined the programme

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 Mondav said empowerment of women is not a slogan for his government.

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 the US Capitol by to either restore the farright 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-

through video conference.

and productive activities.

Patnaik also lauded steps taken

by women in different businesses

Noting that women are now play-

ing a major role in the decision-mak-

ing process, the Chief Minister

said they have the responsibility to

transform Odisha and ensure over-

"Mission Shakti initiative is not

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

#### High drama in **TN Assembly**

unprecedented walkout from the state Assembly following a faceoff 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



**Donald Trump** 

**Incident recalls** 

the January 6,

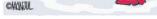
2021 assault on

supporters of

then President

### **SHORT** TAKES

### Chennai: Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi Monday staged an



All trains are running late because of fog. Join Bharat Jodo Yatra, you'll reach faster!

MARKET WATCH					
IN	DEX		VARI	ATION	
RSES	SENSEX	60747.31		846.94	
BOU	NIFTY	18101.20		241.75	
CURRENCY BOURSES	DOLLAR	82.63	₽	₹0.13	
CURR	EURO	88.30		₹0.73	
ION	GOLD	₹55,993		₹250	
BULLION	SILVER	₹69,393	1	₹238	

WEA <sup>®</sup>	WEATHER						
	BHUB	СТК					
<mark>e</mark> MA)	( 28.1℃	28.5°	Ċ				
₽ MIN	12.5℃	12.4'	<b>Forecast</b>				
Humidit	у 60%	69%	Shallow to moderate				
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Fog likely				

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



**Odisha government had** 

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

way in addressing the issue

RANJAN PANDA WATER ACTIVIST

afforestation would go a long

Ddisha has 163 large dams of which

and improvement works under DRIP

by the Water Resources department

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 re-

**Continued on P4** 

26 were identified for rehabilitation

on several occasions tried

- 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 guarter (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

e CWC, had in 2015, reported that ong 141 large reservoirs which are ver 50-yrs-old, one quarter had lost at ast 30% of their initial storage capacity

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-

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-



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.

incident Monday marked yet another low point in an already tenuous relationship between the Governor and the political executive in the southern state. P7

#### **ED files chargesheet** against Archana, aides

Bhubaneswar: 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 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 cost of the lavish building of lady blackmailer has been estimated to be around ₹3.40 crore by the ED experts. P3

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

port said.

#### 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 Kashinagar, 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 manVegetable meals prepared by the women self-heln groups (WSHGs) of the areas are being served to the farmers at the free canteens being run by the Paralakhemundi regulated market committee (RMC)

been engaged in the paddy procurement activity

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



As many as 21 WSHGs have also > There are 66 mandis in Gajapati to procure paddy from 14,320 farmers who have registered willingly to supply their produce

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

We have aunched 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

supply officer, said about 10 to 20

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 supplv their produce. As many as 21 WSHGs have also been engaged in the paddy procurement activity.

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 road** 

Baripada Sadar police station incharge Madhumita Mohanty said.









Prafulla Kumar Behera, the civil

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



# 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 OATAR 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



#### 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. Ganesha 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.

Ganesha 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 Ganesha.

#### 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 pro-cure your favourite things. So Ganesha counsels you to guard your pres tige, 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 Ganesha

#### 

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



# **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 *Kuttey*, which marks the directorial debut of the critically-acclaimed filmmaker's son, Aasmaan Bhardwaj.

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.

PEANUTS

HEY, ROY,

I'M HAVING AN

REDUCTION SALE!

INVENTORY

GREAT IDEAS

ARE NOW JUST

A QUARTER.

BREVITY

LOOK AT THIS

CALVIN AND HOBBES

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 *Kuttey* was a cherry on the cake. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity," she added.

Billed as a caperthriller, *Kuttey* will see the 27-vear-old actor play Lovely, a character she describes as edgy and short tempered. PTI

"Vishal ji is like family to me.

JOE SHLABOTNIK, MY

AVORITE BALLPLAYER, HA

BEEN MADE MANAGER OF

HE WAFFLETOWN SYRUPS

HOW ABOUT THAT ?!

OK, HERE . WHAT'S

YOUR GREAT IDEA?

**JAFFLETOWN** 

IS ONLY A MILE FROM

BUY SOME

MORE

HERE.

IT 15?

WONDER

IF THEY

LAY NIGH

GAMES.

# Priyanka flaunts her 'convoy'

fun ban-

with

fellow

actor

Los Angeles: Actor Priyanka Huma Qureshi. The Quantico star Chopra was all jolly and giddy as she shared a

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

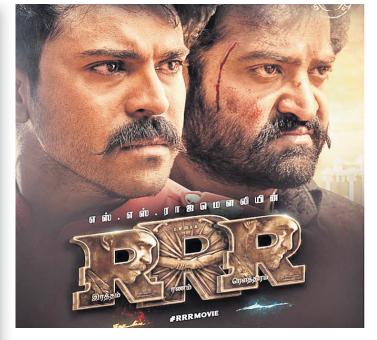
packs all of us off for the concert #convoy #2023," the Bell Bottom actor captioned the video.

"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 .. ufff @nickjonas," she wrote with star emojis alongside the video. AGENCIES



#### **RRR** will win an Oscar: Hollywood producer

Mumbai: Hollywood producer Jason at this year's Oscar awards.

and wrote: "I'm going with RRR winning best pic. You heard it here first.

Blum is sure that Indian filmmaker SS Rajamouli's magnum opus RRR will be feted with the Best Film honour

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 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.

### 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, esented Odia play *Ghadi Ghadike Ghoda Chhutuchi* here at Rabindra Mandap. Monday to celebrate its 44th



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 Ganesha. 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 Ganesha truly showers his blessings on you today!

#### CAPRICORN

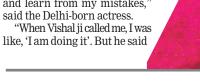
You don't trust anyone easily, and because of that you have never entered into a partnership so far, but it is a different day today. Ganesha foresees a partnership for you today. You will perform exceptionally well in your job, raise the bar and eventually will win praises from everyone at work.

#### 

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 Ganesha

#### **PISCES**

You will become the cynosure of all eyes owing to you 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 vour advice.



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

#### FUN

SURE THEY DO ... THE

BALLPARK IS NEAR A

CORNER, AND THEY

PLAY UNDER THE

STREET LIGHTS!

M GETTING ANOTHER GREAT

ME TOO.

SEE YA

DEA RIGHT NOW

SINGIN' THEIR HITS "WOOD

VIBRATIONS," "WOODN'T IT

BE NICE" AND

"BARBARA-ANCH":

THE BEECH BOYS!

#### CROSSWORD

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.

SUDOKU

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

### SOLUTIONS RABBITTRUANT A C E CROSSWORD

U		M		в				ĸ				
S	Т	Y	L	Е		D	Е	S	S	Е	R	X T
Е				R		Е				U		0
	В	Α	D	G	E		0	Ρ	Е	R	A	1
s		С				S		Е				L
Р	1	Q	U	А	N	Т		А	L	1	В	3 1
R		U		R		R	_	S		L		G
А	G	1	Ν	G		А	В	0	L	1	S	6 H
1		R		U		Υ		U		А		Т
		E	С	E	S		S	P	A	D	E	S
N		2		Т	7	4			5	6	Т	0
N		2	8	Т	7	1		1	5	6	T	0
N	1	2	8	Ţ	7	1		3	5	6		9
A C	4	2	8	I	7	1	10 10	3	5	6		9
N N	4	251	863		746	1 8 9	1 1 1 4	3	5 1 2	6 3 4		9 7 8
4	1	2 5 1 9	8 6 3		7 4 6	1 8 9	17 14 47 6	3 2 5 5	5 1 2 3	6 3 4 5		9 7 8 4
N 4 9 17 1	4 7 1 3	2 5 1 9 6	8 6 3 7 4		7 4 6 5	1 8 9 2 7	12 14 42 69 00	3	5 1 2 3 8	6 3 4 5		9 7 8 4 2
N N N N N	4 7 1 3	2 5 1 9 6 8	8 6 3 7 4		7 4 6 5	1 8 9 2 7 3	17 12 E S 4	3 2 3 3 4	5 1 2 3 8 9	6 3 4 5 1 7		9 7 8 4 2 6
N N N N N N	4 7 1 3 5	2 5 1 9 6 8 7	8 6 3 7 4 2 5		7 4 6 5 1	1 8 9 2 7 3 6	0 14 45 60 4 11	3 5 5 9	5 1 2 3 8 9	6 3 4 5 1 7 2		9 7 8 4 2
N N N N N N N	4 7 1 3 5 3 5	2 5 1 9 6 8 7 3	8 6 3 7 4 2 5		7 4 6 8 5 1 9	1 8 9 2 7 3 6 4	3 2 5 6 9 4 1 8	3 5 5 4	5 1 2 3 8 9 4 7	6 3 4 5 1 7 2 9		9 7 8 4 2 6

2 4 9 3 5 7 6 8 1

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

22

3 Equivalent

5 Bearing no

musicians

14 Visits without

Volvo starter?

an invitation

results

6 Certain

12 Jaguar or

17 Adhesive

20 March date

word 4 Broad satire

Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com

passage

18 Musical

19 Tenuous

21 Humble

22 Coveted

1 Bird

2 Injury

(4-9)

enclosure

designation

Down



Across

7 Recently

ridge

10 Resident

13 Seashore

15 Family

16

8 Energy type

9 Submerged

11 Body organs

member

Sudden

desire



SUDOKU



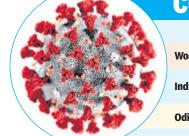


# downtown



#### **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
rld	66,88,17,175	64,00,49,705	67,14,408
ia	4,46,80,094	4,41,47,002	5,30,721
isha	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 textbooks by March 31 at all the schools in 314 blocks of the state.

of

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 OP PHOTO

## 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 dis-While trict, the weather of-

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

of bad quality produce.

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

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.

# **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 Satva 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



#### 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

Lawyers of Jagabandhu and Archana said that they have applied for the chargesheet copy and will lav their counter before the court during the next hearing scheduled to be held February 13

# 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 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 tal allegedly under the pretext paddy on the streets here as a mark of protest. They also alleged denial of

"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.

E-AUCTION

SALE NOTICE



PIN-768004, Odisha 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 general and inparticular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the h

1st Floor, Balaji Midtown,

Budharaja, Dist.: Sambalpur,

Meanwhile, the lawyers of both 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 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

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.

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 **Dt.25.01.2023** (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

SI. No.	BRANCH / NAME OF THE BRANCH MANAGER. Description of Properties to be Auctioned	Total Dues (in Rs.)	Reserve Price EMD / Bid Increment
	JHARSUGUDA-1 BRANCH (Sri Manoj Kumar Mahakud, Mob.: 9162710795) / Broower: M/s. Mahalaxmi Rice Mill, Prop.: Sri Chitanya Biswal, At/P.O.: Patrapalii, Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Orissa	₹ 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: Mayurbhanj,PIN-757073, 2) Mrs. Shaila Giri, W/o- Singh, Both are At/P.O.: Khuruntia, P.S.: Morada, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, PIN-757073	₹ 95,96,769.63 as on 07.01.2023 with further interest, cost &expenses	₹ 48,15,000/- / ₹4,81,500/- / ₹10,000/-
0.	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. Poulasthi Meher (Director), S/o- Mr. Chaturbhuj Meher, At/P.O.: Sonepur, Dist.: Subarnapur, PIN-767017, 3) Mr. Baneswar Meher (Director), S/o- Bharat Meher, At: Patavadi, P.O.: Sonepur, Dist.: Subarnapur, PIN-767017, 4. Mrs. Tanuja Meher, W/o- Mr. Ashish Meher, At: Badbazar, P.O.: Sonepur, Dist.: Subarnapur, PIN-767017	₹ 66,41,343.88 as on 07.01.2023 with further interest, cost &expenses	₹41, 69,360/- / ₹4,20,000/- / ₹10,000/-
	JHARSUGUDA-1 BRANCH (Sri Manoj Kumar Mahakud, Mob.: 9162710795)/1) All that piece and parcel of vacant LandBorrower: M/s. Tulshyan Stoneware Pvt. Ltd., Hariom Complex, Bengali Para, Opposite Manmohan ME School, Ward No.: 3, Jharsuguda T68201(Odisha)/Directors: 1) Mr. Sanwar Mal Tulshyan (Managing Director), S/o- Late Govind Ram Tulshyan, 2) Mrs. Manisha Tulshyan, Unit No.: 6, Nua Director), S/o- Late Govind Ram Tulshyan, 2) Mrs. Manisha Tulshyan, Unit No.: 6, Nua Unit No.: 6, Nua Jharsuguda, Dist.: Para, Ward No: 3, Opposite Manmohan ME School, Jharsuguda, Odisha - 768201 / Guarantors: 1) Suresh Kumar Tulshyan, S/o- Sanwar Mal Plot No.: 2474/5425, 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, A Hema Agrawal, W/o- Rajesh Agrawal, Singhal Tiles & Marbles, Main Road, Jharsuguda, Odisha - 7682011) All that piece and parcel of vacant Land Situated at Mouza: Jharsuguda, Town Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Otisha - 768201, 2) Rajesh Agrawal, S/o-Om Prakash Agrawal, Jhanda Chowk, Jharsuguda, Odisha - 768201, Area: Ac.0.107dec., favoring Smt. Hema Road, Jharsuguda, Odisha - 7682011) All that piece and parcel of vacant Land Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Odisha - 768201, 2) Rajesh Agrawal, Anarsuguda, Odisha - 768201, Area: Ac.0.107dec., favoring Smt. Hema Road, Jharsuguda, Odisha - 768201	₹ 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 JJ Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Over the Plot No.: 2474/5424, under Khata No.: 929/978 to 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 Mo Tehasil: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, over Plot No.: 698 & 699 under Khata No.: 200/540 to an 1.650dec., favoring Smt. Manisha Tulshyan and over Plot No.: 696 & 697 under Khata No.: 200 Area: Ac. 1.510 dec., favouring Sri Suresh Kumar Tulshyan	extent of Area: Ac.	₹ 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 bank	ing hours
	Details of encumbrances over the if any: NIL		
	For registration and login and bidding rules visit https://www.mstcecommerce.com/a www.unionbankofindia.co.in		
	ATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/ RULE 9(1) OF STATUTORY INTERES		
Th	is may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6)/ RULE 9(1) OF Security Interest (Enforcemen and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the ab	nt) Rules, 2002 to bove mentioned d	beborrower/s ate.

## 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 Birsa 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.



Hockey India president added.

clave, joint secretary, Sports

& Youth Services department,

Shailendra Jena, said, "We

look forward to this National

Hockey Conclave and wel-

coming the delegates. The

Speaking about the con-

"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 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.



# downtown

# **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

I expect the

management and other

areas of security issues

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

Commissionerate

Police to be more

areas of crime control, traffic

De-Addiction Programme during

vigilant and effective in the

#### 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

**OrissaPOST** 

TUESDAY | JANUARY 10 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

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.

#### 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 antinarcotics 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 ex-

perience 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 He also praised the twin-city pocountry. The CM later inaugulice's citizen centric initiatives like rated the Maitri Vihar police sta-"Basti Ku Chala", Dreams- The tion along with 28 other police stations across the state.



CM inaugurated Maitri Vihar police station in Bhubaneswar, Monday



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

#### **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 superintending 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

Dhenkanal, the official informed. properties have been acquired by Sahoo as benami properties. A case (1/23) has been registered at the Cuttack Vigilance Police sta-

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,

the PC Act, 1988. 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.

tion against Sahoo and his spouse

under sections 13(2), 13(1)(b)/12 of

# WCD creates awareness on gender-based violence 17 industry heads

#### 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-

CLASSIFIED

**AFFIDAVI** 

Notary Public,

purposes.

LOST

By an affidavit before

Bhubaneswar. I have

changed my name from

Shantanu Patel for all

Shantanu Kumar Patel to

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

Original ROR & Sale deed

land of Mouza-Bagad vide

No.198210200139. While I

was at Kesinga Market on

dt.29.12.2022 and couldn't

misuse the same I will not

be held responsible. If any

body found please contact

trace out the same. If

somebody found and

me, Mob-7008516395.

declare that I have lost

Khata No. 144/1030,

bearing Sale deed

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 Uiiwala 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 gen-

der discrimination and various



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 mem-

oriented on aspects of gender discrimination, gender based violence including sexual haassment 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 offi-

# 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 Mavfair here recently. At least 17 industry head were given away the award.

administrators, judges, economists and agriculture experts participated. Odisha CSR Forum Convener

policy makers, environmentalists,

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

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,

forms of gender based violence existing in society. The children

bers of internal committees. 2 members from each department were

cial giving a list of all the activities that the department undertook.

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.

#### 'Soil preservation essential to food security'

Bhubaneswar: The Orissa Environmental Society (OES) recently organised a seminar on the theme 'Soil: where food begins' where experts spoke about the exploding population of the world and how it demands enhanced production of food to ensure food security for all. As per estimation, 95 per

directly or indirectly on soil. These constitute the foundation on which the plants producing food grow and the agriculture is sustained. Soil has the capacity to store, transform and recycle nutrients that are the key components of our food. Soil Conservation and Watershed Development director Hemanta Kumar Panda joined the programme as the chief speaker. Defining soil as an aggregate of four basic components- mineral solids, water, air and organic matter, he explained the process of soil formation, composition, characteristics and nutrient cycling. Panda also explained the causes of soil quality decline, crop yield reduction, consequent economic crisis, poverty and rural-urban migration. "Thus, efficient soil management for restoring better health needs greater priority at the present juncture," he said.

cent of the food consumed is produced

Eating almonds boosts recovery molecule

ating 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 svnthesized 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-

ately after exercise in the blood of the control group than in the almond group. Unlike 12, 13-DiHOME, 9, 10diHOME has been shown have negative effects on overall health and

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 al-

mond group than in participants

12, 13-DiHOME is known to in-

crease the transport of fatty acid and

its uptake by skeletal muscle, with

the overall effect of stimulating

metabolic recovery after exercise.

for another oxylipin, the mildly

toxic 9, 10-Dihydroxy-12-octade-

cenoic acid (9, 10-diHOME), which

was 40 per cent higher immedi-

The reverse pattern was found

in the control group.

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.

#### FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488. Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515. Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.









# state

# Water crisis looms large in Kendrapara district

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



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.

**OrissaPOST** 

TUESDAY | JANUARY 10 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

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

#### '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 Mathakhai Mahotsav and All India Multi-Lingual Drama festival organised by Bhumika in this town, officials said Monday.

MANNAN MANU

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 Mahanangal to Gadaromit 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

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 councilor 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 farm-

ers 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.



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

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.

Goons loot ₹15 lakh from store manager

On being informed, Kamakhyanagar 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.

**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.

### 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 coaccused 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 Ramharinagar, September 27, 2007 when Sandip and Ajit attacked him. Sandip threatened to shoot Ramesh while brandishing a revolver.

# 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



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,

#### undergoing treatment.

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 dis-

trict. They attacked Jayant Kumar

Acharya with sharp weapons

before snatching the bag

containing the amount and

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

munity health centre and later

shifted to the Angul district head-

refused to part with the bag

despite being attacked by the ruffi-

Eyewitnesses said that Jayant

A critically injured Jayant was first admitted to the Parjang com-

Khirod Kumar Sahu.

quarters hospital.

fleeing the spot.

A pall of gloom descended in the college after news of Ipsita's death spread. The mishap sparked tension in the area as irate 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



#### Notice

 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 engal-Part-A2"

. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are:(1) Ajmer Vidy Vitran Nigam Ltd. (2) Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (3) Jodhpur Vidyut 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 radesh Power Corporation Ltd. (9) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (10) BSES Raidhani Power Pradesh Power Corporation Lub. (9) BSES rainbina Power Lub. (10) BSES raijonani Power Lub.(11) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Lub. (12) Chandigarh Administration. (13)Uttarancha Power Corporation Lub.(14) North Central Railway(15) New Delhi Municipal council (16) Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Lub. (17) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited. (18) Grid Corporation of Orissa Lub. (19) Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd. (20) Damodar Valley Corporation (21) Power Department, Govt. Of Sikkim, Gangtok.

3. Tariff details: a) 2014-19 block

True-up Transmission Tariff for 2014-19

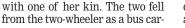


Hota was handed the award by Bolangir MP Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo at a function presided over by Byasadev Nanda. Also present on the occasion were Bolangir MLA Narasingha Mishra and Professor Madhusudan Pati.

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.



doctors pronounced Ipsita dead on arrival. Her relative is currently

AWARENESS DRIVE: An awareness vehicle on millet consumption was flagged off by block chairman Premananda

Sahu, BDO Bikash Kumar Mohanty and others at Kamakhyanagar in Dhenkanal district, Monday

students staged a road block on the highway. They demanded ₹50 lakh

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 welldecorated 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.

Asset n	o 201	14-15	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	750.5
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	0	-		-	978.48	1031.56
Asset-8(E	3)	-	•	-	405.79	413.7
b) 2019-24	Block					
Asset no	DOCO		Tari	ff for 2019-	24 block	
Asset no	DOCO	2019-2	0 2020-	21 2021-22	2 2022-23	2023-24

Date: 05.01	POWER G					
Place: Gur				Sr Genera	al Manager (	B. B. Rath Commercial)
applicant at 5. The sug contained in Secretary, ( Janpath, Ne situated), wi publication of	f the application www.powergrid ggestions and on the application Central Electrici aw Delhi - 110 th a copy to the of this notice.	l.in. objections, if n be filed by ty Regulatory 001 (or othe	any, on the any person Commission r address w	proposals f , including to h, 3 & 4th fl here the offi	for determina he beneficiar oor, Chandra ice of the Co	ation of tariff y before the lok Building, ommission is in 30 days of Sd/-
	(Effective)	42039.80	41193.59	40277.81	39253.19	38220.20
Combined Asset	10.03.2016	2010-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1	100000000000	and the second s	1	1

tegistered 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 SI. 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'.
- 2. The work SI. 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

# 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 rare groups of winged species at Odisha capital Bhubaneswar. the wetland spots of the national "The enumerators have sighted 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.



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 halfbuilt 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.



# power post

#### FOCUS NATION

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



# **Myanmar Poll Eyewash**

t a time when autocratic regimes and Far-Right outfits across the globe have been making a mockery of the democratic process, Myanmar's Luling 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 bandied 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 LEO TOLSTOY and Nature shall not be broken.
- atest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way

# **THE CENSUS DELAY**

ndia 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 date on distribution of age, literacy,

fertility and migration. 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 oncein-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



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

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 implication 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. ©THE BILLION PRESS

#### SPECTRUM MIDDLE EAST

Ajit Ranade

CREDIBLE.

**HENCE ITS** 

**COLLECTION** 

**REOUIRES A** 

**GREAT DEAL** 

**AND ALSO** 

AND

**OF INTEGRITY.** 

REGULARITY

PREDICTABILITY

**AUTHENTIC** 

**DATA IS LIKE A** 

**PUBLIC GOOD.** 

# Bashar Al-Assad, a pariah no more

ussia, Turkey and the UAE nated People's Protection Units 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.

(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 rec-

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 cussions focused on Syrian civil who initially supported a rebellion war and collaboration against "all against him are ready to welcome

Abbas held talks at a summit in Moscow, hosted by Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu. The disterrorist groups" in the country.

#### WORDS**WORTH**

#### Ethnic

Aheadline in the Times of London read: "Leicester to be first city with Aethnic 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.



policeman spots a woman Adriving 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!"



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** 

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

101

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

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. 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-

onciliatory 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 chal lenge 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-

Damascus back into Arab fold. Syria's uprising quickly morphed into an international conflict draw ing 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 Svria. 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

Turkey said, in a thinly veiled reference to Kurdish militia in Svria.

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

#### 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



# 

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



uote

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 Guiarat Monday night following a bomb threat, police said. All

# High drama in TN Assembly

Congress Legislative Party leader K. Selvaperunthagai 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 PTI PHOTO

the resolution moved by Stalin.

Earlier, Ravi began his address

As soon as he began his address

in Tamil, greeting members on

the New Year and the harvest fes-

tival 'Pongal,' legislators raised

slogans including 'Tamil Nadu

Vazhgave' (Long live Tamil Nadu)

and 'Engal Nadu Tamil Nadu' (Our

land is Tamil Nadu). The slogans

Vivekananda, much to the indig-

nance of the treasury benches.

skipping certain portions from his

customary speech. He omitted the

names of Dravidian stalwarts in-

cluding the late EV Ramasamy

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

But an unruffled Ravi contin-

ued his speech, sticking to major

portions of the text on the ini-

tiatives of the State government,

especially the "Illam Thedi Kalvi"

and "Makkalai thedi maruthu-

vam," in the Education and

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 empow-

erment, secularism and compassion

'Dravidian model' were among the

'Periyar' and CN Annadurai.

Ravi made a reference to Swami

amid slogan shouting against him

by MLAs belonging to allies of the

ruling DMK.

later ceased.

against him.

Health sectors.

towards all.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Jan 9: Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi Monday staged an unprecedented walkout from the state Assembly following a faceoff 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

# **PLACES OF** WORSHIP ACT SC gives more time to Centre for its response

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, ap pearing 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 Janmabhoomi



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

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

> 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 pend-

> ing, 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,



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 23year-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 Hazaribagh, 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 Worl area of central Mumba 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.

was "indecent" on the part of the CM to have "spoken" when the Governor was seated, alluding to

words skipped by the Governor and he also spoke on his own on certain aspects.

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

#### SC junks PIL challenging Pregnant woman suffers burn injuries; FIR filed committees for UCC

#### 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 inlaws. "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 inlaws, the matter was brought to the notice of Narela's sub-divisional magistrate and her statement was recorded before the magistrate.

#### 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), saving 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 manufacturers would have to follow these specifications

television receivers with built-in

satellite tuners.

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

by BIS is for Type C receptacles, plug and cables or simply put, common chargers. This specification provides requirements for USB Type-C port, plug and cables for use in 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  $\rightarrow$ 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 alsospecifies 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.

and move out.

come the pull of home.

she spent her entire savings on

now she is being asked to leave it

long rather than going anywhere

else. Where will I get the comfort

"I would prefer dying where I be-

and shift to a relief camp.

vate news channel.

their home. Even those who have shifted to The house of Rishi Devi, a restemporary shelters keep returnident of Singdhar, is caving in grading to their abandoned houses in ually and she has had to shift along the danger zone, unable to overwith her family to a safe location but she returns to her home every Parmeshwari Devi, an elderly resday despite her kin stopping her ident of Marwari ward which is one

from doing so. of the worst-hit in the town, said Devi now sits in the courtyard and keeps staring at its walls ridhaving a house of her own and dled 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

of my own home," Devi told a prinow and then, scaring us. So we Suraj Kaparwan, a resident of began to sleep on the verandah. Manoharbhagh in Joshimath, has But even the verandah developed a similar story. The family is still cracks last night. Now we are movtrying to make up its mind to leave ing 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 sub mitted 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 oustees 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 Chandi 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 de-One study after another

would not help until the tailed zonation mapping of the governments begin to act on Himalayas in Uttarakhand and Himachal

Pradesh, warning CHANDI PRASAD BHATT 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, Rudraprayag, 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 landslideprone 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

'Himalavan 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

being ignored in the name of con-

"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.

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

### **RAJASTHAN MODEL STATE FOR ENTIRE COUNTRY: GEHLOT**

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Jan 9: Chief Minister

He said every section of the society is benefiting from the public welfare schemes of the state gov-

ister said. Gehlot said the central government should give the right of social

the government employees about their future, Gehlot said. He said through the Chief

what they were

recommended

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

ducting studies."



#### 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 entire park has been designed on the theme of the artwork which was used in the first original copy of the Indian Constitution.

The park also shows the first original copy of the Constitution, the Constituent Assembly and its 15 women members through stone art.

Along with the ancient Nalanda University, Akbar's court and Jhansi's Rani Lakshmibai and Tipu Sultan who fought the British also feature in the park.

The stone artwork of Akbar's court has been installed along with the constitutional provisions of the central and state services. Provisions for government jobs are shown alongside artwork from Akbar's court.

Along with this, historical fact has been cited as the reason for showing Akbar's court. It is considered to be the beginning of giving permanent jobs in the government. At that time royal jobs started on the lines of today's All

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 Lakshmibai also feature in the park

#### India Service.

A large section of historians consider Akbar to be an efficient administrator and a reform-minded ruler, due to which Akbar's court has been given a place, said officials. The entire process of making the Constitution along with major

articles, fundamental rights and key provisions of the constitution is shown in the park. The main provisions of the

Constitution, Indian culture and the characteristics of different parts of the country have been shown through art work

Fundamental Rights have been shown in an interesting way by 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 in-

augurated by President Droupadi Murmu recently. Speaking on the occasion, she ap-

preciated 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.

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. ernment.

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 Rasois 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 min-

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

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-ani-



mal 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.













# national



Farmers are being cornered from every side. He is being directly hit by fuel prices, he is not getting insurance claims for vagaries of weather. He is being directly hit by urea prices. The backbone of the country, which is feeding people, is being targeted RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

#### WELCOME MOVE

Inmates of 16 central jails of Delhi will get some respite from the biting cold as they will be given hot water for their bathing and sanitary needs, official sources said





The Rajasthan government is making all efforts to provide adequate electricity for agricultural activities in the state, and officials have been asked to ensure that power supply to farmers is not affected ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CM

The Left ideology followers have been trying to divide the state along linguistic lines for decades. People must defeat such attempts by embracing their religious similarities HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

If you have strength, if you are united, you will have value. If you are not united, the divide and rule principle which the British used and now Modi is using. will be applied on you by everyone else in the society. Keep this in mind MALLIKARJUN KHARGE CONGRESS PRESIDENT

#### SHORT TAKES

#### More than 100 shanties gutted

Gurugram: More than 100 shanties were destroyed Monday after a massive fire broke out in Ghasola village in Gurugram's Sector-49. Fire personnel evacuated residents from the huts and it took them about three hours to control the fire. No casualties or injuries have been reported. According to the fire officials, a call of the incident was received at around 11.55 a.m. at the Sector-29 fire station. Rajesh Kumar, a fire official, said that over 20 fire tenders were pressed into service.

#### Woman kills husband in UP

Bareilly: A young woman allegedly killed her husband for the sake of her lover, whom she befriended through Facebook, here. The victim Rohit Kumar, 27, a resident of Kandharpur village, was found dead at a field in Cantonment area. Police have arrested Aarti, her Facebook friend Anuj Patel and his friend Vivek Kumar and booked them under sections 201 (causing disappearance of evidence). 302 (murder) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of IPC. SP (city) Rahul Bhati said that the accused have been sent to jail.



BJP activists try to cross the police barricade during a protest regarding clashes during MCD Mayor's election, near the residence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

# Don't air disturbing footage, Centre warns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: The government Monday termed the television news coverage of cricketer Rishabh Pant's road accident and some other crime stories "distasteful" and "heart wrenching' and asked them to strictly follow the programme code laid down under the relevant law.

In an advisory to all private satellite channels, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting cited the coverage of the cricketer's car crash, airing of distressing images of dead bodies and thrashing of a five-year-old boy and said such reporting offended "good taste and decency'

...Television channels have shown dead bodies of individuals and images/videos of injured persons with blood splattered around, people including women, children, and elderly being beaten mercilessly in close shots, continuous cries and shrieks of a child being beaten by a teacher, shown repeatedly over several minutes in-



cluding circling the actions thereby making it even more ghastly, without taking the precaution of blurring the images or showing them from long shots," read the advisory issued on Monday.

It also said the broadcasters had taken video clips and images from social media and "little effort has been made to modulate or attune or edit such clips so as to make it compliant and consistent with the spirit of the Programme Code."

The ministry has "strongly advised" television channels to attune their systems and practices of reporting incidents of crime, accidents, and violence, including death, in conformity with the Programme Code laid under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act.

# Siddaramaiah vents anger over book on him

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Jan 9: A sessions court Monday gave an injunction against the release of a titled 'Siddu book Nijakanasugalu' (Real dreams of Siddu) on senior Congress leader and former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah. hours before its launch.

The court granted the ad-interim injunction restraining state Higher Education Minister C N Ashwath Narayan and others from publishing, releasing, packaging, selling and displaying the book till the next date of hearing. Following the court order, the book launch event was cancelled. The court's directive came on

a petition filed by Siddaramaiah's son and Varuna MLA Yathindra

Siddaramaiah. Earlier on Monday, Siddaramaiah said the book about him is being released with an intention to humiliate him ahead of Assembly polls in Karnataka and termed it "totally defamatory".

The Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly had said he is contemplating legal action against it."I don't know, everything is yellow for those with a jaundice eye. Who wore the dress like Tipu (18th century ruler of erstwhile Mysuru Kingdom Tipu Sultan) and held a sword in their hand, it was (former CM) Yediyurappa and (BJP MP) Shobha Karandlaje. Who wrote a foreword for Sheikh Ali's book on Tipu, isn't it duality?" Siddaramaiah

had asked, alleging BJP's role behind the book. "Purposely to humiliate me ahead



of the election, they are bringing out a book. It is totally defamatory. I will see what is to be done legally,' he added. The posters about the book launch event slated on Monday

afternoon show copies of books which have a picture of Siddaramaiah wearing an attire resembling Tipu Sultan and holding a sword, on its cover.

According to the poster, the book release event was to be presided over by Ashwath Narayan with him releasing it. The book is written by an author who goes by the initials 'VKP'. It is believed to be a three-volume series on the

Chalavadi Narayanaswamy was to be the chief guest at the event, also to be attended by writer Rohith Chakrathirtha, who had headed the state textbooks review committee; journalist Santosh Thammaiah: Vrushanka Bhat. Editor of Vikrama Samvada: and Rakesh Shetty, a writer and social

worker, according to the poster.

Tweeting about the event and Ashwath Narayan had said: "I appreciate the effort to find answers to many questions along with revealing many sensitive issues Nijakanasugalu'. I am going to participate in the public launch of this book.'

Meanwhile, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee's legal cell approached the police with a petition to cancel permission to the event if given, and not to allow organisers to go ahead with the launch citing the "law and order situation".

The picture of Siddaramaiah has been distorted with a conspiracy to disturb harmony and law and order, the petition alleged.

#### 7 die in separate road accidents

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Unnao/Kannauj (UP), Jan 9: Seven people, including three Nepalese citizens, died in separate incidents after their vehicles met with an accident on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway amid dense fog, police said Monday.

In the first incident, a Nepalbound bus rammed into a truck on the expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao on Monday, leaving the driver and three Nepalese citizens dead, officials said. Six other passengers, four of them also from Nepal, got injured in the incident and have been hospitalised, they said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Shashi Shekhar Singh said the bus carrying 60 passengers was going from Rajkot in Gujarat to Nepal.

The accident occurred in the Auras area of Unnao. He added three male passengers of the bus died on the spot, while one woman succumbed to her injuries on the way to the hospital.

#### Hasangani Sub-Divisional

## Religious conversion Rahul's security to be tightened a serious issue: SC

AGENCIES

Congress leader. BJP MLC

asking people to take part in it, through the book 'Siddu

#### Man arrested

Rajkot (Gujarat): Rajkot police have arrested a man for allegedly killing his two-andhalf-year-old stepdaughter. The man has been identified as Amit Gaud and was arrested from Gandhinagar on Sunday night. Deputy Commissioner of Police Sajjansinh Parmar told local media that on January 6, police had found the dead body of the child, identified as Ananya, in the backyard of a roadside Dhaba (highway restaurant) on Gondal Road. Her mother, Rukmaniben told the police that her husband had taken the child for a ride, but on returning he was alone. On repeated guestioning he told Rukmaniben that she had met with an accident and was taken to a hospital.

#### Two injured

Greater Noida: A canter truck filled with tomatoes toppled off a flyover on the Yamuna Expressway on Monday amidst severe fog, injuring two people. According to the police, the truck fell off the flyover at Zero Point near Safipur service road at around 5 a.m. on the route from Agra to Parichowk. The driver and cleaner were injured and have been admitted to Government Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Supreme Court Monday sought

the assistance of Attorney

General R Venkataramani on a

plea seeking direction to the

Centre and states to take stringent

steps to control fraudulent reli-

A bench of Justices M R Shah

and C T Ravikumar asked

Venkataramani to appear in the

matter in which the petitioner

sought a check on religious con-

versions through "intimidation,

threatening, deceivingly luring

gious conversions.

it feels religious conversions are actually happening. It said there New Delhi, Jan 9: Observing is a difference between the right that religious conversion is a seto freedom of religion and right rious issue which should not be to convert. given a political colour, the

"We want your assistance also, AG. Religious conversions by force, allurement etc. There are ways and ways, anything by allurement, if that is happening, then what should be done? What are the corrective measures that can be taken?" the bench said.

Senior advocate P Wilson, appearing for Tamil Nadu, called the petition a "politically motivated" PIL, insisting there was no question of such conversions in the state. He said the matter should be left for the legislature to decide and alleged the petitioner has po-

through gifts and monetary benefits", and assist as amicus curiae. litical affiliation and that he had The top court said "prime facie" sedition charges against him.

New Delhi, Jan 9: Security agencies have made elaborate preparations to tighten Rahul Gandhi's security during Bharat Jodo Yatra, which will enter Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, this month.

According to sources, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has reviewed the

security arrangements since both the areas are sensitive. The security

agencies are engaged in the process of deploying forces and are coordinating with the local police.

According to information, the Central agen-

cies have sought information of the yatra's route from the local po-

According to sources, Rahul Gandhi is a Z plus protectee, which is why the security

arrangements are being made on the same level

the recent incidents in Punjab and J&K. They have conducted

recce in all the locations of the route as well.

According to sources, Rahul lice. The security agencies have Gandhi is a Z plus protectee, been alerted about which is why the security arrangements are being made on the same level. His security has been reviewed based on the threat perception report by Intelligence Bureau (IB).

Magistrate Ankit Shukla said the deceased have been identified as Chandra Saud (50), Lalit Saud (35), and Nirmala (25), all residents of Kailali district of Nepal. The fourth deceased is Sajid, the bus driver.

In the other incident, three passengers were killed, while 18 others were injured as a Sultanpur-bound bus fell off the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Piprauli village. The bus carrying 30 passengers was coming from Anand Vihar in Delhi, SHO of Thatia police station, Kamal Bhati, said.

Four of the passengers were seriously injured in the accident that took place on Sunday night. The deceased have been identified as Anita Baipai (50), Sanjana (25) and Devansh (11), Bhati said, and added that the three deceased were residents of Rae Bareli district.

# IN THE CONTRADICTION HANGS A TALE

ontradictions confound .Is Gujarat peaceful or disurbed? Peaceful says the BJP which swept Gujarat with its highest ever tally for a seventh term in the just concluded elections claiming that it had established permanent peace statewide in its quarter century old rule. The assertion came from the Union Home Minister. Contradiction: published studies establish that the area under the Disturbed Areas Act (DAA) grew by over 50 per cent in the six years from 2013 to 2019 in Ahmedabad alone. So is the state peaceful or is it disturbed? In the contradiction

throwaway prices to move to areas which afforded the security of their own communities. The Act was meant to prevent this segre gation through distress sale.

First introduced through an Ordinance by the Congress-led government in 1986, it was converted into a law in 1991 by the then Chimanbhai Patel led government. This law was substantially amended by the BJP government in July 2019 and received Presidential assent in 2020. The Gujarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provisions of Tenants From Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Act, is popu-The Disturbed Areas Act was larly known as the Disturbed

first enacted a year after the 1985 Areas Act (DAA). communal riots in Ahmedabad The law amended by the BJP government enhances punishment after it was observed that people who were in numerical minority for violation of this law. It proin a particular area were being cohibits sale and tenancy of imerced to sell their properties at movable property to persons of another religion in the area notified as disturbed. The amendment enhanced punishment from earlier six months to three to five years or fine of Rs one lakh or ten per cent of the stamp duty in place



of the earlier fine of Rs 10,000. More importantly, it made the district collector's nod for any transaction in such areas mandatory and armed the government with powers to review his decision. Earlier the buyer and sellers consent was enough. The Congress plea for abolishing the law since it would further deepen the communal divide and push them towards greater segregation was lost in the din.

The issue came to the fore afresh on January 6 when the Gujarat High Court issued notice to the state government over two petitions challenging the imposition of the DAA in new areas of Ahmedabad and Anand districts. In October 2022, the state government imposed restrictions on property transactions in Dhandhuka town of Ahmedabad district and Petlad and Borsad towns of Anand district. There are at least half a dozen

cases pertaining to the Act up for judicial redressal. In August last year the DAA was challenged in the Gujarat High Court on the ground that the law does not leave scope for residents to register any objections against any area being demarcated as communally disturbed. The Act is also in violation of the principles of natural justice

since provisions in this law provide that the authorities are not obliged to invite objections from the public before declaring it as such, petitioner Ali Hussain Vohra of Vadodara has contended.

According to a 2019 published report, the Act is enforced across 770 locations spread over Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat ,Himmatnagar, Godhra, Kapadvanj, besides numerous other areas. most of them Muslim dominated. As a Muslim leader pointed out, in Gujarat a foreigner can come and buy properties in neighbourhoods where Muslims cannot.

However in an important verdict related to the DAA in December 2022, the Gujarat High Court has ruled that the free consent of the seller and purchaser as well as ample market price given to the seller are the two important ingredients while deciding an application made to the authority concerned for permission to sell a property.

The Court was hearing an application filed by Surat residents objecting to the transfer of a 5,000 sq.metres land plot in their area to a firm where majority stake was with members of the Muslim community who have got permission through an application filed by a Hindu partner having 10 per cent stake in the firm. The Surat Collector had revoked the permission after protests from a Hindu organization and local residents. The partner filed an appeal before the government authority which granted permission. The local residents then approached the High Court against it but their plea was dismissed. The plea was that granting permission through a partnership firm owned by a Muslim family can cause 'polarisation' in the area where a majority of residents are from Hindu and Jain communities



hangs a tale.





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



Int'l community to

give Pak \$8.57bn

for flood damage

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

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

had sought \$8 billion assistance

over the next three years in his re-

marks 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

flects the recovery and recon-

struction, bearing in mind that

the minimum funding of \$16.3 bil-

lion is required, half of which

will be met with domestic re-

sources, half from foreign re-sources," Sharif said.

billion were needed to come out

of the deadly impact of the floods

which was the worst in the last

Aurangzeb said the first plenary of

the conference had culminated in

a "generous outpouring" from the

\$93 million, Germany \$88m, China

\$100m, Islamic Development Bank

\$4.2 billion, World Bank \$2bn, Japan

\$77m, Asian Development Bank

\$1.5bn, USAID \$100m, France

She added that a total of \$8.75 bil-

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 re-

The purpose of the day-long con-

ference - attended by heads of

state and government and other

stakeholders — is to raise funds for

the rehabilitation and recon-

struction of flood-hit Pakistan in

Earlier, Special Assistant to the

Prime Minister on Public Policy and

Strategic Communication Fahd

Husain quoted the UN chief as

a climate-resilient manner.

construction.

\$345m," she said on Twitter.

lion had been pledged so far.

"The European Union pledged

international community.

Information Minister Marriyum

Pakistan estimated that about \$30

'The first part of the plan re-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

million people.

Antonio Guterres.

three decades.

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 said 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

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 farright National Security Minister

# **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



#### REUTERS

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

REACTS

RLD



demonstrators arrested

Police retook the damaged public buildings

among Lula's allies about how se-

curity forces in the capital were

so unprepared and easily over-

supporters, promises justice ula took office in January after narrow October win

> after the end of his rule marked by divisive nationalist populism. The assault raised questions

#### **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.



2022

Bolsonaro supporters begin gather-

ing for the first time outside military

bases across Brazil, calling for a mil

itary intervention to prevent Lula

Oct 30 and 31 - Truckers who sup-

out the country after his defeat.

an armed force intervention.

Nov 2 - Bolsonaro supporters hold

Nov 22 - Bolsonaro challenges the

arguing votes from some machines

should be "invalidated" in a com-

Dec 12 - Lula's election victory is

certified by the federal electoral

arrest of a pro-Bolsonaro indigenous

leader for alleged anti-democratic

invade the federal police headquar

acts. Bolsonaro supporters try to

ters in Brasilia, the capital,

Dec 24 - A man is arrested for

court. Later that day, after the

plaint that election authorities

rebuffed.

results of the Brazilian election.

rallies across the country, asking for

port Bolsonaro block roads through-

Bolsonaro in a run-off vote

from returning to office.

whelmed by rioters who had discussed plans on social media for days about gathering for weekend demonstrations.

lic buildings in the futuristic capital after three hours and dispersed the crowd with tear gas.

Justice Minister Flavio Dino said 200 demonstrators had been arrested. Governor Rocha, writing on Twitter before the court announced its move, put the number at 400

Dino said investigations would aim to uncover who financed the several hundred buses that brought Bolsonaro's supporters to Brasilia and also probe Rocha for not prepar-

The invasion recalled the assault on the US Capitol two years ago by backers of former President Donald American heads of state and others. Bolsonaro faces legal risks from sevthe United States, where he traveled on a visa issued only to sitting presidents, is in question.

#### **BOLSONARO DENIES ANY ROLE**

**B**razil'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."

Oct 30 - Lula, who was president from 2003 to 2011, narrowly beats

Police retook the damaged pub-

ing security.

Trump, drawing condemnation from Biden, European leaders, Latin eral investigations before the Supreme Court in Brazil and his future in

> 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.

less than two days before Lula is set to take office.

lion had been raised at the Geneva Dec 30 - Bolsonaro lands in Florida conference

saying that approximately \$7.2 bil-

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.

We condemn the attacks on Brazil's **Presidency, Congress, and Supreme** Court today. Using violence to attack democratic institutions is always unacceptable. We join @lulaoficial in urging an immediate end to these actions

ANTONY 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



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

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.

#### 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 heath experts had agreed to withdraw the new rule.

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" In the first of a series of TV in-

terviews broadcast Sunday ahead

of the launch of his memoir, Harry

accused members of his family of

getting into bed with the devil -

the tabloid press - to sully him and

his wife Meghan to improve their

He told Britain's ITV he had fled

Britain with his family for California

in 2020 "fearing for our lives" and

said he no longer recognised his fa-

ther or his elder brother Prince

William, the heir to the throne.

own reputations.



"After many, many years of lies being told about me and my family, there comes a point where, going back to the relationship between certain members of the family and the tabloid press, those certain members have decided to get in the bed with the devil ... to rehabilitate their image," he said.

"The moment that that rehabilitation comes at the detriment of others, me, other members of my family, then that's where I draw the line.'

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.

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.

#### CAMILLA THE VILLAIN

Prince Harry made bombshell revelations about his stepmother, Camilla, Queen Consort.

In the interview, the Duke of Sussex called Camilla "the villain" and also revealed that he and his brother William had begged his father King Charles to not marry 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.

### 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 any one of Jewish descent.











# business



**India offers huge** opportunities due to its large domestic consumption demand, democracy, rule of law and transparent economy PIYUSH GOYAL COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

#### **RECORD LAYOFFS BY GOLDMAN**

Goldman Sachs is expected to start one of the biggest rounds of redundancies in its history this week, with as many as 3,200 jobs to go as it looks to cut costs, the media reported



### uote Switzerland is

keen to accelerate bilateral ties with India by tapping more trade and investment

opportunities, and both countries are also working to create an innovation platform

RALF HECKNER SWISS AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

From investing in Renewable Energy, Green Hydrogen production to introducing EVs at our manufacturing plants, we are continuously building an ecosystem that supports our environmental, social, and governance goals

ABHYUDAY JINDAL MD, JSI

The involvement of new strategic investors like Google and JSR Corporation, and the support of our existing investors, demonstrates confidence in our mission and impact KRISHNA KUMAR

CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, CROPIN

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Swiss central bank posts record loss

New Delhi: Switzerland's government will not receive a payout from the Swiss National Bank for 2022, as the central bank projects the biggest loss in its 116-year history, the media reported. The SNB expects an annual loss of about 132 billion francs (\$143 billion), more than five times the previous record, it said Monday in preliminary results. The largest part of this, 131 billion francs, stems from collapsed valuations of its large pile of holdings in foreign currencies, accrued as a result of decade-long purchases to weaken the franc, Bloomberg reported.

#### Paytm says loan disbursal jumps

New Delhi: Paytm, India's digital payments and financial

# Nominal GDP drop to challenge fiscal math

A lower tax revenue will limit the govt's ability to spend and support the economy as the country heads to national elections in 2024. It will also strain efforts to bring down the fiscal deficit towards the medium-term target of 4.5% of GDP by 2025/26

REUTERS

Mumbai, Jan 9: India's nominal GDP growth is likely to fall in 2023-24, hurting tax collections and putting pressure on the federal government to reduce the budget gap by cutting expenses ahead of national elections in 2024.

Nominal GDP growth, which includes inflation, is the benchmark used to estimate tax collections in the upcoming budget to be presented February 1. It is estimated to be around 15.4% for the current financial year.

At least four leading economists expect nominal GDP growth to come in between 8% and 11% as inflation slows and real GDP growth eases from an estimated 7% this year, when pandemic-related distortions and pent-up demand pushed up growth rates.

"Higher nominal GDP growth has not only helped in lowering public debt and fiscal ratios, but has also resulted in pushing up credit growth to 16%-17% year-on-year in FY23," Deutsche Bank's chief India economist Kaushik Das wrote in a note Monday

Das said he expects nominal GDP growth of 8%-9% in FY24, with inflation and real GDP growth seen declining. A growth of 8-9% would bring that number close to the 7.6% nominal growth seen in

2019/20, before the Covid crisis hit. As of November 2022, the federal government's net tax collection stood at ₹12.24 trillion rupees (\$148.61 billion), 63% of the annual target.

State Bank of India and rating agency ICRA estimate the nominal GDP growth at around 10% for next financial year. This, according to ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar, could translate into a growth of 94% in tax collections

Bank of Baroda's chief economist, Madan Sabnavis, pegs nominal growth slightly higher at 11%-12% but still materially lower than



We are slightly cautious

year because we expect

on tax collections next

lower growth in collections

ADITI NAYAR | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

of excise and customs duties

cal deficit as a percentage of GDP

at 6.4%, with downside risks," it said.

Equities, however, said the higher-

than-budgeted nominal GDP growth

could have allowed for fiscal deficit

to reduce to 6.1% of GDP, but higher

spending will likely mean that the

should remain limited to 30-40 bps

from the current fiscal," said

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, chief econ-

Other economists see scope for

a quicker reduction of the fiscal

deficit next year. ICRA's Navar pegs

it at 5.8%, while Bank of Baroda's

Sabnavis sees it at 5.75-6% of GDP.

rate is expected to be lower vs FY23,

higher tax buoyancy, lower sub-

sidy bill and targeted expenditure

approach should pave way for lower

fiscal deficit," said BofA Global

Research, which also sees next

**HEAVY DEMAND** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

per cent to end at 18,101.20.

"Nifty broke a three-day losing

streak aided by positive global cues.

IT stocks did well following gains

on the Nasdaq and ahead of TCS

quarterly numbers in the evening,"

said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail

& Mahindra, HCL Technologies,

IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy

Services, Bharti Airtel, Tech

Mahindra, Wipro, Infosys, Reliance

Industries and Axis Bank were the

major winners. Titan, Bajaj Finserv

and Maruti were the only laggards.

From the Sensex pack, Mahindra

Research, HDFC Securities.

year's deficit at 5.8% of GDP.

"While nominal GDP growth

omist at State Bank of India.

"For FY24, fiscal consolidation

deficit stays at close to 6.4%.

Economists at Kotak Institutional

NOMINAL GDP GROWTH IS ESTIMATED TO BE **AROUND 15.4%** GOVT HAD PROJECTED NOMINAL GDP GROWTH OF 11.1% IN THE BUDGET

OF ANNUAL TARGET

"The tax buoyancy seen last year due to inflation and pent-up demand will be missing this year," Sabnavis said.

The Indian government had projected nominal GDP growth of 11.1% in the budget for 2022/23, significantly lower than the 15.4% now estimated by the statistical office in its first advance estimates released Friday.

This, according to BofA Global Research, could mean that the federal government's net tax collections surpass budget estimates by ₹1.15 trillion. Non-tax revenues, including proceeds from disinvestment, will be lower though and spending will be higher by ₹1.35 trillion.

"Higher-than-budgeted nominal GDP growth, (will help) to keep fis-

#### **TCS net profit grows** 11%; revenue jumps more than 19% in Q3 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 9: The country's largest IT services exporter TCS Monday reported an 11 per cent iump in the December quarter net profit to ₹10,846 crore, led by overall growth and forex gains.

The Tata group company had reported a post-tax net profit of ₹9.769 crore in the year-ago period.

Overall revenue grew 19.1 per cent to ₹58,229 crore for the reporting quarter from ₹48,885 crore in the year-ago period, the company said, adding in constant currency, the topline growth is 13.5 per cent, and in the dollar terms, it clipped at 8 per cent.

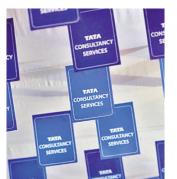
The company's board also declared a dividend payout of Rs 75 per share, including a special dividend of Rs 67 per share, which will result in an outflow of Rs 33,000 crore in cash

The operating profit margin narrowed by 0.50 per cent to 24.5 per cent for the reporting quarter.

TCS chief executive and managing director Rajesh Gopinathan attributed the strong set of numbers in a seasonally weak quarter to the stellar performance of their cloud services and the continued business momentum in North America and England.

The company's overall workforce declined by 2,197 to 6,13,974, the largest employer in the sector said, adding its attrition has dropped to 21.3 per cent from 21.5 per cent -- after six quarters of uptick -- and the quarterly annualised attrition has fallen nearly 6 per cent.

The TCS scrip rallied 3.35 per cent to ₹3,319.70 on the BSE against the 1.41 per cent rally on the benchmark.



# **Banks** raise record ₹91,500cr in debt capital in FY23



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 9: Amid tight liquidity condition, banks have issued a record quantum of bonds, with gross issuances hitting an all-time high of ₹91,500 crore so far this fiscal, and are likely to close the financial year with around ₹1.4 lakh crore.

Gross bond issuances by banks is estimated to reach ₹1.3-1.4 lakh crore this fiscal as debt sales have already hit record high of ₹0.915 lakh crore, surpassing the previous high of ₹0.8 lakh crore in FY17,

Icra Ratings said in a note Monday. The agency said this alternate resource of fund raising by banks is on the back of widening creditdeposit gap. With credit demand continuing to outdo deposits throughout this fiscal, the overall gap between deposits and credit growth widened substantially. Incremental credit expansion stood at ₹12.7 lakh crore, while deposit accretion continued to trail at ₹8.9 lakh crore, till December 16, 2022

To bridge this gap, banks have been relying on various sources of funding such as refinance from financial institutions, drawdown of excess on-balance sheet liquidity and debt capital market issuances. As a result, gross bond issuances by banks surged to ₹0.9 lakh crore in the first nine months of FY23, up from ₹0.7 lakh crore in FY22, and

Bonds issuances hit all-time high of ₹91,500 crore so far this fiscal

Issuances likely to close the financial year with around ₹1.4 trillion

surpassing the previous high of ₹0.8 lakh crore in FY17, Aashay Choksey, a vice-president & sector head, financial sector ratings at Icra, said

He expects the system-wide credit-to-deposit ratio to firm up to 76.3-76.5 per cent by March from 74.8 per cent as of December 16, 2022, and stand considerably higher than the low of 69.6 per cent seen during the pandemic. Accordingly, the overall gross bond issuances by banks may rise to ₹1.3-1.4 trillion in FY23.

Tier I & II bonds qualify for inclusion in capital ratios besides shoring up growth capital for lenders and boost their liquidity coverage ratios and the net stable funding ratios. Banks also issue longterm infrastructure bonds to fund

certain specified eligible assets. Both public and private banks issued infrastructure bonds, public banks had a higher preference for tier-I bonds while private banks issued more of tier-II bonds.

Within overall bond issuances of ₹91,500 crore in the first three quarters of FY23, tier-II issuance reached an all-time high of ₹47,200 crore. \_\_\_\_

Credit worthiness of India, others in APAC

### WITH \$10.8BN, BANGALORE TOP CITY ON STARTUP FUNDING IN '22

#### **POSITIVE GLOBAL TRENDS**

Markets rally after three-day slump

NET TAX COLLECTION STOOD AT ₹12.24 TRILLION, 63% the 15.4% this year.

services company, saw a four fold jump in loan disbursals in December 2022, and the average monthly transacting number of users soared. According to a regulatory filing, One97 Communications Ltd, which operates Paytm, disbursed 3.7 million loans worth ₹3,665 crore in December, up 330 per cent year-on-year. "As a result, total disbursements for three months ended December 2022 was ₹9,958 crore, a growth of 357 per cent y-o-y," it said. The number of loans grew 117 per cent y-o-y to 3.7 million for December and 137 per cent y-oy to 10.5 million cumulative loans for the three months ended December 2022.

#### **JSW Steel output** in Q3 surges 17%

New Delhi: JSW Steel Monday said its combined crude steel production rose 17 per cent to 6.24 million tonne (MT) during October-December period of 2022-23. The combined production during the year-ago guarter was at 5.35 MT. JSW Steel said. "JSW Steel reported its group combined crude steel production at 6.24 million tonne for Q3 FY23 registering a growth of 17 per cent v-o-v (year-on-year), including the production at jointly controlled entities," it said. Its standalone output rose 20 per cent to 6.06 MT in Q3 from 5.05 MT in the year-ago period.

#### No IPO plans, says Ant Group

Beijing: China's fintech giant Ant Group has no plan to initiate an initial public offering (IPO), it said Sunday. "Ant Group has been focusing on its business rectification and optimisation, and does not have a plan for an IPO," the company said.

There were 22 unicorns in 2022, compared to 46 in 2021, and average funding before the unicorn round was around \$160 million

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi. Jan 9: Bangalore topped the startup funding chart in India with \$10.8 billion in 2022, followed by Mumbai at \$3.9 billion, and Gurugram at a distant \$2.6 billion. Startups based in Delhi and

Chennai registered \$1.2 billion each in funding, followed by Pune at \$1 billion, according to data provided by Tracxn, a leading global market intelligence platform.

In 2021, Bangalore-based startups had raised \$20.8 billion in funding and Mumbai-based startups had pocketed \$5.2 billion in the same year, showing the impact of the deepening funding winter last year. It is now taking an average of 5.1 vears from Series A funding to the Unicorn round for the Indian startups. "India started experiencing funding winter in Q4 of 2021 and it has been on a declining trend since. Because of rising interest rates

and fear of a worldwide recession.

investments across all industries



have been impacted," said the Tracxn annual report

The months of April, October and November in 2022 saw no new unicorns. A total of 11 tech IPOs were launched in 2022, matching the number from the same period in 2021. Some of the major IPOs are Delhivery, Tracxn, eMudhra, among others. LetsVenture, AngelList, and Y Combinator have topped the list of most active investors in 2022 to

date, said the company. Despite the impact on funding in edtech, Byju's has topped the list of highest funding raised in 2022. It raised over \$1.2 billion in 2022 from existing investors. This amounted to almost 50 per cent of the total funding received in the edtech sector.

### **IT COUNTERS WERE IN**

#### **BSE Sensex** TOP GAINERS Previous day close Change A +846.94 3.59 M&M 59,900.37 3.37 HCL Tech Mumbai, Jan 9: Equity bench-61,000 3.35 TCS marks ended over 1 per cent higher 3.06 IndusInd Bank Monday amid positive trends in 2.92 Tech Mahindra global markets and buying in Reliance Industries and IT counters. TOP The 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed LOSERS 846.94 points or 1.41 per cent to settle at 60,747.31. During the day, it 60,747.31 -2.12 Titan jumped 989.04 points or 1.65 per -1.21 Bajaj Finserv cent to 60,889.41. The broader NSE -0.09 Maruti Suzuki 60,000 Nifty climbed 241.75 points or 1.35

Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green. Equity exchanges in Europe were trading higher in mid-session deals. Markets in the US had ended sharply higher Friday. In the broader market, the BSE

09:15

GRAPHICS

midcap gauge jumped 0.93 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.50 per cent. Teck jumped 2.61 per cent, IT climbed 2.54 per cent, power (1.79 per cent), metal (1.51 per cent), energy (1.38 per cent), capital goods (1.28 per cent), auto (1.16 per cent) and industrials (1.13 per cent). Consumer Durables index was the only laggard.

16:00

The rupee gained 31 paise to close at 82.35 against the US dollar Monday. International oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 2.67 per cent to \$80.67 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets Friday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,902.46 crore.

#### to be stable: Moody's

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 9: The credit worthiness outlook for sovereigns in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, including India for 2023 is stable as compared to the negative outlook for sovereigns globally, said credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service Monday.

In its latest report Moody's said, the debt sustainability and financial stability are relatively well anchored in the region, with contained government liquidity risks, broadly stable debt dynamics and generally sound external positions.

According to Moody's the gross domestic product (GDP) growth will stabilise close to potential levels and outperform other regions, despite higher global inflation and tighter financial conditions.

Most sovereigns have begun fiscal consolidation, but social pressures are slowing progress.

As regards India, which is in post-pandemic recovery mode, Moody's expects output gaps to continue.

The debt affordability has been anchored in India, Malaysia and Thailand as they have a large institutional investor base and banking systems, the rating agency said.

According to the report, elevated commodities prices will keep spending on food and fuel subsidies or other measures high, with little impetus to reduce support, particularly for economies with elections approaching in 2023 or early 2024, including

Bangladesh and India. The fiscal deficits for most governments in the region are likely to be equivalent to or near their debtstabilising fiscal balance. Debt burdens will continue to rise, or stabilise at higher levels in countries such as India and Malaysia, Moody's said.

The rating agency said debt affordability will fall from generally robust levels as interest ratesrise and will be manageable for most in the region.

# Big Tech uneasy over new digital competition law

The Asia Internet Coalition said the report put forward by the Committee is "prescriptive, absolutist and regressive in nature" and "may dampen digital innovation in India"

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 9: The Asia Internet Coalition, that has Meta, Amazon, Twitter, Google and other Big Tech companies as its members, has raised questions on the digital competition law recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, that "may dampen digital innovation in India". In a statement, the Coalition urged the Indian government to

conduct wider stakeholder consultations to ensure that any new legislative proposals meet international best practices, are evidence-based, and are for the purpose of benefiting innovation, growth, and consumers.

"Otherwise, transplanting legislative reforms designed for a foreign jurisdiction with high digital penetration into India, could lead to disproportionate costs to consumers in India and an impact



on innovation and investment by businesses in India -- especially at a time when the government is rightly focusing on bringing con-

nectivity to all under the Digital India initiative," said the Coalition. Last month. the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance recommended that the Centre should formulate a digital competition act to regulate anti-competitive practices by Big Tech companies.

cently proposed two significant bills innovation, with a special focus on digital markets.

The Coalition said that it is critical to first understand the "effects of these two bills on the digital ecosystem before introducing any new legislative proposals".











The Indian government has re-

- the revised Digital Personal Data Protection Bill and the Competition Amendment Bill (CAB), both of which seek to protect consumers, preserve competition and promote tech



# **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 mid-

With India set to host the ODI

World Cup in October-November

this year, Bumrah's last-minute ex-

clusion is only adding to the mys-

tery surrounding the pace bowler's

recovery and rehabilitation

The return of old guards Rohit,

Kohli and KL Rahul and also

process

series.

five batters

against Sri Lanka.

Shreyas Iyer, though, will give dle overs - a key skill on sub-conthe hosts a huge boost as they eye tinent tracks. the series after clinching the T20Is Then there's the phenomenon named Suryakumar Yadav, whose India have a packed ODI cal-T20 exploits have forced the management to explore his utility in endar – 15 matches excluding the the 50-over format. The middle-Asia Cup - in the 10-month window in the build-up to the World order batter is fresh from a 51-Cup in October-November and ball unbeaten 112 in their 91-run

the key will be to not just get the win over Sri Lanka in the third and final T20I at Rajkot. balance right but also manage the workload in the midst of the It was Surya's third century in Indian Premier League and the the format in seven months, makhighly-anticipated Australia Test ing him the first player in the history of the game to score three T20I

ton while not opening the batting. However, his ODI career has-But another injury scare to Bumrah has thrown the spanner n't really taken off so far. Surya in the works of the team management. There also lies the probhas scored 384 runs in 16 lem of plenty in picking the topmatches with just two half-cen-

turies 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 Sirai. 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 foot-

ball'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.



### BUMRAH RULED OUT ODIs AGAINST SRI LANKA against Sri Lanka. Bumrah, who

#### 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.

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 meas-

ure," 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.

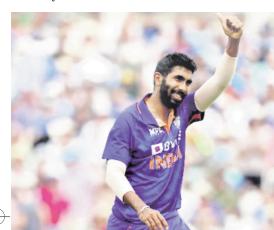
It will not be a surprise if

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 9: India were left with a mixed feeling on the eve of their ODI series against Sri Lanka as on one hand they will have stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli returning to the side while on the other, unfit pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will yet again miss the action.

Bumrah was expected to bolster the bowling attack in the three-match series commencing here Tuesday, but his return has been delayed further after he failed to recover completely from the stress fracture in the lower back, which has seen him miss several assignments including the Asia Cup and the T20 World Cup.

There is now a question mark over whether the pace spearhead will be available for the whiteball home series against New Zealand beginning on January 18, and whether he will be in contention for the four-Test Border-Gavaskar series commencing February 9.





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

firm front-runners to win the next

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 re-

sumed 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

The 35-year-old Messi has

won a record seven Ballon d'Or tro-

phies given to the best player in

Europe. Only five Frenchmen-in-

cluding Zinedine Zidane and

Karim Benzema - have won it

but the 24-year-old Mbappe has

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

never been on the podium.

rest of this season

men's Ballon d'Or.

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 vear.



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

### 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



Ousmane Dembele wheels away in celebration after scoring against Atletico

three-game suspension from before the World Cup break.

#### CUP STARS CHASE BALLON D'OR Barcelona coach Xavi started with Ansu Fati in Lewandowski's position. Fati had come off the bench to score ASSOCIATED PRESS the winning goal in extra time and

Paris, Jan 9: Lionel Messi finally help Barcelona escape elimination against third-division club Intercity has something Kylian Mbappe alin the Copa del Rey midweek. ready had with a World Cup win-Forward Antoine Griezmann ners' medal. Now Mbappe wants had a couple of good opportuniwhat Messi has won many times: ties to equalise for Atletico but the Ballon d'Or. After their fascicouldn't capitalize on them at the nating duel in a wild World Cup final, the tournament's best player Metropolitano stadium in the Spanish capital. Messi and its top scorer Mbappe are

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

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 did-

n'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

MESSI VS MBAPPE II: WORLD

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 iersev 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

ASSOCIATED PRESS 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 cotop scorer in the Champions League with seven goals, while Messi again heads the assists chart with four.

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

Bale calls time

on his playing

career at 33

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 Leagues 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 Rev 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.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159 3



