AYEESHA'S ASPIRATION

Actor Ayeesha S Aiman says she wishes to recreate the magic of legends like Madhubala and Meena Kumari LEISURE



#### **DEATH TOLL RISES**

The toll from a weekend Russian missile strike on an apartment building in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro rises to 40

INTERNATIONAL P10



#### **NADAL ADVANCES**

Rafael Nadal toils hard before beating 21-year-old Jack Draper to advance into the second round of Australian Open

**BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY, JANUARY 17 | 2023** 

#### **SHORT TAKES**

**VOLUME 12, ISSUE 287 | www.orissapost.com** 

#### **Nepal plane crash: Black box found**

Kathmandu: The black box of the Yeti Airlines aircraft has been recovered from the accident site Monday, as a search is on for the four persons still missing after the plane with 72 people. including five Indians, on board crashed into a river gorge while landing at Nepal's newly-opened airport in the resort city of Pokhara. Officials said 35 bodies out of 68 have been identified so far as Nepal began a national day of mourning Monday. Both the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder have been recovered as search and rescue teams rappelled down a 300-metre gorge to continue their efforts, which were

#### **SC declines to hear Joshimath plea**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking the court's intervention to declare the crisis in Uttarakhand's subsidence-hit Joshimath a national disaster, saying since the state high court is seized of a "broad range of issues" it should hear it as a matter of principle. As the lawyer for the petitioner submitted that people in Joshimath are dying, the top court told him curtly, "You don't want to use these proceedings for sound bites in social media.



LIFE UNDER TALIBAN: Mannequins' heads are covered in a wedding store in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday. Under the Taliban, the mannequins in women's dress shops across the Afghan capital Kabul are a haunting sight, their heads cloaked in cloth sacks or wrapped in black plastic bags. The hooded mannequins are one symbol of the Taliban's puritanical rule over Afghanistan

### Oz play out draw with Argentina, Dutch rout NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubansewar, Jan 16: Three-time champions Australia and heavyweights Argentina played out a thrilling 3-3 draw in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup here Monday.

Charlet Victor converted two penalty corners to help France defeat South Africa 2-1. South Africa's lone goal came from the stick of Beauchamp Connor as he converted a penalty corner in the 15th minute.

In the Pool C matches in Rourkela, three-time champions Netherlands thrashed New Zealand 4-0, while Malaysia eked out a 3-2 win over Chile. Brinkman Thierry

scored two field goals in the opening quarter while Bijen Koen and Hoedemakers Tjep added two more goals to help Netherlands inch closer to a quarterfinals spot.

Earlier, in the opening match of the day, Rahim Razie, Hamsani Ashran and Sumantri Norsyafiq scored for Malaysia, while Amoroso Juan and Rodriguez Martin registered their names on the scoring sheet for Chile.

Having won both their games, Netherlands sit pretty atop Pool C with six points. New Zealand and Malaysia are second and third respectively with Chile in **MORE P12** fourth place.





You are old generation. Your job was to show the real picture. My iob is to hide it

#### **MARKET WATCH INDEX VARIATION** SENSEX **60092.97** 168.21 **17894.85** • 61.75 DOLLAR **81.42** ₹0.23 EURO **1** ₹179 GOLD ₹56,503 SILVER ₹69,494

WEATHER			
	BHUB	СТК	111
MAX	27.4°C	27.0°C	
Ë MIN	16.4°C	17.0℃	Forecast
Humidity	85%	98%	Foggy
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	weather mostly

#### **INOCULATION TO RESUME JAN 19**

**Govt admits jabs' many** 

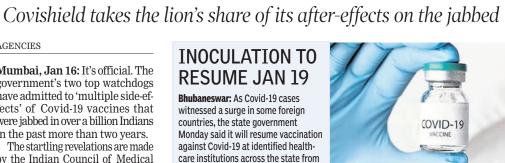
side-effects in RTI reply

have admitted to 'multiple side-ef-Bhubaneswar: As Covid-19 cases fects' of Covid-19 vaccines that witnessed a surge in some foreign were jabbed in over a billion Indians countries, the state government in the past more than two years. The startling revelations are made against Covid-19 at identified healthcare institutions across the state from by the Indian Council of Medical January 19. However, only Covishield Research (ICMR) and Central Drugs vaccines will be available in the identi-Standard Control Organisation fied District Headquarters Hospitals (CDSCO) in an RTI reply to Pune (DHHs), Sub-divisional Hospitals (SDHs), Community Healthcare Centre India has permitted AstraZenaca (CHCs) & Primary Healthcare Centres and Serum Institute of India, Pune's (PHCs) for due beneficiaries of second 'Covishield' and SII's own 'Covoyax': dose as well as precaution dose, the vaccines of three Hyderabad-based Health department said.

> persistent abdominal pains or headaches with or without vomiting, shortness of breath, chest pains. pain in limbs or swelling on pressing of calf/arms, weakness/paralysis of limbs of any particular side or parts of the body, including cranial nerves, unprecedented seizures, pain in eyes, blurred vision or diplopia, change in mental status, encephalopathy or depressed level of consciousness

Covaxin displays mild symptoms AEFIs like injection site pain/swelling, headaches, fatigue, fever, bodyache, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, giddiness, tremors, sweating, cold and cough.

Covovax side-effects are injec-



tion site pain/tenderness/induration, fa-**VACCINES** tigue, malaise, headaches, fever, OR soreness of mus-VILLAINS? cles, joint pains, nausea or vomiting, chills, body-ache or extreme pain in limbs.

Asthenia (weakness or lack of energy), Injection site pruritus (itching, rash, red skin, hives), enlarged lymph nodes, back pains, and rarely dizziness or drowsiness

Sputnik V manifests with chills, fever, arthralgia, myalgia, asthenia, headaches, general discomfort, injection site pain/swelling/hyperaemia, or nausea, dyspepsia, loss of appetite, or occasional enlarged regional lymph nodes.

CorBEvax shows effects like fever/pyrexia, headaches, fatigue, body pains, myalgia, nausea, or arthralgia, urticaria, chills, and lethargy, besides injection site pain/erythema, swelling, rash, pruritis or irritation.



The deceased woman was identified as Shilpi Khuntia who was the second wife of Santosh Khuntia. Two-year-old Shivan was Santosh's son from his first marriage.

The incident happened in a house in Sriram Nagar area within the Madhupatna police limits in Cuttack city. Santosh was not present in the house when the incident took place.

After getting information, the Madhupatna police station IIC along with other officials reached the house this morning. When they



Woman kills stepson, hangs self

entered the house, they found the toddler lying dead with an injury mark and the body of a woman hanging, said Cuttack DCP Pinak Mishra. He said that a team was collecting evidence and examining various aspects of the case. The entire proceedings were videographed in the presence of an executive magistrate.

The exact reason behind the deaths can be ascertained after getting opinions from the forensic science experts and medical officers, who will conduct the postmortem, the DCP said. Police suspect that the incident could be a fallout of a bitter family dispute. The couple used to have regular fights and was not staying together for the last eight months.

The bodies have been sent to the SCB Medical College and Hospital

for post-mortem, Mishra said.

Talking to the media, Shilpi's husband said, "Despite my efforts, my wife refused to stay with me. She used to live near her parents along with my son (from the first wife). She used to demand money and threatened to kill my son.

Man kills 2-vr-old daughter | P5

9-year-old falls

into drain while

flying kite, dies

Cuttack, Jan 16: Just days after

a photo journalist from South Korea suffered injuries after

falling into an open drain in

Bhubaneswar causing major em-

barrassment to the government,

a minor died after falling into an

open drain at Bidanasi area in

Reports said, the 9-year-old

Cuttack, Sunday evening.

POST NEWS NETWORK

### Exports dip 12.2% in Dec

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 16: India's exports contracted 12.2 per cent to USD 34.48 billion in December 2022, mainly due to global headwinds, and the trade deficit widened to USD 23.76 billion during the same period, according to official data released Monday.

Imports in December 2022 also declined 3.5 per cent to USD 58.24 billion as against USD 60.33 billion in the year-ago period.

 $In\, December\, 2021, exports\, stood$ at USD 39.27 billion and the trade deficit was at USD 21.06 billion. During April-December of this

ports rose 9 per cent to USD 332.76 billion while imports increased 24.96 per cent to USD 551.7 billion. The merchandise trade deficit

fiscal, the country's overall ex-

for the April-December 2022 period was estimated at USD 218.94 billion as against USD 136.45 billion in April-December 2021.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that despite global headwinds, India's exports have held its head high.

 $There\,are\,recessionary\,trends$ globally. So lot of headwinds we

children back into school, it added.

of qualitative and quantitative in-

formation to explore the impact

and Credit Suisse have been used

to look at the wealth inequality

and billionaire wealth in the coun-

Secondary sources like Forbes

of inequality in India.

Oxfam said the report is a mix

are facing, he said.

**MORE P11** 

boy Joseph Sahani, a Class III student of Modern Public School, died after falling into an open drain while he was flying kite near his house at around

4:30pm Sunday.

#### Family members said that Joseph had stepped out of the house without informing anybody. "After lunch, we were watching TV when Joseph went out without telling anyone of us. He fell into the open drain accidentally while flying a kite," said a relative. The deceased's family members have blamed the **Cuttack Municipal Corporation** (CMC) authorities for the tragic death of the minor.

"It is almost two to three months that the ongoing construction work of the drain has been stopped. The authorities have left open the major drain in the locality at several points. Had the drain been covered with concrete slabs by the CMC, the incident could have been avoided," said another local resident. The CMC authorities could not be contacted over the incident.

### India's richest 1% own more than 40% of total wealth entire amount required to bring the

Davos, Jan 16: The richest one per cent in India now own more than 40 per cent of the country's total wealth, while the bottom half of the population together share just 3 per cent of wealth, a new study showed Monday

Releasing the India supplement of its annual inequality report on the first day of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting here, rights group Oxfam International said that taxing India's ten-richest at 5 per cent can fetch entire money to bring children back to school.

A one-off tax on unrealised gains from 2017-2021 on just one bil--lionaire. Gautam Adani, could have raised ₹1.79 lakh crore, enough to employ more than five million Indian primary school teachers for a year, it added.

Mumbai, Jan 16: It's official. The

government's two top watchdogs

businessman Prafful Sarda.

companies -- the government-run

Bharat Biotech Ltd.'s 'Covaxin',

Dr. Reddy's Lab imported 'Sputnik

V', Biological E. Ltd.'s 'CorBEvax',

and later, Cadila Healthcare Ltd.,

Ahmedabad's 'ZyCov-D' only for

teenagers (12-17 age). In a specific

query by Sarda on the side-effects

of all these jabs, the ICMR's PIO Dr.

Levanna Susan George and

CDSCO's PIO Sushanta Sarkar.

have cited a plethora of ramifica-

tions arising out of all these vac-

Covishield takes the lion's share

of its after-effects on the jabbed

ianta -- injection site tenderness or

pain, multiple red spots or bruises

beyond the injected site, persistent

vomiting without reasons, severe or

cines comprising their FAQs.

The report titled 'Survival of the Richest' further said that if India's billionaires are taxed once at 2 per cent on their entire wealth, it would support the requirement of ₹40.423 crore for the nutrition of malnourished in the country for the next three years.

A one-time tax of 5 per cent on the 10 richest billionaires in the country (Rs 1.37 lakh crore) is more than 1.5 times the funds estimated by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry (Rs 86,200 crore) and the Ministry of Ayush (Rs 3,050 crore) for the year 2022-23, it added.

On gender inequality, the report said that female workers earned only 63 paise for every 1 rupee a



#### **SURVIVAL** OF THE **RICHEST** Oxfam said the total number of On the other hand, approximately

billionaires in India increased from 102 in 2020 to 166 in 2022

Since the beginning of the pandemic to Nov 2022, billionaires in India have seen their wealth surge by 121 per cent or ₹3,608 crore per day in real terms

The country's marginalised - Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims, Women and informal sector workers are continuing to suffer in a system which ensures the survival of the richest

AMITABH BEHAR | OXFAM INDIA CEO

male worker earned. For Scheduled Castes and rural workers, the difference is even starker - the former earned 55 per

cent of what the advantaged social groups earned, and the latter earned only half of the urban earnings between 2018 and 2019.

64% of the total ₹14.83L-cr in GST came from bottom 50% of the population in 2021-22, with only 3% of GST coming from the top 10% Scheduled Castes earned 55% of

what the advantaged social groups earned and rural workers earned only half of the urban earnings between 2018 and 2019 On gender inequality, the report

said that female workers earned only 63 paise for every 1 rupee a male worker earned

Taxing the top 100 Indian billionaires at 2.5 per cent, or taxing the top 10 Indian billionaires at 5 per cent would nearly cover the

try, while government sources like NSS, Union budget documents, and parliamentary questions have been used to corroborate arguments made throughout the report. Since the pandemic begun to

November 2022, billionaires in India have seen their wealth surge by 121 per cent or ₹3,608 crore per day in real terms, Oxfam said.

**Continued on P4** 



## leisure



#### **LOPEZ LOVED IDEA OF FLIPPING GENDER ROLES**

Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez, whose film Shotgun Wedding is directly heading to the OTT bypassing its Indian theatrical release, has shared that she liked the idea of flipping the gender roles in the film. Written by Mark Hammer, the film captures an extravagant destination wedding on a tropical island being hijacked by criminals.

#### **RICHARD E GRANT TO HOST BAFTA FILM AWARDS**

Actor Richard E Grant is set to host the 2023 BAFTA Film Awards ceremony, the awards body announced Monday. Presenter Alison Hammond will host a new BAFTA Studio to offer viewers at home experience and insights from the ceremony.



GaneshaSpeaks,com

You may take a holiday today to be with your family, and perhaps go to meet make your kith and kin very happy. They will be surprised and Ganesha

#### **TAURUS**

The planets are not well disposed towards you today, fears Ganesha. There are strong chances of crossing swords with someone, getting into a serious personality clash. Not good is come out of it. You may simply end in alienating those who are otherwise well disposed towards you

#### **GEMINI**

You will neglect your daily routine and indulge in fun and frolic with your family members today. Friends and family will probably accompany you to lunch or dinner to your favourite restaurant. You will feel at ease and will feel the stress slinping out of your system. Wait for a couple of days before proposing to that special someone, says Ganesha

#### **CANCER**

Swiftness of your work will mesmerise people. They will make comparisons with you. Yet they can-not catch up with you. you are not at all greedy, nor do you make any needless demand any time

#### **LEO**

An auspicious and favourable day awaits you, says Ganesha. You will be able to complete all tasks at work. You will be able to make beneficial changes at home. You will be able to buy new things for home. Financial gains are possible Youngsters may find love

An outspoken discussion with a loved one is on the cards today. Work hard to complete the work that you have been procrastinating for a long time, says Ganesha. A holy place is beckoning you. However, Ganesha advises you to evaluate all your options while taking your

Ganesha savs todav is a good day for you. The ladies in your life will prove to be beneficial to you. You will be able to progress in your office because of your skills and abilities. You will be closer to your beloved today. You will show more nterest in new topics and ideas.

#### **SCORPIO**

Your kids are your pride, come out with flying colour in their academics. It's a favourable day to invest your money in home or land. In the evening, you may just feel like going to a secluded place and enjoy

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Today, your actions are definitely going to be louder than your words, predicts Ganesha. Your focus today would be on personality development and self-improvement, and you success to achieve what you want, to some extent. Good luck!

#### CAPRICORN

You bring perfection to the table and it impresses your colleagues to a great extent.

When the deadlines are tight or situations get complicated, people look up to you for directions, and to nobody's surprise, you live up to their expectations. Your efficiency will not go unnoticed as the bosses will acknowledge and reward you efforts, says Ganesha. You will wind up an exhausting day on a happy note.

#### **AOUARIUS**

Mark this date on the calendar, as it may turn out to be the most important day in your life. A windfall is expected make your day brighter, says Ganesha. Good luck will follow you through out the day, as your hard work will be paid off with rewards and awards at work. Enjoy the good times, as every day is not the same day.

#### PISCES

Today is likely to be an extremely competitive and demanding day for you. You need to be extremely careful in how you go about doing your tasks, so as to not give anyone a chance to pick out

mistakes in your work.

## RRR does a double at CCA-2023

Rajamouli invokes 'Mera Bharat Mahan' and gets surprised by 'Avatar' director James Cameron, when the latter said that he had seen 'RRR' twice



Los Angeles: After winning a Golden Globe for Naatu Naatu, SS Rajamouli's epic drama RRR won Best Foreign Language Film and walked away with the Best Song trophy for the number that has made the world fall in love with the Ram Charan-NTR Jr hook step at the 28th Critics Choice Awards, which took place Sunday night (US Pacific Time) at the Fairmont Century Plaza here.

The event also saw Rajamouli invoke Mera Bharat Mahan and get taken by surprise by James Cameron, the creator of Avatar, when he said that he had seen RRR twice.

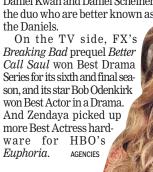
Talking about other awards. Indie production house A24's Everything Everywhere All at Once won Best Picture. Brendan Fraser won Best Actor for A24's The Whale and Cate Blanchett took Best Actress for Focus Features Tar. reports Deadline

Everything Everywhere... came into the ceremony with a leading



14 nominations and left leading all films and TV shows with five trophies, including Best Director for Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert the duo who are better known as the Daniels.

son, and its star Bob Odenkirk won Best Actor in a Drama. And Zendaya picked up more Best Actress hardware for HBO's





from

try like Shah Rukh Khan, and Mahendra Singh Dhoni in commercials, the former aeronautical engineer has now made her way to the film industry.

She made her big acting debut with the critically acclaimed film India Lockdown where she played the character of a sex worker in the film. She has been making waves in the industry with her strong performance in recently released films and has been appreciated by her peers of the industry.

Ayeesha follows in the footsteps of Meena Kumari and Madhubala, two eminent actresses who left a legacy behind. "I wish to act like Madhubala and Meena Kumari ji. I am a big fan of Madhubala ji in films like

> Azam, Kala Pani and Mahal. I have seen Meena

Mughal-e-

Kumari ji Pakeezah. Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam. Watching them, I get fascinated

merised. They

both were iconic

these films, I get

motivated and

tell myself, 'I want

to perform like

them'," added the 26-

heroines of their

time and their

and

mes-

beauty left audi-Sriya took to her Instagram handle to share some pictures of them together with ences mesmerher fans and her followers just can't have ized," she said. "I so wish to enough of the two divas. The gorgeous ladies were all smiles for the recreate the magic of these camera. Sriya captioned the clicks, "Look legends onwho is here. One of my favorite actresses @dishapatani You are such a beautiful soul. screen. Every so nice to meet you di.' time I watch Disha Patani also commented on the post

SUDOKU

9 8

3 2

4

9

6

3

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR

and wrote, 'You're beautiful.' While one of their fans wrote, 'Two favourites in a frame',\_ another one added, 'Aw...you both look Sriya became the first K-pop artist

Disha Patani, Sriya Lenka;

in a frame'

posed for pictures.

'two favourites

Bhubaneswar: Disha Patani recently caught

up with India's First K-Pop Idol Sriya Lenka.

The two not only spent time together but also

.Fest at Bhubaneswar of Odisha where the

duo performed. A couple of days ago, they

also performed at Barabati Stadium of

Cuttack of the state during the opening cer-

emony of hockey World Cup-2023.

The occasion was the second edition of

from India last year when she was selected as a member of the South Korean

6

2

5

SHRIEK GAMBIT

UPAND

4 8

5

8

2

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

3 2

> 6 8

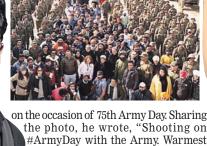
the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

## Vicky Kaushal shoots with Indian Army

Mumbai: Sam Bahadur cast extended a heartfelt message on the occasion of 75th Indian Army Day. Actor Vicky Kaushal recently updated his fans and Insta fam with his on-going project Sam Bahadur through his social media. The actor shares a picture of him cel-

ebrating the 75th Army Day with the Indian Army as he shoots for the film. The actor will be seen portraying the character of Field Marshal Sam Bahadur Manekshaw Army Day is celebrated every

year on January 15 to honour the soldiers of the country Vicky Kaushal took to Instagram and shared a picture of him along with the Indian Army shooting for the film



the photo, he wrote, "Shooting on #ArmyDay with the Army. Warmest wishes on the 75th Army Day to All Ranks from Team #Sam Bahadur!". In the picture, Vicky can be seen posing with the Army.

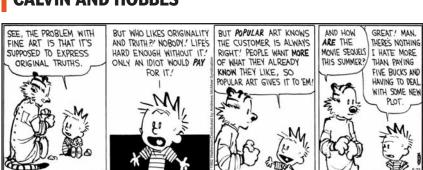
Director Meghna Gulzar shared the same picture with the caption, "Warm wishes on the 75th Army Day to All Ranks from Team #SamBahadur".

Produced by Ronnie Screwvala, Meghna Gulzar directorial Sam Bahadur, featuring Vicky Kaushal in alongside Sanya Malhotra, is all set to release in cinemas December 1 2023. The film also stars Fatima Sana Shaikh as former Prime Minister Indira AGENCIES

## **PEANUTS**



#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

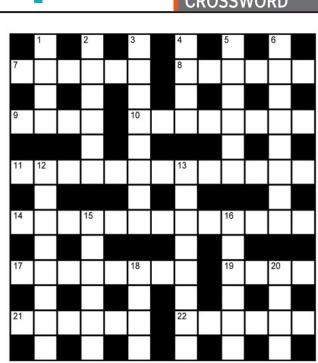


#### BREVITY



#### FUN POST

#### **CROSSWORD**



Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com 19 Chess piece

21 Professional

clown

22 Fancy dog

breed

#### Across

- 7 Cask 8 Break in the
- action 9 Clothed
- 10 Samurais, e.g. 11 Bidding card
- game (7,6)
- 14 Secretly 17 Splendour
- imprisoned

<u>Down</u>

- British peer
- 2 Accounting
- entry 3 Lightning bug
- 16 Root vegetable
- 18 Slips up

4 Blacken

5 Polynesian

6 Shocked and

angered

12 Disconcerted

13 Insolvent

15 Flowery

island

- 20 Oleaginous
- SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## downtown



#### **FOGGY MORNING**

Vehicles ply on Netaji Setu connecting Cuttack and Bhubaneswar as a blanket of fog envelopes the bridge, Monday

200	COV	/ID-19 '	TRAC
		INFECTED	RECOVE
	World	67,14,59,872	64,27,89
	India	4,46,81,154	4,41,48,
	Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,
		: 	: 

# SC: Suggest measures to pay chit fund victims

New Delhi, Jan 16: The Supreme Court Monday sought suggestions from the Centre, Odisha government and others regarding payment of returns to thousands of depositors who were duped by chit fund companies.

A two-judge bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar observed that common people are the ultimate sufferers in case of delay in investigation into chit fund cases. The bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta about those who have got their money back.

"Everything sounds flowery. Common man is interested in his money. These are your policies. You please work on your own policies," the bench observed.

Earlier, during the hearing, Mehta suggested that the apex court should constitute a com-

mittee to look into the chit fund cases as multiple agencies like Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) are investigating the ponzi scam.

Mehta submitted that different agencies have been investigating into different aspects of these cases. "In case of a company, the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) will have jurisdiction, while in cowill be exercised by the Central Registrar. The criminal aspect is being probed by other agencies like ED and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)," Mehta said, adding that there multiple areas where the money has been stranded.

CKER

,283 67,31,105

5,30,726

The Solicitor General told the apex court that the Union Cooperation Minister has also held meetings with different agencies involved in investigation of chit fund cases.

The matter has been adjourned till February 20. Earlier, the Union Cooperation Ministry had filed a status report in the Supreme Court on a petition seeking probe into multi-crore chit fund scam and compensation to thousands of depositors duped in Odisha.

The Ministry had also filed an impleadment application in the apex

## throng Bhitarkanika



National Park last winter

species

Kendrapara, Jan 16: As many as 1,39,959 birds belonging to 140 species thronged Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) during the ongoing winter as per the report of mid-winter waterfall bird status

Rajnagar Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife)

Gopinath As many as 144 species of birds Sudarshan Yadav said with a population of an estimated the survey was car- 1,38,107 thronged Bhitarkanika ried out in five forest and wildlife ranges under the BNP January 6 under the spotted during the status survey guidance of ornithol- followed by 15,686 birds of eight

The DFO said compared to last year, this year the number of species visiting the park was less, but the num-

ber of birds was more. As many as 144 species of birds with a population of an estimated 1,38,107 thronged Bhitarkanika National Park last winter, as per the

status survey report. This year, 1,852 more birds have been spotted by the enumerators at the swampy, water bodies of the na-

tional park compared to last year. This year, the number of geese and ducks was more than the other bird species.

Around 15 types of geese and ducks numbering 81,930 were spot-

ted during the status survey followed by 15,686 birds of eight types of Gulls, terns and skimmer species.

As many as 14,786 sore birdswaders, 6,753 herons, egret and bitterns too have visited the park this However, not a single species of

pelicans, cranes and flamingos have been spotted at the park.

While one type of grebes with a population of 375. four species of cormorants ulation of 3588,

DANCE FEST: Artistes perform during the concluding day of Mukteswar Dance Festival on the shrine premises in Bhubaneswar, Monday

ducks numbering 81,930 were along with three types of storks with types of gulls, terns and skimmer a population of 4163, three species

of Ibises and spoonbill with a population of 1559 and two species of finfoot and Jacanas with a population of 503 along with 63 additional species of waterbirds with a population of 3760 visited the park area this time.

According to official sources, migratory birds fly thousands of miles to Bhitarakanika to escape the harsh winter in Siberia, Afghanistan, Iraq, northern Asia and some central European coun-

The migratory birds return when the waterbodies near the Bhitarkanika National Park dry

## 1.40L winged beauties No threat to deities from rodents: SJTA

THE SERVITORS ARE **NOT PERMITTED TO KILL ANIMALS OR POISON THEM INSIDE** THE TEMPLE **PRECINCTS, SAYS A RESEARCHER ON JAGANNATH CULTURE** 

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 16: Allaying fears that the rodents inside Puri Srimandir may damage the wooden idols of the sibling deities, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Monday said that it has been laying traps to catch the rats and releasing them outside the temple.

The rodents, whose numbers have increased manifold due to the absence of devotees in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, have been nibbling away the attires of sibling deities Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra. seated on the 'Ratna Singhasan' (golden altar) in the shrine.

The servitors and priests



voiced fears that the rodents may damage the wooden idols of the deities, though temple administrator Jitendra Sahoo feels there is no need to take fright.

"There were a few rodents in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple but their number increased significantly after the Covid-19 pandemic," Ramachandra Dasmohapatra, a servitor, said.

The rodents also create disturbances when the priests perform rituals, said Satyanarayan Puspalak, representing the group of servitors who decorate the deities with garlands. "The rats devour the flowers offered to the deities and nibble away at the valuable attires of the deities," Pushpalak said.

Though the rodents cause a nuisance in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, the servitors are not permitted to kill animals or poison them inside the temple, said Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher in the Jagannath culture.

The temple Record of Rights (RoR) mentions how to deal with rodents, bats and monkeys found

Though the population of rodents increased due to the absence of devo-

ple rules," Mishra said.

tees inside the temple during the lockdown in 2020 and 2021, the rodents are not new to the place, Mishra said. Some animals live on the temple precincts for generations as they get adequate quantities of the leftover 'Mahaprasad', he said. "The temple RoR clearly states

on the temple premises. One can-

not take away the life of any living

creature as stipulated by the tem-

that some specific servitors are given the responsibility to catch the rodents alive and release them outside," Mishra said. Temple administrator Jitendra

Sahoo said that the SJTA was aware of the rodent menace. "We are laying traps to catch the rats alive and are releasing them outside according to the provisions adopted over the years. We are not allowed to use rat poison in the temple," Sahoo said

Noting that there was no threat to the wooden deities, Sahoo said they are being regularly polished with sandalwood and camphor.

The Wildlife Division of Puri said monkeys, bats, pigeons and even snakes can be found on the Srimandir premises

#### court to become a party to the case. Doppler radars soon in

**Balasore**, Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Jan 16: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Monday said that two more Doppler radars will be installed in Odisha to bolster weather monitoring capabilities

The Met department told the media here that two more the radars will be installed in Sambalpur and Balasore soon.

According to IMD, the entire country will be covered by Doppler radars by 2025. As many as 25 more Doppler radars will be installed across the country to bolster weather monitoring in next 2-3 years. IMD director general Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that the existing Doppler radars will be upgraded to remove uncertainty in rainfall estimates. He also said that the work on Balasore Thunderstorm Research Centre is likely to be completed in next two years.

Significantly, Union minister Jitendra Singh said the Met department's severe weather prediction accuracy improved by around 40 per cent in the last eight to nine years. He said the number of Doppler radars in the county has increased from 15 in 2013 to

#### Meerkat dies at Nandankanan Zoological Park The mammal was among

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, Jan 16: A female meerkat, a small mongoose found mostly in southern Africa, was found dead at Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here Monday, an official said.

The mammal was among the four of the species which had been brought to Nandankanan from Mysore Zoo under animal exchange programme in December last year.

The meerkats were kept at Enclosure-37 ever since they arrived at NZP December 23, 2022. "The zoo keepers alerted us in morning after they realised that one of the four meerkats was missing.



After searching for a while, we spotted the carcass of the female meerkat inside a small burrow on the enclosure premises," a senior Nandankanan official said, adding that with this, the nature's paradise

which had been brought to Nandankanan from Mysore Zoo under animal exchange programme in December last year

the four of the species

is left with only three of the mam-The meerkat's death has raised

questions about the safety and upkeep of the species at NZP, it was

Some of the emotional,

compassionate.

heart-touching Sufi

melodies and verses

humorous and

### card swapping fraud POST NEWS NETWORK Based on the complaint,

Two held for debit

Bhubaneswar, Jan 16: The twin city Commissionerate Police Monday claimed to have arrested two persons on charges of duping many of lakhs of rupees by swapping their debit cards on the pretext of offering a helping hand.

The arrested were identified as Gobardhan Patra, 37, of Bhanjanagar and Manoj Kumar

Sahu, 32, of Polasara Ganjam district. While Gobardhan has been residing at Raghunathnagar slum in

Dumuduma area under Khandagiri police limits, Manoj stays at Kisan Nagar under Mancheswar police station in the Capital city.

On January 6, 2023, Prithviraj Sahu, a resident of Shyam apartment in Jharpada area under Laxmisagar police station, approached the police alleging about illegal withdrawal of Rs 11, 13,000 from the bank account of his wife, Kabita, using her debit card between December 30, 2022 and January 5, 2023.

The Sahus learnt about the fraud after getting a phone call from the IIC of Sheragada police station in Ganjam. "The IIC told us that Nirotama Dash of Ganjam had approached them saving that she received Rs 1, 20,000 from Kabita via multiple account transfers between December 30, 2022 and January 2," said Kabita in her complaint, saying that she withdrew Rs 7,000 from an ATM in Jajpur December 29, 2022 where her card was swapped by the desperadoes who offered Laxmisagar police filed an FIR and started investigation into the case (9/23) to nab the culprits.

In another case, Prasanna Kumar Misra of Budheswari Colony here lodged a complaint with the Laxmisagar police alleging the accused of withdrawing Rs 2, 24,000 from his account by swapping his debit card with a fake one.

According to the complaint, Misra had gone to the SBI ATM kiosk at Laxmisagar to withdraw Rs 5,000 January 6, 2023 when the swapping took

place. Following the withdrawal, he tried to get a mini statement of his account, but failed after repeated

Meanwhile, one of the arrested accused present there offered his help for getting the statement and surreptitiously swapped the ATM of Misra with a fake one. The accused had also noted the ATM PIN and later withdrew Rs 2.24 lakh from his account.

A case (14/23) was also registered against the accused at the Laxmisagar police station in this regard. The cops launched a manhunt and arrested the accused Monday.

The police also seized a twowheeler, helmets, 18 different debit cards, and 50 gram of gold ornaments and Rs 5,50,000 in cash from the possession of the accused.

More than 30 cases were pending against the accused at different police stations in Bhubaneswar,-Ganjam, Nayagarh and other districts of the state.

## 2nd day of .FEST leaves audience awestruck

Second day of .FEST sets a benchmark with nonstop entertainment, food, shopping fiesta and live performances by Harshdeep Kaur, Navraj Hans, Priya Malik and others

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 16: The second day of the .FEST being organised at Idco exhibition ground here was thronged by thousands of citizens and visitors, Monday, for a funfilled evening.

The event witnessed a thrilling line-up of music and dance performances with some of the most popular celebrities displaying their talent. The cultural festival that began January 15 and continue till January 29 brings an experience like never before for the people of Odisha with oodles of fun, food, entertainment, stories or trails.

The second day's theme of .FEST was 'Sufi Melodies'.

Some of the emotional, compassionate, humorous and hearttouching Sufi melodies and verses from actor and poet Priya Malik mesmerised the audience. After that singer Navraj Hans, who is known for songs like 'Saivaan'. 'Jind meriye' 'Sadi Rail Gaddi', 'Rangdaari' and many more, delivered soulful and powerful renditions of hit songs that left the audience awestruck. Lastly, audience witnessed singer

Harshdeep Kaur's performance. Kaur is popularly known as 'Sufi Ki Sultana' because of her soulful Sufi renditions. Her soul-stirring performances lift the audience to another world.

Earlier in the day, denizens



braved the wintry morning to explore the nature trails of Ekarma walks at Deras Dam, Nandankanan and Bharatpur.

In the afternoon, the parks of the Capital city saw national and international storytellers enthralling children and others with interesting stories as part of the BhuFeSto.

Some of the storytellers including Himanshu Bajpayee, who narrated the life of hockey star KD Singh Babu, won the hearts of many. Ariyo from Indonesia narrated bedtime stories while Akshay Gandhi spoke about 'Bhasmasura'. a demon, who was granted the from actor and poet Priya Malik mesmerised the audience power to reduce anyone into cinders by touching the head. The demon was tricked by Vishnu's female avatar, the enchantress Mohini, to

turn him into ashes.

This apart, the Night Bazaar Flea Market brightened up the fest with fashion, lifestyle, food, and home-decor products. Utkalika has also curated more than 30 stalls, featuring some of Odisha's local traditional artisans. The International food festival, which is exhibiting 16 countries' cuisines, also attracts huge footfall.

## **Smuggling racket busted; 3 held**

Bhubaneswar, Jan 16: The Commissionerate Police Monday arrested three dreaded criminals involved in more than a dozen cases of smuggling of liquor and other items with forged documents. The accused smugglers were identified as Sonu Kumar Jena, 33, of Hemsarpada in Angul town area Bhaskar Chandra Samantaray, 31, and Biswajeet Mohanty, 19, of Bolagarh area in Khurda.

Recently, one Pabitra Kumar Sahani, the staff of a private transport agency, Welcome Enterprisers, lodged a complaint with the Tamando police alleging that some fraudsters have hijacked a Sambalpur bound liquor-laden truck from Angul. Based on the complaint, police filed a case and launched a probe to nab the ac-

Police found, during investigation, that the prime accused Sonu along with his associates including Biswajeet and Bhaskar hatched a plan to smuggle the liquor from the depot of Oriental Bottling Private Limited, a private company engaged in the manufacturing of IMFL. The company usually hires trucks from various transporters including Welcome Enterprisers of Khurda to transport IMFL to government depots at various places in the state.

Recently, the Oriental Bottling Private Ltd directed the authorities

**Continued from P1** 

On the other hand, approximately

64 per cent of the total Rs 14.83 lakh

crore in Goods and Services Tax

(GST) came from bottom 50 per

cent of the population in 2021-22,

with only 3 per cent of GST com-

Oxfam said the total number of

The combined wealth of India's

100 richest has touched USD 660 bil-

lion (Rs 54.12 lakh crore) -- an

amount that could fund the entire

Union Budget for more than 18

Oxfam India CEO Amitabh

Behar said, "The country's mar-

ginalised - Dalits, Adivasis

Muslims, Women and informal

sector workers are continuing to suf-

fer in a system which ensures the

The poor are paying dispropor-

tionately higher taxes, spending

more on essentials items and serv-

ices when compared to the rich.

The time has come to tax the rich

and ensure they pay their fair share.

minister to implement progres-

sive tax measures such as wealth

tax and inheritance tax, which he

said have been historically proven

to be effective in tackling inequality.

Behar urged the Union finance

survival of the richest.

billionaires in India increased from

ing from the top 10 per cent.

102 in 2020 to 166 in 2022.

months, it added.

India's richest 1%...



The accused smugglers were involved in more than a dozen cases of smuggling of liquor and other items with forged documents

of Welcome Enterprisers to provide three 10-wheelers to supply IMFL cartons to different government depots across the state January 5, 2023. The accused somehow learnt about the order and contacted the complainant through a middleman offering to provide his truck for the transportation.

Accordingly, the accused forged the documents of the unregistered vehicle owned by Sonu in the name of one Malaya Kumar Pattanaik, who also owns a truck (OR 09 J 5811). After examining the docu-

POST NEWS NETWORK

RI of six months.

Bhubaneswar, Jan 16: The court

of Additional Sessions Judge,

Bhubaneswar Monday sentenced

a 65-year-old drug peddler to un-

dergo 10 years of rigorous im-

prisonment(RI) holding him guilty

of possessing brown sugar worth

over Rs 1 crore. The convict has also

been asked to pay a fine of Rs.1

lakh else he would serve additional

Das is a resident of Sathilo under

Balianta police limits here.

The convict identified as Tikam

As per the details, a team of

Excise Intelligence and

Enforcement Bureau (El & EB) re-

ceived a tip-off about the illegal

possession of brown sugar by the

accused at his residence in Sathilo

village on the outskirts of the city

August 9, 2011. Subsequently, the

team immediately carried out a

raid at the house of Das in a paddy

ments, Welcome Enterprisers agreed to the offer and asked absconding accused Pradip Mishra to send the 10-wheeler along with driver for the supply of liquor to depot at Sambalpur.

January 5, 2023, the vehicle along with the driver Bairagi Dehury, helper and arrested accused Bhaskar reached the plant at Bhagabanpur in Tamando police station area. They left the plant with 150 numbers of cartoons having 24 F.L Royal Stags in each carton for Samabalpur depot.

They, however, unloaded the goods at the resident of Sonu at Angul and went incommunicado by switching off their mobile phones. The staff of Welcome enterprisers smelled a rat after they found through GPS the truck had changed its route.

Police managed to arrest the trio from the resident of Sonu after tracking the mobile phone of the driver, Bairagi. The cops also came to know that the prime accused with help of criminals from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar used to smuggle petrol and diesel from Indian Oil pipelines running across Angul and other areas. Sonu is involved in more than a dozen criminal cases including murder, dacoity and other organised crimes.

Police Monday produced the accused persons before the court here and sought its permission to take the trio on 7-days remand for further enquiry into racket.

field at Sathilo when the latter was

trying to run away with the con-

traband drugs kept in a polythene

On seeing the excise sleuths,

Das escaped the spot leaving the bag

containing contraband articles

near the gate of his house. The of-

ficials chased the convict but he

managed to give the sleuths a slip

through the rear gate of his house. During search, the sleuths found

the bag containing brown sugar

weighing 1.650 kg, with a market

rate of more than Rs 1 crore. August

29, 2018, the Excise officials sub-

mitted the chargesheet in the case

while the absconding accused was

arrested after around eight years

ments of the witnesses and argu-

ments by the counsel appearing

for the convict and Special Public

prosecutor, RR Brahma arguing

on behalf of the state, convicted Das.

The court, after hearing the state-

of escape September 25, 2019.

65-year-old drug peddler

to undergo 10 years' RI



ART EXHIBITION: People visiting an arts exhibition by BK College of Arts & Crafts at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Monday

## 'New startup policy to be inclusive, futuristic'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 16: The twoday, first ever Startup Mela 2023 organised by Startup Odisha ended Monday. The concluding day saw a panel discussion of officials from the state government with participation of Electronics and IT department principal secretary Manoj Kumar Mishra, MSME special secretary Bibhuti Bhusan Das, Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC) member cum special secretary Pradeep Kumar Mishra, and Startup Odisha executive chairman Omkar Rai.

Mishra said, "Change of process is vital to disruption. In all our policies, we are enabling substantial investment in training and education, thus making students far

**Odisha** 

more employable. With technology rapidly changing, the government is working towards bringing in large companies to adopt colleges and institutions that cater to modules like AL ML, Blockchain. Cloud and Data Analytics. Our aim is that in the next two to three years, all government colleges and possibly schools will be taught the basics of AI to begin with.

"The new startup policy to be announced soon would be inclusive

The aim with the Kumar Mishra said, "We have policy is to create at least 100 incubators in the next five years, start some **5,000** startups by **2025** and emerge as one of the top three startup hubs in the

BIBHUTI BHUSAN DAS MSME SPECIAL SECRETARY

and futuristic, where nobody will be left out. It would be a collective reflection of policies of all other departments. The aim is to create at least 100 incubators in the next five years, start at least 5,000 startups by 2025 and emerge one of the top three startup hubs in the country," said Bibhuti Bhusan Das.

Making his views clear, Pradeep

BJP threatens agitation over PMAY irregularities

started making a plan at the macro level to create an environment in higher education and technical institutions to create innovation labs interfaced with industry in both scientific and social fields.

Omkar Rai, in his address said, "The state government has appointed world class architects to redesign and transform O-Hub over the next one year, to make it a vibrant and world-class campus to nurture the startup ecosystem. Startup Odisha will continue to play a key role and evolve to meet the requirements of startups of the state. Our new startup policy will be a dynamic and futuristic policy that has been drawn up in cognizance with all

#### **Teachers' outfit seeks** job regularisation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 16: Aggrieved by the provision of appointing guest teachers for elementary schools under SC & ST Development (SSD) department, Odisha Junior Teacher Aspirant Association (OJTAA) Bhubaneswar voiced their discontentment to the media at a press meet Monday. The OJTAA highlighted the problems and proposed alterations they deemed nec-

essary in the advisory. Of the stated demands, appointment of permanent teachers in the vacant posts instead of guest teachers was cardinal. The association demanded to stop the exploitation of teachers by forcing them to function at a mere wage and award them the salary they duly deserved.

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 16: The state

BJP Monday threatened to launch a state-wide agitation if the state government failed to provide houses to eligible beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (PMAY) in a transparent manner.

Holding a press conference here, state BJP general secretary Prithivirai Harichandan alleged that despite warnings and agitation by the party, the government is not maintaining transparency in allotment of houses under the PMAY and distributing houses to ineligible beneficiaries in a partisan way

Harichandan alleged that names of over 1.5 lakh people who were on the provisional waiting list in 2018-19 did not find a place in the draft list published by the state government recently

The BJP leader also alleged the



BJD government of deleting the names of the eligible beneficiaries

to benefit party workers.

He demanded a new list be published with the 2018-19 provisional waiting list being taken as reference.

The BJP leader said, "PMAY is a flagship scheme of the Central government and the state government should not change the logo and nomenclature of the scheme."

ernment had already warned the state government making it clear that the nomenclature should not be changed in the national flagship programme at any cost, Harichandan said. "If the state government does not

"BJP is not going to tolerate any

kind of lapses. We need complete

transparency. The Central gov-

stop hijacking the central government scheme. BJP will launch massive protests," he warned. The senior BJP leader also sug-

gested the state government to put up complaint boxes to receive complaints about ineligible beneficiaries in block offices instead of panchayats and appoint efficient and honest officers in charge of the grievance box. Moreover, he demanded that

people, who have asbestos houses, should also be included in the beneficiary list.

#### Govt admits jabs'...

"The replies by ICMR-CDSCO are blatantly shocking. Though the government has declared that 'vaccination is totally voluntary', why was the compulsion created indirectly by barring people from travelling in buses, trains, flights, interstate movements, going out to hotels, restaurants, multiplexes, malls, etc. This trapped more and more panicked people into getting themselves jabbed without knowing the after-effects," said Sarda sharply. Sarda cited how India had do-

nated crores of free vaccines -leading to an uproar in 2021 -- to many poor countries worldwide and questioned whether all the potential complications of the jabs were brought to the notice of the people in those nations.

"All the global agencies have set the benchmark that only those vaccine candidates that show an efficacy of at least 50-60 per cent will be considered. Most of the vaccines have shown an efficacy of 70-90 per cent within the short period of two or three months of observation. More than 100 crore people have received at least a single dose of Covid-19 vaccine and the proportion of side effects is very low," the government has assured.

#### Why does listening to sad music help in times of sadness? hy does listening to sad music help in times of sadness? Researchers at the

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi are looking for answers behind the "tragedy paradox". According to IIT Mandi Director Laxmidhar Behera, music has a powerful ability to affect our emotions, and it's no secret that people

often turn to music to boost their mood or to help them through a "But why do we sometimes seek out sad music, even when we try to minimize sadness in our lives? Despite our natural inclination to avoid sadness, this particular emotion has a strange and enduring appeal when expressed through art. This so-called 'tragedy paradox' has puzzled philosophers for centuries. It has been postulated that the tragedy paradox arises simply

because of the aesthetic appeal of

gloomy tunes," Behera said.

is a joy forever, or is there a more profound, biological reason for sad music making us feel better? We wanted to find out how the brain reacts when listening to sad music after having an adverse experience or memory. For this, the researchers used electroencephalography (EEG) to measure the brain activity of 20 people under different conditions. They focused on brain regions involved in emotion and memory processing," he added.

The 20 participants had no musical training to avoid pre-programmed reactions to the selected music. EEG was measured under three states. In the first, EEG was recorded with no input - the baseline. In the second state, EEG was recorded as the participants recalled a sad experience and wrote about it - the Sad Autobiographical Recall or SAR condition.



In the third, EEG was measured when they were made to listen to an Indian classical raga "Mishra Jogiya". The music was selected by a panel of five music experts and is known for invoking "Karuna Rasa" (sad emotions).

EEG measures the electrical activity of the brain, commonly known as brain waves. It is known

he researchers found that when recalling a sad experience, there is enhanced gamma wave activity, while listening to sad music leads to increased alpha brain activity

he finding published in the journal 'PLOS One' shows that the brain's activity when listening to sad music is unique and distinct from both the SAR state and the baseline resting state

that brain waves are of five types - alpha, beta, gamma, delta and theta - representing a different mood and state of mind. Within the current context, alpha is, for example, associated with cognitive information processing, while gamma is associated with episodic mem-

ory processing. The researchers found that when enhanced gamma wave activity, while listening to sad music leads to increased alpha brain activity.

"Listening to Mishra Jogiya Raga (sad music) appears to promote processing of emotions and memories in the brain, through a three-channel framework involving the alpha brain wave. These mechanisms include increased global and local connectivity in brain areas involved in emotion and memory processing, and increased alertness," Behera said.

The finding that has been published in the journal "PLOS One" shows that the brain's activity when listening to sad music is unique and distinct from both the SAR state and the baseline resting state. The coping mechanism of sad music arises from better processing of emotions and memories under the alpha state.

The coping effects are not sim-

ply due to the aesthetic appeal of the music, as previously believed, but an inherent property of sad music," said Ashish Gupta a PhD scholar.

While it is clear that music can affect our emotions and cognitive abilities, the scientists believe that more research is needed to understand the relationship between sad music and the brain entirely.

While EEG studies have provided insights into the brain response to sad music in terms of brain cortical activity, the researchers also intend to study the deeper sub-cortical areas using fMRI scans in the future.

"The current study is a part of ongoing work investigating the effect of Indian ragas on human cognitive functions. This work has significance for music therapy music training, etc. Where music is used or can be used as a therapeutic tool," said Braj Bhushan, Professor, IIT Mandi.

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## **DIET stops new admissions**

Aim to create fresh pool of teachers for Jajpur district suffers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Jan 16: Suspension of admissions in the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) here for the last two years, has hit aspiring teachers hard. Those interested in Certified Teacher (CT) and Bachelor in Education (BEd) training courses are not getting the opportunity to do so, sources said Monday. They added that the purpose of creating a new pool of teachers in the district has suffered a blow due to the suspension of admissions.

Admissions have been closed as students who had undergone training from the institute are yet to receive placements in any schools as teachers. Their futures are in the dark, sources said. Interestingly DIET has hostel facilities for 64 girl students, but none for male students. The sources added that new admissions have been stopped as DIET has failed to conduct online examinations for the last two

years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, reports of relocating the institute elsewhere have been

doing the rounds in the district. This has incensed local residents. Sources said that Jajpur is way behind in education infrastructure in comparison to other districts in Odisha. Experts had

earlier said that officials will have to really work hard to develop the

district as an education hub. Jajpur district paints a sorry picture in the field of education. Many of the buildings among the 2012 government schools have developed cracks on the walls. Some are really in a dilapidated state. Most of these schools fall under the Centre's 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' scheme. Sources said that most of the schools do not have hygienic drinking water facilities while

some don't even have toilets. Children are deprived of getting proper education as most schools do not have electricity. Proper development of the body and mind also do not happen as schools lack playgrounds. Forget all these deficiencies, the shocking fact is that most schools do not have adequate number of teachers. In this backdrop, the decision by DIET to stop admission has surprised many.

Earlier demanding redressal of several issues, a case was filed before the Odisha State Human Rights Commission in 2016. The Odisha Primary Education Project Authority (OPEPA) sought details in this regard in 2018.

In reply, the District Civil Infrastructure department said that 57 schools do not have toilets for girls while in 32 males and females have to use the same toilets. Similarly, 20 schools do not have buildings of their own.

The project director of OPEPA in a report had harped on the importance of providing hygienic drinking water, separate and functional toilets in schools. The official also said that schools must have regular power supply and all electrical points should have protective covering. The report also talked about the importance of playgrounds in schools. However, nothing much has really changed since the report was made public in 2018

When contacted, principal of DIET, Nibedita Guru said that admissions have been suspended for the past couple of years due to the outbreak of Covid-19. She assured that new admissions for CT and BEd courses will take place



COLOURFUL HUES: An artiste performed the Ghoomar dance, a traditional style of Rajasthan at the Sambalpur Lok Mahotsav-2023 held at the PHD ground in Ainthapali locality of the town, Monday

### LENSMAN MANAS SWAIN MURDER CASE

#### **Court adjourns charge** framing date to Jan 25

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Jan 16: A local court Monday here ajourned the hearing of the framing of charges against the accused persons in the cameraman Manas Swain murder case to January 25. The new date was announced while the court was hearing a time petition submitted by the accused persons.

District Judge Pradyumna Nayak's court passed the order in the presence of the eight accused in the case. Earlier the court had fixed Monday for framing of the charges and had asked all the accused in the case to be present. Six of the accused are now in prison while two are out on bail.

All the six in prison were brought under tight security from Bhadrak jail to the court. Those out on bail are Parameshwar Rout and former director of Information and Public Relations department (I&PR) Niranjan Sethi. They were also present in the court for the hearing.

Manas, a native of Palashpur village under Chandbali block in Bhadrak district was allegedly kidnapped by the owner of 'Sampurna' web portal, Sharmistha Rout and her associates. He was allegedly murdered at 'Dayal Ashram', an old-

## 3 of a family injured in elephant attack



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Jan 16: The humanelephant conflict continues unabated in Odisha. Three members of a family suffered critical injuries Monday when an elephant attacked them at Namkani village in Telkoi forest range of Keonihar district.

The injured have been identified as Satia Dehuri, 50, his wife Rashmita Dehuri, 45 and their four-year-old son, belonging to Rodanga village in Dhenkanal district. They were returning home after witnessing the 'Makar Yatra' festival in neighbouring Bimala village of Keonihar district when a tusker attacked them. their homes at night.

Locals however, managed to chase the pachyderm away and rescue the injured. They were first taken to a hospital in Telkoi and later shifted to Keonjhar district headquarters hospital (DHH).

While Satia and his son are currently undergoing treatment at the DHH, Rashmita has been shifted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

Sources said that elephant menace has completely petrified people living in villages of the Telkoi forest range. They rarely step out of their houses unless some urgent work is pending. Ranger Shivaji Mohan Rao has asked people not to step out of

**CUTTACK BENCH, CUTTACK** Company Application CA (CAA) 11 / CB / 2022

the matter of sections 230 read with section 232 o

U29294OR1989PTC002313 and having its registere office at Power House Road Rourkela, Orissa-76900

under the Companies Act, 1956 with CIN U51909WB2011PTC164840 and having its registere

hereinafter referred to as 'Happy Suppliers' o Transferor Company 3'), is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 with CIN

U51109WB2007PTC117732 and having its registere office at 21, Princep Street, 2nd Floor, Kolkata-70007 n the matter of: Kamakhya Packaging Privat Packaging' or 'Transferor Company 4'), is company incorporated under the Companies Ac 1956 with CIN: U21010JH1989PTC003419 an naving its registered office at Plot No. IV/C-5, (P

Transferor Company 5'), is a company incorpor under the Companies Act, 1956 with CIN U51109WB2008PTC121665 and having its registere office at White House, LIC building, 21, C. R. Avenue

hereinafter referred to as 'Rishi Securities & Financi der the Companies Act, 1956 with CIN J17222WB1994PTC061850 and having its regi

fice at 21, Princep Street, Kolkata-700072.

the matter of: Rama Laminators Private Limited nereinafter referred to as 'Rama Laminators' of

ransferor Company 2') APPLICANT COMPANY ent of the Notice of the meetings of EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS of the Transfe Company 2 / APPLICANT COMPANY

of January, 2023 passed in Company Application CA(CAA) 11/CB/2022 the Cuttack Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal at Cuttack, has irected separate meetings to be held of the Equity nareholders of Rama Laminators Private Limit eing the Transferor Company 2/ Applican Company for the purpose of considering, and thought fit, approving with or without modification(s

he proposed Scheme of Arrangement of Transfer ompanies with the Transferee Company from the Appointed Date being 01st April, 2022. pursuance of the said order and as directed ther urther notice is hereby given that separate meeting of the Equity Shareholders of the Applicant compa vill be held on the day, date and time me nerein below at which time and place the Equit

Shareholders of Applicant Company are requested to attend and vote on the resolution contained in the DAY/TIME/VENUE OF MEETING: Friday, 17th February, 2023 at 5 PM at the Conferen

The Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal has directed vide order dated 16th day of January, 2023 to fmembers as on 30th June, 2022. Accordingly, notice convening the meeting will be sent to all those who are Equity Shareholders as on 30th June, 2022 by any on

Sarani, Kolkata-700001

of the modes prescribed in the order. Copy of the said Notice containing the Scheme rrangement and of the statement under Section 230 can be obtained free of charge at the registered office of the Applicant Company Persons entitled to attend and vote at the respective meetings, may vote in person or by proxy, provided that all proxies in the rescribed form are deposited at the registered office

of the Applicant Company not later than 48 hours before the respective meeting(s). Proxy Form for the said meeting can be had from th registered office of the **Applicant company**.

Further take note by the said order dated 16th day January, 2023 passed in **Company Application** CA(CAA) 11/ CB / 2022 under Section 230(1) of the Act the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal Cuttack Bench has dispensed with the meeting Insecured Creditors of Applicant Company in view 100% consent affidavits received and has also ecorded that there is no requirement of meeting of ocured Creditors of Applicant Company in view of

NIL creditors verified by auditors certificate he Tribunal has appointed Mr. Gopinath Naya ractising Company Secretary as the Chairperson of he said meetings and Mr. Sudhir Kumar Samanta Cost Accountant, as the Scrutinizer of the said meetin The above-mentioned Scheme of Arrangement, pproved in the meetings, will be subject to the bsequent approval of the Hon'ble Tribunal

Chairperson appointed for the meet Dated this 17th day of January, 2023

#### Deogarh, Jan 16: In a shocking incident, a man pinned his two-year old daughter to death after a bitter spat with his wife at Lambadura village under Laimura police lim-

its in this district, Monday morning.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Man pins 2-yr-old

daughter to death

The accused was identified as Biju Kishan, the father of deceased Nandini Kishan. Police rushed to the spot and arrested the accused after the deceased's mother Shakuntala Kishan lodged a complaint.

A case was registered in this connection and the body was sent for post-mortem. SDPO Anil Behuria, IIC Santosh Satapathy reached the spot and took stock of the situation. The incident has stunned people of the village.

The tragic incident occurred when Shakuntala had come to Lambadura village to get the Aadhaar card of her daughter done at the designated centre.

## JK Paper Mills wins IPMA award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Jan 16: The Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) has instituted the 'Paper Mill of the Year Award'. The award is given to a paper company which sets an example in areas of productivity, quality, HRD, research and development and in developing export markets.

JK Paper Mills in Rayagada, Odisha was recently conferred with the 'IPMA Paper Mill of the Year Award 2021-22'. Vinay Dwivedi, executive vice-president (Works) received Friday (January 13) the prestigious award on the occasion of the 23rd IPMA Annual Session & Awards function in New Delhi.

Harsh Pati Singhania, MD & VC. JK Paper Ltd graced the occasion as chief guest. AS Mehta, present at the award function.

Origin of Indravati river,

Mardiguda lies in neglect



Andreas Endters, president & CEO, Voith Paper GmbH, Germany and Tomi Amberla, director, AFRY Management Consultancy. Finland were also

#### **Coastguard rescues** 13 Paradip fishermen

Paradip: Personnel of the Indian Coastguard have rescued 13 fishermen who had gone missing since January 8 while fishing in the Bay of Bengal, Paradip Port authorities and family members of these missing fishermen had given up all hope. However, Monday was a joyful reunion of sorts when the fishermen and the two mechanized boats they were on, arrived at the fishing jetty in Paradip. The health conditions of all the 13 are okay, informed officials. One of the rescued fishermen, Ashok Mirdha said both the boats, developed mechanical snags January 11 and they failed to contact anyone as there was connectivity problems where they were stranded.

#### **MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM**

Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds. **Date and Venue:** 

Wednesday, 18th January, 2023; 6:30 p.m. onwards. at Hotel Radhika Regency, Bisra Road, Rourkela - 769 001, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Sibasish Samal, Mobile: 99370 88035. Friday, 20th January, 2023; 6:30 p.m. onwards at Hotel JDR, At/Po- Rangadhipa, Sundargarh - 770 002, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Ranjit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035.

Registration is compulsory.

The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm. It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event. No walk-ins will be allowed.

MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.

Department of Panchayatiraj & Drinking Water OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BHANDARIPOKHARI Invitation of Bids (IFB) Bid Identification No.PSB-03/2022-23

e-mail-ori-bhandaripokhari@nic.in

Bid documents consisting of work, estimated amount for put to tender, cost of tender paper, time of completion, class of tractor, the set of terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen from the office of Panchayat

Samiti, Bhandaripokhari. Approx.estimated | Cost of tender Class of Construction of Building Less Day Care cum Health & Wellness Centre at Raghunathpur of Malada G.P Construction of Building Less Day Care cum Health 8 Rs.30,60,055/ Rs.6000/ Rs.30,600 C & B Wellness Centre at Malada of Malada G.P. Construction of Building Less Day Care cum Health & Wellness Centre at Kulana of Tesinga G.P Rs.30.04.025/ Rs.6000/ Rs.30,100 C&B Construction of Building Less Day Care cun Health & Wellness Centre at Bandalo-Madhial C&B Rs.30.37.823/ Rs.30.400/ Rs.6000/ of Bandalo-Madhiali G.P. eriod of completion 11 (eleven) calendar months each 17/01/2023 at 11.00 A.M.

10 Name of the Officer Inviting Bids Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Bhandaripokhari he Bid documents will be available In District Website www.bhadrak.nic.in from 17 01 23 to 31 01 2023. Sealed tender pape consist of all Bid documents will be received through registered / speed post only up to 31 01 2023 5 00 pm. Except govt, ho idays. No other courier service shall be accepted. The authority will not be responsible for any postal delay. The tender will be opened on 01.02.2023 at 11.00 AM in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives in the office of the Panchaya Samiti, Bhandaripokhari. In case the office happens to be closed on the stipulated date of opening of bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The tender paper received after stipulated date and time will not be accepted. Further details can be seen from the office of Panchayat Samili, Bhandaripokhari on working hours. Ar nddendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen office of undersigned. The detailed information is also ava

Date & time of availability of bid documents on Distric website "www.bhadrak.nic.in."

ast date/ time for receipt of bids in the office

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Bhandaripokhari

### Villagers do not even get basic amenities like drinking water and electricity POST NEWS NETWORK Tentulikhunti, Jan 16: The nondescript hilltop village of Mardiguda MARDIGUDA

in Kalahandi district is the origin of the Indravati river. However, the historic place lies in neglect despite finding a place in the tourism map of Odisha. Residents are deprived of basic amenities like electricity and drinking water facilities. Due to the apathy shown by the Odisha government, Mardiguda fails to attract tourists, locals said.

Mardiguda is a small hamlet in Thuamula-Rampur block of Kalahandi district. Approximately 40 farmers reside with their families in this village surrounded by hills and forest from all sides.

The Indravati river has an interesting origin. Three small streams of water flowing from behind a mango tree in Mardiguda village merges together to form the mouth of the river. It is indeed a beautiful sight to the eyes if one visits the scenic spot. The villagers worship this place as the shrine of Maa Indravati.

The river then meanders its way across Kalahandi and Nabarangpur districts in Odisha before entering Chhattisgarh. It flows through various

the Godavari on the borders of Maharashtra and Telangana.

The beautiful terrain that the river traverses and the many mythologies surrounding it, add to the river's aura and magic. The river is known as the lifeline of Kalahandi and Nabarangpur districts. Water from the river is used for irrigation of 1.5 lakh hectare of land in Kalahandi district. It is the also the source of 600MW of electric-

The Odisha government has constructed a large reservoir to store the water from the river. Also a hydroelectricity project has been established at Mukhiguda providing employment directly and indirectly to many persons. The power generated from the river water allows the state to earn

substantial revenues. Locals lamented that the village which has given birth to the Indravati river, however, is not looked after properly by the Odisha government. What ails the villagers the most is the lack of proper drinking water facilities. Yes, there are some tube wells in the village. However, most of the time the tube wells pour out contaminated water. Also the lack of electricity means that people have to depend on lanterns and lamps once the sun sets.

Only one sign board stating that Mardiguda is a tourist spot has been put up. Hence people rarely visit this beautiful village as they are not aware of it. Some residents claimed that the Tourism department has to involve locals to attract tourists to the place.

When contacted, BDO Subhakanta Nayak said that the village has various problems and efforts are being made to resolve them in phases. He however, said that there are no plans to develop the place as a tourist side.



To hope for a true change of human life without a change of human nature is an irrational and unspiritual proposition.

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



Jayati Ghosh

Most of the world's

regressive, and are

necessary revenues

or ensure that the

therefore unable

tax systems are

outdated and

to deliver the

### Davos Man Must Pay

he World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, has always been more than a little problematic. But in recent years, the annual gathering of the rich and powerful has become an increasingly wasteful exercise in vanity. What is the point of all those private jets, luxury hotels, and clinking champagne glasses if they lead to nothing more than handwringing about the state of the world and vague promises to address multiple global challenges?

Ahead of this year's gathering this month, the WEF once again laid out an ambitious agenda. Recognising that the "world today is at a critical inflection point" and that the "sheer number of ongoing crises calls for bold collective action," the theme this year is "cooperation in a fragmented world.

The many political and business leaders attending these gatherings are indeed in a position to take concrete steps toward cooperation and change. That is why, along with 29 other members of the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission, I have signed an open letter calling on Davos attendees to join us in demanding higher taxes for the

The impetus for this demand is the urgent need to mitigate the worst ef-

fects of climate change and prevent social instability. Last year, the Transformational Economics Commission published the book Earth for All, which provides a blueprint for eliminating poverty, reducing inequality, empowering women, transforming food systems, and overhauling energy systems by switching to renewables

If we are to achieve these fundamental transformations, all of which require massive increases in public spending, we must raise taxes on corporations and the ultrawealthy. While central banks and development banks can make significant contributions to this effort, it is not enough. Enhanced public expenditure, funded by increased tax revenues, is needed to support the green transition, ensure social protections and well-being for all, and underwrite private-sec-

Most of the world's tax systems are outdated and regressive, and are therefore unable to deliver the necessary revenues or ensure that the rich pay their fair share. Likewise. our laws fail to recognise the myriad ways corporations and wealthy individuals can evade taxes and how financial globalisation has enabled firms to shift profits and assets to lowtax jurisdictions. Instead of addressing these legal loopholes, governments rely far too

rich pay their fair share heavily on indirect taxation, such as valueadded tax (VAT), which falls disproportionately on the poor. Over the past few decades, these systemic inequities have led to a massive decline in public wealth and to enormous concentrations of private wealth. As the lat-

The good news is that it is not too late to change course. In our letter to Davos attendees, we propose several measures to address the breakdown of tax systems around the world and ensure a sustainable future by taxing wealth, incomes, and corporate profits, as well as the excessive greenhouse-gas emissions and biosphere exploitation by the world's wealthiest people.

est World Inequality Report shows, they have also contributed to balloon-

First, by developing and sharing national asset registries, governments could tax extremely wealthy individuals more easily, even if they hide their wealth in tax havens. Second, taxing capital incomes would make tax systems more progressive. Third, to weaken companies' incentives to shift profits to low-tax countries, we propose a global minimum corporate tax rate of 25 per cent (close to the global average) and unitary taxation based on multinationals' sales, employment, and assets in each country. Fourth, taxing windfall profits in all sectors, especially profits made during periods of scarcity and speculation, would have positive distributional effects. Lastly, we call for taxes on luxury carbon emissions and biosphere consumption and for phasing out all tax incentives related to fossil fuels.

These common-sense proposals are not new. Polls show that most people support higher taxes on the rich, and that supporters include some of those who would be subject to them. Last year, for example, a group of 100 billionaires and millionaires signed a letter calling for a "moderate wealth tax" on the richest one-tenth of the top 1 per cent of Americans and warning that extreme inequality could lead to political instability and violence. Other groups have made similar calls.

But we cannot achieve meaningful change without political will. To this end, it is time for the participants and organisers of the Davos meeting to justify this expensive annual festival of wealth by leveraging their considerable influence to bring about a fairer tax system.

The writer, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

#### WISDOM CORNER

A man can do what he wants, but not want what he wants. ADTHUD SCHODENHALIED

Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success.

Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith.

WORDS**WORTH** 

#### Fardel

For many people, it will instantly bring to mind to be soliloquy: "Who would fardels bear, / To grunt and sweat or many people, it will instantly bring to mind Hamlet's famous To be under a weary life, / But that the dread of something after death ...". The Oxford English Dictionary's editors more than a century ago must have thought that was too familiar to need citing and instead included another Shakespeare quotation, from A Winter's Tale: "There Ives such Secrets in this Farthell and Box, which none must know but the King." A fardel was a bundle, a pack, a parcel or similar item. It came into English around 1300 from the Old French fardel, a diminutive of farde, a burden, which is still in use in the same sense in modern French, though in the form fardeau. It is said by some authorities, for example Le Petit Robert, that that derives from the Arabic fardah, half a camel load. Carrying that would be enough to make anybody grunt and sweat. A fardel could also be a quarter of something; it's from the Old English word that's also the origin of fourth and of the name of the obsolete British coin, the farthing, one-quarter of an old penny. One use was as a measure of land — William Noy wrote in The Compleat Lawyer in 1651, "Two Fardells of Land make a Nooke of Land", a nook being an old land measure of 20 acres in Northern England and Scotland.

#### FOCUS STRATEGIC AFFAIRS

## **DEGLAMOURISING SPIES**



Vappala Balachandran

**IN STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE** THIS IS THE MOST **IMPORTANT COMPUTATION THAT RIVALS SEEK: HOW WOULD A COUNTRY BEHAVE IN A PARTICULAR SITUATION?** 

s a writer on intelligence for the last 27 years, my objective has been to demystify and deglamourise the subject for the public. Like any other branch of governance, intelligence collection has also been part of every government from time immemorial, the only difference being that spies seek information in an unconventional way and operate behind a cloak of secrecy. Unfortunately, the public gets a distorted picture through media embellishments and at times by intelligence officers themselves, some quoting mere gossip and juicy high-level politics, leaving an impression that only they know certain secrets of the country.

An example to be quoted is the much-acclaimed movie "Bell Bottom" (2021) on the hijacking of IC Flight 421 in 1984 which is claimed to have been "based on true events." The movie shows a Rambostyle RAW-agent securing the custody of hijackers from a foreign country against all odds. The truth is that the transfer of hijackers was done through the commendable efforts of a senior Indian diplomat and the contribution by intelligence agencies was merely to ensure their security back to India.

That is why I am wary of superlative headlines while describing apprehension of "master spies." The latest to be included in that category is Ana Montes of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), an American lady who had spied for Cuba. US media started describing her as "the most damaging spy in US history" in January 2023. The reason was perhaps the release of a book "Code Name Blue Wren" by Jim Popkin on her. In actual fact, this case is old. She was arrested in 2001 on charges of spying for Cuba, sentenced in 2002 to 25 years in prison but released after 20 years in 2023 on good conduct. Further: Cuba would not have caused so much harm to America as the book blurbs would claim. In my book "Intelligence Over Centuries," I had quoted American documents, declassified only in 2016, to reveal how Fidel Castro was keen to bridge relations with America even after the 1961 Bay of Pigs fiasco, when the US was in a weak position as the



In the intelligence world, there is an unwritten axiom that agents would be planted when the relationship is 'normal' while counter intelligence of the home country would be extra alert to flush out such moles

Cubans were holding 1,202 mercenaries and 5,000 of their families. This was apparent during his long talks with the secret intermediary James B Donovan during 1962-63.

That does not mean that Cuba would not spy on America. Even Israel, the friendliest country of America, had spied on the latter as the Jonathan Pollard case (1984-85) would indicate. In the intelligence world, there is an unwritten axiom that agents would be planted when the relationship is "normal" while counter intelligence of the home country would be extra alert

to flush out such moles. How do we grade the so-called "master-spies"? The case of US Naval Radioman John Anthony Walker gives some clues. In 1985, the late Casper Weinberger, then US Secretary of Defence, branded Walker as the "master spy" for causing maximum damage to US security by supplying sensitive data on nuclear weaponry to Soviet Intelligence between 1967 and 1984. He passed on American sensor data along with their tactics and "readiness" on the surface/submarine/airborne training system. He also updated the data from time to time. Boris Solomatin, then KGB Chief of Washington DC station in 1967, who "handled" Walker had told American author Pete Early in 1988 that Walker could help them to "understand and study" how the Pentagon "thinks."

In strategic intelligence this is

the most important computation that rivals seek: how would a country behave in a particular situation?

In the same year, Los Angeles Times named Coomer Narain alias Chittur Venkat Narayan as the "master Indian spy" who could sell India's security secrets for  $25\,$ years, although he was not part of any security establishment. Reams of our strategic papers were sold by him to foreign embassies unhindered by any check at any level. This would indicate that spies who cause maximum damage to the country need not be technical wizards but ordinary purveyors. Narain, who died in 2000, was a regional manager in a private firm.

Ana Montes, the spy now in the news in the US, had Puerto Rican roots but was born in 1957 in West Germany where her father was working in the US army. The family returned to Kansas and she had her education in America. In 1980, she was hired as a typist in the "Freedom of Information Office" of the Justice Department. Later her services were hired by the DIA. It was at this juncture that a Cuban intelligence talent spotter took cognisance of her critical views on US foreign policy.

It was her ideological alignment towards South America and her criticism of US foreign policy that made her a mole for Cuban intelligence Direccion Generale de Inteligencia (DGI). Early in the 1980s, she developed sympathies for

the "Sandinistas," the Cuban backed revolutionary Socialist Party which was battling for the control of Nicaragua. She was disappointed with the Reagan Administration's covert help to the CIA backed "Contras" who were trying to topple the Sandinista government. A talent-spotter friend suggested to her that she could help Sandinistas by passing on secret US papers to them.

According to this story, she readily agreed to go to New York to meet a representative of the Cuban DGI on December 16, 1984. From that day till ten days after the 9/11 attack in 2001, when she was arrested, she was spying for Cuba. Some media releases said that she had made a clandestine trip to Cuba, travelling through Spain and Czechoslovakia using fake passports and wearing different disguises. It was claimed that the DGI taught her the Soviet tradecraft on how to send secret communications, how to lose a tail, even how to beat a polygraph by managing blood pressure through the controlled clenching of the sphincter muscle.

However, the FBI's restrained public release gave reasons for her arrest immediately after 9/11. She was in no way connected with 9/11 terrorist strikes but it was consid ered dangerous to have a suspected spy within the intelligence community who would have access to "America's planned invasion of Afghanistan the following month. Ana Montes never removed any documents from work, either physically or electronically. She memorised the contents, typed the contents into her laptop at home, transferred it to encrypted disks and transmitted them to Cuban handlers via shortwave radio.

The FBI also said that Montes never accepted any money from Cuba, except for reimbursements for some expenses. Her motive was pure ideology. However, she confessed to having revealed the identities of four undercover American intelligence officers working in Cuba. She pleaded guilty in 2002 and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

The writer is a former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat. ©THE BILLION PRESS

#### SPECTRUM CLASSIFIED INFO

## Biden's documents debacle



Asad Mirza

**ACCORDING TO US** LAWS, NEITHER TRUMP NOR BIDEN **SHOULD HAVE HAD** ANY CLASSIFIED **MATERIAL IN THEIR POSSESSION** 

ceent revelations that classi-tigated by Jack Smith, a war crimes 2022, Archives officials discovered January 2023, All were turned over fied documents going back to US President Joe Biden's term as vice-president have been found in his private office and at his home, may become a political - and possibly legal -- liability for him. President Biden's own handling of classified materials is now under scrutiny given the revelations that documents were stored at his private office and home. In his defence, Biden said he was "surprised" to learn of the discovery of the records. Earlier, he had branded his predecessor. Donald Trump, "irresponsible" for storing classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

The imbroglio could become a headache for Biden; as first, the Congress may investigate this oversight. Republican Party feels emboldened by its majority in the House of Representatives and it may issue a subpoena to Biden. Republican members of Congress are already gearing up for a series of investigations into the Biden family's and his son Hunter's finances.

Meanwhile, US Attorney General Merrick Garland has appointed two different special counsels to independently investigate the handling of classified records by Trump and Biden. Trump is being invesprosecutor, on whether he or his associates improperly retained classified records at his Florida estate after he left office in 2021 and then tried to obstruct a federal investigation. Former US Attorney Robert Hur has been appointed by Garland to investigate the removal and retention of classified records from Biden's time as VP, and their discovery at two locations. According to US laws, neither

Trump nor Biden should have had any classified material in their possession. The records from each administration are supposed to be turned over to the legal custody of the US National Archives, during a presidential transition period. In addition, it is unlawful to knowingly or wilfully remove or retain classified documents. The materials in question date back to when Biden was President Obama's VP from 2009 to 2017, and when Trump was President from 2017 to 2021. Legal experts say there are unambiguous contrasts between the two cases. In Trump's case, the National Archives tried for more than a year after Trump left office to retrieve all records he retained, without success. When Trump finally returned 15 boxes of documents in January they contained classified materials.

The matter was referred to the Justice Department, which issued a grand jury subpoena last year in May seeking the return of all classified records. Investigators then visited Trump's home, where his attorneys handed over more material and asserted there were no more documents on the premises. That turned out to be false. Additional evidence collected by FBI, including surveillance footage from Mar-a-Lago, prompted agents to seek court approval to execute a search warrant on 8 August 2022, amid concerns over possible obstruction. The FBI recovered an additional 13,000 documents, about 100 of which were

marked as classified. In Biden's case, Garland said the President's attorneys informed the Archives and the Justice Department in November 2022 that they had discovered fewer than a dozen classified files inside a closet at the Penn Biden Centre thinktank in Washington DC earlier that month. After the discovery, the attorneys continued to conduct additional searches at Biden's homes in Wilmington and Rehoboth Beach. Delaware, where more documents were found in December 2022 and

to the authorities. The US law is very clear that it

is a crime only if the retention and removal of classified records is intentional. Prosecutors typically won't pursue charges for the accidental retention of classified records, but if there is evidence of possible obstruction of justice, that could change things. On their part legal experts say, Trump faces considerably more legal liability than Biden. To date, there has been no suggestion by the Justice Department that Biden knowingly retained the records or refused to return them to the government. Also, as President, Biden is unlikely to face prosecution. The Justice Department has not changed its long-standing policy that a sitting President cannot be indicted.

The documents debacle provides the Republicans with a new line of attack to use against him during the upcoming campaign and makes it more difficult for him to turn the issue against Trump, who has already announced he will seek the Republican nomination for President.

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

## etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST** 

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

#### Curb hate speech

Sir, While hearing a batch of petitions filed in relation to hate speech incidents, the Supreme Court has expressed concern over the manner TV anchors have been trying to create division in society. It is absolutely clear that everything is driven by TRP and channels are competing against each other. The common people are completely misguided. The TV media has lost its credibility by highlighting unworthy issues. Advocate Shadan Farasat highlighted the issue of strengthening the regulatory network under the Cable TV Regulation Act against programmes spewing hate speech. In my opinion, TV anchors must not try to spread the poison of hatred in society which will dam-

age our country. Hitesh kumar Parida, PANIKOILI

#### Legislature vs judiciary

Sir, The manner in which Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla raised the question of judicial encroachment on the jurisdiction of the legislature in Jaipur along with Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, is not normal. Addressing the two-day conference of the presiding officers, both said that just as the legislature cannot give judicial decisions, similarly the judiciary should also refrain from trying to usurp the right to make laws. Dhankhar himself has been a legal practitioner and has also practiced in the Supreme Court. In such a situation, it is important for him to say that the SC's decision given in the well-known Kesavanand Bharti case related to the integrity of the basic structure of the Constitution sets a wrong tradition. His argument is that in a democracy, the Parliament is supreme. In such a situation, if any other institution declares the law passed in the Parliament as invalid, then where does the parliamentary supremacy remain? The immediate context of these statements being made by the two topmost functionaries of the legislature is the ongoing debate on the appointment of judges. The National Judicial Appointments Commission Act related to it was dismissed by the SC in 2015, calling it unconstitutional. Dhankhar had criticised that decision in the past as well. But the problem is that the interpretation of parliamentary supremacy citing protection of the rights of the legislature, knowingly or unknowingly seems to be encroaching upon the jurisdiction of judiciary. The Kesavanand Bharti case that Dhankhar referred to, came in 1973. Since then, not only during hearings of various courts but also in decisions of various governments, the words and sentiments of that decision have been kept in mind. Half a century later, how rational would it be to question the validity of that decision? Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

## national



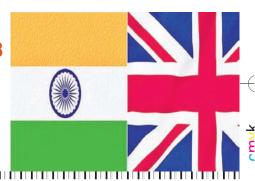
the leaders of tomorrow. You should never back down against all odds to fight for the people of J&K. You have to continue these services with enthusiasm

**Today's youth are** 

FAROOQ ABDULLAH NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

#### INDIA, UK TO LAUNCH YOUNG **PROFESSIONALS SCHEME FEB 28**

India and the UK will launch the Young Professionals Scheme next month that will allow degreeholding Indian nationals in the age group 18-30 years to live and work in Britain for up to two years





I want to ask Punjab CM Mann that you are the chief minister of Punjab, Punjab should be run from

Punjab only. Bhagwant Mann should not come under pressure of (Arvind) Kejriwal ji and Delhi

RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

Only two communities the youth and farmers -- can break the politics being done in the name of caste, community, religion, language, province



provided to police personnel on duty during the agitation or any other long





#### **SHORT TAKES**

#### **Kuldeep Sengar** gets interim bail

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday granted interim bail to former Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who was handed imprisonment for life for raping a minor girl in Unnao in 2017, in view of his daughter's marriage. A division bench of Justices Mukta Gupta and Poonam A. Bamba asked Sengar to report to the concerned Station House Officer on a daily basis during his bail period and furnish two sureties of Rs 1 lakh each.

#### **Bridge collapses** in Darbhanga

Patna: An iron bridge in Bihar's Darbhanga district collapsed Monday due to an overloaded truck, officials said. The incident occurred at Sabohar Ghat under Kusheshwar Asthan block in Darbhanga. The bridge, over the Kamla Balan river, connected Darbhanga with Madhubani, Saharsa, and Samastipur districts, With the middle of the bridge, it collapsed and the truck fell into the river. The truck driver and helper managed to jump into the river and save their lives. Following the incident, the local officials reached the spot and operations were launched to extract the truck.

#### Woman hit by SUV while feeding dogs

Chandigarh: A woman in Chandigarh was hit by a speeding SUV while she was feeding stray dogs on the roadside and the impact was so severe that she was tossed up in the air, police said Monday. The incident occurred in Sector 53 at 11.39 p.m. Saturday, and the driver fled immediately after the incident. The footage from a CCTV camera shows the woman was seen feeding a stray dog when the Thar vehicle hit her. The victim. Teiaswita Kaushal, 25, a resident of Sector 51, was hospitalised and later discharged.

#### Narrow escape for Andhra minister, MP

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Mines and Energy Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy and his son, MP Mithun Reddy had a narrow escape when a car in their convoy met with an accident in Annamayya district Monday. They were going to a relative's house when Mithun Reddy's car was hit by another vehicle coming from the opposite direction. The MP's vehicle overturned causing grievous injuries to his personal secretary. Mithun Reddy was travelling in his father's car at the time of the accident which took place near Channamukkapalle ring road in Rayachoti mandal.

## **EC** holds discussion on remote voting

While some parties saw the demonstration of the prototype remote electronic voting machine (RVM), others stayed away from it, saying technological interventions can wait before a consensus is developed on legal and administrative issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 16: The Election Commission Monday held consultations with recognised national and state political parties on its proposal on remote voting with a

majority of opposition parties pressing for a broad-based consensus on legal, administrative and logistical framework, including the definition of domestic migrants before taking the matter further.

attended the Sources in the poll consultation panel said some political parties requested for demonstration of Remote Voting

Machine in the states also. While the poll panel had invited eight national and 57 state parties recognised by it, 40 state parties attended the meet. Representatives of all eight national parties attended the consultation.

The parties agreed with broad objectives of every effort to include non-voting electors in the election process in the stakeholder consultations on electoral issues which was held after a gap of five years. They also suggested more such discussions on a regular basis in future.

On the request of the parties, the poll panel extended the date of submission of written views by them on various issues on RVM to February 28. The earlier date was January 31. Representatives from political parties later said the EC assured that it would move ahead with remote voting only after a consensus emerges between the stakeholders.

"No opposition party wants to see the demonstration of a remote voting machine (RVM). First the issue of the need to have such a machine should be settled," senior Congress

leader Digvijaya Singh While the poll panel had told reporters after invited eight national participating in a meetand 57 state parties ing of political parties recognised by it, 40 convened by the poll state parties attended body to demonstrate the working of an Representatives of all RVM.

The former Madhya Pradesh chief minister said he felt that

there would be no RVM demonstration till there is a consensus on having one. No political party is prepared to see the demonstration, he said

"The idea of RVM is not acceptable," Singh said, adding that the commission should address concerns about electronic voting machines raised by eminent citizens of the country.

aircraft took off from Kathmandu's

Tribhuvan International Airport

at 10:33 am Sunday and crashed

on the bank of the Seti River be-

tween the old airport and the new

airport in Pokhara, minutes be-

fore landing, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal

ing five Indians, have been recov-

ered, officials said, in one of Nepal's

worst aviation tragedies. The re-

maining four passengers are also

feared dead but the bodies are yet

to be recovered. The five Indians,

all reportedly from Uttar Pradesh,

have been identified as Abhisekh

Kushwaha, 25, Vishal Sharma, 22,

Anil Kumar Rajbhar, 27, Sonu

Jaiswal, 35, and Sanjaya Jaiswal.

phere prevailed at the residences

of the four of the deceased who

hailed from UP's Ghazipur.

Meanwhile, a subdued atmos-

The bodies of 68 people, includ-



the meet

eight national parties



Pilgrims leave for their hometowns after the end of Gangasagar Mela 2023, at Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas district

#### **CRIMINALISATION OF MARITAL RAPE**

### SC seeks Centre's response on pleas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 16: The Supreme Court Monday sought the Centre's response to a batch of petitions pertaining to criminalisation of marital rape and the IPC provision which provides protection to a husband against prosecution for forcible sexual intercourse if the wife is an adult.

The Centre, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, told the bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud that the issue has legal as well as "social implications" and the government would like to file its response to the petitions

"The Union of India shall file a counter affidavit by February 15, 2023. The batch of petitions will be heard March 21," ordered the bench, which also comprised Justices PS Narasimha and J B Pardiwala.

The top court, which appointed lawyers Pooja Dhar and Jaikriti Jadeja as nodal counsel, said the parties will have to file their written submissions by March 3 for smooth

Video captures horrific moments

hearing of the petitions. One of pleas has been filed in relation to the Delhi High Court's split verdict of May 11, 2022 on the issue. This appeal has been filed by Khushboo Saifi, one of the petitioners before the Delhi High Court.

However, the two HC judges -Justice Rajiv Shakdher and Justice C Hari Shankar -- had concurred for granting a certificate of leave to appeal in the Supreme Court as the matter involved substantial questions of law which required a decision from the top court.

Another plea has been filed by a man against the Karnataka High Court verdict which had paved way for his prosecution for allegedly raping his wife.

to Nepal, and had opted for a four-

wheeler to go there," a friend of

Anil at the deceased's native village

said. People also spoke about the so-

cial nature of Kushwaha. "Abhishek

Kushwaha was running the 'Jan

Seva Kendra' for the last three

years. He was a practical person and

in less time he registered a good

growth. He never said 'no' to any-

one for work if they were finding

it difficult to make the payment. We

The Karnataka High Court had March 23 last year said exempting a husband from allegation of rape and unnatural sex with his wife runs against Article 14 (equality before law) of the Constitution.

The set of pleas are PILs filed against the IPC provision and have challenged the constitutionality of the marital rape exception under Section 375 IPC (rape) on the ground that it discriminates against married women who are sexually assaulted by their husbands.

Under the exception given in Section 375 of the IPC, sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife, the wife not being minor, is not rape At the outset of the hearing,

senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for the husband in the appeal against the Karnataka High Court judgment, said his matter was different as others are PILs.

The solicitor general suggested the cases against the spilt verdict of the Delhi High Court can be allowed to be heard by a third judge of the high court and then the apex court can have a "final view".

did not know that he was going to

Nepal, and came to know after the

accident," said the owner of a shop

from where Kushwaha ran the Jan

Villagers said the four were to re-

turn to Ghazipur Tuesday after

paragliding in the popular tourist

Rajan Maurya, who is a friend

of the four deceased passengers, told

reporters, "They were my best of

friends and they had gone to Nepal.

They were sending the videos from

there." Deceased passenger Vishal

Sharma's friend Mukesh Kashyap

said, "Vishal Sharma was my friend.

and used to do the work of finance

in a company. Vishal was unmar-

ried and he had gone to Nepal 3-4

days ago. The Facebook live was an

authentic one, and Sonu Jaiswal

was seen in the post. My last word

to him was 'enjoy' the tour".

Seva Kendra.

hub of Pokhara.

#### BJP to launch 'Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra' from Jan 21 to 29 in K'taka



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Jan 16: With an eye on the upcoming Assembly election which is less than four months away, the Bharatiya Janata Party will launch 'Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra' from January 21 to 29.

The BJP national president J P Nadda will flag off the campaign from Vijayapura in north Karnataka on January 21. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel, former chief minister B S Yediyurappa and local MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal will attend the event.

'We have set a target to reach out to at least 1.5 crore to two crore people in this duration," Karnataka Higher Education Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said in a press conference here.

During the campaign, the party will carry out a door-to-door campaign informing people about the welfare initiatives of the BJP government in the State and Centre.

"The drive will be carried out in 58,000 booths at a time. Ministers, MLAs and party functionaries will take part in the drive," he added.

#### DCGI approves mkt authorisation for Covovax as booster

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 16: The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved market authorisation to Covid-19 vaccine Covovax as a heterologous booster dose for adults who have been administered two doses of Covishield or Covaxin, official sources said Monday.

The DCGI's approval came following recommendation by the Subject Expert Committee of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

Prakash Kumar Singh, Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs at the Serum Institute of India (SII), had recently written to the DCGI for the approval of Covovax heterologous booster dose for those aged 18 years and above in view of escalating Covid-19 pandemic situation in some countries, an official source had said.

The DCGI had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults December 28, 2021, in the 12-17 age group March 9, 2022, and in children aged 7-11 years June 28 last year subject to certain conditions. Covovax is manufactured through technology transfer from Novavax. It has been approved by the European Medicines-Agency for conditional marketing

### Northwest India in grip of intense cold The Safdarjung observatory,

Raibhar's mother was crying

and inconsolable. "Anil went to

Nepal without informing anyone.

Anil's friend was also to accom-

pany him to Nepal, but due to some

work, he could not make it. I was

also scheduled to go with Anil.

But, somehow, I could not make it

to the trip. He went without in-

forming his family members and

friends. I would have gone with

him, if he had taken the road route

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Press trust of india

Ghazipur (UP), Jan 16: A video

apparently shot by one of the five

Indian passengers on board the

aircraft that plunged into a gorge

in Nepal's Pokhara Sunday cap-

tures the horrific moments of the

crash that killed at least 68 people.

view of passengers sitting inside the

plane and then focuses on the Pokhara

town below. The mood of the group

filming the video at that point is up-

beat. One person is heard saying,

"waah betaa waah mauj kar dee".

Moments later there is commo-

tion, and then there is blurred

footage, including that of a fire.

Apparently the camera kept running

for some moments after the crash.

ify the authenticity of the video.

PTI could not independently ver-

'Yeti Airlines' 9N-ANC ATR-72

The one-minute clip opens with a

New Delhi, Jan 16: A biting cold wave swept north and northwest India Monday with the minimum temperature settling in the range of one to three degrees Celsius in many parts.

With the frigid northwesterly winds from the Himalayas setting in over the plains, it is likely to get even colder in the region in the next two days.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said cold wave conditions will abate from January 19 under the influence of two western disturbances which are likely to affect the region in quick succession. When a western disturbance -- a weather system characterised by warm moist winds from the Middle East -- approaches a re-

gion, the wind direction changes. The chilly northwesterly winds



from the mountains stop blowing, leading to an increase in temperatures. Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions prevailed in many parts of Delhi and some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the IMD said in a statement.

Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, northwest and east Rajasthan; in the range of three to five degrees Celsius over the remaining parts of Rajasthan, many parts of west Uttar Pradesh," it said

Churu, located near the Thar

desert, logged a minimum temperature of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, the lowest in the plains

Delhi's base station, saw the minimum temperature plunge to 1.4 degrees Celsius, the lowest in the month since January 1, 2021. Cold

wave to severe cold wave conditions prevailed in many parts of Delhi and some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, **Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh** 

station at Lodhi Road, where the

plunged to 2.8 degrees Celsius at Ayanagar in southwest Delhi, two degrees Celsius at the Ridge in central Delhi and 2.2 degrees Celsius at Jafarpur in west Delhi.

The IMD said minimum temperatures are very likely to fall further by about 2 degrees Celsius over many parts of northwest India till January 17.

It said minimum temperatures will gradually rise by three to five degrees Celsius from January 18 to January 20 under the influence of the two fresh western disturbances.

In the plains, a cold wave is declared if the minimum temperature dips to four degrees Celsius or when it is 10 degrees Celsius and

4.5 notches below normal. A severe cold wave is when the

IMD headquarter is located, minimum temperature dips to 2 The minimum temperatures are recorded a minimum temperature degrees Celsius or the departure in the range of one to three degrees of 1.6 degrees Celsius. from the normal limits is by more Celsius over many parts of Punjab, Monday. The minimum temperature than 6.4 notches. authorisation.

Is Kerala a mission

'impossible' for BJP?

## DMK, BJP indulge in proxy war via Guv

THE LATEST FLASHPOINT BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS INDICATIVE OF THE CONFRONTATIONAL NATURE OF CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS IN SOUTH INDIA IN GENERAL, AND TAMIL NADU IN PARTICULAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 16: The simmering tension between Governor RN Ravi and the Stalin-led DMK alliance government in Tamil Nadu finally spilled out onto the Assembly floor at the start of the year's first session.

A miffed Governor walked out even as the ruling party and its allies moved a resolution to have only the government-approved version of the speech, 'on record'.

Earlier, in his customary address to the legislative assembly that is drafted by the state government, the Governor had omitted references to the Dravidian model of governance, and the law and order situation in the state.

Predictably, the Governor's 'walkout' was criticised by the ruling party and its allies, which include the Congress. A couple of days later, a high-level DMK delegation called on the President to seek recall of the Governor.

The latest flashpoint between the Governor and the state government is indicative of the confrontational nature of Centre-state relations in south India in gen-



eral, and Tamil Nadu in particular
With four of the five states in
south India ruled by non-BJP parties, the Centre-state friction is
more pronounced in this part of the
country. Tensions between
Governor and government, have
been simmering in three states—

Telangana, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, the tensions have steadily increased after the DMK stormed into power in May 2021, after spending ten years in the Opposition benches. A few months later, when RN Ravi took over as Tamil Nadu Governor September 18, 2021, eyebrows were raised in local political circles over the appointment of a former top cop and Naga peace talks interlocutor.

To begin with, it appeared that relations were cordial. However, with the Governor not giving his assent to several legislations passed by the assembly, the DMK began getting restive. It was only after the assembly unanimously passed the NEET exemption Bill twice, that the Governor sent it to the President for approval. During their meeting

with President Droupadi Murmu last week, the DMK delegation had complained that as many as 20 Bills are pending with Ravi.

The Coimbatore bomb blast case in October turned into another flashpoint with RN Ravi questioning the state government's initial dithering on handing over the case to the NIA and finally doing so four days later.

However, matters further deteriorated early this year, when the Governor in an interaction with the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, opined that the word 'Tamizhagam' or 'Home of Tamils' is more appropriate than 'Tamil Nadu' or 'Tamil Country' for the state. The message being that the name 'Tamil Nadu' emphasises distinctness from the rest of India.

DMK leaders frequently express the opinion that the Governor is turning out to be an instrument for the central government to meddle in state affairs.

Further controversy arose when the official invitation to Pongal festivities at the Governor's residence, were sent out to invitees early this year. Instead of the 'temple gopuram' which is the official Tamil Nadu state emblem, the Governor's invitation sported the government of India's emblem. It also addressed the Governor as 'Tamizhaga Aalunar' (Governor) instead of the standard 'Tamil Nadu Aalunar.'

All these developments over the past two years culminating in the episode in the assembly session, imply a point of no-return for Centre-state relations in Tamil Nadu.

Despite very low traction in the 'Dravidian state' the ruling BJP at the Centre is making all out efforts to create a space for itself in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu unit of the BJP, led by an aggressive Annamalai, himself a former IPS officer, has been rooting for the governor and his every move.

With the 2024 parliamentary polls set to be the next electoral battle in Tamil Nadu, the next two years may see further acrimony between the Governor and the state government.

A political analyst observed that this state of affairs could benefit both, the DMK as well as the BJP to cross swords without actually resorting to an all out war. hi he tii fo is TI se tii file fo hi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 16: BJP in charge of Kerala Prakash Javadekar is of late being frequently spotted in the state where the party is vigorously attempting to expand its foothold -- a mission tagged as 'impossible' in the current circumstances -- by many.

The former Union Minister; however; exudes confidence that 2024 will pan out to be different for the party, whose only record was in the 2016 Assembly polls, when it managed to open its account by winning one seat in the 140-member Assembly.

However, in the 2021 Assembly polls that lone seat was also lost. Hence Javadekar -- who has set his sights high—is hoping against hope to win a Lok Sabha seat, at a time when the party's best performance hitherto has been finishing second in the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha seat.

An undeterred Javadekar continues to maintain supreme confidence and says the acceptance for Narendra Modi in Kerala is as high as 36 per cent and that the party in the state has united like never before.

"In the past four months, we had four core committee meetings and things are fine in the party. The state president Surendran will continue," said Javadekar.

He then accused the ruling Left

and the Congress-led Opposition of running a 'misinformation' campaign against the BJP, adding that the people will realise it as Modi's schemes don't differentiate.

The ruling Left government, according to Javadekar, is indulging in all sorts of undesirable activities like smuggling, engaging in corrupt practises and nepotism.

With a year to go before the campaign to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls begins, Javadekar will continue to spend more time in Kerala as he perhaps knows that he has an "extremely tough task" to accomplish.

## Foreign varsities may adversely affect higher edu, say TN academics

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 16: With the University Grants Commission (UGC) unveiling norms for setting up foreign universities in the country, the academics from Tamil Nadu have raised concern on the level playing field vis-a-vis other private universities and foreign entities.

A major concern raised by academics is whether these foreign universities would abide by the norms set by the UGC including fee structure, exam patterns, and even course structure. The UGC draft states that foreign universities will be given autonomy to decide on the fee structure, admission procedures, and course structure.

Another major worry for private universities and academics is that foreign universities are allowed to repatriate their funds to their parent campuses. The private universities in India are required to reinvest the surplus funds.

Dr Mohan Krishnan, a senior administrative officer with a private university in Chennai, while speaking to IANS said: "The UGC draft regulations states that the foreign universities will be able to repatriate the funds collected as fee back to their parent universities in their respective countries while Indian universities will have to reinvest surplus funds here itself."

He also said that instead of improving infrastructure and providing quality education, most of the foreign universities will set up their campuses in India with a single-point agenda or repatriating profits to their countries and this will not do any good to quality higher education in India.

Dr E Balaguruswamy, former

Vice Chancellor of Anna University, while speaking to media persons said that the UGC's move would affect higher education in the country a few years from now. He said that even the elite Indian universities are in the top 200 globally and hence it is better to improve the quality of Indian universities rather than providing a red carpet welcome to foreign universities.

The main apprehension raised by academics is the lack of control over these foreign universities and how they would formulate the course structure, and that in the guise of giving a foreign degree, they would charge exorbitant fee.

Dr G Padmanabhan, Director,

Socio-Economic Development Foundation, a Madurai think tank, said: "Opening campuses of foreign universities in our soil has to be finalised after taking into account all possibilities. These universities must not be allowed to do according to their wish and students and their parents must not suffer money-wise and quality-wise. We have to at least ensure our students get quality education at decent fee. I mean to say that foreign universities must not be allowed to charge exorbitantly."

## 9th century Chola-era 'hero' stone unearthed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 16: A Tamil history enthusiasts' group Thonman Varalatru Aaivu recently unearthed a rare 9th century Chola era 'hero' stone in Sindhapuri village near Harur in Tamil Nadu.

Sources in the ASI told IANS that the students of the Dharmapuri Arts College are supporting the endeavour of the history enthusiasts' group to unravel the 9th century Chola period stone. The History Department of the Dharmapuri Arts College has conducted a detailed study on the stone and found that it belongs to the 9th or 10th century era. The history department in its study found that the stone was rare and that the socio-cultural aspects

related to the stone gives a clear indication that it belongs to the Chola period and that it was carved around the 9th or 10th century to honour a small king of the Chola dynasty.

The stone depicts the hero holding a sword in one hand and jewellery in the other hand and researchers of archaeology and architecture told IANS that this type of Chola stone was rare and that further studies would unravel the mystery of the Adhiyaman dynasty and its connection with the Chola dynasty.

S Illantharayan, of Thonman Varalatru Aaivu told mediapersons that this particular hero stone has not been registered with the ASI and that they have appealed to the Government of India to protect such stones in Chalakudy Junction.



## Bhagavad Gita, other Hindu texts part of syllabus of this Islamic institute

The MIC ASAS was teaching its students selective portions of the Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, Mahabharata, Ramayana in Sanskrit for the last seven years

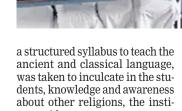
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrissur, Jan 16: Basic Sanskrit grammar in class 11 and 12 and then Bhagavad Gita as well as other Hindu texts in the 'Deva Bhasha' in subsequent years of study is the structured syllabus prepared for its students by an Islamic institute in Kerala's Thrissur district.

The new syllabus will come into operation from June 2023 when the new academic year starts.

The Academy of Sharia and Advanced Studies (ASAS) run by Malik Deenar Islamic Complex (MIC) was in the news recently for setting an example by teaching Sanskrit, also known as 'Deva Bhasha', to its students with the help of Hindu scholars.

The decision, to come out with



The MIC ASAS was teaching its students selective portions of the Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, Mahabharata, Ramayana in Sanskrit for the last seven years.

Hafiz Aboobacker, one of the coordinators at the institute, told PTI that the earlier Sanskrit syllabus was not very detailed.

The latest one is a syllabus for an eight-year course starting from plus two till post gradua-

The students will now also have the option to opt for a degree or postgraduate course in Sanskrit, Aboobacker said.

He said the syllabus was a joint effort of Dr CM Neelakandan – a retired professor of Sanskrit Literature from the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit – and Dr Shamseer PC – assistant professor, department of Sanskrit, Kerala University.

The idea was not to just teach them a language, but to also familiarise students with these ancient Hindu texts so that they understand religion and can make informed decisions for themselves, he said.

"It will also help to build secular and democratic ideas among students," he said.

According to the latest syllabus, in plus two, the students would be familiarised with basic grammar, words, declensions, gender, number and sentence construction in Sanskrit.

After that, during the first two years of their undergraduate studies, they would be taught Mahakavya, basic grammar, Sanskrit drama, computer, Sanskrit stotra, grammar, prose and Tarkasamgraha -- a treatise in Sanskrit giving a foundational exposition of the ancient Indian system of logic and reasoning.

In the final year, Bhagavad Gita, translation and Sankhya would be taught to students, according to the syllabus shared by the institute.

During post-graduation, syllabus would include Vedic Suktas, Vedantasara, Dramaturgy, Upanishads, Natyasastra, yoga, Bhasa study and Book review, it said.

The institution is primarily a Sharia college where other languages, like Urdu and English are also taught besides a degree course in Arts as it is affiliated to

Calicut University.

## WRAPPED IN FOG, MUNNAR WOOS TRAVEL BUFFS

The hill station, also called the 'Kashmir of South', is known for its vast tea plantations, pristine valleys and scenic mountains and exotic flora and fauna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Munnar, Jan 16: As temperatures continue to drop in Munnar, leading to a blanket of frost across the idyllic hill town, people are flocking to the most popular tourist destination of Kerala to savour the

cold weather:
Temperatures have been constantly dipping in many pockets in and around the hill station since the beginning of January and it touched -1 degree celsius in areas like Chenduvara Estate and Letchmi Estate last week, locals said quoting data of private weather forecasting service.

With mercury level plunging continuously, a thick blanket of fog enveloped the lush greenery, sprawling tea plantations and meadows of Munnar, also known as the 'Kashmir of South'. The scenic images of mist-covered valleys, frost-sprinkled grasslands and ice crystals on plants have already gone viral, triggering the rush of holidayers from neighbouring places.

bouring places.
A senior IMD official, however, said though mercury is falling in Munnar, there is no official confirmation that it has dropped to sub-zero level. IMD has no manual observatory in the region and as per the figures of the automatic weather station, the temperature registered up to one degree celsius but not below that.

"It is a drawback that we do not have an observatory in the area. Many photos and messages are doing rounds in social media claiming that there was snowfall in Munnar. But, it can't be snow. It can only be foggy conditions," the official said. When the mercury level dips, fog descends and this phenomenon is quite normal in high ranges, he added.

Meanwhile, many hoteliers in and around the town are enthusiastic about the arrival of tourists as they are receiving more bookings. Punyavel, a local resident living in nearby Chokanad Estate, said severe cold weather is being experienced for some days especially from midnight till dawn. "It is normal to feel colder in Munnar during December-January months. In the past years also, the temperature used to reach subzero level on certain days. But this temperature lasting for days is a phenomenon that began in recent years only," he said.

Though the weather is extremely cold this time, it is happy to see that the winter fog and mist is drawing a large number of tourists to the hill station, Punyavel, who runs a grocery shop in the area for decades, said. Shibu, another resident, said not all areas of Munnar but certain pockets like Devikulam, Top Station and some plantation areas are witnessing cold weather the most. Climate change also has

ers in on thuurists bookident state, being espelawn. er in on the subsubRut

ration of the winter in this hill town, he opined.
"Years ago, winter in Munnar used to set in by September last and end by December-January. In course of time, may be under the influence of climate change, the months that experience the cold weather have changed," Shibu said. Recalling the extreme winter two years ago, he said many areas of

its effect on the pattern and duration of the winter in this hill

Munnar saw sub-zero temperature for 13 days from January 1-13 in 2021.

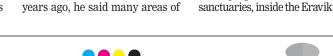
Wildlife photographer and resort owner Praveen Muraleedharan also echoed his view. "Earlier we have never faced this situation. Now-a-days, when it is raining, it rains heavily...It is one of the effects of global warming," he said.

These days, extreme cold weather is being experienced even inside the sanctuaries, inside the Eravikulam

national park and in some buffer zones and outside in Munnar. The weather has left the farmers a worried lot as it is causing damage to the local crops, especially to the tea plantations here.

"We always had fog here...But not at this level. In my opinion, it is not causing any damage or advantage to the tourism industry because we never brand Munnar as a snowfell dectination. But it is true that a lot of domestic tourists are coming to see the fog," Muraleedharan, also the owner of Ecotones Resort, Munnar, said.

Situated 1,600 meters above sea level, the hill station was the summer retreat of British colonialists during the pre-Independence era. Munnar is known for its vast tea plantations, pristine valleys and scenic mountains and exotic flora and fauna.





## national

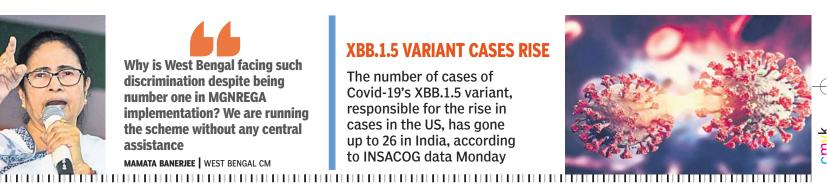


Why is West Bengal facing such discrimination despite being number one in MGNREGA implementation? We are running the scheme without any central

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

#### **XBB.1.5 VARIANT CASES RISE**

The number of cases of Covid-19's XBB.1.5 variant, responsible for the rise in cases in the US, has gone up to 26 in India, according to INSACOG data Monday



The VP's assaults. The Law Minister's attacks. All this is orchestrated confrontation with the judiciary to

intimidate and thereafter capture it totally. The Collegium needs reform. But what this Govt wants is complete subservience - Its remedy is a poison pill for the judiciary

JAIRAM RAMESH CONG GENERAL SECY

Let her (Priyanka Gandhi) come. Many people come to Bangalore. I don't

have objection. May the event take place properly, but one thing which I am failing to understand is the title of the programme Na Navaki

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI KARNATAKA CM





YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### 4 of family found dead

Hyderabad: Four members of a family from Tamil Nadu were found dead under suspicious circumstances with one of them found hanging at an apartment here Monday, police said. Pratap was found hanging and is suspected to have committed suicide while his wife, their child, and his mother were found dead in different rooms, the police said.

#### Minor raped and murdered

Botad (Gujarat): An 8-year-old girl was kidnapped Sunday and at night the police found her body in Botad town. The police have registered a case of kidnapping, rape and murder and are searching for the rapist-killer. Investigating officer V B Desai told IANS the "victim had left her house around 4.30 p.m. saying that she was going to catch falling kites, (flown on Makar Sankranti). When she did not return till sunset, her family members began searching for her.

#### 2 LeT operatives chargesheeted

Jammu: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives were Monday chargesheeted in a case related to grenade attack on a house in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir in 2021. resulting in the killing of a minor boy and injuries to several others, an official said The chargesheet against the arrested accused. Altaf Hussain Shah of Drai village (Raiouri) and his Pakistanoccupied Kashmir (PoK)based associate Mohd Qasim alias Suleiman, was filed before the court of third additional sessions judge.

#### **Budget Session of Parl** from Jan 31 to April 6

Jammu, he said.

New Delhi: The Budget Session of Parliament will commence January 31 and end April 6, according to an official statement. It will be the 259th session of Rajya Sabha and 11th session of the 17th Lok Sabha. "The Eleventh Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha will commence on Tuesday, the 31st January, 2023. Subject to exigencies of Government Business, the Session is likely to conclude Thursday, the 6th April, 2023," a Lok Sabha secretariat notification said. A similar statement from the Rajya Sabha secretariat said the President has summoned the Rajya Sabha to meet on Tuesday, the 31st January 2023 at New Delhi and is scheduled to conclude Thursday, the 6th April 2023.

## Joshimath crisis deepens: **Activists write to PM Modi**

Joshimath, the gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib and international skiing destination Auli, appears on the edge of a precipice with gaping cracks appearing on buildings, roads and public facilities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Joshimath (U'khand), Jan 16: The Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti Monday urged the Centre to take over the relief and rehabilitation work in Joshimath as it accused the Uttarakhand government of adopting a "lackadaisical" approach, even as number of buildings developing cracks in the subsidence-hit town rose to 849, out of which 165 are located in the danger zone.

The Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti (JBSS) also raised pitch for scrapping of NTPC's Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project. The development comes on a day the Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea seeking the court's intervention to declare the crisis in Joshimath a national disaster, saving since the state high court is seized of a "broad range of issues" it should hear it as a matter of principle.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, JBSS convenor Atul Sati accused the state government of ignoring its warnings about the imminent disaster for 14 months and dealing with it now at a snail's pace. "We demand from the Prime Minister that the relief-rehabilitation and stabilisation work in Joshimath is taken over by the Centre to secure the lives and interest of people," the letter said. The Samiti also demanded the scrapping of NTPC's Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project, holding

the building of its tunnel respon-



the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), but had to quit as it was not satisfied with the way the corporation worked.

The letter also mentioned a research paper published in an international journal in 2015 which said the tunnel was dug in the "fault zone". Meanwhile, the apex court asked Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati, who had filed a plea to declare Joshimath crisis a national disaster, to approach the Uttarakhand High Court.

In Joshimath, evacuation of affected families to temporary relief centres and dismantling of two unsafe hotels continued. According to officials, the number of buildings developing cracks in the town rose to 849, out of which 165 are located in the danger zone.

A total of 800 people, belonging to 237 families, have so far been shifted to safety by the district ad-

bulletin of the Disaster Management Authority.

They said 615 rooms in 83 places have been identified as temporary relief camps in the town in which 2,190 people can be accommodated. Besides, 491 rooms in 20 buildings have been identified as temporary relief camps in Pipalkoti outside Joshimath municipal area where 2,205 people can stay, they said. The district administration has so far distributed Rs 301.77 lakh worth interim assistance to 396 affected families.

"Around 284 food kits, 360 blankets, 842 litres of milk, 55 heaters/blowers, 36 daily use kits, and 642 other relief materials have been distributed to the affected," an official sad. Health check-up of more than 637 people living in relief camps has been done, while health tests of 33 animals were also done in the affected Meanwhile, Jyotishpeeth Shankaracharya

Swami Avimuketeshwaranand began a 100day 'mahayagya'at Nrisingh Mandir Monday for the safety of Joshimath

#### Kerala makes masks a must in public places, vehicles, during travel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 16: The Kerala government has issued orders making masks mandatory for people in all public places, in vehicles and while travelling across

In an order dated January 12, the government made it mandatory to wear the masks also while in vehicles and during transit on public transport. It directed that social distancing be followed and maintained at all places to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The government directed shops, movie halls, theatres, and organisers of various events to arrange for soap, water and sanitizer in order to clean the hands of the people going there. It said the order shall remain in force for 30 days with effect from January 12, 2023. The government said the order was being issued as Covid-19 continues to be a threat and there were concerns over a possible surge in cases across the country. In view of new genetic variants of the virus being reported from different parts of the world, the government in October last year announced intensive preventive measures.

The government said the new variants -- XBB and XBB1 -- of Covid-19 were more contagious than the earlier ones. Therefore, everyone, especially the elderly and those suffering from co-morbidities, should be very careful and wear masks properly



## Rijiju writes to CJI on collegium system



Rijiju's early January *letter to the CJI and the* remarks Monday come amid a tug-of-war between the government and the judiciary over the process of appointments of judges to the Supreme Court and high courts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 16: Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has written to the Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud for the inclusion of government nominees in the collegium system on appointments to the higher judiciary and defended it as a "precise follow-up action" suggested by the apex court while striking down the NJAC Act.

Besides several Union ministers, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has slammed the 2015 scrapping of the National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) by the apex court and claimed that the judiciary was encroaching on the domain of the legislature. The

Opposition, however, hit out at the move, with Congress leader Jairam Ramesh saying that while reforms were needed, the government's remedy was a "poison pill" for the independent judiciary. It also alleged that it was an "orchestrated confrontation" by the government to "capture" the judiciary.

Officials said the Law Minister has sought the setting up of a "search and evaluation committee" with representation from the central and the state governments in the selection of judges for the Supreme Court and the High Courts respectively. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal dubbed the government's move as "extremely dangerous".

"There should be absolutely no government interference in judicial appointments," Kejriwal said on Twitter: Reacting to Delhi Chief Minister's remarks, Rijiju said the move is in line with the direction of the Constitution Bench to restructure the MoP (Memorandum of Procedure) of the collegium system.

"The contents in the letter to hon'ble CJI are exactly in conformity with the observations and directions of the Supreme Court Constitution Bench. Convenient politics is not advisable, especially in the name of Judiciary. Constitution of India is supreme and nobody is above it," Rijiju said.

Congress leader Ramesh alleged that the government was seeking "complete subservience"

"The VP's assaults. The Law Minister's attacks. All this is orchestrated confrontation with the judiciary to intimidate and thereafter capture it totally. The Collegium needs reform. But what this Govt wants is complete subservience-It's remedy is a poison pill for the judiciary," Congress leader Ramesh said.

### **MODI HOLDS MEGA** ROADSHOW IN DELHI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 16: Enthused BJP workers and supporters lined the roads to greet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his roadshow here as the party's two-day national executive began in Delhi Monday.

In an atmosphere enlivened by music and the cheering crowd, the roadshow started from Patel Chowk and continued till the NDMC convention centre. People showered Modi with flower petals and chanted slogans in his support.

Huge cutouts of the Prime Minister were placed along the road, besides several posters highlighting various initiatives of the government and also India's presidency of the G20.

Stages had been erected at places. Folk artistes from several states performed on some of them, while

others blared patriotic songs. BJP president J P Nadda welcomed Modi at the venue of the

party's meeting, which started upon the prime minister's arrival. While Modi has been holding roadshows frequently, it is not very often that he does it ahead of the party's executive meet, which has

been organised several times in

the national capital now. BJP leaders noted that Modi had held a roadshow ahead of the party's national executive in Odisha, and added that the exercise proved to be helpful in galvanising cadre

and supporters. With Lok Sabha polls due in the first half of next year, the enthusiastic roadshow will also help energise the party's Delhi unit after its loss to the Aam Aadmi Party in the recent municipal polls, they said.



City skyline is seen through a dense smog in Mumbai, Maharashtra

### Two killed in separate **Jallikattu** events

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madurai (TN), Jan 16: Two persons, including a bull tamer, were killed in separate jallikattu events

in Tamil Nadu Monday. And injuries did not seem to deter the enthusiasm of the dauntless tamers, who charged at the bulls every time they were released, with renewed vigour. Chief Minister M K Stalin condoled the deaths and announced a solatium of ₹3

lakh each to the families of bull

tamer Aravind Raj of Palamedu, and spectator M Aravindh from Pudukottai district who died after being gored by a bull.

At least 75 persons including bull tamers and owners were injured during the jallikattu--the bull taming sport-- held at Avaniyapuram in the district and another 34 sustained injuries at the event at Palamedu, which concluded this evening.

The event left at least 34 persons including a police inspector on duty

besides 10 bull tamers, injured. The Palamedu jallikattu is the second

high-profile competition in the district. Another bull tossed about 10 youngsters who got closer to hold on to the hump in the hope of displaying their prowess, but found that the animal turned out to be stronger than all. The bull flung them around by angrily shaking his head and avoided being caught. The bull was adjudged the winner and he earned a four gram gold as prize for his owner.

## Failure fuels success if you don't make losing a habit

ailure fuels a win if you don't make √ losing a habit. The factsheet suggests

that the Congress with seven consecutive defeats in Gujarat may well lose on the curves what it gains on the straights with elections to nine state Assemblies due this year.

The stupendous success of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat-Jodo Yatra has resurrected him as a leader of credence and the Congress as the only national party capable of taking on the Narendra Modi-led BJP. However the ignominious Gujarat defeat has exposed chinks in the Congress party's national armour which cannot be papered over by the tepid win in Himachal Pradesh.

The states headed for the hustings are Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, and the north-eastern states of Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram besides the Congress ruled states of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. There is also speculation that Jammu and Kashmir may be added to this list.

The Centre's eye-piece event, The Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas was held this time at Indore from January 8 to 10. At the concluding ceremony MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan announced that the state had received proposals worth ₹15 lakh,42 thousand crores with the likelihood of providing employment to 29 lakh people. BJP ruled Karnataka had held a similar event in November last year where MOUs worth ₹10 lakh crores were signed. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai admitted that in 2,000 MOUs worth ₹27,057 crores were signed but only 44 per cent -Rs 12,000 crore was actually invested. Prime Minister Narendra Modi January 12 had a road-show and inaugurated the 29th national youth festival. Similarly Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated 12 projects worth ₹ 300



crores and laid the foundation stones for nine schemes worth ₹1060 crores in Manipur January 6.

If this provides a mere glimpse of the BJP ruled-centre as well as their state government's exercise in election-headed states, the Congress, which is its main challenger, is still to stir into any sort of visible activity with it's state units mired in debilitating fratricidal fights.

In Gujarat where Congress received the drubbing of a lifetime, the situation is pathetic. The party is yet to name a leader of the Congress Opposition even a month after the election results were declared. The Gujarat Assembly secretariat has asked the Opposition congress to name the CLP leader by January 19. The ruling party does not favour giving Congress the official nomenclature of Leader of the Opposition due to its inadequate numbers though when in power Congress had given BJP the post even though it had only 14 members in the House.

Again, January 4 Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge had constituted a 3member fact finding team to go into the party's Gujarat debacle. Headed by former Maharashtra Minister Nitin Raut, Shakeel Ahmed Khan and Lok Sabha member from Odisha, Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, the panel was supposed to give its

report within a fortnight. Its two day visit is too short to even scrape the surface of the maladies afflicting the Gujarat unit of

the party. The Gujarat Congress is a house divided against itself and comprises leaders who have failed to a win an election themselves through successive polls. The AICC is reported to have been flooded with complaints by both candidates and cadres against leaders who remained inactive or were more concerned in getting tickets for their henchmen. Some of the charges pertain to hobnobbing with the ruling party against their own party candidates for pecuniary considerations.

Sources within the party aver that all the gains of the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat-Jodo Yatra will stand frittered away if the state-units are not thoroughly revamped and conditions created for injecting large doses of the young into the party.

## international



Korea has ... Declared its 2050 carbon neutrality goal. To achieve this goal, we are working to rapidly restore the nuclear power system, which supplies carbon-free electricity

YOON SUK YEOL | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

#### SHOCKING REVELATION

A London police officer Monday admitted raping and sexually assaulting a dozen women over a 17-year period, in what prosecutors described as one of the most shocking cases involving a serving police officer





Loans is not a solution to the economic challenges facing the country as they would be returned

SHEHBAZ SHARIF PAKISTAN PM

The 13th Amendment, which was proposed to devolve power and solve the ethnic problem between the majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamils, would be implemented not only in the war-ravaged North but in the Sinhala majority South as well

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE SRI LANKA PRESIDENT

We are in the grips of a profound disagreement that is tearing our nation



ISAAC HERZOG | ISRAEL'S PRESIDEN

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **■ Five killed in** China explosion

Beijing: A massive explosion at a chemical plant in northeastern China killed at least five people and left eight missing, state broadcaster CCTV said Monday. More than 30 other people were injured in the explosion on Sunday on the outskirts of the city of Panjin in Liaoning province east of the capital, Beijing. News releases from the local government showed photos of flames and thick black smoke rising from the complex of chemical processing machinery, pipes and storage containers.

#### Israeli army kills 14-year-old

Jerusalem: Israeli security forces fatally shot a 14-yearold Palestinian during an early morning raid on Monday into a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian health officials said, the latest incident in weeks of surging violence. The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the deceased and said he died after being struck in the head by a bullet during an Israeli military raid into Dheisha refugee camp near the city of Bethlehem.

#### ■ 19 dead in road crash

Dakar: A bus swerved to avoid hitting a donkey and collided with a truck, killing at least 19 people and injuring dozens of others in Senegal Monday. authorities said. The collision happened near Ngeun Sarr in the country's north. President Macky Sall tweeted. "Yet another fatal accident on our roads," he said. "My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Speedy recovery to the injured." The crash involved a public bus and a transport truck, the fire department said. The bus was apparently trying to avoid hitting a donkey, local fire department commander Lt. Ousseynou Ndiaye said.

#### Indian student dies in car crash

Melbourne: A 21-year-old student, who had moved to Australia eight months back from Punjab's Ferozepur, died on the spot after his car collided with a truck in Canberra, a media report said. Kunal Chopra was returning from work when his Hyundai Getz collided headon with a concrete pumping truck on William Hovell Drive last week, SBS Punjabi, a multicultural and multilingual broadcaster in Australia, reported. The Australian Capital Territory Ambulance Service paramedics declared Chopra dead on the scene. The driver of the concrete pumping truck was taken to a hospital for mandatory drug and alcohol testing, according to the report.

## **Ukraine strike deaths hit 40**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Jan 16: The death toll from a weekend Russian missile strike on an apartment building in the southeastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro has risen to 40, authorities said on Monday, as Western analysts pointed to indications the Kremlin was preparing for a drawn-out war in Ukraine after almost 11 months of fighting.

About 1,700 people lived in the multi-story building, and search and rescue crews have worked nonstop since Saturday's strike to locate victims and survivors in the wreckage. The regional administration said 39 people have been rescued so far and 30 more remained missing. Authorities said at least 75 were wounded.

The reported death toll made it the deadliest single attack on Ukrainian civilians since before the summer, according to The Associated Press-Frontline War Crimes Watch project. Residents said the apartment tower did not house any military facilities.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, called the strike, and others like it, "inhumane aggression" because it directly targeted civilians."There will be no impunity for these crimes, he said in a tweet on Sunday.

Asked about the strike on Monday, Kremlin spokesman



Emergency personnel evacuate a woman at the site where an apartment block was heavily damaged by a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine in Dnipro

About 1,700 people lived in the building, and search and rescue crews have worked nonstop since Saturday's strike to locate victims and survivors in the wreckage

Dmitry Peskov said the Russian military doesn't target residential buildings and suggested the Dnipro building was hit as a result of Ukrainian air defense actions. The strike on the building came amid a wider barrage of Russian cruise missiles across Ukraine.

The Ukrainian military said on Sunday that it did not have the means to intercept the type of Russian missile that hit the residential building in Dnipro. Fierce

he regional administration said 39 people have been rescued so far and 30 more remained missing

Authorities said at least 75 were wounded

fighting continued to rage on Monday in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk province, where military analysts have said both sides are likely suffering heavy troop casualties. No independent verification of developments was possible.

Donetsk and neighbouring Luhansk province make up the Donbas, an expansive industrial region bordering Russia that Russian President Vladimir Putin identified as a focus from the war's outset.

Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Kyiv's forces there since 2014. The Russian and Belarusian air forces began a joint exercise Monday in Belarus, which borders Ukraine and served as a staging ground for Russia's February 24 invasion of Ukraine. The drills are set to run through February 1, the Belarusian Defence Ministry said. Russia has sent its warplanes to Belarus for the drills.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank, reported signs of the Kremlin taking steps to turn its Ukraine invasion into "a major conventional war' after months of embarrassing military reversals

What Moscow calls "a special military operation" aimed to capture the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, within weeks and to install a Kremlin-friendly regime there, but Russian forces ultimately withdrew from around Kyiv, the think

Then came a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive in recent months before the onset of winter slowed military advances.

'The Kremlin is likely preparing to conduct a decisive strategic action in the next six months intended to regain the initiative and end Ukraine's current string of operational successes," the Institute for the Study of War said in a report late on Sunday.

Italy's most-wanted mafia boss arrested ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, Jan 16: Italy's No. 1 fugitive, convicted Mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro, was arrested on Monday at a private clinic in Palermo, Sicily, after 30 years on the run, Italian paramilitary police said.

Messina Denaro was captured at the clinic where he was receiving treatment for an undisclosed medical condition, said Carabinieri Gen. Pasquale Angelosanto, who heads the police force's special operations squad. Messina Denaro was taken to a secret location by police immediately after the arrest, Italian state television reported. A young man when he went into hiding, he is now 60.

Messina Denaro, who had a power base in the port city of Trapani, in western Sicily, was considered Sicily's Cosa Nostra top boss even while a fugitive. He was the last of three longtime fugitive top-level Mafia bosses who had for decades eluded capture.

Messina Denaro, who tried in absentia and convicted of dozens of murders, faces multiple life sentences. He is set to be imprisoned for are two bombings in Sicily in 1992 that murdered top anti-Mafia prosecutors, Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino.

Among other grisly crimes he



**Messina Denaro was** captured at the clinic where he was receiving treatment for an undisclosed medical condition, said Carabinieri Gen. Pasquale Angelosanto, who heads the police force's special operations squad

was convicted of is the murder of a Mafia turncoat's young son, who was strangled and his body dissolved in a vat of acid. The arrest on Monday came 30 years and a day after the capture of convicted "boss of bosses" Salvatore "Toto" Riina, in a Palermo apartment after 23 years on the run.

#### **ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON IMRAN**

### 3 more suspects arrested

The three new arrested suspects were presented before an anti-terrorism court that granted them into the custody of the Joint Investigation Team for a three-day physical remand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Jan 16: Three more suspects have been arrested in a case related to a failed assassination attempt on Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan during his party's rally last year, police said on Monday

"Two PML-N activists - Mudassar Nazir and Ahsan Ali -- have been arrested from Guiranwala division for their social media posts," police said. Another suspect, Tayyab Butt, was taken into custody for his alleged involvement in helping the main suspect, Muhammad Naveed, in acquiring the weapon used in the attack, they said.

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

suspect Muhammad Naveed who opened fire on Khan along with his cousin Waqas. Naveed is on judicial remand while Waqas is in JIT's custody on physical remand. The three new arrested suspects were presented before an anti-terrorism court that granted them into the custody of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) for a threeday physical remand.

Khan recently alleged that the JIT members are being pressured to distance themselves from the findings of its investigating assassination plot against him. "The powerful quarters were behind the assassination attempt on me." Khan reiterated His party has claimed that 'three shooters' were sent to kill Khan.

It said police arrested one shooter and are still looking for the 'two others'.

According to a forensic laboratory, Khan was hit by three bullets from the gun of Naveed. Khan, 70. had blamed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Major General Faisal Naseer of ISI for hatching a plot to assassinate him.





A woman walks on stairs covered with snow in Liubliana, Slovenia

### Germany's defence minister quits

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, Jan 16: Germany's muchcriticized defence minister announced her resignation on Monday, as her department steers the massive project of modernising the country's military and oversees expanding weapons deliveries to Ukraine.

Christine Lambrecht said in a written statement that she had submitted her resignation request to Chancellor Olaf Scholz, adding that "months of media focus on my person" had stood in the way of a factual debate about the military and Germany's security policy."The valuable work of the soldiers and many people



in my department must stand in the foreground," she said. A spokesperson for Scholz said the chancellor had accepted Lambrecht's resignation. "The chancellor respects the decision by Ms. Lambrecht and thanks her for her good work in these

difficult and challenging times,' Christiane Hoffmann told reporters in Berlin. She said a replacement would be announced 'soon." Hoffmann added that it was important to Scholz to ensure gender parity among ministers, but declined to comment on a possibility of a wider Cabinet reshuffle. The 57-year-old Lambrecht has been defence minister since Scholz became chancellor in December 2021.

Critics have long portrayed her as out of her depth. But Scholz stood by her, describing her last month as "a first-class defence minister." Pressure on her mounted recently after an ill-judged New Year's video message.

#### shot dead inside **Peshawar High Court** INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ex-SCBA** president

Islamabad, Jan 16: In a shocking incident of targeted killing, former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and senior lawyer Latif Afridi was shot dead inside the Peshawar High Court (PHC) bar room.

As per details, the shooter entered the bar room and opened fire, hitting Latif Afridi with at least six

Latif Afridi was rushed to the Lady Reading Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

"Latif Afridi was sitting with the other lawyers in the PHC bar room when a gunman opened fire at him. The police have arrested the gunman who has been identified as Adnan Afridi. The attacker is related to Latif Afridi," said senior Superintendent of Police, Kashif

"A small weapon, an identity card and a student card have been recovered from the attacker. We suspect that the attack was carried out because of personal enmity," Abbasi said.

The killing of Latif Afridi is not a first in his family. His cousin Aftab Afridi, who was an anti-terrorism judge in Swat, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP), was also killed in a firing incident in 2022.

In that case as well, family members were held accused, who were later acquitted by the anti-terrorism court in Swabi.

Monday's incident has sent shockwaves among the lawyer community, who have expressed seriousconcerns over the security arrangements in the Peshawar High Court.

#### **TRAGIC TWIST OF FATE**

#### Nepalese pilot couple killed in crash nearly 16 yrs apart Anju, who completed her school at

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Jan 16: Anju Khatiwada, the co-pilot of the crashed Yeti Airlines' aircraft, joined Nepal's aviation sector after the death of her husband who was killed while flying a small passenger plane of the same domestic airline in 2006.

Nearly 16 years later, the 9N-ANC ATR-72 aircraft - co-piloted by Aniu - crashed on the bank of the Seti River near Pokhara's new airport on Sunday, with 72 people on board. Sixty-nine people were confirmed dead in Sunday's crash while three others are still missing. Anju is believed to be among the victims.



Anju was married to co-pilot Deepak Pokharel, who used to fly

helicopters of the Nepal Army. After a few years of their mar-

riage, Deepak, who became a pilot of Yeti Airlines, died in a Twin-Otter crash in Jumla district in 2006.

She used the money she received as an insurance claim after her husband's death to undertake aviation course, according to Sudarsan Bartaula, a spokesperson of Yeti Airlines. Anju studied a pilot course in the US and joined the aviation

She joined Yeti Airlines in 2010 and became a captain fulfilling her dream. But nearly 16 years after Deepak's death, Anju seems to have lost her life as no survivors have been found so far after Sunday's crash.

According to the airlines' sources,

Western Nepal. All nine people on board, including six passengers, two pilots and a flight attendant were killed when the Twin-Otter crash in Jumla district.

St. Joseph's School in Biratnagar,

had flown 6,396 hours in

Kathmandu, Bhadrapur, Biratnagar,

After the death of her son-in-law,

Anju's father wanted to send her

to India to study, but she did not

agree. Grieving the loss of her

husband, she went to study a pilot

course in the US. In 2006, nine

persons were killed after the Yeti

Airlines plane crashed in a re-

mote mountainous district of

Dhangadhi and other airports.

## business



Can we have a robust database of all startups in the country. Let's go for a database. And make that available for all

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND

#### **MSI HIKES PRICES BY 1.1%**

Maruti Suzuki India Monday said it has hiked prices of its vehicles across models by about 1.1 per cent. This is the second price hike that the carmaker is undertaking in the ongoing fiscal year, after increasing it in April 2022





India and the **United Arab** Emirates are close to a major renewable energy interconnection

RAJ KUMAR SINGH | MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

We see the semiconductor situation is getting better this year. So, we are increasing our production to meet our customers and we are positive for this year

UNSOO KIM | MD AND CEO, HYUNDAI MOTOR

The sluggish mood continued as markets moved in a narrow range with a negative bias. Investors are taking a cautious stance as the global macroeconomic scenario remains bleak while FIIs continued to be sellers in domestic equities in the current month, thus dampening the

SHRIKANT CHOUHAN | HEAD OF EQUITY RESEARCH, KOTAK SECURITIES

market sentiment

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### PPBL to operate now as BBPOU

New Delhi: Paytm Payments Bank Monday said it has received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU), Under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), a BBPOU is allowed to facilitate bill payment services of electricity, phone, DTH, water, gas insurance, loan repayments, FASTag recharge, education fees, credit card bill and municipal taxes. BBPS is owned by the National Payments Corporation of India. So far, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has been undertaking this activity under in-principle authorisation from RBI. 

### natural gas auction

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner bp plc Monday suspended a planned auction for the sale of natural gas from their eastern offshore KG-D6 block after the government altered marketing rules to cap margins. In a notice, Reliance and its partner BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd (BPEAL) said the auction has been suspended indefinitely. E-bidding for the sale of 6 million standard cubic meters per day of gas was originally planned for January 18 but was later pushed back first to January

### jumps 31% in 2022

New Delhi: Contributions to mutual fund schemes through systematic investment plans or SIPs remain unfazed from the market volatility in 2022 with inflow growing to ₹1.5 lakh crore in 2022, a surge of 31 per cent from a year earlier, due to higher retail participation. In comparison, an inflow of ₹1.14 lakh crore through the route was registered in 2021 and

#### **Noise launches** new smartwatch

New Delhi: Homegrown brand Noise has launched its new smartwatch which features in-built GPS and Bluetooth calling. The Noise ColorFit Pro 4 GPS smartwatch is available at a starting price of ₹2,999 on gonoise.com and Amazon, the company said in a statement. It comes in eight colours: Charcoal Black, Deep Wine, Mint Green, Silver Grey, Sunset Orange, Teal Blue, Rose Pink and Midnight Blue.

## 91 tech firms sack over 24K in Jan so far

2023 is on the way to become the worst vear in the history of the tech world

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 16: The year 2023 began on a bad note for tech workers globally and 91 companies have laid off more than 24,000 tech employees in the first 15 days this month, signalling worse days ahead.

About 24,151 tech workers lost their jobs, dominated by companies like Amazon, Salesforce, Coinbase and others, according to layoff tracking website

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

released Monday.

New Delhi Jan 16: India's ex-

ports contracted 12.2 per cent to

\$34.48 billion in December 2022,

mainly due to global headwinds,

and the trade deficit widened to

\$23.76 billion during the same

period, according to official data

Imports in December 2022 also

declined 3.5 per cent to USD 58.24

billion as against USD 60.33 bil-

In December 2021, exports stood

\$39.27 billion and the trade deficit

During April-December of this

fiscal, the country's overall exports

rose 9 per cent to \$332.76 billion

while imports increased 24.96 per

The merchandise trade deficit for

the April-December 2022 period

was estimated at \$218.94 billion as

against \$136.45 billion in April-

Barthwal said that despite global

headwinds, "India's exports have

held its head high". "There are re-

cessionary trends globally. So lot of

Commerce Secretary Sunil

lion in the year-ago period.

was at \$21.06 billion.

cent to \$551.7 billion.

December 2021.



Layoffs.fyi.Crypto lending exchange Crypto.com last week announced that the company will reduce its global workforce by approximately 20 per cent amid ongoing economic headwinds and unforeseeable industry events.

In India, companies like Ola (which fired 200 employees), voice

**GLOBAL HEADWINDS** 

Dec exports dip 12.2%

THE WEAKNESS IN INDIA'S EXPORTS WILL

**PROBABLY SUSTAIN BECAUSE GLOBAL** 

**GROWTH IS LIKELY TO REMAIN WEAK** 

automated startup Skit.ai, dominated the headlines in January.In December last year, over 17,000 tech employees were shown the

According to the website which has been tracking job losses since the start of the pandemic, 153,110 workers were let go in 2022, led by

**IMPORTS FROM** 

NATIONS

Imports from Russia jumped

four-times to \$32.88 billion during

the April-Dec 2022 period on

account of the govt decision to

import more crude oil, taking

advantage of the lower price

Imports from China too rose about

and Salesforce, among others. The number of layoffs reached its nadir in November, which saw 51,489 tech workers lose their jobs. Google is another Big Tech

companies like Meta, Twitter, Oracle,

Nvidia, Snap, Uber, Spotify, Intel

company expected to take harsh steps to reduce its headcount in

Approximately 6 per cent of Google employees could be sacked over "not having enough impact", according to a report by The Information.

Google layoffs in 2023 could see as many as 11,000 employees lose their jobs. All eyes are now on the Big Tech quarterly results that will come out at the end of this month.

#### **BIGGEST-EVER**

#### Siemens inks \$3.25bn deal for 1,200 freight trains with India

REUTERS

Zurich, Jan 16: Siemens has signed a 3 billion euro (\$3.25 billion) contract to supply and service freight trains in India, the German engineering company said today, the

Siemens will deliver 1,200 electric locomotives and provide servicing for 35 years under the agree-

The Siemens-designed, 1,200-

'These new locomotives ... can replace between 500,000 to 800,000 trucks over their lifecycle," Michael Peter.

Siemens in India, Michael Peter told Reuters, saying the company had previously been very strong in North America and central Europe in rolling stock but mainly provided components and infra-

The deal is the latest bumper contract won by Siemens after it signed a 900 million euro deal for a new metro line in Sydney,

New Delhi, Jan 16: The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation declined to a 22-month low of 4.95 per cent in December 2022, mainly due to fall in prices of food articles, especially vegetables, on easing supply side pressure and a higher

It was 5.85 per cent in November 2022 and 14.27 per cent in December 2021.

Even though declining prices of and fish'.

flation in December 2022 is primarily contributed by fall in prices of food articles, mineral oils, crude petroleum & natural gas, food products, textiles and chemicals & chemical products," the commerce and industry ministry said in a

22-MONTH LOW

## WPI inflation cools to 4.95% in Dec '22



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

base of last year.

vegetables and onions pulled down inflation rate of food articles, wheat, pulses and potato remained expensive, along with proteinrich items like milk and 'egg, meat

Inflation in food articles during December 2022 was (-)1.25 per cent. Inflation in vegetables and onion was (-)35.95 per cent and (-)25.97 per cent, respectively.

In non-food articles, oilseeds and minerals too recorded a decline in inflation by 4.81 per cent and 2.93 per cent, respectively. "The decline in the rate of in-

The deceleration in WPI comes

LAST LOW OF WPI INFLATION WAS IN FEB 2021 AT 4.83%

in line with retail inflation data As per data released Monday,

WPI inflation in fuel and power rose marginally from 17.35 per cent

leum & natural gas cooled to 39.71 per cent in December, against

25-month low of 3.2 per cent in

### Reliance suspends

19 and then to January 24. 

### MFs' SIP collection

₹97,000 crore in 2020.

#### FROM DEC '21 TO DEC '22

**EXPORTS CONTRACTED TO** \$34,48BN FROM \$39,27BN

IMPORTS DECLINED TO \$58.24BN AS AGAINST \$60.33BN TRADE DEFICIT WIDENED TO

Other export sectors which December 2022 include coffee,

In the first nine months of the

to \$40.55 billion during April-December 2022-23 as against \$21.66 billion in the same period pre-On the export front, engineering

cent in December to \$9.08 billion while exports of gems and jewellery in December fell 15.2 per cent to \$2.54 billion.

The decline in exports is to be expected given the

SANJAY BUDHIA | CHAIRMAN, CII NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON EXIM

monetary tightening by major large markets. Indian exporters are redoubling their efforts. Even while the global economy slows down, India stands in a sweet spot and can build its exports in days to come

headwinds we are facing," he said.

current fiscal, crude oil imports rose 45.62 per cent to \$163.91 billion

vious fiscal.

51.56 per cent to \$16.67 billion \$23.76BN FROM \$21.06BN

as against \$112.56 billion in the year-ago period. Similarly imports of coal, coke and briquettes almost doubled

shipments declined about 12 per

recorded negative growth in

Petroleum products exports too contracted about 27 per cent to

of electronic goods increased

Barthwal said the ministry is he said.

Indian economy during the first half of the current financial year, the fastest among major economies. bespeaks strengthening macroeconomic stability. However, global growth forecasts indicate downturn in global economic activity and

rent financial year.

#### 12 per cent to \$75.87 billion in April-December 2022 period. Exports to China, however, fell

35.58 per cent to \$11 billion In April-Dec this fiscal, the US has emerged as the largest export

destination with a growth of 6.8% at \$59.57 billion. It was followed by UAE, Netherlands, Bangladesh

and Singapore

cashew, leather goods, pharma,

carpet and handicrafts.

\$4.93 billion in December last year. The secretary said that measures like production-linked incentives for electronics sector is helping to push exports. Exports

during April-December 2022-23. As a result of Russian oil imports, the secretary said India has been able to export petroleum products significantly. In December, oil imports rose about 6 per cent to \$17.5 billion. Gold imports dropped 75 per cent to \$1.18 billion.

undertaking a detailed analysis country-wise as well as commodity-wise to resolve any issue of exporters and push shipments. "We are in constant touch with all the export promotion councils,' "The resilient growth of the

trade," the ministry said.

Further, it said that given the cumulative growth until December 2022 and the indicators of the slowdown in global economic activity, there is cautious optimism on international trade in the last quarter of the cur-

## biggest locomotive deal in its history.

ment, also its biggest ever in India.

horsepower trains, with a top speed of 120 km, will be assembled in the Indian Railways Factory in Gujarat state over the next 11 years, with deliveries starting in 24 months.

said Siemens Mobility CEO The order was a big step for

structure in India.

CORE INFLATION DECLINED TO 25-MONTH LOW OF 3.2% IN DEC

released last week, which showed CPI inflation eased to 5.72 per cent in December. The consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation remained within the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent for the second month in a row.

in November to 18.09 per cent in December 2022, while in manufactured products it softened to 3.37 per cent last month. WPI inflation in crude petro-

48.23 per cent in the previous month. Core inflation too declined to

December 2022 due to lower input cost, especially of commodities. The RBI's monetary policy committee is scheduled to meet February 6-8 to decide on the

policy interest rate. The RBI has so far hiked rates by 2.25 percentage points since May, with the latest 35 basis point hike in

## Viacom 18 bags women's IPL media rights for ₹9.51bn

Mumbai, Jan 16: Viacom 18 will pay ₹9.51 billion (\$117 million) for the media rights of the women's Indian Premier League (IPL) for the next five years, the country's cricket board (BCCI) an-

nounced Monday. Viacom 18 outbid Disney Star, Sony and Zee among other broadcasters in a closed-bid auction in Mumbai, ESPNcricinfo reported, with the inaugural women's IPL a Twenty20 tournament - set to be played in March.

"This is massive for women's cricket," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Twitter, adding that the bidding amount would have a permatch-value of ₹70.9 million VIOCOM 18



A three-team Women's T20 Challenge had been staged alongside the men's IPL since 2018, but the BCCI had been urged to set up an expanded tournament for women

with more teams and players. "After pay equity, today's bidding for media rights for Women's

IPL marks another historic man-

date," Shah added. "It's a big and

decisive step for empowerment of

women's cricket in India which

will ensure participation of women from all ages In August last year, Disney Star

and women's International Cricket Council (ICC) events through to the end of 2027 in a deal reported to be worth \$3 billion. In June, Disney-owned Star India retained the television broad-

cast rights to the men's IPL for

\$3 billion.

won the rights to broadcast men's

## Global recession seen likely this year: WEF survey

REUTERS

Davos, Jan 16: Two-thirds of private and public sector chief economists surveyed by the World Economic Forum (WEF) expect a global recession in 2023, the Davosorganiser said Monday as business and government leaders gath-

Some 18% considered a world  $recession\ ``extremely \ likely"\ -more$ than twice as many as in the previous survey conducted in September 2022. Only one-third of respondents to the survey viewed it as unlikely this year. The organisation's survey was

ered for its annual meeting.

International Monetary Fund, investment banks, multinationals and reinsurance groups. The survey comes after the World

based on 22 responses from a group

of senior economists drawn from

international agencies including the



for the investments needed to get back to growth and

raise living standards for the world's most vulnerable

SAADIA ZAHIDI | MD, WEF Bank last week slashed its 2023 growth forecasts to levels close to

recession for many countries as the impact of central bank rate

#### OTHER **FINDINGS**

- Nine out of 10 respondents expect both weak demand and high borrowing costs to weigh on firms, with more than 60% also pointing to higher input costs
- These challenges are expected to lead multinational businesses to cut costs, from reducing operational expenses to laying off workers

■ However, supply chain

to cause a significant drag on business activity in 2023 ■ The cost-of-living crisis may also be nearing its peak, with a majority (68%) expecting it to

the end of 2023

disruptions are not expected

hikes intensifies, Russia's war in Ukraine continues, and the world's

have become less severe by

#### Global jobs growth to halve in '23: ILO

Global employment growth is expected to slow down sharply to 1% this year compared to 2% in 2022, hit by the economic fallout of the war in Ukraine, high inflation and tighter monetary policy, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said Monday. At the same time, the number of unemployed people in the world is expected to rise by 3 million to 208 million in 2023, while inflation will eat into real wages, the ILO said in a report on global trends. The scarcity of new jobs will hit countries at a time when many are still recovering from the economic shock of the global pandemic and the coronavirus is tearing through China after Beijing lifted tight lockdown restrictions. The global jobs forecast is lower than the previous ILO estimate of 1.5% growth for 2023.

major economic engines sputter.

Definitions of what constitutes recession differ around the world but generally include the prospect of shrinking economies, possibly with high inflation in a

stagflation" scenario. On inflation, the survey saw large regional variations: the proportion expecting high inflation in 2023 ranged from just 5% for China

to 57% for Europe, where the impact of last year's rise in energy prices has spread to the wider economy.

A majority of the economists see further monetary policy tightening in Europe and the United States (59% and 55%, respectively), with policy-makers caught between the risks of tightening too much or too little.









## **Sreejesh lauds strategy for goalies**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, Jan 16: Veteran PR Sreejesh feels that his fellow India goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak substituting him in alternate quarters in the ongoing hockey World Cup matches was a good strategy from the coach.

**OrissaPOST** 

Head coach Graham Reid used Sreejesh and Pathak in alternate quarters in the two Pool D matches played so far – against Spain and England. Sreejesh has manned the Indian goal in the first and third quarters while Pathak has done the same in the second and fourth quarters of a

"We wanted to prepare together for the next stages of the World Cup. If anytime, anything happens to one of the two goalkeepers, the other will have to be on his toes. So, that is a good strategy," Sreejesh said

"We are exchanging in quarters. He is getting exposure while I have got enough experience. It is a good thing for the future," said the experienced campaigner who has played matches for India.

Both India and England created chances but could not score off them. England got eight penalty corners and none could be converted. India also failed to score from the four PCs they got.

"Somewhere, we need to look into that, where we can, what changes we can make in penalty corners or other goal-scoring opportunities. We must learn from the England match and prepare for the next game. Wales are a very good side, they gave a good fight against Spain. We will analyse their game and plan accordingly."

Asked why England dominated early in the match, Sreejesh said, "We had a very slow start that is why England capitalised on that in the first quarter. From the second quarter onwards we put pressure on them, we bounced back and created opportunities. In our pool, every match is crucial."

Former captain Manpreet Singh feels India do not need to do anything differently to score more goals against Wales in their last Pool D match Thursday. "We will just need to play our game and execute our plans. If we play our normal game, I feel goals will come," said Manpreet.

England and India are now on four points each from two matches and who top the group and qualify directly for the quarterfinals will be decided Thursday when India play Wales and England take on Spain. Both the matches will be played at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

When two teams are on equal points and have won the same number of matches, the side with better goal difference will be ranked higher. England have a goal difference of plus five after beating Wales 5-0 in their opening match as against plus two of India who emerged 2-0 winners against Spain.

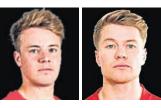
## BROTHERS IN ARMS: SIBLING SUPPORT IN TIMES OF HARD DAYS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, Jan 16: There's a saying that 'a brother is better than 1000 friends' and that is reflected in the Cunill siblings in the Spanish team which is battling to remain in contention for a quarterfinal berth in the ongoing hockey World Cup here.



Pau Cunill and Pepe Cunill are providing each other with emotional support after Spain slumped to 0-2 defeat to India in their opener last week.



The same is the case of the siblings in the Wales team – Gareth Furlong and Rhodri Furlong, who lost their second match Sunday to be virtually out of the tournament.





"To have someone from your family playing alongside you during such a big tournament like the World Cup is a big support emotionally and otherwise. You can rely on him for anything, for moral support or boosting confidence," Pau said.

The 23-year-old Pau is one-and-half years older than Pepe and they have been inseparable since their child-hood. They also play together for the same club in Spain – Atletic Terrassa.

In fact, one of their cousins – Gerard Clapes – is also in the Spanish team for the ongoing World Cup here. "Both my father and mother played hockey. Our grandfather also played hockey. So, you can say that ours is a hockey family," Pau said with 21-year-old Pepe nodding with a smile.

"Everyone (in the family) talked about hockey, and everyone is a

hockey player. Our parents are very proud of the two of us playing for the national team together." Pau and Pepe have been playing

together for Spain since January last year and were a part of the team that played Pro League matches against India at Kalinga Stadium in February and October-November. "We played together for the

Spanish team for the first time in a Test match against the Netherlands in January last year," Pau said. In the team set-up, the two brothers cannot be together all the time

In the team set-up, the two brothers cannot be together all the time and they have to be with their own groups at times.

"At home, we share a room but in the national team, we cannot be like that. We have to mix up with others. We don't care whether we are together or not," said Pau. "Of course, before matches, we talk to each other, try to boost confidence and support each other. It's always an honest discussion. If I make a mistake, he will point out to me, and vice versa."

Pau said there is also a healthy competition between them, trying to do better for the team. He said he found hockey in India to be in "another level". "It is crazy, hockey in India is at another level, the infrastructure, the love of the game here, it is at another level. No wonder, India is currently doing very well."

## Dutch virtually seal quarterfinals berth

ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA PLAY OUT THRILLING
3-3 STALEMATE AT KALINGA STADIUM

AGENCII

Rourkela, Jan 16: The Netherlands registered yet another 4-0 victory, this time against New Zealand, in their second Pool C match of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup at the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium here, Monday.

Thierry Brinkman struck a brace, while Koen Bijen and Tjep Hoedemakers struck once each to help the Dutch team virtually seal a berth in the quarterfinals. The Dutch are on top of Pool C after the second round of group matches having won both the games four goal margin. Even if they lose their last group match, the goal difference is too much to make a difference.

They have six points from two wins while New Zealand and Malaysia, who defeated Chile 3-2 earlier in the day, have three points each from two matches. Chile have lost both their matches so far and are yet to open their account.

Both the goals of Brinkman came via field goals in the first quarter – in the 2nd and 12th minutes. Bijen (19th minute) and Hoedemakers (54th) scored the third and fourth goals for the Netherlands who had won the title in 1973, 1990 and 1998. **Clash of titans** 

The last match on the day witnessed World No.1 Australia and World No.7 Argentina – two among the title favourites – play out a

thrilling 3-3 draw at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Argentina dominated the proceedings, but the Aussies slowly got into the rhythm and drew the first blood in the ninth minute, when Jeremy Hayward found the target from a penalty corner.

Argentina levelled the score three minutes into the second quarter through Tomas Domene via a PC before the Kookaburras restored their lead a minute from the halftime break through a field goal by Daniel Beale.

Argentina restored parity

through a field goal by Maico Casella two minutes into the second half as the teams entered the fourth quarter of the match 2-2. Argentina finally took the lead – first time in the match – when

 first time in the match – when Martin Ferreiro found the target from a field goal three minutes into the final quarter of the match. However, Blake Govers saved Australia's day with a field goal three minutes from time.
 Earlier, Victor Charlet's brace

Earlier, Victor Charlet's brace helped France beat South Africa 2-1, with all the goals coming from penalty corners. Charlet opened the scoring for France in the seventh minute. Connor Beauchamp equalised for South Africa in the 15th minute. Charlet once again made the difference, perfectly placing a low drag flick into the bottom corner to give France the lead with less than four minutes left.

PHOTOS
SAY IT ALL

Fans enter the stadium after

going through their

A couple poses for a photo

showing their support for

A girl takes a selfie with her

mother in Kalinga Stadium,

security check ups

South Africa



The Netherlands players celebrate a goal against New Zealand at the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, Monday

## Nadal struggles past Draper

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Jan 16: Rafael Nadal never truly seemed in danger of becoming the first Australian Open defending men's champion to lose in the first round since his current coach, Carlos Moya, managed to beat Boris Becker a quarter of a century ago.

Still, this was not a vintage performance by Nadal, who came into Monday's matchup against 21-year-old Jack Draper with an 0-2 record in 2023 and six losses in his past seven outings overall. After nearly two hours of so-so play, Nadal found himself even at a set apiece.

He appeared to be pulling away, taking advantage of his opponent's bout with cramps on an afternoon with the temperature at about 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 Celsius), when suddenly Draper went up by a break in the fourth set. From there, though, Nadal would not drop another game, beginning his pursuit of a record-extending 23rd Grand Slam championship with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 win that took more than 3 1/2

hours in Rod Laver Arena.

The 36-year-old from Spain was not in peak form. All in all, it was a bit of a struggle. He tried to put a silver-lining spin on things, nonetheless, given his recent track record and knowing that he tore an abdominal muscle twice in the past six months.

Both men are left-handers, but that is pretty much where the similarities end, whether in terms of style or age or experience or accomplishments.

Nadal, who is seeded No.1 because top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz is sidelined with an injury, is appearing in his 67th Grand Slam tournament. Draper, ranked a career-best No.38 this week, was making his fourth trip to a major and his best showing was getting to the third round at the US Open last September.

Draper also has faced problems dealing with steamy conditions: In his ATP Tour debut at the Miami Open in March 2021, he collapsed on court and needed to stop playing after one set.

This time, signs of trouble



treated by a trainer during changeovers. Later, he massaged his right thigh between points. Nadal, not surprisingly, wore Draper down from the baseline, engaging in exchanges before finding an opening to yank a big forehand this way or that.

His next opponent will be Mackie McDonald, a past NCAA champion at UCLA who won an all-American matchup against Brandon Nakashima by a 7-6(7-5), 7-6(7-1), 1-6, 6-7(10-12), 6-4 score.

The No.1-seeded woman, Iga Swiatek, followed Nadal into Laver for the night session and found herself in a tight second set before reeling off the last four games to eliminate 69th-ranked Jule Niemeier 6-4, 7-5.

Americans Jessica Pegula Coco

Americans Jessica Pegula, Coco Gauff and Danielle Collins also reached the second round with straight-set victories Monday, and Madison Keys won in three sets. Others advancing included Bianca Andreescu, Emma Raducanu and sixth-seeded Maria Sakkari, while Victoria Azarenka got past Sofia Kenin 6-4, 7-6(7-3).

There were plenty of other major titlists on the packed Day 1 schedule, with Petra Kvitova, Elena Rybakina, Jelena Ostapenko and Barbora Krejcikova among the winners.

The biggest surprise of the day came off the court: the withdrawal of Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios, who needs surgery on his left knee.

Men who moved on included No.3-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas, No.6 Felix Auger-Aliassime, No.10 Hubert Hurkacz, No.16 Frances Tiafoe and No.20 Denis Shapovalov. Daniil Medvedev breezed past Marcos Giron of the US 6-0, 6-1, 6-2.

The No.3-seeded Pegula overwhelmed Jaqueline Cristian of Romania 6-0, 6-1, No.7 Gauff beat Katerina Siniakova 6-1, 6-4, and No.13 Collins had her left knee treated and taped up while defeating Anna Kalinskaya 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.



THOUSE ON THE PROPERTY OF THE



### BARCA CLAIM FIRST TITLE UNDER XAVI

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Jan 16: Barcelona's title drought with coach Xavi — and without Lionel Messi—is finally over. Barcelona beat Real Madrid 3-1 Sunday to win the Spanish Super Cup at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and give its fans reasons to celebrate again after a revamping process that began following Messi's departure for Paris Saint-Germain and the arrival of former player Xavi as coach in 2021.

Barcelona had not lifted a trophy since the 2021 Copa del Rey under former coach Ronald Koeman. That was Messi's 35th and final title with Barcelona before leaving amid the club's financial struggles.

Robert Lewandowski, Gavi and Pedri scored a goal each in the final at King Fahd Stadium to give Barcelona its first Super Cup trophy since 2018 — and its 14th overall — and the first since the tournament began being played in a Final Four format in 2020 in a lucrative deal for the Spanish soccer federation

the Spanish soccer federation. Gavi opened the scoring in the 33rd minute from close range after a pass by Lewandowski, who doubled the lead after an assist by Gavi in a breakaway just before the end of the first half. Gavi also set up Pedri's close-range goal in another breakaway in the 69th. Karim Benzema scored for Madrid late



in stoppage time.

Madrid were trying to win their second consecutive Super Cup title in Saudi Arabia, and equal Barcelona's record of 13 Super Cup trophies.

Madrid beat Barcelona 3-1 at home in the first "clásico" of the season at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium in the Spanish league in October. It trails Barcelona by three points in the league this season.

The Super Cup used to be played between the Spanish league champion and the Copa del Rey winner. Now the runners-up in both competitions also participate. Madrid played as the league champion and Barcelona as the league runner-up. Betis won the Copa title over-Valencia last season.