



NATIONAL PRIDE
Actor Parineeti Chopra will receive the prestigious India-UK Achievers Honours this month at the UK Parliament
LEISURE P2



GLOBAL CRISIS AHEAD: UN
The world is facing a storm on multiple fronts & all that can be done now is working together, says UN Secretary General
INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA FACE WALES
India look for a big win against Wales to seal direct qualification for the quarterfinals of the FIH World Cup
SPORTS P12

CHOPPER CRASH
Ukraine minister among 18 dead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Kyiv, Jan 18: Eighteen people, including Ukraine's interior minister and three children, were killed in a helicopter crash near a kindergarten outside Kyiv, Wednesday.

The helicopter slammed down next to the kindergarten and a residential building in Brovary, a commuter town for the capital Kyiv that was the scene of fierce fighting early in Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Amateur footage circulating on social media showed what appeared to be the charred remains of the aircraft mixed with debris from nearby buildings and a car crushed by large shards of metal. Cries could be heard at the scene which was consumed by a fire.

"A helicopter of the state emergency service crashed in Brovary. As a result of the plane crash, the leadership of the interior ministry died," the head of Ukraine's police service, Igor Klymenko, said in a statement. He specified that interior minister Denys Monastyrsky and his first deputy Yevgeniy Yenin were both killed.



DEEP FREEZE: Tourists stand near a frozen waterfall at Drung of Tangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, Wednesday. The freezing conditions intensified further in Kashmir Valley with minimum temperature plunging to minus 4.3 degree Celsius in the city while Qazigund recorded its coldest night so far this season at minus 7.4
PHOTO: PTI

Wait over as Dakota reaches Bhubaneswar

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: The iconic Dakota aircraft used by aviator and legendary leader Biju Patnaik several decades ago was brought from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar, where Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik offered floral tribute to the plane which carried memories of his father.

Escorted by Odisha Police, three lorries carried the dismantled portions of the aircraft from Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport to the Odisha capital, where they will be re-assembled.

After that, the Dakota (DC-3) VT-AUI aircraft will be kept at a designated place in the international airport here named after Biju Patnaik, the father of the Odisha chief minister. "I am delighted that this legendary aircraft of Biju Babu has finally returned here," Naveen Patnaik said.

Biju Patnaik, a former Odisha chief minister, had in the 1940s founded Kalinga Airlines which



had 12 planes and four of them were Dakotas. The CM said his father who died in 1997 had many historic exploits in Dakota planes.

"The greatest of them was when he flew to Indonesia through Dutch blockades and the only other person in the aircraft was my mother who was a co-pilot. They rescued the then Indonesian prime minister Sutan Sjahrir (in April 1947)," he said.

A grateful Indonesia had twice decorated Biju Patnaik with its highest civilian honour 'Bhumiputra' for the feat. The plane which was brought to Odisha remained abandoned for decades on the premises of the airport in Kolkata.
Continued on P4

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Like our partymen, he too has divine powers. He sat next to an emergency door & it opened automatically

Polls in 3 NE states on February 16, 27

The EC's announcement on elections in Tripura, Nagaland & Meghalaya marks the official start of the 1st round of Assembly polls in 2023, in which 9 states are headed for electoral battles, deemed crucial in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha contest

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 18: Assembly polls will be held in Tripura February 16, followed by Nagaland and Meghalaya February 27, with the counting of votes scheduled for March 2, the Election Commission (EC) announced Wednesday.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar's announcement at a press conference here marked the official start of the first round of Assembly polls in the New Year, in which nine states are headed for elections, deemed crucial in the run-up to the all-important Lok Sabha contest in 2024.

The three poll-bound northeastern (NE) states may be small in terms of their electoral size but hold larger political significance. While the BJP is pulling out all the stops to retain power in Tripura and expand its footprints in the two other states, the Congress and the Left are trying to recapture their lost influence.

The Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) is also making a determined bid to prove



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar addressing media

its clout outside West Bengal by contesting these polls.

The three state assemblies have a strength of 60 members each. While the term of the Nagaland Assembly ends March 12, the terms of the Meghalaya and Tripura assemblies end March 15 and March 22 respectively.

Kumar said the EC has decided to wrap up the polls in February, taking into account the examinations scheduled in March.

With Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati recently questioning the integrity of electronic

EC announces bypolls to 6 Assembly seats

NEW DELHI: Bypoll to the Lakshadweep Lok Sabha seat, which was vacated following the disqualification of NCP's Mohammed Faizal after his conviction in a criminal case, will be held February 27, along with byelections to six Assembly seats in five states. While two bypolls will take place in Maharashtra, one bypoll each will be held in Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. The votes will be counted March 2.

voting machines (EVMs), the CEC noted that many political parties that had earlier expressed doubts over the machines had won elections through the same process.

While Tripura has a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) is in power in Nagaland. The National People's Party (NPP), the only political party from the northeast that has the recognition of a national party, runs the government in Meghalaya.
Continued on P4

'WFI prez sexually harassed wrestlers'

BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh refutes charges



Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat and other wrestlers address a press conference during their protest against the Wrestling Federation of India at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, Wednesday

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 18: In a startling revelation, a crying Vinesh Phogat Wednesday alleged that Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) President and BJP MP from UP's Kaiserganj Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has been sexually exploiting women wrestlers for many years and sought the intervention of Prime Minister and Home Minister for his removal.

Vinesh, a world championship medallist and Olympian, also claimed that several coaches at the national camp in Lucknow have also exploited women wrestlers, adding that there are a few women at the camp who approach wrestlers at the behest of the WFI President.

The 28-year-old though clarified

that she herself has not faced such exploitation but claimed that she had received death threats at the behest of WFI President from officials close to him because she dared to draw Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attention to several issues plaguing Indian wrestling when she met him after the Tokyo Games.

"I know at least 10-12 women wrestlers who have told me about the sexual exploitation they faced at the hands of (the) WFI President. They told me their stories. I can't take their names now but I can definitely reveal the names if we get to meet the Prime Minister and the Home Minister of the country," Vinesh said addressing the media after staging a four-hour dharna at Jantar Mantar.
Continued on P4

CLASS X SA-I RESULTS OUT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: The Board of Secondary Education (BSE) Wednesday announced results of the Class X Summative Assessment (SA)-I (HSC and Madhyama) 2022-23 and State Open School Certificate (SOSC) Examination 2022 (second), an official said.

The results were made available on the BSE's website—bseodisha.ac.in.

According to the BSE, as many as 5,37,746 Class X students have filled forms for the Summative Assessment-I. However, at least 13,058 of them remained absent.

The BSE, in a press note, said students can apply online for checking of addition of marks from January 20 to January 30. Only those, who had filled forms for Summative Assessment-I, are eligible to fill forms for Summative Assessment-II, it was learnt.

The Malpractice (MP) candidates, who have been booked during Summative Assessment-I and approved by the MP Committee, will not be allowed to fill the forms for Summative Assessment-II.

"This assessment will be given 40 per cent weightage for final results. The Tabulation Register (TR) of each school can be downloaded by the headmaster/headmistress of the schools by clicking 'School Code' and 'Password'," said the BSE.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	BOURSES	VARIAION
SENSEX	61045.74	↑ 390.02
NIFTY	18165.35	↑ 112.05
DOLLAR	81.53	↑ ₹0.29
EURO	88.08	↑ ₹0.01
GOLD	₹56,386	↑ ₹34
SILVER	₹69,298	↑ ₹112

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	29.1°C	27.0°C
TEMP. MIN	19.5°C	19.4°C
Humidity	93%	88%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Foggy weather mostly

SHORT TAKES

WC: 5 held for black marketing tickets

BHUBANESWAR: Five persons were arrested on the charge of black marketing tickets for Men's Hockey World Cup (WC) matches being held in the Capital city, an official said Wednesday. The special team of the police arrested five persons after it was informed that a group of people were indulging in black marketing of tickets for the matches at Kalinga Stadium here. The five persons including four businessmen were arrested by the personnel of Saeed Nagar police station, he said. Odisha's Sports Minister TK Behera said, "There has been huge craze for the January 19 India match against Wales as India has won its first match against Spain January 13 and also scored a draw against England." The minister said strict action will be taken as per the law against those involved in black marketing of world cup match tickets.

State's action plan for elephant protection

CUTTACK: The state government has prepared a comprehensive action plan for protection of elephants, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Manoj V Nair told the Orissa High Court Wednesday. Nair, who appeared online before a HC bench comprising Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice Murahari Sri Raman, filed an affidavit enclosing the 'Comprehensive action plan for conservation of elephants and mitigation of human-elephant conflict in Odisha.' The CCF explained the bench about the executive summary along with action points under a '10-pillar strategy'. Nair highlighted some vital aspects of the report including formation of district level human-elephant conflict mitigation committees under the chairmanship of district collectors and having representatives from the police and different departments.

4 in 5 professionals considering job change in 2023: LinkedIn

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 18: Around four in five Indian professionals are considering job change this year and are keen on switching to roles that offer the right wage, and allows for appreciable work-life balance and flexibility, says a report.

According to LinkedIn's economic graph data, hiring level in India was 23 per cent slower in December 2022 as compared to December 2021.

"Indian workforce appears resilient in the face of economic uncertainty, with 4 in 5 (80 per cent) professionals considering changing jobs in 2023," it said.

Consumer research was conducted by Censurwise between November 30, 2022 and December

2, 2022 and based on 2,007 workers aged 18+.

As per the report, 88 per cent of professionals aged 18-24 are considering a switch, compared to 64 per cent of those aged 45-54.

"Despite tough economic conditions, the Indian workforce is relying on their own abilities to grow and push forward. Since the pandemic, it's clear that professionals have built up a bank of resilience, and we're seeing this in their response to tackle the year ahead," said Nirajita Banerjee, LinkedIn Career Expert and Head of Editorial for LinkedIn India.

Banerjee further said professionals are striving for the ideal role that offers the right wage, and allows for appreciable work-life balance and flexibility



The survey further noted that despite uncertain economic times ahead, professionals are taking a long-term view of their career by investing in their skills and proactively seeking opportunities to progress.

"Over three quarters (78 per cent) of workers surveyed said if

they were to leave their job, they would feel confident finding other roles to apply for," it added.

While the future remains dynamic, it is essential for professionals to invest in themselves by building transferable skills that will make their profiles more ver-

Despite tough economic conditions, the Indian workforce is relying on their own abilities to grow and push forward. Since the pandemic, it's clear that professionals have built up a bank of resilience, and we're seeing this in their response to tackle the year ahead
NIRAJITA BANERJEE | LINKEDIN CAREER EXPERT

satile and adaptable to different roles, Banerjee said.

"We have seen a 43 per cent year-on-year increase in members adding skills to their LinkedIn profile - 365 million have been added in the last 12 months. This is a smart way to secure a sustainable and successful career," Banerjee added.

The rising cost of living pressures and need for financial security is one of the major factors that is pushing workers to look for a new job as they want more money. Some professionals are also keen on switching to roles that offer better work-life balance.

One in three (32 per cent) professionals said they also feel more confident in their abilities and think they can find a better role, the survey said.

leisure



KATIE HOLMES ALMOST QUIT ACTING AT 17

Katie Holmes almost quit acting at the age of 17. *The Dawson's Creek* star landed her first gig acting in Ang Lee's 1997 film *The Ice Storm* but after wrapping filming she struggled to land any more jobs - and Katie admits she thought her career was over after just one movie.

MERYL STREEP JOINS SEASON THREE OF ONLY MURDERS IN THE BUILDING

Meryl Streep has agreed to join the cast of *Only Murders in the Building* for season three. Selena Gomez - who plays Mabel Mora on the Hulu mystery comedy-drama series - has confirmed the Hollywood icon is on board for the eagerly-awaited next instalment.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Your big ambitions may come to fruition today by the evening. Ganesh says that you will do your best not to make impulsive choices; whatever the expected results may be, you will take sensible decisions.

TAURUS
Ganesh sees you devoting the day in taking care of your personal affairs and relationships. You are likely to review the state of affairs, and identify problems and persons who need more time and attention. This naturally implies that you will be spending a lot of time with your friends and family members, sorting differences and misunderstanding, if any.

GEMINI
Your heightened sensitivity could be the cause of many a problem today. You need to curb your emotions and keep your feelings in check. You will pay attention to your family and spend more time with them. An auspicious and progressive day awaits you, so make the most of it, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will feel self-satisfaction. Your simplicity will impress people. You may visit a religious spot to set up rapport with God. A beautiful and inspiring day, says Ganesh.

LEO
You will not shy away from hard work to attain success in personal and professional endeavours. Your attitude will come in for praise from your superiors and you will be rewarded as well. Your responsibilities in the office will increase, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Today you will serve to be an example of sincerity and punctuality. However, Ganesh warns that the operative word should be: Caution. Ganesh advises you to pay heed to even the smallest of details and read between the lines when it boils down to contracts.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will be able to meet with people sharing the same ideas and views as you do and this will enhance your knowledge too. You will have to shoulder new responsibilities. Those of you who are in the field of business may gain good benefits today. Ganesh says that you should take care of your health, which may deteriorate due to excessive work load at the office.

SCORPIO
It's time to live your dreams. You may just land up in your dream house or drive in a plush car, you once dreamt of. Evening time is spared for family and loved ones, says Ganesh. You may even go shopping to buy object of art for your new cosy corner.

SAGITTARIUS
Activities like aerobics and gymnastics are likely to take your energy level higher. You may experience a transition period during the noon. Ganesh foresees an average day at work for you.

CAPRICORN
It is your day today! You'll feel like everything is coming your way, without you making any effort whatsoever. Though sub-consciously, you will want to showcase your talents and achievements to impress people around. And, you will succeed at that, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will pay attention to the smallest and the simplest things of life. You will learn to appreciate the beauty of life and imperfections of people, while showering your love upon your near and dear ones, says Ganesh. People around you will surely be pleased with your amicable approach.

PISCES
Today is a day filled with entertainment and leisure. However, you could be prone to savage mood swings today without any reason. Hence those around you will need to be on their toes. You might end up neglecting your work in your pursuit of pleasure, says Ganesh.



Was born with swag: Kangana

Mumbai: Actor Kangana Ranaut has reacted to a clip from her movie *Fashion* and spoken about her 'swag'. Taking to her Instagram Stories, Kangana reposted the video in which she is seen doing a catwalk in *Fashion*. The actor at one moment is seen drinking backstage while the very next moment she gets ready to walk on the stage. The video also featured Priyanka Chopra, Karan Johar, and Mugdha Godse among others. Sharing the video, Kangana wrote, "When I was a teenager just 18 years old, didn't even know a word called swag exists...I had it...ha ha one is born with it...can't be taught (wink face emoji)." The original video was posted by the Instagram user, DietSabya, with the caption, "When it comes to fashion and cinema, this moment is the cultural reset. Very few things come close. Thoughts. Feelings. Discuss." A fan commented, "Till date when

that music starts it gives me goosebumps. Absolutely legendary scene." Another person said, "Kangana's walk is closest to how Jesse Randhawa used to walk." Fashion was directed by Madhur Bhandarkar. The film was released in 2008. It featured Kangana, Priyanka Chopra, Arjan Bajwa, Samir Soni and Arbaaz Khan. AGENCIES



SRK goes all praise for 'gentle giant' John

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan returns to the cinema after almost five long years with *Pathaan* and his on-screen rivalry with John Abraham is the talk of the town. In a video released recently, SRK spoke about John and what it was like shooting with someone known for his action movies. "I've known John since I've come to Mumbai. He's one of my first acquaintances to start with and then (it) turned into friendship. I was very keen, he does it and he was kind enough to accept the role, but he's really a bad guy. He's a top star. He has his own franchises happening and he's got some really cool action films happening. And then to decide to take on a film, in which he's a bad guy. So it takes a lot of guts, takes a lot of confidence in yourself," said the Devdas actor. He added, "It was nice working with him and all so I realized he is a gentle giant. You know when we were doing action and everything. He says...he called me a national treasure and said, 'I will not hurt you.' I said you can, it's ok. He is very shy and I had to do a lot of convincing to tell him it's ok, you can punch me and I won't get hurt. I think he is so proficient in action. He really helped me look nice, you know, in body language. It was very kind of him." AGENCIES

India-UK Achievers honour for Parineeti

Mumbai: Actress Parineeti Chopra is all set to receive the prestigious India-UK Achievers Honours and it will be held at the end of this month at the UK Parliament. The India-UK Achievers Honours will celebrate the educational and professional achievements of Indian students who have studied in the UK, marking India's 75th independence anniversary. Parineeti Chopra, who has studied in the UK, and also spends most of her time there, has been selected as an

Outstanding Achiever for the category 'Arts, Entertainment and Culture' at the India UK Achievers Honours. The *Uunchai* actress moved to England at the age of 17, before returning to India in 2009. The actress has a triple honours degree in business, finance, and economics from Manchester Business School. Now, the actress has been chosen as an Outstanding Achiever for the category 'Arts, Entertainment and Culture' at the India UK Achievers Honours, and it will be a

special event for her as she will be representing India on the UK stage. The Achievers Honours for the category Arts, Culture, Entertainment, and Sports will recognise trailblazers who have demonstrated their excellence, creativity, or artistic genius by having created acclaimed careers in arts, entertainment, culture, or sports. AGENCIES

3-DAY ART EXPO COMES TO AN END



BHUBANESWAR: The three-day-long painting exhibition organised by Indian Painting Style department of BK College of Art and Crafts concluded here at Sookhana Bhavan, Wednesday. As many as 21 young artists of the institution showcased their works which were appreciated by many art connoisseurs of the city who visited the exhibition, said art teacher and former Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi secretary Manas Ranjan Jena

who was also the coordinator of the event. The expo was based on Indian culture, tradition and contemporary themes. The students who participated in the expo included Layu Majhi, Chittaranjan Mohanta, Sweety Das, Yagyanseni Mohapatra, Kailash Raju, Firoz Patel, Maifoza Kaiser, Markanda Sagar, Krishna Baliarsingh, Jayasmita Mahalik, Bhagyashree Swain and others. PNN

Ajit Natya Mahotsav: Day 3

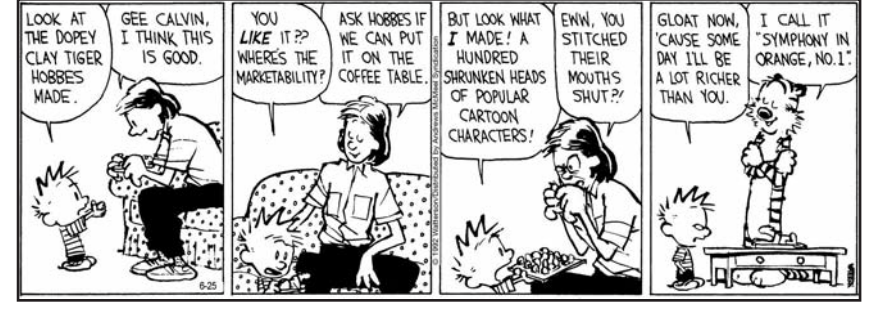


A scene from Hindi play *Jhalkari Bai* staged on the third day of 11th Ajit Natya Mahotsav at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. The drama was presented by Sumukha Ranga Mandal theatre troupe of Delhi. The multi-lingual theatre festival is being organised to celebrate the birth anniversary of eminent drama and film actor Ajit Das. OP PHOTO

PEANUTS



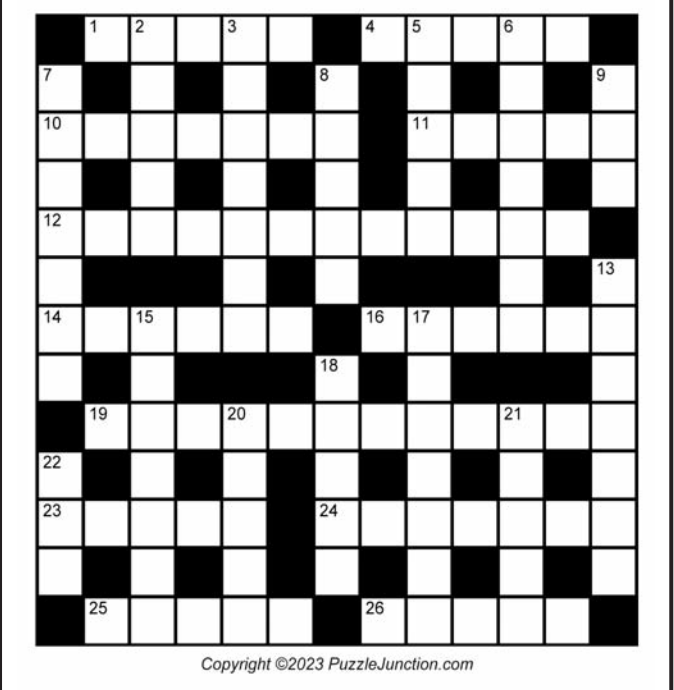
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



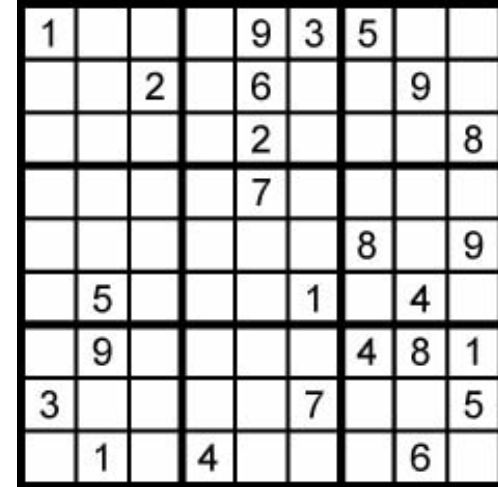
FUN post CROSSWORD



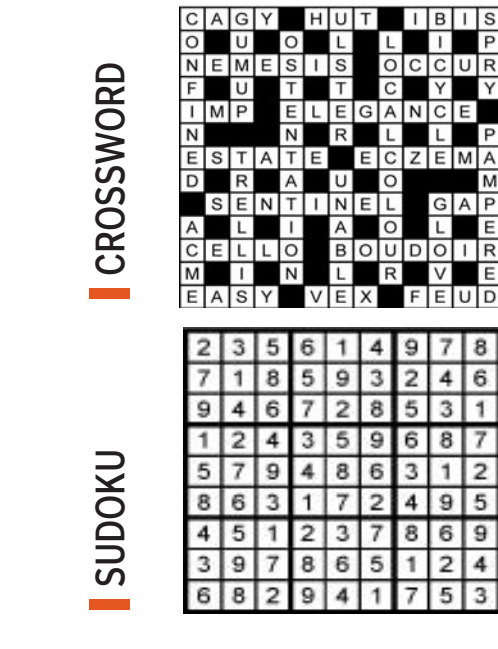
- Across
- 1 Baffle
 - 4 Concise
 - 10 Gear shift position
 - 11 Military officer
 - 12 Having failed
 - 14 Lecture
 - 16 Austrian capital
 - 19 Imagined illnesses
 - 23 Extraterrestrial being
 - 24 Colonist
 - 25 Nile River
 - 26 Fiat locale
 - 6 Temporary visit
 - 7 Torment
 - 8 Hibernate
 - 9 Attempt
 - 13 Gruesome
 - 15 Creating poetry
 - 17 Enkindled
 - 18 Phantasm
 - 20 Confess (3,2)
 - 21 Item of antiquity
 - 22 Paraffin, e.g.

SUDOKU

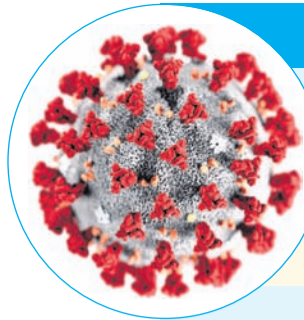
To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	67,20,53,317	64,34,60,088	67,34,344
India	44,681,884	44,148,645	5,30,728
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

PENSIONERS' MEET

A seminar on 'PRMBS and EPS '95' was organised by Nalco Pensioners' Welfare Society at Institution of Engineers in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



Five arrested for black marketing WC tickets



THE GANG WAS SELLING THE ₹100, AND ₹200 TICKETS FOR ₹1,000 AND ₹2,200 RESPECTIVELY OUTSIDE THE STADIUM. THE TICKET PRICED AT ₹500 WAS SOLD AT THE RATE OF ₹4,000

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: Police arrested five persons in the Capital city on charges of black marketing tickets for Men's Hockey World Cup matches being held here, an officer said Wednesday. The special team of the police arrested five persons after it was informed that a group of people were indulging in black marketing of tickets for the matches at Kalinga Stadium here. The five persons including four businessmen were arrested by Saheed Nagar police, he said. Sports and Youth Affairs

along from Kendrapara, 100 km from Bhubaneswar, to watch India match at Kalinga Stadium, is frustrated. "I could not get a ticket online. Therefore, I rushed to Bhubaneswar a day before the match to find all counters having writings that all tickets are sold. It is really frustrating," he said. While Birsamunda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela has a seating capacity of 21,000, the number of seats is only 15,000 at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Therefore, a huge demand keeping in view the population of the city and nearby districts, said Sanjib Das, a sports journalist. According to sources, the gang was selling the ₹100, and ₹200 tickets for ₹1,000 and ₹2,200 respectively outside the stadium. The ticket priced at ₹500 was sold at the rate of ₹4,000, they said. The police could nab the gang as they had posted that they were selling the tickets at higher rates. Once they received any message from interested person, they text them to arrive near Kalinga Stadium to collect the tickets after paying the amount. The FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, which began January 13 will continue till January 29. The matches are being played at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and newly-built Birsamunda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela.

Minister Tusharkanti Behera said, "There has been huge craze for the January 19 India match against Wales as India has won its first match against Spain January 13 and also scored a draw against England." The minister said strict action will be taken as per the law against those involved in black marketing of world cup match tickets. Santosh Mishra, a sports lover, said, "The black marketing of tickets is due to small number of seats at Kalinga Stadium. All the people want to see India in action and therefore a huge demand for tickets." Umakanta Rout, who came all



CREATIVE STROKES: Renowned artist Jatin Das gives brushstrokes to a canvass painting on Hockey World Cup theme at Geeta Govinda Sadan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. Das was deeply touched by the story of an Odia hockey player whose family lives in a mud house and does not have access to electricity OP/PHOTO

BJD wants remote EVMs demo by state poll panels

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Jan 18: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has proposed during a meeting convened by the Election Commission of India (ECI) on remote voting machines that the state election commissions should demonstrate the Remote Electronic Voting Machines (REVMs) to clear doubts among the opposition parties. BJD Rajya Sabha MPs Amar Patnaik and Sasmit Patra took part in the meeting called by the ECI here Monday. The BJD, however, said that it will submit its stand on the remote voting proposal in writing to the Election Commission. The commission had called the all-party meeting to demonstrate the prototype of its new REVM which would allow migrant workers to vote in national and regional elections without travelling to their home districts to cast their votes. However, the commission could not demonstrate the machine after the opposition parties raised concerns about the logistical and ad-



The EC had convened the meeting to demonstrate the prototype of its new REVM which would allow migrant workers to vote during elections

ministrative challenges to remote voting. The commission has asked political parties to submit their written submissions by February 28. The ECI had stated in the meeting that there are multifarious reasons for a voter not opting to reg-

Climate threat to livestock discussed at ISAPM meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: Indian Society of Animal Production and Management (ISAPM) along with Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) Wednesday organised the National Livestock Conference on 'Futuristic approach to viable Animal Production vis-a-vis Climate and Calamity Challenges'. The event was inaugurated by OUAT vice-chancellor Paravat Kumar Roul. The dignitaries exchanged ideas and deliberated on recent developments on a viable livestock enterprise by taking into account climatic vagaries, especially the natural calamities. Roul said, "Odisha, referred to as disaster capital of India, has a 480-km coastline and is prone to natural calamities. Sudden changes in climate have unfathomable impact on livestock rearing. We at ISAPM work towards providing tangible solutions to such problems face by those involved in livestock production. The science of Livestock Production and Management has gone way beyond pathology, nutrition or anatomy. The agriculture and allied sector today bears a lot more importance in terms of employment and economy." Two books - 'Banyajantu O Mesapalana Bigyana' authored by Prafulla Kumar Mishra and 'Byabasyaika Anda Dia Kukuda Palana Madhyamare Atmanijukti' by Guruprasad Mohanty - were launched on the occasion. President of ISAPM Karan Sarjan Reddy was also present at the event. ISAPM is a registered society that has engaged itself in propagation of science, research and technology transfer in the field of Livestock Production Management. The society has more than 900 life members who actively participate in meetings, conventions, conferences and seminars.

.FEST: Odia singers set the stage on fire

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: Day four of .FEST themed 'Chak De Odisha' made the denizens go gaga watching their favourite Odia singers performing the popular numbers, Wednesday. Vocalists Lisa Mishra, Sniti Mishra, Rituraj Mohanty and Odia rapper Samir Rishu Mohanty aka Rapper Big Deal set the stage on fire with their Odia hits. More than 15,000 locals and visitors enjoyed the day four concert, which was free for the public. Locals and guests continued to enjoy the delectable regional delicacies from different Indian states as well as the international cuisines from the 16 Hockey World Cup participant nations and 24 Indian states. They also enjoyed delicacies



Lisa Mishra

from Odisha. The Night Bazaar/Flea Market gave local artists, startups, performers, craftsmen and innovators an excellent stage to display their products. The Flea Market, which was founded with the intention of displaying the handicrafts and textiles of Odisha, proved to be a crowd-puller and a shopping experience for visitors with more than 120 locally made goods on display. 'Sebbe-Au-Ebbe' (Then & Now), a photo exhibition that honours Bhubaneswar's illustrious urban/city heritage and charts its transformation, remained the focal point of the occasion. The City Trails are available to visitors until February 12, 2023, so they can fully immerse themselves in the culture and history of Bhubaneswar. Day five of the festival will welcome the top classical musicians from around the world, including Indian musicians Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Ustad Taufiq Quresh, Ojas Adhiya and Odia singer Susmita Das along with international musicians like Louis Banks, George Brooks and Gwyneth Wentink. More than 30 sites were se-

Millet steals the show at Food Fest



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: In the International Food Festival, one of the key events organised under .FEST to keep the mood of the Capital city lively during the Men's Hockey World Cup, the stall that has been catching everyone's attention is Michaels Kitchen. It serves exquisite Indian delicacies made from millets. From 'guchup', 'samosa' to 'fried fish' or 'biryani' everything they make is millet based. Deserts like 'kheer' and brownie are also being prepared from millets. There is also a section of the stall providing millet based dry and packaged food items. Biscuits, cookies, flour, chhatua, mixture, papad and other items, appearing as exact replicas of their less healthy versions are getting sold in numbers. With The Union government sponsoring the proposal for de-

claring 2023 as international year of millets and Odisha celebrating the importance of millet with its 'Odisha Millets Mission', a stall like this has become instrumental in promoting the cereal. A wide variety of millets like kodo millet, little millet, pearl millet (bajra), finger millet (ragi), foxtail millet and shorgum (jowar) are being used in preparation of the dishes. On being asked about the response from the visitors, Chef Michael, the man behind the creation of these dishes, said, "We are almost equivalent to stalls of top hotels and restaurants in terms of sales. We are catering to the demands of at least 200 people on a daily basis and we served more than 500 people last Sunday. Today's is an aware crowd and it gives me immense satisfaction to see that people are actually going ahead and buying millet based food."

Publish MBBS, BDS results by March 31: Pandit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department Wednesday directed the Higher Education department, Directorate of Medical Education and Training (DMET), deans/principals of government and private medical colleges and universities to complete the final Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) examinations and publish the results before March 31, 2023. In a letter, H&FW principal secretary Shalini Pandit said that it has been made mandatory by the Supreme Court and National Medical Council (NMC) that all PG admissions must be conducted through National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET). The guidelines for appearing in NEET are issued by the National Board of Examinations. In order to become eligible for NEET, the cut-off date for completing the internship is usually March 31 of the admission year. However, it is observed that when

the final MBBS/BDS examinations and publication of results are delayed, the students are unable to complete one-year internship before March 31 of the said year for which they become ineligible to appear for NEET and lose one year to pursue PG courses. It is therefore requested that necessary instructions are issued to the concerned universities to complete the MBBS and BDS exams and publish the results before March 31, 2023. This will help students start their internship and become eligible for NEET PG.

Hockey helps instill life into dull public spaces

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: The state Capital is presently drawing international attention for hosting the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup for the second consecutive edition. The World Cup matches started January 13 and will continue till January 29 at the iconic Kalinga Stadium here, and the newly-built Birsamunda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela. As the World Cup created a city-wide creative energy in Bhubaneswar, the sports capital of India, it responded with a handful of urban space renewal initiatives. It overhauled the underutilised, defunct and derelict spaces around the Capital city into productive and functional hubs centered around the demands of the people. More than 30 sites were se-

An area of more than 8 lakh sq ft has been covered with beautiful context specific paintings, complementing the surroundings, instilling life into the dull, mundane public spaces. Spaces that were encroached upon or neglected due to lack of proper access, sanitation, lighting, etc. were chosen to be reclaimed. Through this initiative, the spaces were reborn

lected pan Bhubaneswar that would enhance the city's imageability and add to the experiential value for the citizens as well as the visitors, an official said. Daily market plazas, pocket parks, streetscapes, roundabouts and street intersections were the identified categories of public spaces that were designed, managed and executed for rejuvenation within a highly challenging



period of 60 days, he said. This collaborative approach set the best practices, a mix of creative heads and City management officials targeted to unearth the potential of open public spaces. Spaces that were encroached upon or neglected due to lack of proper access, sanitation, lighting, etc. were chosen to be reclaimed. Through this initiative, the spaces were reborn.

Spaces were cleaned, seating areas were added, indigenous flora were planted, with people using them now. Pergolas for shade, additional lighting for safety and other amenities were

installed, integrating the inherent spirit of the areas. An area of more than 8 lakh sq ft has been covered with beautiful context specific paintings, complementing the surroundings, instilling life into the dull, mundane public spaces. The Odisha chapter of Lalit Kala Akademi was roped in along with 28 groups of artists to undertake this mammoth task in a most imaginative manner. The road landscape for around 25 km and about 15 km were developed. Similarly, two dedicated sculpture camps were hosted by the city in collaboration with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and with funding support from Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC), wherein 51 sculptures were crafted and placed strategically based on their theme in different locations across Bhubaneswar.

State bags award for anti-malaria efforts

The award recognises the efforts and commitment of Health department to reduce vector-borne disease load in the state and will motivate the ground level healthcare providers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: The state received the SKOCH AWARD (Silver) in the health category on Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN) distribution through Multi Sectoral approach in tribal areas of Odisha. The award was given at the National Workshop of Ayushman Bharat School Health and Wellness programme by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The award was presented to Niranjan Mishra, Director of Public Health, and Shubhashisha Mohanty,

Joint Director, Health Services on behalf of H&FW department. The work was selected on basis of e-voting and jury verdict.

The award recognises the efforts and commitment of Health department to reduce vector-borne disease load in the state and will motivate the ground level health care providers.

This highlights the precision, planning and execution of LLIN distribution during 2020 amidst Covid pandemic Long Lasting Insecticidal Treated Nets received from government of India are stored, transported and distributed in nook and

corner of high malaria burden districts with meticulous preplanning and supervision.

The distribution included involvement of Gaon Kalyan Samiti and distributed through HW (M/F) and ASHAs ensuring transparency, accountability and zero pilferage. LLIN has proved to be an effective intervention for malaria control after it was distributed in 2017. It along with the all round efforts of H & FW deptt in providing increased surveillance, treatment the state could reduce the malaria burden from 4.44 lakh cases in 2017 to 23,770 in 2022 showing a remarkable decline of about 95 per cent which can be treated as a major achievement for the state because of the state leadership and the healthcare providers.

The pre-distribution activity included micro planning, supply chain management and pre sensitization of beneficiaries. In the post distribution period, beneficiaries were persuaded to use new LLIN for reducing the vector-borne disease.

In spite of Covid, the healthcare providers had all the dedication and courage to move about, contact people and distribute without any disruption and disturbance showing great courage against the fear of Covid.



VENTING ANGER: Congress workers scuffle with police as they try to gherao the residence of Minister of State (Independent Charge) Tusharkanti Behera over gangrape of minors in Capital city. One accused Krishna Mallick has been arrested by police, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Tamil Nadu to explore collaboration on millets

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: A high level delegation from Tamil Nadu led by P Amudha, Principal Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj department visited Krushi Bhawan, Bhubaneswar Wednesday.

The delegation interacted with Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment department, Prem Chandra Chaudhary, Director of Agriculture, Mansi Nimbhal, CEO-Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) and other representatives from Mission Shakti department and Odisha Millets Mission (OMM).

Padhee, shared about the different aspects of OMM especially its forklift approach and focus on rural consumption of millets. He shared about excellent results in promotion of local landraces and traditional recipes through Women SHGs.

He stressed that involvement of Women SHGs, FPOs and NGOs along with departmental staff played an important role in the success of OMM. Padhee readily agreed for collaboration on quality seed supply and informed that a technical team from the Agriculture & FE de-



partment will visit Tamil Nadu. Choudhury informed that OMM started in 7 districts covering 30 blocks and is now expanded to 177 blocks covering 30 districts of the state. Over a period of 5 years, average yields have nearly doubled and value of produce from millets has nearly tripled. Government of Odisha has allocated nearly ₹2800

crore for next 5 years for OMM.

Nimbhal shared that Mission Shakti WSHGs played a very important role in mainstreaming of millets through processing and value addition. Focus on household consumption with grassroot level entrepreneurship around Tiffin Centres and Threshers are helping in the mainstreaming of millets.

P Amudha, IAS, Principal Secretary, RD&PR department, Government of Tamil Nadu appreciated the OMM model and told that there are many lessons for the state of Tamil Nadu.

She told that a technical team from Tamil Nadu will visit Odisha to understand the model in more detail. She has also offered support in supply of quality seeds for promotion of non ragi millets in Odisha such as little millet and barnyard millet.

CONTINUED FROM P1

'WFI prez...

Sitting beside Vinesh, Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Bajrang Punia said the federation is being run in an arbitrary manner and they will not compete in any international competition unless the WFI President is removed.

CLASSIFIED

LOST

I, Sri Aditya Agarwal, aged about 42 years, S/o Late Smt. Ranjana Agarwal, Residence of Plot No. 27, Madhusudan Nagar, Unit-4, Bhubaneswar, Dist.-Khordha do hereby by solemnly affirm and state that on dated 02/01/2023 my Original Sale Deed No. 11081221139 dated 28/08/2012 and the Original Patta (R.O.R) / Original Rent Receipt of schedule Plot No. 112/902, Mouja - Mahabhoi Sasan, Khatian No. 64/710, Tahasil - Bhubaneswar, Dist -Khordha has been lost somewhere. If any person has received the above Registered Sale Deed I will be grateful to him if he/she inform me at my above address in the matter. Further, if anybody receiving the above lost document and misuse the same, I will not be held liable for its misutilisation.

I, Shri Subhash Chandra Pradhan, aged about 37 years S/o Late Netrananda Pradhan, resident of At- Matiapada, P.O.- Gobindpur, P.S.- Pipili, Dist.- Puri - 752104, Odisha has declared that I have lost my original registered sale deed of my own property of Mouza- Matiapada-1, Khata No. 296/298, Plot No.125/858, Area A0.4.820 decs., Kisama- Homestead (Gharabari) vide deed No. 11532101599, ID No.- 1532101617 on 15.10.2022 in between Gudiapokhari Chowck to Uttara Chowck.

In an unprecedented move, the country's top wrestlers, gathered to protest against the "dictatorship" of the WFI President.

Rio Olympics medalist Sakshi Malik, world championship medalist Sarita Mor, Sangeeta Phogat, Satyawart Malik, Jitender Kinha and CWG medalist Sumit Malik were among 30 wrestlers who assembled at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday.

"Our fight is not against the government or the Sports Authority of India (SAI). This is against WFI. 'Yeh ab aar paar ki ladai hai' (It's a fight to the finish). We will continue this protest until WFI President is removed," Bajrang Punia told PTI. "We will not compete in any international competition until WFI President is removed. This is a fight to save Indian wrestling," Punia later said while addressing the media. Bajrang's support staff, including his coach Sajeet Mann and physio Anand Dubey also joined the protest. "The dictatorship will not be tolerated," said another wrestler. Singh has been at the helm since 2011. He was elected President of WFI for the third consecutive time in February 2019.

Polls in 3 NE...

The Congress and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) are expected to join hands to take on the BJP in Tripura, where the Left ruled for 25 years while the Congress was its main rival, before the saffron wave swept aside both in the 2018 polls.

The Congress had long been a dominant player in the northeast, before the BJP's rise to power at the Centre gradually relegated it to a pale shadow of itself.

While the BJP is the junior partner in the governments in Nagaland and Meghalaya, it has been on an overdrive to strengthen its presence in these states.

BJP president J P Nadda, in his recent address at the saffron party's national executive, called upon its members to ensure the victory of the party in all the nine state Assembly polls scheduled for this year. He noted that the year is crucial in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The CEC said the proceedings at 73 per cent of the polling stations will be broadcast, while 375 polling stations will be managed exclusively by women staff.

All polling stations will be accessible and will have facilities such as drinking water and toilet. Staff will be deployed to help differently-abled people and all stations will be on the ground floor, the CEC said.

"There will be 31,700 PWD voters.

Ramps are being built to help the PWD voters," Kumar said.

He also said permanent ramps will be built at the schools where polling booths will be set up, which will help the students suffering from any kind of disability.

Kumar added that form 12D will be available for the centenarian voters to cast their votes from home.

Wait over...

When the 64 feet long aircraft weighing over 8 tonnes reached Bhubaneswar, slogans like "Biju Patnaik Amar Rahe" rented the air.

Apart from Naveen Patnaik, Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das, a number of ministers, MLAs, persons associated with the aviation industry and many others reached the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here to welcome the arrival of the Dakota aircraft.

The Odisha government has engaged a special team to reassemble the dismantled parts of the aircraft. The Airports Authority of India has allotted 1.1 acres of land for this purpose at the BPIA here.

The plane has undergone much wear and tear over the years, said BPIA director Prasanna Pradhan.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of people gathered beside the National Highway connecting Kolkata with Bhubaneswar to have a glimpse of the dismantled Dakota aircraft.

SAI Int'l hosts storytelling sessions

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: SAI International hosted several ingenious story-telling sessions for students and teachers from January 16-18 with renowned international storytellers Roger Jenkins, Marion Kenny and Bongiswa Kotta Ramushwana.

The SAI students of Classes IV-V sat in awe, listening to the fables as narrated by Jenkins during a playful session on school premises. His animated expressions, lively voice & dramatic gestures kept the teachers riveted during his session with the teachers of SAI Angan January where he shared valuable insights on the role of storytelling in early education.

While addressing the students &



teachers, Jenkins, said "stories are not to exaggerate reality they are there to teach you that nothing is impossible. No matter how big the obstacle, you will always find your way around it." He emphasized on how stories can teach children all about hope, happiness and tolerance.

Ramushwana appreciated the culture entailed in the holistic approach of SAI International Residential School & talked about

classroom interaction through stories, ways to sharpen the learner's mind, voice modulation & breathing exercises, while conducting the Storytelling & Effective Communication Workshop for the Teachers of class IV to VIII.

An interactive workshop on 'Storytelling for Beginners' was conducted for the students of Classes IV-VIII by Marion Kenny. Her rhythmic, musical & physical interactions with the students were stunning, & she skillfully overcame the language barrier, imbibing a lot of facial expressions, gestures & the use of voice. During her interaction with the kids, she said, "It is heartening to learn of the many ways storytelling is being incorporated into Indian education."

DAV UNIT-VIII ORGANISES 'AD-MELIORA'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: The glimmering annual fiesta titled 'Ad-Meliora' of DAV Unit-VIII school, concluded Wednesday.

On the concluding evening, students of different classes gave several memorable performances ranging from magnificent Odissi dance showcasing the journey of DAV Unit-8 to tribute to hockey by performance on hockey anthem song Hockey Hai Dil Mera.



The evening became musical with the melodious chorus by the school choir team

On the inaugural day of the event, the school released 'Tech Grooves', the annual science magazine. The great celebration commenced with presentation of annual report by the Principal Ipsita Das and the inaugural address was delivered by the Chairman Bijay Kumar Patnaik.

The evening became musical with the melodious chorus by the school choir team. The performance ranging from the lower KG to the senior secondary wing had an enchanting spell on everyone.

The magnificent odissi dance Chhatrapatti, depicting the chivalric spirit and other cultural programmes mesmerised the audience. Students and teachers were awarded for their magnificent achievements on this occasion.



FUN TIME: People visiting Sisir Saras Mela being held at Baramunda Field in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

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Police raid for liquor, find leopard hide; 3 arrested



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada/Khunta, Jan 18: A raid by Khunta police to curb illicit sale of liquor during Makar festival turned out to be fluke as they seized a leopard hide from the house of a hooch trader at Bholagadia village under the police limits in Mayurbhanj district, Wednesday.

Police seized the leopard hide and arrested three persons in this connection. The accused persons were identified as Chhitaranjan Sahu, 25, his brother Trilochan Sahu, 30 of Bholagadia village and Gendru Ho, 38, of Baniabasa village in Dengama panchayat under Khunta police limits.

The dead leopard is believed to be within seven to eight years of age and the hide measuring 160 cm in both length and width. Preliminary inquiry indicated that the animal might have been poached a few

Seizure of the leopard hide has sparked concern over the safety of wild animals in Similipal wildlife sanctuary

occasion of ongoing Makar festival. A team of Khunta police led by IIC Lopamudra Nayak raided the house of Chhitaranjan Sahu in Bholagadia village. The police personnel were searching for liquor inside the house when foul smell emanating from a box drew their attention. They opened the box and found a leopard hide stored inside instead of liquor. When questioned, Chhitaranjan said that the hide has been kept in his house by another person.

Reports said that the Forest personnel have failed to prevent poaching in the Similipal wildlife sanctuary despite the Centre and state government pumping in several crores for the protection and safety of big cats.

The back to back seizure of leopard and Royal Bengal Tiger hides in areas within seven kilometre range of Similipal foothill is alarming and exposes the rampant poaching of wild animals, especially big cats in the sanctuary, former wildlife warden Bhanumitra Acharya said.



TRADITIONAL TREAT: Artists from Bolangir performed traditional 'Ghudka' dance at the Sambalpur Lok Mahotsav-2023 held at the PHD ground in Ainthapali, Sambalpur

OP PHOTO

DMF to provide nutritional support to 1,354 TB patients



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Jan 18: The Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) and Public Health Officer (PHO) here Tuesday launched the distribution of nutritional support for the tuberculosis (TB) patients in Keonjhar district.

The matter came to the fore after CDMO Dr Kishore Kumar Prusty launched the programme from Naranpur health sub-centre in Keonjhar block. This has become possible after the district mineral foundation (DMF) adopted all the TB patients undergoing treatment in Keonjhar district.

As part of this programme, nutritional support will be provided via food baskets to the TB patients undergoing treatment in various

hospitals of the district. As a result, 1,354 TB patients will be benefitted for which the DMF will spend around Rs 400 crore annually.

The programme will soon be available in all the health sub-centres where nutritional support will be provided to TB patients on the seventh or 21st day of every month.

A whopping amount of Rs 12.3 crores has been sanctioned under DMF for 'Nutritional Support to the TB patients' in Keonjhar for a period of 3 years.

Mission Shakti has been assigned to procure food baskets and ensure the quality of food items and delivery to each patient under treatment for a period of six months during their treatment.

Speaking on the occasion, the CDMO said that the district has

been included in the TB free India campaign and plans to eradicate the disease by 2025. Currently, 1,354 TB patients are undergoing treatment. The district level federation of Mission Shakti has been assigned the task of doorstep supply of the nutritional food basket to the TB patients for a minimum period of six months.

The DMF and the district administration endeavour to adopt a just, humane, and sensitive approach to ensure that vulnerable TB patients are provided with nutritional support which shall help provide the much-needed dietary requirement fostering their recovery.

As per reports, Keonjhar is among the top four districts with a large number of TB patients. In Keonjhar district, more than 2,000 TB patients are identified whereas 1,354 patients are undergoing treatment.

Among others, ADPHO-TB, DPC Mission Shakti, District Programme Manager (DPM), NHM, Keonjhar, and President District Level Federation (DLF), Mission Shakti along with representatives from DMF Keonjhar were present during the launch of the programme.

10 injured in stampede during cultural event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malkangiri, Jan 18: At least 10 people have been injured in a stampede during a cultural function at the 'Malyabanta Mahostav' in Malkangiri district, police said Wednesday.

The incident took place Tuesday evening, they said. There was a huge rush of around 40,000 people at the DNK Ground, which has a capacity to accommodate close to 20,000 people, police said.

Three people, including a woman, suffered critical injuries, but their condition is stated to be stable, they said. All the injured have been admitted to the district headquarters hospital here.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. MCSW-HIRING-BOPT-22-23-19
Name of the work: HIRING OF 05 NOS. OF BATTERY OPERATED PLATFORM TRUCK (03 WHEELER) CAPACITY: 02 TON WITH OPERATOR AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.
Advertised Value: ₹41,48,070/- EMD: ₹83,000/- Completion Period: 24 Months.
Bidding Start Date: 20.01.2023, Date & Time of Tender Closing: 03.02.2023, 1500 hrs.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
By: Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH), Carriage Repair Workshop, Mancheswar
PR-911/N/22-23

ITI students in Berhampur build scrap statue of Netaji



POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Jan 18: Continuing its waste to wealth initiative, the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Berhampur created a statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose using only scraps ahead of his birth anniversary.

The statue is six feet in height and weighs 15 kg. "The statue of Netaji made up of scraps is one-of-its-kind and is not available anywhere else in the country," ITI Principal Rajat Kumar Panigrahi said. The statue has been built using chains, sprockets, GI sheet and small screws by the students of fitter, electrician trades. It took over a fortnight to build the statue, the principal said.

20-yr jail to youth for rape of minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Jan 18: A special POCO court Tuesday handed down 20-year imprisonment to a youth after convicting him of raping a minor girl under Nilagiri block in Balasure district.

The convict was identified as Santosh Singh. POCO court Judge Ranjan Kumar Sutar also slapped a penalty of Rs 14,000 on the convict, apart from the punishment. The judge also directed the authorities of district legal services authority (DLSA) to pay Rs 4 lakh financial assistance to the survivor. This was stated here by special public prosecutor Pranav Kumar Panda of the state government.

According to the case diary, the incident occurred in 2019 when Santosh and his friend called the 14-year old survivor to a shop and forced her to drink liquor. Santosh's friend left the place while the for-

mer took the survivor to a farmland and raped her. He even threatened to kill her if she reveals the matter before others.



The girl narrated her ordeal before her mother after she experienced stomach pain January 29, 2020. The girl's mother informed the village elders following which a meeting was convened to resolve the issue but Santosh did not turn up. Left with no option, the girl accompanied by her mother lodged a complaint at Nilagiri police station February 6, 2020.

mer took the survivor to a farmland and raped her. He even threatened to kill her if she reveals the matter before others.

One killed, 11 critical as auto-rickshaw overturns

Thakurmunda: A woman was killed and 11 others including the driver sustained critical injuries after an auto-rickshaw overturned near Saruabil on Machhagad-Asanbani road under this police limits in Mayurbhanj district, Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Ahalya Mohanta, 23, of Nota village under Sarat police limits in the district. The injured persons were rescued after the mishap and admitted to the Thakurmunda community health centre.

Woman critical in elephant attack

Baripada: A woman sustained critical injuries in an elephant attack at Chhanch area under Baripada forest division in Mayurbhanj district, Wednesday. The injured woman identified as Shantilata Parichha, 30, of Babusahi area under Baripada Municipality limits has sustained injuries on her head, chest and limbs. Locals rescued her in a critical condition and rushed her to PRMMCH in Baripada.

Admin to promote Dhenkanal brand saree

TO REALISE THE OBJECTIVE, EXPERT WEAVERS FROM SAMBALPUR AND SUBARNAPUR DISTRICTS WILL BE INVITED TO TEACH AND TRAIN THE LOCAL WEAVERS



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Jan 18: The district administration here has launched initiatives to promote the sarees produced by local weavers as Dhenkanal brand sarees.

It will make efforts to earn a special identification for these sarees in the market, the report said. Moreover it will undertake similar efforts to promote the handloom textiles produced by the local weavers.

Reports said that weavers in Saragpatna, Chandrasekharprasad under Sadar block, Rathapada under Odapada block and Girigobardhan village near Khalapala under Parjang block weave beautiful sarees and hand-

loom textiles known as Kargil, Computer, Rekha, Ganga-Jamuna and Badibandha in the market. These sarees and handloom textiles are loved and admired by the customers for their beautiful and intricate designs.

The matter came to the fore when district Collector Saroj Kumar Sethi inaugurated a sale counter of Saragpatna Weavers' Association at the district Collectorate here, Monday. The sarees, napkins, lungis and shirt pieces produced by the weavers were put on display for sale in this counter.

The opening of the counter registered good business on the opening day as the district Collector purchased a shirt piece for himself while inaugurating the counter. Several officials includ-

ing women staff of the district Collectorate and other offices also purchased sarees and shirt pieces from the counter.

Speaking on the occasion, the district Collector said that efforts will be made for proper promotion of sarees produced in Dhenkanal district in and outside the state as well as in foreign countries by lacing it with beautiful and attractive designs.

To realise the objective, the expert weavers from Sambalpur and Subarnapur districts will be invited to teach and train the local weavers. He called upon the female government employees to wear handloom sarees at least on Mondays every week. The male employees should also buy cloth pieces and make shirts and wear them once a week, he said.

He said that provision will be made for sale of sarees and napkins in every block, municipality, NAC and sub-collector offices as an initiative to promote these homemade products.

He hoped that residents in the district will also lend a hand and promote these products by wearing the sarees and clothes produced by the local weavers. Prashant Kumar Sahu, inspector of Saragpatna Weavers' Association was present during the launch programme.

Indian Bank OLD STATION SQUARE BRANCH
A/27, Cuttack Road, Near Jharapada Over Bridge, Bhubaneswar -751006, PH No.: 0674-2571525, 2571159

DEMAND NOTICE

Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued by Indian Bank as Secured Creditor against the following Borrower of our Branch.

A/c. No./Facilities/Date of Notice	Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Outstanding Amount	Schedule of Property
A/c.No.: 6516950817 (TL) / 09.01.2023	Borrower: M/s. All Swag, Plot No.: 1203, Jagamohan Nagar, Jagamara, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-751030 / Partners CUM Guarantors: 1) Mr. Rishikesh Das, S/o- Rashmi Ranjan Das, Clark Road, Krishna Raya, College Square, Puri-752001, 2) Mr. Abhijeet Kumar Pradhan, S/o- Kumar Pradhan, Plot No.: 88, Gajapatnagar, Badasankha, P.S.: Kumbharapada, Puri-752002	₹31,84,963/- as on 08.01.2023 + further interest and other expenses thereon till date of repayment	Hypothecated assets: Kitchen Equipments, Interior Items, Air Conditioners, LED TV, Music System, and Furniture at Plot no 1203, Jagamohan Nagar, Jagamara, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-751030
A/c.No.: 58004894695 (CC) / 06.01.2023	Borrowers: 1) M/s. Sai Enterprises, Prop.: Manjuka Mohanty, Plot No.: 250/1919, P.O.: Sisupallagada, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751002, 2) Mrs. Manjuka Mohanty, W/o- Raghunath Mohanty, Plot No.: 3441/6551, Gopaluni Nagar, Badagada Brit Colony, Bhubaneswar-751018, 3) Mr. Satyanarayan Mohanty, S/o- Mr. Mahendra Kumar Mohanty, Plot No.: 2RA 9/8, Kalpana Flat, Bhubaneswar -751014 / Guarantor: Mr. Prabhakar Dash, S/o- Mr. Bhagirathi Dash, Plot No.: 3448/6552, Gopaluni Nagar, Badagada Brit Colony, Bhubaneswar -751018	₹18,51,509/- as on 05.01.2023 + further interest and other expenses thereon till date of repayment	Equitable Mortgage of residential plot in the name of Sri Pravakar Dash (Guarantor) over Plot No.: 3406/5340/7439, Khata No.: 1494/1960, Mouza: 35, Badagada, Bhubaneswar having land Area: Ac. 0.092dec., Bounded by North: Nanda Kishor Jena, South: Seller, East: Road, West: Plot No.: 3441

You have committed default in repayment of outstanding loan amount mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate available from our Bank as mentioned above. The bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the abovementioned table. The loan account has been classified as Non Performing Asset since 17.10.2022 respectively. You are called upon to pay the dues together with interest within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which bank will be constrained to exercise right of Enforcement of Security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. As per the provisions of Sec.13(13) of the Act, no transfer of the secured assets (given in the schedule above) by way of sale, lease or otherwise, shall be made after the date of the notice without prior written consent of the bank. This notice is without prejudice to any other right/remedy available to the bank including initiation of legal action.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 18.01.2023
Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Bank of India POSSESSION NOTICE
Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015 [Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Gopalpur Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Partners/Co-Borrower in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Partners/Co-Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Partners/Co-Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Gopalpur Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

GOPALPUR BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrower/Partners/Co-Borrower	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
1) Borrower: M/s. Maa Shakti Agencies, Partners: 1) Mr. Sanjeeb Mohanty, 2) Mrs. Sasmita Mohanty, At: Labour Colony, Puri, expenses thereon	₹ 42,41,389.11 + interest & expenses thereon	27.10.2022 / 17.01.2023	All that part and parcel of Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 149, Plot No.: 361/934, Area: Ac.0.022Dec., KISSAM: Garhabari at Mouza: Cuttack Ghat, Cuttack-753009, 2) Borrower: Mrs. Sasmita Mohanty (Principal Borrower in Home Loan)/ Co-Borrower: Mr. Sanjeeb Mohanty (Co-Borrower in Home Loan), At: Jhanjiri Mangala, Khandayat Sahi, Cuttack
			Sahar Unit No.: 37 Badambadi, P.S.: Madhupatna, SRO: Cuttack, Tahasil: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack, standing in the name of Mrs. Sasmita Mohanty, Bounded by North: Public Road, South: Electric Office, East: Plot No.: 773, West: Public Road

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 19.01.2023
Authorised Officer, Bank of India

FOCUS DIGITAL TRANSACTIONS

THE RISE & RISE OF UPI



The objective of UPI was to create an indigenous Indian payments system. For now, two US-headquartered companies are in the lead

India's indigenously-developed Unified Payment Interface (UPI) has almost become the default payment option. While cash is still the king, increasingly a majority of peer-to-peer transactions are being done using UPI. According to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI recorded over 7.82 billion transactions worth Rs 12.82 trillion in December 2022, a new record since it was launched in 2016. In fact, the volume of transactions has witnessed exponential growth from just 0.02 billion in FY17 to 60 billion until December this fiscal. Similarly, the value of transactions has spiked from Rs 0.1 trillion to as much as Rs 100 trillion during this period.



Bikash Narayan Mishra

INDIA CANNOT AFFORD REGULATORY GAPS TO PREVENT POTENTIAL SYSTEMIC DISRUPTIONS THAT CAN TRIGGER LARGE-SCALE DISRUPTIONS IN THE EXPANDING DIGITAL PAYMENTS LANDSCAPE

2019, the RBI had flagged the dangers of concentration risks in retail payment systems, from a financial stability perspective. The objective of UPI was to create an indigenous Indian payments system. For now, the two US-headquartered companies are in the lead. Even the two biggest challengers to the hegemony of these companies are US-headquartered Amazon and WhatsApp.

Such price-led market concentration can end up raising the entry barriers for Indian fintech startups to innovate and be part of the UPI ecosystem. New fintech players are not getting in because this requires very deep pockets along with the ability to sustain large volumes of cashbacks for a very long period of time.

Whether it is done in phases or in one go, it is expected that there will be no further extension to the December 2024 deadline. How should it be done? The SOP issued by NPCI has a specific clause to restrict onboarding of new users if guidelines are not followed. The onus to ensure the compliance lies as much on the payments players as on the NPCI. The review could gauge parameters, such as slowdown in new user onboarding and merchant acquisition, and reduction in marketing expenditure. The NPCI has two major responsibilities: (a) Grow the UPI ecosystem by deepening and widening its reach and (b) control market risks. Both pull in opposite directions. It should not be the umpire and the player at the same time. The responsibility of controlling market risks should be vested with the government or the sectoral regulator. India cannot afford regulatory gaps to prevent potential systemic disruptions that can trigger large-scale disruptions in the expanding digital payments landscape.

Notwithstanding the above, the show has to go on and it's time to expand it to the under-touched zones—the villages. If we are able to continue with the stellar performance, we may soon touch the magic figure of one billion transactions a day, possibly in the next two years. At the same time, the users need to be educated on the use and misuse of the apps.

The writer is Senior Advisor at the Indian Banks' Association. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM ECOSYSTEM

View of Earth: Lovelock's philosophy of Gaia

James Lovelock, the acclaimed British scientist, died in 2022 on his 103rd birthday. His seminal book, 'Gaia', published 40 years ago, helped in bringing about a radical shift in popular perceptions about the Earth. Lovelock's reputation world over is not as much for his theoretical and experimental works, but for a world view which he espoused that assumes great significance against the backdrop of the global environmental crisis.



Ananya Behera

THAT ALL ANIMATE AND INANIMATE OBJECTS ARE INTERCONNECTED BY AN INTRICATE WEB IS EASIER SAID THAN UNDERSTOOD

There is a remarkable resemblance between the theory of Gaia and the theory of animism. Animism is derived from the Latin word 'anima' which means breath, spirit, life. Potentially, animism perceives all things -- animals, plants, rocks, rivers, weather systems, human handiwork, and other living and non-living beings—as animated and alive.

The climate and the chemical properties of the Earth now and throughout its history seem always to have been optimal for life. For this to have happened by chance is unlikely. The properties could not be predicted from the sum of its parts. It needed a name. William Golding recommended that this creature be called Gaia, after the Greek Earth goddess also known as Ge, from which root the sciences of geography and geology derive their names.

In Greek mythology, Gaia was the Greek goddess of Earth, mother of all life forms. Quite simply, Gaia is life. She is all, the very soul of the Earth. She is a goddess who, by all accounts, inhabits the planet, offering life and nourishment to all her children. In ancient civilisations, she was revered as mother, nurturer and giver of life. The Oxford English Dictionary defines this as the "the global ecosystem, understood to function in the manner of a vast self-regulating organism, in the context of which all living things collectively define and maintain the conditions conducive for life on earth."

If Gaia exists, the relationship between her and man, a dominant animal species in the complex living system, and the possibly shifting balance of power between them, are questions of obvious importance. Anthropogenic activities have brought about drastic changes to just about every natural habitat on the planet. Our oceans and natural water sources are polluted, the composition of our soil has been chemically altered, the atmosphere has been heavily influenced by emissions, our forests have been dramatically reduced, and on and on.

That all animate and inanimate objects are interconnected by an intricate web is easier said than understood. Biodiversity loss due to

The writer is Assistant Professor of Sociology, Ramadevi Women's University.

New Strategic Posture

The geopolitical terrain in Northeast Asia is shifting, and, fortunately, the region's two great democracies, Japan and South Korea, are moving in a similar direction. If prudent, strategic leadership prevails in both Tokyo and Seoul, the two countries' historical enmity may finally be consigned to the past, and security across the Indo-Pacific region will be enhanced.

The catalyst for reducing the bilateral diplomatic friction—a problem that dates to the pre-World War II era—was Yoon Suk-yeol's (no relation) inauguration as president of the Republic of Korea last May. With Yoon's arrival in the presidential office, the pursuit of a chimerical "balance" in relations with China and the United States—previously a central focus of South Korea's foreign policy—has given way to a more clear-eyed assessment of the country's security needs.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a rude awakening for Yoon, and for many South Koreans across the political spectrum. With China and others effectively backing Russian President Vladimir Putin's criminal behaviour, the war has called into question the entire international security architecture. Add the mounting North Korean nuclear threat, the intensifying Sino-American rivalry, and the risk that China will mimic Russia's invasion with a similar move against Taiwan, and Yoon had more than enough evidence that South Korean national security requires closer ties with both the US and Japan.

But while the US and Japan have assumed a more prominent position in the minds of South Korean strategists, Yoon's government has not turned its back on relations with China. On the contrary, his administration remains focused on limiting tensions and securing China's assistance in reining in North Korea's wayward leader, Kim Jong-un. But, unlike his predecessor, Moon Jae-in, Yoon does not think that South Korea needs to create a false sense of distance from the US in order to foster ties with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

For Yoon, recognising South Korea's new national-security needs has meant embracing a more active and outward-looking diplomatic posture. He wants to position South Korea as a pivotal player in maintaining the international order, rather than as a small regional power concerned only with relations on the Korean Peninsula.

One problem for Yoon, whose margin of victory over his more left-wing opponent was just 0.74%, is the level of domestic political support for a major foreign-policy shift. Given South Korea's winner-takes-all political system, in which presidents are limited to a single five-year term, many worry that any major foreign-policy changes could be summarily reversed as soon as 2027. With the next presidential election not due until then, Yoon has time to secure such a consensus if he works hard at it.

So, as significant as South Korea's strategic reorientation under Yoon appears to be, it will remain on shaky ground without more formal institutionalisation, both in South Korea and among its allies, particularly Japan and the US. That is why Yoon's government, instead of waiting for Japan to make the first move (as is typical of South Korean diplomacy), has been reaching out and seeking to revive the warm ties that typified the relationship between South Korean President Kim Dae-jung and Japanese Prime Minister Keizō Obuchi from 1998 to 2000.

One must hope that this effort bears fruit soon. But the strength of the bilateral relationship ultimately depends on the trilateral relationship between Japan, South Korea, and the US, and there are many more things that these three countries could be doing to deepen their ties. Specialists at a trilateral conference organised by the Mansfield Foundation last summer proposed dozens of policy recommendations. For example, meetings of the three countries' defence and foreign ministers ("2+2+2 summits") could be held regularly to build trust, improve policy coordination, and develop more effective responses to shared risks, such as the security threat posed by North Korea.

Joint trust-building initiatives could also be pursued in strategic research and development sectors such as next-generation semiconductors, aerospace technology, 5G and 6G communications, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing. The US National Science Foundation, the Japanese New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation, and the National Research Foundation of Korea could all coordinate their efforts in these domains.

Equally important are deeper people-to-people ties among the three countries. For example, exchange programmes—especially for young people, media figures, and other "influencers"—could help to create a shared community and build greater public support for a deepening trilateral alliance.

More broadly, South Korea also will need to strengthen its participation in multilateral institutions and networks, so that it can work with other countries to provide international public goods, mitigate supply-chain problems, and address other global issues. Perhaps the most important body that South Korea should seek to join is the group of Indo-Pacific democracies known as the Quad, comprising Australia, Japan, India, and the US.

While Quad members currently lack the political will to expand, the opportunity to tie South Korea to it should not be missed. South Korea should also actively pursue membership in other vital multilateral international networks such as the G7; US President Joe Biden's Indo-Pacific Economic Framework initiative; the proposed Chip 4 Alliance (US, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan), intended to strengthen control of and access to semiconductor production; and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, the vast trans-Pacific trading bloc.

Strong, forward-looking South Korean and Japanese leadership will be needed to seize these opportunities, and to mobilise broader regional and global networks. But, as is often the case, US leadership is needed to maintain today's current momentum.

The 2022 US National Security Strategy calls for investment in US national power and alignment with allies and partners to out-compete China and constrain Russia. But the Biden administration does not yet have an effective plan for uniting allies and like-minded countries behind shared security goals.

One reason for this is the traditional US failure to consider the impact of its domestic policies on its foreign-policy interests. For example, France, South Korea, and others have been complaining loudly about being excluded from new US industrial policies (such as the Inflation Reduction Act's tax credits for US-produced electric vehicles).

While Biden has pledged to address these concerns, he must do so quickly. Alliances, after all, are built on trust. And trust will be the essential ingredient in shaping a security alliance worthy of Asia's great democracies.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of International Relations at Seoul National University.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- It's kind of fun to do the impossible. **WALT DISNEY**
- Showing off is the fool's idea of glory. **BRUCE LEE**
- It always seems impossible until it is done. **NELSON MANDELA**

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Desperation & humbug

Sir, This refers to "Pak PM for 'sincere' talks with India," **OrissaPOST**, Jan 18. Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif's statement that after having fought three wars with India his country had learnt its lesson and now wanted peace with its neighbour is half desperation and half humbug. Sharif called for 'honest' talks with the Indian leadership on so-called 'burning issues' like Kashmir. He needs to be reminded that there is nothing to talk with regard to Kashmir. Kashmir was always integral to the Indian Union and its status was further clarified by the revocation of Article 370, which again was purely India's internal matter. But the only good Pakistan can do with respect to Kashmir is this: Its military-intelligence complex stops sending terrorists and dismantles Pakistan-based terror launchpads. But the truth is this is simply not within Sharif's powers. And the generals can't give it up because the so-called Kashmir issue has made the careers of many in Rawalpindi GHQ. With its forex reserves plunged to just \$4.34 billion and inflation is forecast to stay around 23% with severe shortages of essentials like flour and fuel, the economy is in dol-drum. Things have been further exacerbated by the devastating floods last year that drenched one-third of the country, displaced 8 million people, and dealt a body-blow to its farm sector. These undesirable situations at home must guide Pakistan to help its citizens facing hardships, while India should continue to ignore.

N Sadasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Political backing & NPA

Sir, There are reasons to believe that some Rs 12 lakh crore have been systematically siphoned off from banks in the first eight years of the present government's rule—mainly by big corporate borrowers. This was/is done quite legitimately by taking loans for units and then getting them written off as unrecoverable NPAs. The scale is 4-6 times higher than internationally accepted norms. Obviously, such a massive but smooth operation is simply not possible without political backing. Every GM, ED or CMD of a bank knows that when he is told by someone representing the core of political power "to lend to X", he jolly well does it. Down the line, technical feasibility and economic viability appraisals are made positive and due diligence is dammed. The few people from this racket that we see in jails now are those who were not protected by political bosses. Is this democracy whose trumpet is being beaten all over the world?

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

national

of the day quote

The two important issues of unemployment and inflation are brushed aside by the BJP and we could not raise the issues through the judiciary and the media, as they are under pressure from the BJP

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Have I said I will contest from two constituencies? Who said that? I will be contesting from one constituency... I have made it very clear, I'm contesting from one constituency

SIDDARAMAIAH | SENIOR CONG LEADER

I hope that today, in Khammam, the land of people's resistances, we will have the beginning of a new resistance, a resistance to secure the ideals that we fought for in our freedom struggle. A resistance to protect our secularism, our democracy, our Constitution and thereby our nation

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Maoists impose 12 hour curfew

Ranchi: Maoists in Jharkhand's Kolhan division have imposed a "curfew" of 12 hours, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. in an area of about 30 km and have asked the villagers to not come out of their houses during this period. Sending leaflets to every village, the ultras warned the villagers of IED bombs laid down in the area. Due to this decree, Chaibasa's Goukera, Tonto, Barkela, Arahas etc., turn silent as soon as the sun sets. No passenger vehicles are seen on the roads at the onset of darkness and shops and markets close before it.

Man beaten to death over Facebook post

Nashik: A 30-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death with an iron rod by two persons following a tiff over a Facebook post written by the victim in Maharashtra's Nashik city, police said Wednesday. The incident took place at Kashmiri Mala (farm) in Satpur suburb of the city on late Tuesday night, they said.

India, Oman hold strategic dialogue

New Delhi: India and Oman have underlined the need to work collectively to fight the challenge of terrorism, terrorist propaganda, abuse of cyberspace and misuse of new and emerging technologies. The issues were discussed at the eighth India-Oman strategic dialogue. While the Indian team was led by Deputy National Security Adviser Vikram Misri, the delegation from Oman was headed by Major General Idris Abdulrahman Al-Kindi, the Secretary General of the National Security Council of the Sultanate of Oman. Al-Kindi is on a visit to India from January 16 to 19. This is his first visit to India after his appointment as the Secretary General of the NSC of Oman.

50 aircraft to take part in R-Day celebrations

New Delhi: Fifty aircraft will take part in the 74th Republic Day celebrations at the Kartavya Path that will include aerial display by nine Rafale and the Navy's IL-38 which will be showcased at the event for the first and perhaps the last time, a senior IAF official said. IL-38 is a maritime reconnaissance aircraft of the Indian Navy that has served for nearly 42 years, he said. At a press interaction here, the Indian Air Force also unveiled a model of the IAF tableau that will be showcased during the January 26 parade.



“ If the Prime Minister thinks 24 hours which Chief Minister he should target next, how will the country develop

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

TOP COURT TO EXAMINE AP PLEA

The Supreme Court Wednesday agreed to examine a plea of the Andhra Pradesh government against the recent order of the high court suspending the government's order which prohibited conduct of public meetings and rallies on roads, including national highways



JOSHIMATH CRISIS

2 unsafe private houses, PWD guest house to be demolished

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Joshimath, Jan 18: Authorities in Uttarakhand Wednesday extended the demolition exercise in Joshimath to unsafe private buildings and issued orders to pull down two houses besides a PWD guest house near the main market.

After meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah, whom he briefed about the prevailing situation in Joshimath, Dhani said there is no need for panic due to the Joshimath situation and people from other parts of the country should not comment about it.

Meanwhile, the two private houses to be demolished are located in Manoharbagh which falls under ward no 5 of Joshimath municipal area. The owners have given their consent for the demolition in writing. The PWD dak bungalow was constructed after 1976. These buildings had been declared unsafe by the Central Building Research Institute which is the nodal agency for the exercise.

The orders for demolition were issued by Chamoli District Magistrate Himanshu Khurana. Before this orders for the demolition of two hotels, Malari Inn and Mount View were issued and their scientific dismantling under CBRI supervision is underway.

Amid rising concerns over subsidence-hit Joshimath, authorities are worried about a different matter - where to keep the riches of Badrinath safeguarded at Narsingh temple.

Though authorities claim the temple is secure as of now, they have begun looking for alternative lo-



In Delhi, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhani sought to allay fears, saying 65-70 per cent people in Joshimath, where cracks appeared in buildings and other structures, are leading a normal life and the Char Dham Yatra will commence in four months

cautions nearby where the riches containing a huge quantity of gold and silver besides other offerings can be kept in case the situation in the town worsens further.

The worst-hit Singdhar ward and JP colony are located at an aerial distance of just half a kilometre from Narsingh temple adding to the worries of authorities.

Lord Vishnu, the presiding deity of Badrinath is worshipped at Narsingh temple in Joshimath after the portals of the Himalayan temple are closed for winter.

The riches of Badrinath are also brought down to the Narsingh temple during winter. In Dehradun, the National Institute of Hydrology said the profiles of water samples taken from JP colony in Joshimath and NTPC project site are different.

Citing a preliminary report of the National Institute of Hydrology

(NIH) which studied the water samples of the two places, Secretary Disaster Management Ranjit Kumar Sinha said, "However, as I said, it is just a preliminary report from which no conclusion should be drawn."

The NIH's observation is significant as it comes amid widespread allegations that the crisis in Joshimath was caused by the NTPC's Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project and the underground channel burst January 2 from which water has been flowing constantly was also a result of it.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary S S Sandhu asked the central technical institutions conducting separate studies of land-sub-sidence in Joshimath to further squeeze the timeline for the submission of their reports as it was an issue of national priority.

The different institutions were asked to share their reports with each other and reconcile them before their submission so that there is no incoherence, Sinha said.

Youth dragged by auto driver for 1.5 km in Saharsa

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Jan 18: The terrible Delhi hit-and-drag case seemed replicated in Bihar's Saharsa district when an auto driver dragged a biker for one and a half km Tuesday night after a collision, police said. The victim is identified as Komal

The condition of the victim is critical and the doctors said that his right leg is badly injured and they might recommend its amputation to save his life

Kishor Singh, 25. Living in Saharsa city, he was on the way to his native village Hempur under Navhata police station in the district Tuesday when he met with an accident with an auto at Biha Brahman Asthan on the Agwanpur-Saharsa road.

Following the accident, Singh's leg was struck in the auto and its driver sped away, in a bid to escape, dragging him for one and half km. The local villagers chased the auto but failed to nab the accused. The errant auto driver finally stopped the vehicle, threw the victim on the roadside and fled. The local residents reached there and rescued the victim. Sadar hospital's Dr Shivam Kumar said: "The condition of the victim is critical. His right leg was badly damaged. The local police have been informed about the accident."



At BRS meet, KCR promises to scrap 'Agnipath' scheme

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Khammam (Telangana), Jan 18: Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Chandrasekhar Rao Wednesday said Agnipath scheme for army recruitments will be scrapped if his party comes to power at the Centre or plays a key role in formation of the next government at the Centre.

KCR, as Chandrasekhar Rao is popularly called, was addressing the mammoth inaugural public meeting of BRS, which was also addressed by Chief Ministers of Delhi, Punjab and Kerala and leaders of different political parties.

Claiming that the public meeting marks the beginning of a new change in the country, he said BRS would soon announce its agenda.

KCR gave a glimpse of BRS' vision for India. He promised that if BRS is voted to power in 2024, it would make India free from power cuts in two years. He also promised supply of clean drinking water, free power to all farmers across the country, implementation of Rythu Bandi, a scheme of Telangana government under which farmers are provided investment support of Rs 10,000 per acre every year; and also replication of Dalit Bandhu which provides Rs

CRITICISING THE AGNIPATH SCHEME ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR BY THE BJP GOVERNMENT AT THE CENTRE, KCR SAID THIS WAS DISINTEGRATING THE DEFENCE SYSTEM

HE PROMISED THAT THE NEXT GOVERNMENT WOULD SCRAP THE SCHEME AND RESTORE THE OLD SYSTEM SAYING THE ARMY SHOULD HAVE A STANDARD

10 lakh assistance to every Dalit family to start any business or economic activity of its choice.

Stating that India has lost direction, he said there was politics on every issue. He urged people to ponder what is the aim of India and why it is lagging behind despite having abundant natural and human resources to progress. KCR said all states except Telangana were experiencing power cuts. The total installed power capacity in India is 10 lakh MW but the country is not using more than 2 lakh MW. He promised to make the country free from power cuts in two years.

He blamed both BJP and Congress for incompetency of their governments to address basic issues. He remarked that they engage only in verbal fights.

Unnao rape survivor writes to President

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 18: Days after the Delhi High Court granted interim bail to former Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who was sentenced to imprisonment for life for raping a minor girl in Unnao in 2017, the survivor has opposed the decision. In her letter shared on social media, she claimed that her uncle could not get an interim bail for her sister's marriage due to a conspiracy hatched by Sengar's family members.

The HC on the same day of granting bail also adjourned Sengar's bail plea in the custodial death case of the survivor's father. Counsel representing Sengar had requested Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma's bench to impose the same condition as Justice Mukta Gupta and allow the bail application. The victim's counsel had submitted before the court that a copy of the application may be supplied. The court had then directed the counsel for Sengar to supply a copy of the application to the victim and adjourned the matter for January 19. In the rape matter, Justice Gupta had raised a concern

The high court, January 16, granted two weeks' interim bail to Sengar from January 27 to February 10 in view of his daughter's marriage

The survivor, via a video and written statement, has expressed her apprehensions to President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, claiming that her and her family members' lives are in threat

saying that Sengar daughter's wedding ceremonies have been scheduled for so many days and everything can be completed in a few days. Counsel representing Sengar had submitted before the court that he is the father and the ceremony dates are given by the priest.

Two senior advocates, namely N Hariharan and PK Dubey, who appeared for Sengar, had informed the court that as Sengar is the only male member in the family, he has to make all the wedding arrangements, which are going to be held in Gorakhpur and Lucknow.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and others during the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh

SI seeks inclusion of 'Covovax' jab in CoWIN portal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: Serum Institute of India has written to the Union Health Ministry seeking the in-

clusion of its Covid vaccine Covovax in the CoWIN portal as a heterologous booster dose for adults, official sources said Wednesday.

The letter was written by Prakash Kumar Singh, Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at Serum Institute of India (SII), they said. National Technical Advisory

Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) is likely to hold a meeting soon to decide on the matter.

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) January 16 approved market authorisation for Covovax as a heterologous booster dose for adults who have been administered two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin. Its ap-

proval was based on recommendations by the subject expert committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation.

The DCGI approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults December 28, 2021, in the 12-17 age group March 9, 2022, and also in children aged seven to 11 years June 28 last year subject to certain conditions.

Will make norms on 'living will' more workable: SC

The apex court's 2018 order on passive euthanasia wherein it recognised the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right and an aspect of Article 21 (right to life) notwithstanding, people wanting to get a "living will" registered have been facing problems due to cumbersome guidelines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: The Supreme Court said Wednesday it will not review its 2018 judgement on passive euthanasia and only make the guidelines on "living will", an advance medical directive on end of life treatment, more workable.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph said during Wednesday's hearing a clarification by the court should not lead to more confusion.

"We will simply make it a little bit more workable, we can't be reviewing it. We kept the matter in open court. There is nothing to be reserved. We cannot be reopening the whole thing," the bench, also

comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and Justice C T Ravikumar said.

Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj contended the present proceedings fall within a very narrow compass. "Everything has already been laid down. Whatever are the practical difficulties that vacuum has to be filled in," he said.

Senior advocate Arvind P Datar, appearing for The Indian Society for Critical Care, told the court that he has submitted a chart elaborating the areas which are unworkable.

He said suggestions put forth have been discussed with doctors and there is a complete report of the Indian Council of Medical Research.



The hearing remained inconclusive and will resume Thursday.

More than four years after its landmark order on passive euthanasia, the top court had Tuesday said it is for the legislature to enact

a law for terminally ill patients wanting to stop treatment but agreed to modify its 2018 guidelines on "living will".

Observing that the legislature is much more endowed with "skills

and sources of knowledge" to enact a relevant law, the apex court said it will limit itself to improving the guidelines it had laid down on "living will".

The bench had said there can only be a little tweaking of the guidelines or else it will become a review of its own 2018 judgement. The five-judge Constitution bench was considering a plea seeking modification of the guidelines for Living Will/ Advance Medical Directive issued by it in 2018.

The top court had in its March 9, 2018 judgement recognised that a terminally ill patient or a person in a persistent vegetative state may execute an advance medical directive or a "living will" to refuse med-

ical treatment, holding the right to live with dignity also included "smoothing" the process of dying.

It had observed that the failure to legally recognise advance medical directives might amount to "non-facilitation" of the right to smoothen the dying process, and that dignity in that process was also part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The apex court had laid down principles related to the procedure for execution of advance directives and spelt out guidelines and safeguards to give effect to passive euthanasia in both circumstances where there are advance directives and where there are none.

After Jains, tribals claim Parasnath Hill

TRIBALS LAUNCH MONTH-LONG MARCH 'MARANG BURU BACHAO YATRA' TO FREE PARASNATH HILL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jamshedpur, Jan 18: A tribal organisation Tuesday launched the country-wide 'Marang Buru Bachao Bharat Yatra' (Save Parasnath Hill) to free it from the alleged clutches of the Jain community.

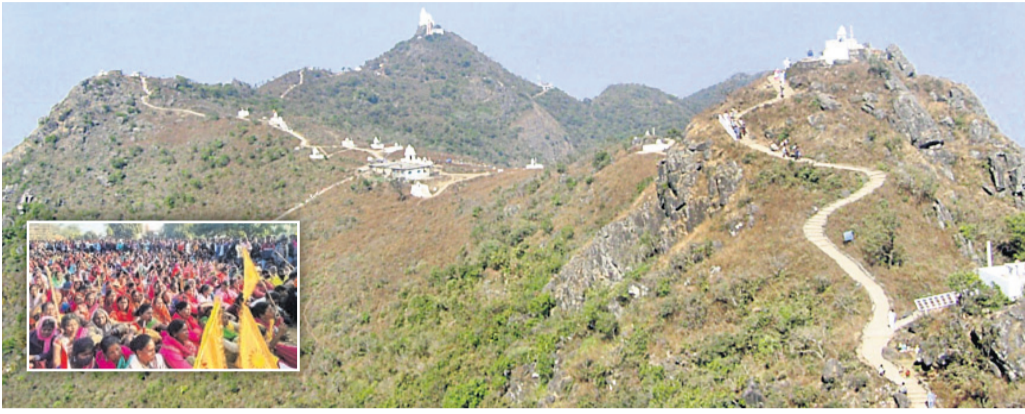
The month-long march by Adivasi Sengel Abhiyan (ASA) seeks to garner support from across the country to free Parasnath Hill or 'Marang Buru'.

ASA president Salkhan Murmu said here that its members staged demonstrations in front of 50 tribal-dominated district collectorates in Assam, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand simultaneously to press for its demand.

The ASA activists waved placards and staged dharnas during the day at Kokrajhar, Chirang and Baksa in Assam, Malda, Purulia and Bankura in West Bengal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore in Odisha, Kishanganj, Katihar and Purnea in Bihar and Jamshedpur, Bokaro and Dumka in Jharkhand, he said.

The tribals consider Parasnath Hill as the holiest 'Jehathan' (place of worship) by the tribals.

Murmu, a former MP who led the dharna here during the day, said that meetings will be organised in other tribal pockets of the country by ASA to mobilise support for its demand.



The Association will also submit a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu through district magistrates of all 50 districts in the five states in support of its demand before the Yatra ends in the last week of February.

Murmu had earlier written to the president and appealed to her to restore the sanctity of the Parasnath Hill and hand it over to the tribals.

He accused the Jharkhand government for handing over Marang Buru to the Jain community. The government has betrayed the adivasi community. Marang Buru is an identity of the tribals who believe that it protects them, Murmu said.

The Jain community is protesting against Jharkhand government's decision to turn the hill, which it considers among its holiest places, into a tourist destination.

The Shri Sammed Shikharji in Parasnath hill in Jharkhand's Giridih district, about 160 km from Ranchi, is among the holiest places of the Jains, including both Digambara and Shwetambar sects. 20 of the 24 Jain tirthankaras attained 'moksha' (salvation) on these hills.

Murmu said Parasnath Hill to be as significant for the devout tribals as is Ayodhya Ram Mandir for Hindus, Mecca and Medina for Muslims, Vatican City for Christians and the Golden Temple for Sikhs.

ASA, he said, will also raise the issue of inclusion of 'Sarna' religion in the census and its opposition to government's move to include the Kurmi caste in the

category of schedule tribes.

ASA will also hold a Marang Buru-Sarna Mahadharna February 11 and Rashtriya Adivasi Ekta Mahasabha February 14 in Ranchi.

The Jain community across the country is demanding the scrapping of a 2019 Jharkhand government notification designating Parasnath Hills as a tourist place. It fears that it will otherwise lead to an influx of tourists who may consume non-vegetarian food and liquor at their holy site.

While the Centre stayed the Jharkhand government's move to promote tourism at the Parasnath Hill after protests by Jains, tribals claimed the land and asked for it to be freed. The Santhal tribe has

Soren warns BJP against playing 'divisive' politics

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Wednesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of playing divisive politics over Parasnath hills or 'Marang Buru'.

Never before had the state witnessed such a controversy over a religious place, the chief minister claimed.

"Politics over a religious place will not be tolerated," Soren said while addressing a rally at Giridih.

Suspecting a "hidden agenda of the Centre and the saffron party behind the Parasnath controversy that erupted last month, the chief minister assured the tribal community that 'Marang Buru' (the supreme power or deity) would continue to remain there.

Soren was addressing a rally at Giridih during the second phase of 'Khatiyani Johar Yatra', an outreach programme to mark three years of the JMM-led government in the state.

a sizeable population in Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Assam and West Bengal and are nature worshippers.

JD(U) says no decision on making Tejashwi CM soon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Jan 18: The JD(U) Wednesday claimed that there is no decision to make Tejashwi Bihar Chief Minister in the near future.

Interacting with mediapersons in Ranchi, Bihar minister and JD(U) leader Ashok Chaudhary said, "Nitish Kumar has become chief minister because of his own capacity and not because of the mercy of any other party or leader."

Chaudhary, who is also Construction Minister of the state, said, "Nitish Kumar has the ability to become chief minister of state whether in the NDA or the Mahagathbandhan governments."

He trumpeted the increased budget allocations compared to pre-2005 state budget of the Lalu government.

When asked whether the 2025 assembly election will be contested under the leadership of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, Chaudhary said, "After few hours I am returning to Patna and I am not sure whether I would reach there or not, so how can we say anything about 2025."

Nitish Kumar had recently announced that the 2025 assembly election will be contested under the leadership of



Tejashwi Yadav. However, the RJD leaders are not satisfied with it and are demanding that Nitish Kumar should step down to make way for Tejashwi Yadav.

The RJD's recent attacks on the Nitish Kumar government over its minister's controversial statement on Ramcharitmanas have given an edge to the BJP, the lone opposition party in the state. Sources said that it is RJD's strategy to "pressurise" Nitish Kumar to step down as the chief minister.



UNIQUE CONTEST: Girls participate in a 'Dahi Khao Pratiyogita' organised by Sudha Dairy, in Patna, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

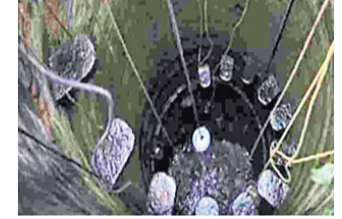
High arsenic concentration in groundwater in 18 Bihar dists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Jan 18: High arsenic concentration has been found in groundwater in 18 districts of Bihar, as well as its correlation with incidences of gallbladder cancer at these places, according to a new study, a senior official said.

People in these districts are drinking water with arsenic concentration greater than the World Health Organisation's permissible limit of 10 microgram per litre, he said.

"The study by experts has found that out of the 38 districts, 18 have high arsenic contamination in groundwater. The worst-affected districts are Buxar, Bhojpur and Bhagalpur. The highest arsenic contamination (1,906 ug/L) in groundwater is in Buxar," Ashok Kumar Ghosh, Chairman of the



Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB), told PTI.

"Now, arsenic as a possible risk factor for gallbladder cancer has been found in the study. Public health intervention in the form of removing arsenic from drinking water is the need of the hour in the endemic regions of Bihar and Assam. Tackling arsenic pollution may help reduce the burden of several health outcomes," Ghosh said.

The experts collected and analysed 46,000 groundwater samples from different areas of the 18

districts before arriving at the conclusion, he said.

"This study investigated exposure to arsenic in drinking water, with gallbladder cancer risk among participants for residency durations of 15-70 years in two arsenic-affected states of India, Bihar and Assam," Ghosh said.

The research has been published in the Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention Journal of the American Association for Cancer Research on the relationship between arsenic in drinking water and gallbladder cancer.

"Preliminary insights from this study can also be useful for similar country contexts that experience a high burden of gallbladder cancers and arsenic contamination in drinking water," said Dr Krithiga Shridhar of PHFI, also the lead author.

In J'khand's Sahibganj, kids get training in mobile phone theft

The children involved in mobile thievery do the work with the consent of their parents as most of them come from families with poor financial condition

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ranchi, Jan 18: There are 'schools' in Rajmahal and Tinpahar towns of Jharkhand's Sahibganj district that train children to steal mobile phones.

The children trained here are sent to big cities and metros. And then, gang leaders assign them areas and monitor their work.

Ranchi police recently apprehended four minor members of a gang of mobile phone thieves. The police also recovered 43 stolen mobile phones from their possession.

A 17-year-old member of the gang told the police that he was caught for stealing mobile in 2020 as well, and was then kept in a juvenile home in Bihar's Buxar district for four months.

Another member of the gang, who was only 11 years old, revealed that he too was involved in a mobile theft case in the past and was kept in a juvenile home for 11 days in Bihar's Bhagalpur.

For crimes such as theft, children are kept in juvenile homes for a short period. The police also do not inquire much about them.



Even, minors are not tortured or harassed during their term.

The apprehended members of the gang told the police that they are given a target of stealing 8 to 10 mobiles every day. The remuneration they get for every mobile theft is fixed.

Depending on the brand and cost of the mobile phone, they get ₹1000 to ₹2000 per handset.

The older members in the gang stand around the children. Immediately after stealing mobile phones, these children hand it over to the older members. When a large number of stolen mobiles are collected, the gang leader takes them to Sahibganj.

The children involved in mobile thievery do the work with the consent of their parents. Most of the children come from families with poor financial condition. They are

mostly from Tinpahar, Taljhari and Maharajpur of Sahibganj district (Jharkhand) and Baranpur, Hirapur, Asansol of West Bengal's Bardhaman district.

The apprehended children told the police that they got training in stealing mobiles at Tinpahar and Rajmahal. Their boss Suraj, Chandan and others taught them the methods to steal mobile phones. After training, they were brought to Ranchi.

Vegetable and daily markets, according to them, are the best places to steal mobiles as it is easy for them to disappear from there after completing the task.

According to a senior police officer, stolen mobiles are transported to Bangladesh and Nepal. In one year, more than 30 minor members of such gangs were apprehended in Ranchi alone.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

McCluskieganj (Jharkhand), Jan 18: Crumbling colonial-era bungalows, clubs and a grand church form what was once billed as a 'paradise' by Kolkata-based realtor TE McCluskie when he leased some 10,000 acres of land from a local Raja in Chota Nagpur in the 1930s to form an Anglo-Indian settlement or 'Mooluk'.

Barely 65 km from state capital Ranchi, this once thriving abode of Anglo-Indians - McCluskieganj - used to boast of 400 families who had dreamt of a land of their own - 'Mini England', a 'safe haven' when India was nearing Independence, worried over their fate.

Lack of employment opportunities for the young, healthcare and educational facilities, has seen most migrating to countries like Britain, Australia and Canada besides different parts of the country.

A mere handful of the descendants of those who came to this 'promised land' as settlers re-

Kitty Teixeira, a 73-year old lady dubbed as 'Kitty Memsahib' by the locals has come to be the face of this hamlet, selling fruits from her farms to visitors.

Teixeira, of Portuguese and Welsh descent, lives with her large family of three daughters, a son-in-law, a son, five kids, prized goats, dogs, hens and cocks and speaks fluently in English, Hindi and tribal dialect.

"Janam, karam yehin pe to kahan jayenge (I was born here, this has been my place, where will I go now)," she said.



main here now.

Among relatively younger residents, 48-year-old Nelson Paul Gordon, nicknamed Bobby, runs a guest house and a boys' hostel for a living.

"We left organising Christmas gatherings some 20 years back as very few of us are left...Those present have no time. Everyone is busy trying to make both ends meet..."

Bobby Gordon told PTI.

He pointed out that forest land, once one of the charms of the place is shrinking.

"During our younger days we loved cycling on forest land. Now the government has made excellent roads but there are so many vehicles...So much noise...The charm is lost, he said.

McCluskieganj was the brain-



She recalled how when she was 17 her grandfather and father died, her mother had promised the family's large property to any Anglo-Indian boy who would take care of Kitty. However, groom were scarce as most young men were leaving the rural idyll in search of better life prospects and she ultimately married a tribal who used

to waste her money on drinks.

"I am not keeping well now...We don't have money...My husband died in 2016 January," she told PTI.

"I started selling fruits along with other tribal women. I would catch a train and reach Barkakata platform and sell fruits and return...Sometimes I used to go by evening and came back in the morning. I left in steam engine train and it wasn't so bad but when the electric locomotive came, I stopped going and instead would go to colliery areas like Bachra, Khalari and Dakra."

child of Ernest Timothy McCluskie, a rich property dealer based in Kolkata who after acquiring the 10,000 acres of land from the Maharaja of Ratu, launched the 'Colonisation Society of India' in 1933.

The place that attracted Anglo-Indians from across the country now gasps for existence with haphazard and unplanned growth.

The happening farming township which once boasted of a majestic church, clubs, bakeries and schools is now dying a slow death and remains a dream unfulfilled.

Bobby Gordon's grand-parents William and Nancy Gordon were one of the early settlers who came to McCluskieganj in 1946.

Old world charm may have gone but this is our land and we have cherished memories here, said Gordon. He rued unfortunately no one paid any attention to McCluskieganj.

Gordon said his father Noel was deeply attached to McCluskieganj and would not leave the place for "anything".

For many of the Anglo-Indian families here, the Don Bosco School, established in 1997 by Alfred Rosario, a fellow Anglo Indian from Patna, has become a source of income as students at this elite school often board with them.

Their old-world cottages have been transformed into hostels for the boys who have to live in McCluskieganj, while others run small guest houses where curious travellers lodge to wonder at the world which might have been if the Thorpes, Sheperds and Mendies who bought the dream, McCluskie sold, had stayed on to live it.

of the day quote

Rahul Gandhi would undertake padyatra in Jammu and Kashmir but there would be no compromise with security. We are having a consultation with the state authorities regarding the security and maybe the distance on foot could be curtailed

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

Vijendra Gupta ji (BJP MLA), your party does not give respect to the educated people. Your party only gives respect to those who open emergency gates in airplanes

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

Parties that have complained against the reliability of electronic voting machines too have won elections held using the same device

RAJIV KUMAR | CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

SHORT TAKES

IIT student killed after being hit by car

New Delhi: A 30-year-old IIT Delhi student was killed and his friend was injured after they were allegedly hit by a car outside the campus here, police said Wednesday. Ashraf Nawaz Khan and Ankur Shukla (29) went to a restaurant Tuesday night and were crossing the road after having dinner when the car hit both of them, a senior police officer said. Khan died during treatment at the Safdarjung hospital while Shukla is admitted to the Max hospital in Saket with a fractured leg, he said. Both of them were doing their PH.D from IIT Delhi, police said.

PFI 'reporter' held in Kerala

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency has arrested a 'reporter' of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) who was assigned to collect details about the leaders of other community for possible targeting by 'hit squads', an official said Wednesday. Mohammed Sadik, a resident of Mannezhathu Thatta in Kerala, was arrested during searches at a location in Kollam district, a spokesperson for the federal anti-terror agency said.

Amala Paul 'denied' entry to Kerala temple

Kochi: Popular South Indian actress Amala Paul has alleged that she was denied entry in the Thiruvairanikulam Mahadeva temple, near here. The actor claimed that Monday that she was allegedly refused 'darshan' by temple authorities, citing customs which allow only Hindus inside the premises. But a determined Amala offered her prayers to the deity from the road in front of the temple.



SP alone is capable of defeating the BJP in UP. All socialists should unite. My target is to remove BJP from power (at the Centre) in 2024 and make Akhilesh the next CM of UP in 2027

SHIVPAL YADAV | SENIOR SP LEADER

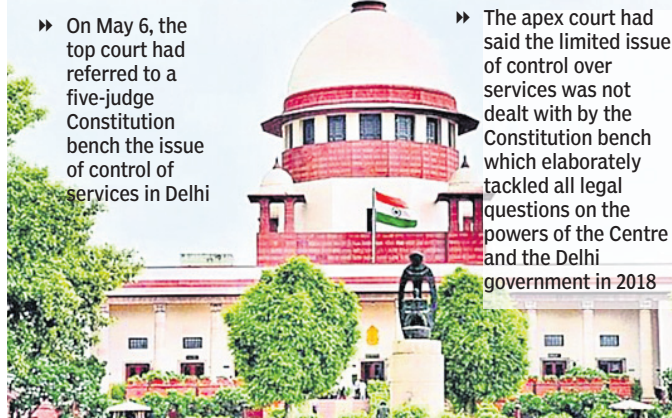
TN FARMERS TO GET LOANS FOR DRONES

The farmers of Tamil Nadu will now get loans for buying drones that can be used for spraying fertilisers in agricultural fields. The drone manufacturing startup supported by Anna University has developed an agricultural drone, DH-AG-HI or Agrigator drone which is the only certified petrol engine-based hybrid drone that doesn't require frequent change of batteries. Each such agro drone will cost between Rs 10 to 12 lakh



DELHI-CENTRE POWER ROW

SC permits Union to refer to larger bench



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: The Supreme Court Wednesday permitted the central government to file additional submissions seeking reference of the Delhi-Centre power dispute to a larger bench of nine judges on the ground that the "contours of federalism" between the Union and union territory (UT) required a re-look. At the start of the fifth day proceedings on the vexatious Centre-Delhi government row over control of services, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, urged a five-judge Constitution bench that he wanted to file an additional note for reference of the entire matter to a larger bench for a re-look.

"Please permit me to file a two-page note...My note will also contain a prayer for reference (of the case to a larger bench). I have already filed an application seeking reference," Mehta said. The issue of reference was never argued. We are in rejoinder (hearing rejoinder submissions). Mr Singhvi (AM Singhvi for Delhi government) would have finished yesterday. How can you argue reference now?" the CJJ said while responding to the request.

Senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for the Aam Aadmi Party government, vehemently opposed the submission and termed it "dilatatory" which will make the process "never ending". "It will be anything but dilatory. We are dealing with the capital of the nation. Therefore whether it is done better today or tomorrow hardly makes a difference. My learned friend may be in a tremendous hurry to do certain things. "We are more on the future course of action. We may not be remembered in history for having handed over the

The apex court had said the limited issue of control over services was not dealt with by the Constitution bench which elaborately tackled all legal questions on the powers of the Centre and the Delhi government in 2018. national capital to complete anarchy. I will just put a two-page note," the solicitor general said. The bench, at the outset, said the issue of reference was not argued during the hearing on the services row. "But a reference is needed. I have already argued," the law officer said, adding he had mentioned the application on the issue in December last year. Singhvi, on the other hand, said that an identical prayer was made in the plea that was filed seeking a review of the 2018 judgement of the Constitution bench in the case. "This will be highly dilatory. This bench has spent considerable time," Singhvi added.

The law officer vehemently opposed the submissions of the Delhi government. "We will consider. No difficulty, you can circulate a note. It is a question of law," the CJJ told the solicitor general while allowing his submissions. Earlier in December last year, the Centre had filed an interim application seeking reference of the Delhi government-Centre dispute to a larger bench of nine or more judges.

The application filed by the Centre had said it is seeking reference of the appeal to a larger bench of this court for a "holistic interpretation" of Article 239AA of the Constitution, which is Central to the determination of issues involved herein. Article 239AA relates to the special status of Delhi. The plea had said the top court has a very wide jurisdiction and no technicality comes in the way of the Supreme Court doing substantial justice between the parties, more particularly when the party on the one side is the Union of India and the issue concerns administration of its national capital.



Women personnel of Assam Rifles' march past during rehearsals for the Republic Day Parade 2023 at Kartavya Path in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Punjab ex-Finance Minister Badal quits Congress to join BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Chandigarh, Jan 18: Former Punjab finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal joined the BJP Wednesday and slammed the Congress, which he quit before starting his new political innings, for factionalism.



The Congress took a swipe at the former Punjab finance minister, saying "clouds (badal) over the Punjab Congress have cleared".

The five-time MLA lauded the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, saying India has emerged strong, including diplomatically and economically, under their nearly nine-year rule. Voicing concern over the state of affairs in Punjab, he said the state is "slipping" and the BJP is the only party which can meet the challenges facing it.

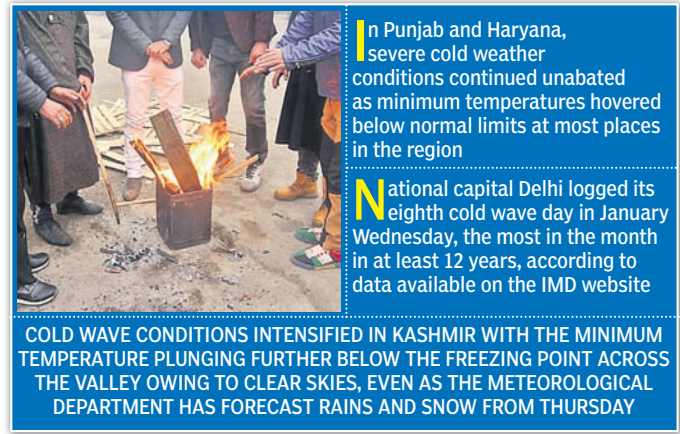
On his decision to quit the Congress, he said how can one operate in a party which is at "war with itself".

COLD WAVE TIGHTENS GRIP ON NORTH INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: Several parts of northern India reeled under intense cold conditions Wednesday, with Jammu and Kashmir's resort town Pahalgam recording its minimum temperature at minus 11.7 degrees Celsius and Delhi logging its eighth cold wave day in January. Among other parts of the region, Rajasthan's Sikar, Churu and Karauli districts saw minimum temperatures drop below the freezing point and Fatehpur city recorded a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius.

Cold wave conditions intensified in Kashmir with the minimum temperature plunging further below the freezing point across the Valley owing to clear skies, even as the meteorological department has forecast rains and snow from Thursday. The minimum temperature at the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district also settled around minus 11.5 degrees Celsius. The meteorological office said the weather will remain mainly dry across J-K till January 18. There will be a further decrease in the night temperature till that time. Kashmir



COLD WAVE CONDITIONS INTENSIFIED IN KASHMIR WITH THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE PLUNGING FURTHER BELOW THE FREEZING POINT ACROSS THE VALLEY OWING TO CLEAR SKIES, EVEN AS THE METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT HAS FORECAST RAINS AND SNOW FROM THURSDAY

is currently under the grip of 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day harshest weather period when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent. In Rajasthan, intense cold conditions persisted on Wednesday. The night temperature was minus 1.5 degrees Celsius in Sikar, minus 1.2 degrees Celsius in Churu and minus 0.8 degrees Celsius in Karauli, according to a meteorological department report.

In Punjab, Bathinda recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.2 degree Celsius, Faridkot 0.5 de-

In Punjab and Haryana, severe cold weather conditions continued unabated as minimum temperatures hovered below normal limits at most places in the region

National capital Delhi logged its eighth cold wave day in January Wednesday, the most in the month in at least 12 years, according to data available on the IMD website

gree Celsius respectively, Amritsar 2.9 degrees Celsius, Ludhiana 2.8 degrees Celsius, Patiala 2.6 degrees Celsius, Pathankot 3.8 degrees Celsius, Gurdaspur 2 degrees Celsius, Moga 0.5 degree Celsius and Mohali 4.2 degrees Celsius. Chandigarh recorded a low of 3.3 degrees Celsius.

In Haryana, Narnaul recorded a minimum temperature of 0.5 degree Celsius, Sirsa 1 degree Celsius, Hisar 2 degrees Celsius, Karnal 2.4 degrees Celsius, Rohtak 2.8 degrees Celsius and Ambala 4.9 degrees Celsius.

TAJ CASE SC allows increase in air traffic in Agra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 18: The Supreme Court Tuesday modified its December 2019 order and allowed an increase in air traffic in Agra city.

Counsel, representing the Airports Authority of India (AAI), submitted before a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul that the court had allowed it to build an additional terminal and funds have been sanctioned for the project.

Citing an inflow of tourists from all over the world to visit Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and others monuments, counsel contended that increasing the air

traffic at the airport is the "need of the hour".

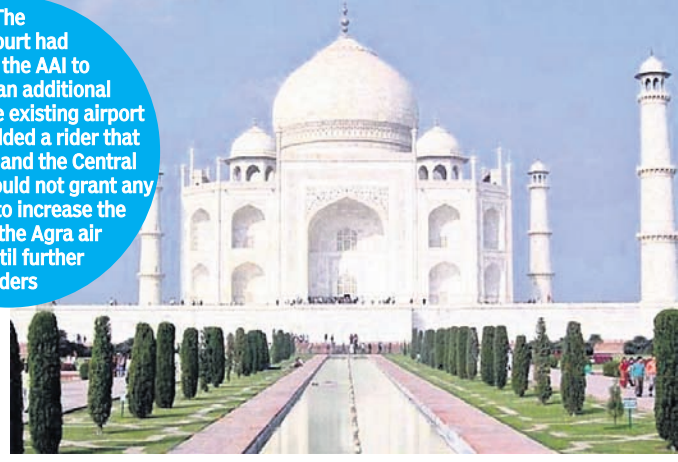
Advocate ADN Rao, assisting the court as an amicus curiae, said the AAI's application is for modification of the earlier order of the apex court.

After hearing arguments, the top court noted that the required study has been conducted and also concurrence of the Centre as well as the state has been obtained. It emphasised that permissions, which include environmental clearance, are required to be obtained as it modified its earlier order. The top court had allowed the AAI to construct an additional ter-

minal at the existing airport in Agra but added a rider that the authority and the Central government would not grant any permission to increase the traffic at the Agra air field until further orders.

In December 2019, Centre's counsel had informed the apex court that the government would conduct a study to examine the number of tourists who utilise the airport and their increase over the years. The apex court has been monitoring efforts to protect the Taj Mahal.

The top court had allowed the AAI to construct an additional terminal at the existing airport in Agra but added a rider that the authority and the Central government would not grant any permission to increase the traffic at the Agra air field until further orders



DID YOU KNOW PARL HOUSE WAS OPENED JAN 18, 1927?

Over a century ago, when the nation was still in the making and Independence 26 years away, Britain's Duke of Connaught had laid the foundation stone of Parl House February 12, 1921, and said it would stand "as the symbol of India's rebirth to yet higher destinies"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: The magnificent Parliament House, which may soon hand over its position as the country's hallowed legislature to a new complex coming up in its vicinity, was inaugurated on this very day 96 years ago by the then Viceroy Lord Irwin.

The historic building, an architectural marvel with its charming circular design and an impressive colonnade of 144 creamy sandstone on the first floor, was



with Sir Edwin Lutyens was chosen to design the new imperial capital in Delhi. The opening of the Parliament House building, revered

today as India's temple of democracy, was much talked about then in both domestic and foreign press. The sprawling edifice covering

an area of nearly six acres and its creamy sandstone colonnade on the first floor is one of the most distinctive parliament buildings anywhere in the world, and one of the most defining and widely-recognised structures. The last legislative sitting in it till the end of year 2022 was the Winter session of Parliament which concluded December 23, six days ahead of schedule, with opposition members forcing repeated adjournments in the final days over their demand for a discussion on the border issue with China.

Over the decades, as India evolved into the nation it is today, Parliament House has been witness to many a moment in history from cerebral debates to high-decibel, raucous discussions and the passing of leg-

islations—some landmark and other controversial.

In its 96-year-old journey, the iconic building has also seen the dawn of Independence in 1947, its famed chambers heard the echoes of the famous "Tryst With Destiny" speech by first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and it has witnessed the foundation laying of a new Sansad Bhavan, currently under construction.

The new Parliament building, whose foundation was laid in December 2020 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is being built in its vicinity and the work was expected to be completed before the Winter Session. It was earlier expected to be completed in time for the 75th anniversary of India's Independence Day August 15 last year.

BSF seizes arms dropped by Pak drone in Gurdaspur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/New Delhi, Jan 18: The Border Security Force (BSF) has seized a cache of weapons and ammunition dropped by a Pakistani drone around eight kilometres inside the Indian territory from the international border in Punjab, a senior official said on Wednesday.

BSF troops heard the humming sound of the drone coming from Pakistan in the Uncha Takala frontier village area of Gurdaspur district around 11:50 pm on Tuesday, the official said.

"The drone could have been at a height of 300-400 metres, although it was not visible because of dense fog in the area." "As the jawans heard the sound of the drone, they immediately fired around 17 rounds towards the direction of the unmanned aerial vehicle," he said.

Then they heard something being dropped to the ground, the BSF official added. A search of the area, which is an agricultural field, led to the recovery of a packet containing four China-made pistols, eight magazines and 47 rounds of 9 mm, he said.

"Our troops are alert and they once again were able to foil the nefarious designs of smugglers," the official added.



international



India is a great example of countries that are choosing security assistance from the US. We are ready to wear them away from Russia
PAT RYDER | PENTAGON SPOKESPERSON

WORLD'S OLDEST PERSON DIES

A French nun who was believed to be the world's oldest person has died a few weeks before her 119th birthday, the spokesperson for her nursing home in southern France said Wednesday. Lucile Randon, known as Sister Andre, was born in the town of Ales, southern France, February 11, 1904. She was also one of the world's oldest survivors of Covid-19



of the day quote

UK government is making a profound mistake by vetoing the Gender Recognition Reform Bill passed by the Scottish parliament last month. It will inevitably end up in court
NICOLA STURGEON | FIRST MINISTER, SCOTLAND

Countries in the Horn of Africa have faced unprecedented climate impact from years of drought. We expected to announce famine in Somalia before donors stepped up in magnificent ways
DAVID BEASLEY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WFP

This should not be political brinkmanship. We should be dealing with the debt ceiling without conditions. It is important. We're not going to work our way around this; we're not going to negotiate on this. This is the basic duty of Congress
KARINE JEAN-PIERRE | PRESS SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSE

SHORT TAKES

France preps for nationwide stir

Paris: Most trains will be cancelled in France Thursday, with flights also affected and Paris' subway heavily disrupted, as part of a nationwide strike against the government's plan to make people work longer before they can retire. Unions have called workers to massively walk out of their job January 19 and take to the streets across France. The government has said it will stand its ground and called on workers not to paralyse the country.

Pak ex-PM Khan for early polls

Peshawar: Seeking to force Pakistan to hold an early national election, the opposition party led by former prime minister Imran Khan dissolved its provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wednesday, three days after doing the same in Punjab province. Under the rules, fresh polls for the two provincial assemblies should be held within 90 days, and Khan's Pakistan's Tehreek-e-Insaf is gambling on the national government being unable to afford to hold the provincial elections separately from a national election, which is otherwise due by October.

Kazakh to stop Russian entries

Almaty: Kazakhstan will no longer allow Russian citizens to stay in the Central Asian country indefinitely by doing so-called visa runs every three months, according to a government directive published this week. The Astana government will disallow the practice from Jan 26, requiring Russians and citizens of other members of the Eurasian Economic Union, a post-Soviet bloc, to leave the country for at least 90 days after the permitted three-month stay. Tens of thousands of Russians, mostly young and middle-aged men, relocated to Kazakhstan last year as Moscow, embroiled in the Ukraine conflict, launched its first conscription campaign since World War Two.

Brazil charges dozens over riots

Brasilia: The office of Brazil's prosecutor-general has presented its first charges against some of the thousands of people who authorities say stormed government buildings in an effort to overturn former President Jair Bolsonaro's loss in the October election.

Church of England refuses to back gay marriages

Same-sex marriage has been legal in England and Wales since 2013, but the church did not change its teaching when the law changed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Jan 18: The Church of England said Wednesday it will allow blessings for same-sex, civil marriages for the first time but same-sex couples still will not be allowed to marry in its churches. The decision followed five years of debate and consultation on the church's position on sexuality. It is expected to be outlined in a report to the church's national assembly, the General Synod, which meets in

London next month. Under the proposals, the Church of England's stance that the sacrament of matrimony is restricted to unions between one man and one woman will not change. However, same-sex couples would be able to have a church service with prayers of dedication, thanksgiving or for God's blessing after they have a civil wedding or register a civil partnership. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin



Welby, the spiritual leader of the Anglican Church, acknowledged that the proposals "will appear to go too far for some and not nearly far enough for others." "This response reflects the diversity of views in the Church of

England on questions of sexuality, relationships and marriage. I rejoice in that diversity and I welcome this way of reflecting it in the life of our church," Welby said. "I hope it can offer a way for the Church of England, publicly and unequivocally, to say to all Christians and especially LGBTQ+ people, that you are welcome and a valued and precious part of the body of Christ," he added. The church said bishops plan to issue a formal apology to LGBTQ+ people Friday for the "rejection, exclusion and hostility" they have felt from within the church. It said it would issue pastoral guidance to its ministers and congregations and urge them to wel-

come same-sex couples "unservedly and joyfully." Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell apologized for "the way LGBTQ+ people and those they love have been treated by the church which, most of all, ought to recognize everyone as precious and created in the image of God." "We are deeply sorry and ashamed and want to take this opportunity to begin again in the spirit of repentance which our faith teaches us," he said. "This is not the end of that journey, but we have reached a milestone, and I hope that these prayers of love and faith can provide a way for us all to celebrate and affirm same-sex relationships."

DAVOS MEET

WORLD AT TOUGH SPOT: UN

FROM GEOPOLITICAL DIVISIONS LIKE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR WHICH IGNITED COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS TO LINGERING EFFECTS OF PANDEMIC AND CLIMATE INACTION, THE WORLD IS GOING THROUGH A TOUGH PHASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Davos, Jan 18: The world is facing a perfect storm on multiple fronts and all that can be done now is working together to control the damage and seize the opportunities, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday.

In a special address at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2023 here, he also called for ending the addiction to fossil fuels, and stopping "our self-defeating war on nature." "There are no perfect solutions in a perfect storm. But we can work to control the damage and seize opportunities," he added. Now more than ever, it is time to forge the pathways to cooperation in our fragmented world, he said. "I am not here to sugarcoat the scale of that challenge, or the sorry state of our world. We can't confront problems unless we look them squarely in the eye. And we are looking into the eye of a Category 5 hurricane. Our world is plagued by a perfect storm on a number of fronts," he said.

"Start with the short-term, a global economic crisis. The outlook is bleak. Many parts of the world face a slowdown," he added. He further said Covid-19 is still straining economies while the world's failure to prepare for future pandemics is straining credibility. "Somehow, after all we have endured, we have not learned the global



public health lessons of the pandemic. We are nowhere near ready for pandemics to come," he said. In addition to that, there is an existential challenge with the world flirting with climate disaster, he said. "Every week brings a new climate horror story. Greenhouse gas emissions are at record levels. The commitment to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees is going up in smoke. Without further action, we are headed to a 2.8 degree increase," he added. "The consequences will be devastating. Several parts of our planet will be uninhabitable. And for many, this is a death sentence,"

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY GENERAL, UN

he cautioned. "But it is not a surprise. The science has been clear for decades... We learned last week that certain fossil fuel producers were fully aware in the 1970s that their core product was baking our planet," he said. "Just like the tobacco industry, they rode rough-shod over their own science. Big Oil peddled the big lie. And like the tobacco industry, those responsible must be held to account. Today, fossil fuel producers and their enablers are still racing to expand production, knowing full well that their business model is inconsistent with human survival," he said.

Guterres said all these challenges, including violence and war, are inter-linked and they are piling up like cars in a chain reaction crash. "We risk what I have called a Great Fracture -- the decoupling of the world's two largest economies," he said, adding that it would result in a tectonic rift that would create two different sets of trade rules, two dominant currencies, two internets and two conflicting strategies on artificial intelligence.

There are many aspects in which US-China relations diverge -- particularly on questions of human rights and regional security. But it is possible and essential for the two countries to have meaningful engagement on climate, trade and technology to avoid the decoupling of economies or even the possibility of future confrontation, he said.

It would be difficult to find solutions to these global problems in the best of times -- if the world was united. But these are far from the best of times, and the world is far from united

'West's hybrid war won't stop Moscow'

Russian Foreign Minister said Russia was ready to "seriously consider" any Western initiatives on ending the conflict but added, "We haven't seen any serious proposals yet"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Jan 18: Russia will achieve its objectives in Ukraine despite a "hybrid war" waged by the West against Moscow, the top Russian diplomat said Wednesday.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the goals of Moscow's "special military operation" in Ukraine are "determined by Russia's core legitimate interests" and will be fulfilled. "There must be no military infrastructure in Ukraine that poses a direct threat to our country," Lavrov said, adding that Moscow also intends to make sure the rights of ethnic Russians in Ukraine were protected.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has explained his decision to send troops into Ukraine February 24 by the need to "demilitarize" and "denazify" Ukraine, to prevent the neighbouring country from joining NATO and to protect Russian speakers living there. Ukraine and its Western allies have rejected those arguments as a cover for an unprovoked act of aggression.

Speaking at a marathon annual news conference, Lavrov dismissed Ukrainian President Volodymyr



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zelenskyy's demands for a complete Russian withdrawal from Ukraine. The minister also dismissed Ukraine's insistence on payments for war damages and the prosecution of war criminals as a platform for future talks, saying "there can be no talks with Zelenskyy."

Lavrov alleged "the West makes all the decisions for Ukraine" with the goal of using the conflict to exhaust Russia. NATO members have provided Ukraine with substantial military aid.

"The amount of Western support clearly shows that the West has invested a lot in its war against Russia," he added. "It's the West that makes the decisions. And it has made decisions for Ukraine and without Ukraine."

He asserted that Moscow had yet to see any serious proposals for peace in Ukraine and that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's suggestions were absurd. "As for the prospects for negotiations between Russia and the West on the Ukrainian issue, we will be ready to respond to any serious proposals. (But) we don't see any serious proposals yet. We will be ready to consider them and decide," Lavrov said.

BIG DEVELOPMENT

US, China agree to climate finance work

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zurich, Jan 18: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen met Wednesday with her Chinese counterpart and pledged an effort to manage differences and "prevent competition from becoming anything ever near conflict" as the two nations try to thaw relations.

Yellen's first face-to-face meeting with Vice Premier Liu He in Zurich is the highest-ranking contact between the two countries since their presidents agreed last November to look for areas of potential cooperation.

Liu, for his part, said he was ready to work together to seek common ground between China and the US. "No matter how circumstances change, we should always maintain dialogue and exchanges," he said. A US Treasury readout of their meeting says the two agreed that the US and China would cooperate more on climate finance issues and would both work to support "developing countries in their clean energy transitions." The readout also indicates that Yellen plans to travel to China and welcomes her counterparts to the US in the near future.

The meeting comes as the US and Chinese economies grapple with differing, but intertwined challenges on trade, technology, and more.



Yellen, in opening remarks in front of reporters, told Liu: "While we have areas of disagreement, and we will convey them directly, we should not allow misunderstandings, particularly those stemming from a lack of communication, to unnecessarily worsen our bilateral economic and financial relationship."

She said the two countries "have a responsibility to manage our differences and prevent competition from becoming anything even near conflict."



WAVE OF STIRS: Thousands of nurses in Britain walked out Wednesday in a new protest over pay, with no end in sight to a wave of strikes that has piled pressure on the UK's overburdened public health system

DETAINED THEN FREED

Climate protest not a crime: Greta

REUTERS

Luetzerath, 18: Environmental activist Greta Thunberg swiftly resumed campaigning after she was briefly detained in Germany during a protest against a coal mine expansion, tweeting that protecting the climate was not a crime. "Yesterday I was part of a group that peacefully protested the expansion of a coal mine in Germany. We were kettled by police and then detained but were let go later that evening," tweeted Thunberg, whose whereabouts are unclear. "Climate protection is not a crime." She was detained with other ac-



tivists demonstrating against the demolition of the village of Luetzerath to make way for the expansion of an open-pit coal mine owned by RWE. Thunberg was carried away by three police officers and held by one arm at a spot away from the edge

of the mine and escorted back towards police vans. She was released later in the evening.

She has described the mine's expansion as a betrayal of present and future generations and accused Germany of being one of the biggest polluters in the world.

The protest has highlighted growing tensions over Berlin's climate policy with environmentalists arguing that climate goals are being neglected with a return to dirtier fuels during an energy crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

She is set to meet International Energy Agency executive director Fatih Birol in Davos Thursday.

Joe Biden fumbling his way through US presidency

Biden, who at 80 is the oldest president in American history, has a long record of gaffes, stutters and his misstatements have become more pronounced, and more noticed, now that he has the spotlight of the presidency constantly on him

AGENCIES

New York, Jan 18: US President Joe Biden has again caught the attention of netizens. He seemed to have forgotten the pronunciation of Vice President Kamala Harris' name during a White House event, referring to her as "Cam-a-la".

According to Biden's Indian-origin second-in-command, her name, which means 'lotus flower', is pronounced as 'comma-la' -- like the punctuation mark.

However, during a speech Tuesday at a White House cele-

bration for the NBA champion Golden State Warriors, Biden said: "As 'CAM-a-la' said, we're all closely monitoring the storms, the floods, the landslides all across California."

Biden -- the oldest-ever president at 80 -- is set to launch a 2024 re-election campaign, even as detractors question his 'mental acuity'. According to his supporters, he's simply prone to gaffes and a stutter, the Post reported.

The President's flub comes right after he forgot the name of MLK's Jr's daughter-in-law during a speech Monday. While singing "Happy

Birthday" to Arndrea Waters King, he appeared to have forgotten her name. Biden has at least six times accidentally referred to Harris as president. The most recent one was January 5.

In one such incident, the President fumbled during a campaign swing in Florida November 2 last year, confusing the American war in Iraq with the Russian war in Ukraine, and then he fumbled again while he tried to correct himself, misstating how his son Beau died in 2015.

In defending his record on inflation, Biden was trying to blame rising costs on President Vladimir Putin of Russia for his invasion of Ukraine, which has roiled international energy markets. It's a point that he makes regularly in public speeches, but this time he mixed up his geog-



raphy and history. "Inflation is a worldwide problem right now because of a war in Iraq and the impact on oil and what Russia is doing," Biden told a crowd during a speech. He quickly caught his own mistake. "Excuse me," he said, "the war in Ukraine."

But as he tried to explain how he mixed up the two wars, he told the audience, "I think of Iraq because that's where my son died."

In fact, Beau Biden, a military lawyer in the Delaware Army National Guard, served for a year in Iraq. He returned home in 2009

and died of brain cancer in the United States in 2015.

Another such incident appeared June 23, 2022 when Biden was up on the podium and was about to describe America in a single word, however, he accidentally fumbled during his speech and the video went viral.

Shared on Twitter, the video shows Biden standing on a platform with the emblem of the US government. Vice President Kamala Harris was also seen standing beside him. The short clip starts with Biden explaining that he had a single word that would describe America perfectly. But, he was seen forgetting the word and fumbling mid-speech.

"America is a nation that can be defined in a single word: A-s-u-f-u-t-i-m-a-e-h-a-e-h-f-u-t-b-w," read the caption.

business

of the day quote

We expect growth across automotive industry segments to remain at high single-digit levels in FY2024

SHAMSHER DEWAN | SENIOR VP, ICRA

India is taking concerted and coordinated efforts on R&D and innovation in the pharma-medtech sector to indigenously develop cutting-edge products and technologies

MANSUKH MANDAVIA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

In recent years, the country has been actively engaging government and corporate functionaries even at the district level and also foreign missions worldwide for its export promotion strategies, leading to sustainable rise in India's exports

RAKESH MOHAN JOSHI | DIRECTOR, IIPM

SHORT TAKES

Central Bank Q3 profit rises 64%

New Delhi: State-owned Central Bank of India Wednesday reported 64 per cent jump in profit at ₹458 crore for December quarter 2022-23, aided by a decline in bad loans and improvement in Net Interest Income (NII). The Mumbai-based bank had posted a net profit of ₹279 crore in the year-ago period. The bank's total income increased to ₹7,635.71 crore in October-December 2022-23 from ₹6,523.78 crore a year ago, it said in a regulatory filing. NII was higher by 20 per cent to ₹3,285 crore during the quarter under review.

Maruti Suzuki to recall 17,362 cars

Bangalore: India's top carmaker Maruti Suzuki Wednesday said it is recalling 17,362 vehicles manufactured between December 8, 2022 and January 12, 2023 over a possible defect in its airbag controllers. The recall is to inspect and replace the affected part of the airbag controller, which could, in rare situations, not deploy the airbags and seat belt pretensioners in the event of a vehicle crash, Maruti added. The affected models are Alto K10, S-Presso, Eeco, Brezza, Baleno and Grand Vitara, the company said.

Twitter lost over 500 advertisers

Washington: More than 500 of Twitter's advertisers have paused spending on the micro blogging site since Elon Musk's takeover last year, The Information reported Wednesday, citing a person familiar with its ad business. The social media company's daily revenue January 17 was 40% lower than the same day a year ago, the report added. The drop in the company's revenue was first reported by technology newsletter Platformer Tuesday.

Tata repositions Nexon EV portfolio

New Delhi: Tata Motors Wednesday said it is repositioning its Nexon EV range in the market, with changes in pricing and the addition of new trims, to maintain the leadership position in the segment amid new launches by the competitors. The Nexon EV range now starts from ₹14.49 lakh. The Nexon EV Prime has now tagged between ₹14.49 and ₹16.99 lakh (all prices ex-showroom). Earlier, the starting price was ₹14.99 lakh for the range. Similarly, the Nexon EV MAX range now starts from ₹16.49 lakh, with the introduction of a new entry-level trim, and goes up to ₹18.99 lakh.



India is open for business round the clock and so is the government. We invite global businesses to tap the huge potential available in the country

SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

RECORD INFLATION IN ITALY

Prices in Italy rose to record levels in 2022, the government's statistics entity ISTAT said. For the year as a whole, prices were an average of 8.1 per cent higher than a year earlier, the highest level in Italy since the introduction of the euro currency in 1999



TECH LAYOFFS INTENSIFY

Microsoft to axe 10K jobs

THE BLOODBATH IN THE TECH SECTOR THAT BEGAN LAST YEAR IS CONTINUING INTO 2023 AND MICROSOFT IS THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY COMPANY TO UNDERTAKE MASSIVE LAYOFFS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Jan 18: Microsoft announced Wednesday it is laying off 10,000 workers, almost five per cent of its total workforce, to align its cost structure with revenue and customer demand, the latest company to cut jobs after technology giants like Facebook and Amazon.

Meta, the parent of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp laid off more than 11,000 workers or about 13 per cent of its workforce in November and Microsoft's move could indicate that the tech sector may continue to shed jobs.

The layoffs and costs related to hardware-portfolio and other changes will result in a charge of \$1.2 billion in the second quarter of fiscal 2023, representing a negative impact of 12 cents on per share profit, Microsoft said.

"From a big picture perspective, another pending round of layoffs at Microsoft suggests the environment is not improving, and likely continues to worsen," Morningstar analyst Dan Romanoff said.

The company plans to cut jobs in a number of engineering divisions Wednesday, Bloomberg News reported, according to a person familiar with the matter, while Insider reported that Microsoft could cut recruiting staff by as much as one-third.

The cuts will be significantly larger than other rounds in the past year, the Bloomberg report said.

The company had 221,000 full-time employees, including 122,000



Today, we are making changes that will result in the reduction of our overall workforce by 10,000 jobs through the end of the third quarter of fiscal year 2023

SATYA NADELLA | CEO, MICROSOFT

- MICROSOFT TO SACK ALMOST 5% OF ITS WORKFORCE GLOBALLY
- THE FIRM IS SET TO REPORT QUARTERLY RESULTS JANUARY 24
- META LAID OFF OVER 11,000 OR ABOUT 13% OF WORKFORCE
- AMAZON TO LAY OFF 18,000 GLOBALLY, NEARLY 1,000 IN INDIA
- IN 2022, OVER 1,000 COMPANIES LAID OFF 154,336 WORKERS

in the United States and 99,000 internationally, as of June 30, according to filings.

Microsoft is under pressure to maintain growth rates at its cloud unit Azure, after several quarters of downturn in the personal computer market hurt Windows and devices sales.

It had said in July last year that a small number of roles had been eliminated. In October, news site Axios reported that Microsoft had laid off under 1,000 employees across several divisions. Shares

of Microsoft, which is set to report quarterly results January 24, were marginally higher in late afternoon trading.

The Satya Nadella-led firm is also grappling with a slump in the personal computer market after a pandemic boom fizzled out, leaving little demand for its Windows and accompanying software.

GRIM REALITY

More than 1,600 tech employees are being laid off per day on average in 2023 globally includ-

ASSOCHAM lifetime achievement award conferred on TK Chand



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: ASSOCHAM, a premier industry body of the country, has organised a national conclave on HR leadership and Award 2023 in Bhubaneswar January 18. Industry captains, CHROs, HR professionals, consultants, scholars, and industry professionals attended this meet in a large number.

In the conclave, ASSOCHAM lifetime achievement award was conferred on Tapan Kumar Chand for his outstanding contribution to the industry and society. This was informed in a congratulatory letter on behalf of ASSOCHAM by Senior Director, East & North-East of India, Perminder Jeet Kaur extending greetings to Chand from ASSOCHAM. All the dignitaries handed over the award and applauded him for this contribution.

The meeting was addressed by eminent personality Bijay Kumar

Patnaik, Ex-Chief Secretary, Govt of Odisha; Dr TK Chand, President Vedanta & Former CMD NALCO; Mahadev Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur; Prasant Hota, President/ Group Head - CSR, Education & Sustainability, JSPL and Somnath Mishra, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Sikkim Manipal University. Pradip Ranjan Choudhary, Advisor ASSOCHAM, Odisha State counsel, addressed the gathering and extended warm welcome by Pradeep Kumar Nayak, Asst. Director, ASSOCHAM and Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, Chairman, MGM Minerals Limited.

Tapan Chand in his address informed about the latest trends in next generation HR like emergence of knowledge worker in industrial relations scenario, HR managers advocating business excellence model, shift of HR professionals from enabler to strategists, from strategists to business manager and now visionary to make scenario building of HR 4.0.

Global smartphone shipments fall 17%

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 18: The global smartphone shipments fell by 17 per cent (year on year) in Q4 2022, with entire 2022 shipments declining by 11 per cent to fewer than 1.2 billion, a new report has shown.

Despite shrinking demand and manufacturing issues in China's Zhengzhou, Apple reclaimed the top spot in Q4 and achieved its highest quarterly market share ever at 25 per cent, according to market research firm Canalys.

Samsung finished the quarter second with a 20 per cent market share but was the largest vendor for the full

year. Moreover, Xiaomi maintained third place despite its share falling to 11 per cent in Q4, owing primarily to challenges in India.

OPPO and Vivo rounded out the top five, with 10 per cent and 8 per cent market shares, respectively.

The research firm forecasts flat to marginal growth in the smartphone market in 2023, predicting that conditions will remain tough.

"Though inflationary pressures will gradually ease, the effects of interest rate hikes, economic slowdowns and an increasingly struggling labour market will limit the market's potential," said Canalys Research Analyst Le Xuan Chiew.

Coal production target at over 1BT for FY24

DESPITE GROWING CALLS TO CUT BACK ON COAL USAGE, INDIA HAS RAISED ITS OUTPUT TARGET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: The government Wednesday said that it has set a coal production target of more than one billion tonne (BT) for the next financial year.

Of the said target, state-owned CIL has been given the task to produce 780 MT of coal, followed by 75 MT for Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) and 162 MT for captive and commercial mines. "The ministry of coal targets to



produce more than one billion tonne coal during the year 2023-24," the coal ministry said in a statement.

In a bid to achieve this aim, in-depth review has been carried out by coal secretary Amrit Lal Meena with all coal companies.

A total of 290 mines are operational in Coal India Ltd (CIL) out of which 97 mines produce more than one MT per year.

For all 97 such coal mines, issues of land acquisition, forest clearance, environment clearance, rail connectivity and road con-

nectivity have been discussed and timelines fixed.

With continued effort of coal companies, out of 97 coal mines, there are no pending issues in 56 mines. Only 41 mines have 61 issues, for which continued co-ordination and monitoring is being carried out by top management of coal companies with concerned state government authorities and the central ministries.

CIL produced 622 MT of coal during FY22 and 513 MT have been produced so far in the current financial year.

It is expected that CIL will surpass the target of 700 MT fixed for current fiscal and accordingly will achieve 780 MT for the year 2023-24. CIL accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal production.

Russia posts record current account surplus in 2022

AMID AN EXODUS OF WESTERN FIRMS AFTER THE WEST IMPOSED SWEEPING SANCTIONS ON MOSCOW FOR ITS INVASION OF UKRAINE, THE KREMLIN HAS SOUGHT TO REPLACE REVENUES LOST FROM ITS OIL AND GAS EXPORTS TO EUROPE WITH A PIVOT TO CHINA, INDIA AND OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES

REUTERS

Moscow, Jan 18: Russia's current account surplus hit a record high in 2022, the central bank said Tuesday, as a fall in imports and robust oil and gas exports kept foreign money flowing in despite Western efforts to isolate the Russian economy.

Russia's current account - a measure of the difference between all money coming into a country through trade, investment and transfers, and what flows back out - came in at \$227.4 billion, up 86% from 2021.

Russian imports fell sharply last year amid an exodus of Western firms after the West imposed sweeping sanctions on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine. But the Kremlin has sought to replace revenues lost from its oil and gas exports to Europe with a pivot to China, India and other Asian countries.

Trade between Russia and China hit a record high of \$190 billion last year, Chinese customs data showed.

As imports fell, Moscow's trade balance - the difference between total exports and imports - swelled



to \$282.3 billion in 2022, up from \$170.1 billion the previous year.

The central bank said higher commodity prices throughout

■ ACCOUNT SURPLUS AT \$227.4BN, UP 86% FROM 2021

■ TRADE BETWEEN RUSSIA, CHINA HIT A RECORD HIGH

■ TRADE GAP SWELLED TO \$282.3BN, UP FROM \$170.1BN YOY

2022 had helped push the current account higher, while imports slowly recovered in the second half of the year.

Russia's export revenues are set to come under fresh pressure in 2023 as Western and Japanese sanctions on Russian oil come

into full effect. The Group of Seven major economies will expand an oil embargo beyond crude to include Russian oil products from February 5.

Analysts say this could lead to a reduction in Russian oil output of up to 1 million barrels per day (bpd) in the first quarter of 2023.

An official forecast sees Russia's output of oil products falling sharply this year to 230 million tonne from 272 million tonne, according to a senior Russian source.

HARMANPREET & CO. SEEK BIG WIN AGAINST WALES TO GET DIRECT ENTRY INTO LAST-EIGHT STAGE

INDIA EYE QUARTERS BERTH



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: An unbeaten India will seek to address their penalty-corner woes to post a big win against bottom-placed debutants Wales in their final pool match and qualify directly for the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup here Thursday.

India and England are on four points each after two matches with the latter ahead on goal difference - plus five as against the hosts' plus two. India, though, will have the advantage of knowing what to do before their match as they play after England's game against Spain Thursday.

If England lose or draw against Spain, there will be no headache for India as they just need to beat Wales by any margin to top Pool D - con-

sidered the group of death - and qualify directly for the quarterfinals.

If England beat Spain, then India will need to defeat Wales by at least five goals. The number of goals India need to score will keep on increasing depending on England's victory margin. If two teams are on equal points and have the same number of wins, the rankings in the pool stage are decided on the basis of goal difference.

In any case, India will not be knocked out of the tournament as they will finish second if they beat Wales - a task they are expected to accomplish. If India finish second in Pool D, they will play the third-place team in Pool C, which could be either New Zealand or Malaysia in the 'crossover' round.

India had beaten Spain 2-0 before drawing England 0-0, both matches

played at the new Birsa Munda Stadium in Rourkela. They are going to play at the Kalinga Stadium for the first time in this World Cup.

The winning team in each of the four pools qualifies directly for the quarterfinals. The second and third-placed finishers in each pool will feature in crossover matches. A second-place finisher of a pool will play a third-place side of another pool and the winning team will face a pool topper in the quarterfinals.

If India top Pool D and qualify directly for the quarterfinals, they will play one match less and that may keep them fresh for the last-eight stage.

The main concern for India is their rate of penalty-corner conversion. They have got nine penalty corners so far but have not scored

even once from them directly, though Amit Rohidas found the target against Spain after captain Harmanpreet Singh's drag-flick rebounded off an opponent's stick.

Drag-flicker Harmanpreet has been the country's top scorer in almost all tournaments in recent times, including the historic bronze-winning campaign in the Tokyo Olympics, but he has been struggling to find the target in this showpiece event.

It will be easier for India to win by a big margin if Harmanpreet starts firing as his side is expected to get penalty corners in plenty against Wales. India will also need to convert field chances as they missed several scoring opportunities against England.

India were also dealt a blow after midfielder Hardik Singh injured his hamstring towards the end of the

England match. He will be an unlikely starter in Thursday's match against Wales, though he is expected to recover in time for the quarter-final or the crossover stage.

No doubt, Hardik will be missed but his absence is unlikely to affect India's chances against Wales, ranked 14th in the world as against the hosts' fifth as per the latest rankings. The likes of Vivek Sagar Prasad can fill in for Hardik.

Wales, on the other hand, will be playing for pride as they have virtually no chance of progressing to the next stage following two heavy losses against England (0-5) and Spain (1-5).

Even if they beat India, which is highly unlikely, and Spain defeat England, Wales might not make it to the crossovers as they have a goal difference of minus nine.

'Rusher' role doesn't bother Amit Rohidas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 18: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) might be considering rule changes in penalty corner drag-flicks in view of safety issues, but India's first rusher Amit Rohidas is not concerned about the risk involved, saying he has no fear of being hit by the ball.

FIH president Tayyab Ikram said a few days ago in Rourkela - the World Cup co-host city - that the world body was doing a study on tweaking the rules related to penalty corner hits to provide more safety to defending players as the high speed ball travels in a crowded area.

Ikram had, however, made it clear that the FIH was not thinking of reducing the speed of the ball from the flick. He said a solution could be found by having one or two more touches by the attacking team before the ball enters the circle, so that rushers can have more time to react.

Asked about the possible rule changes, Rohidas said, "I am not aware of what the FIH president said. But I have no fear of being hit by the ball. It has never come to my mind in the matches I have played so far."

"I have been one of the first rushers in the Indian team. Whatever and whenever the team wants, I can be the first rusher. I have no issues," the 29-year-old defender told this agency.

Rohidas was one of the first Indian rushers in the three penalty corners taken by Spain in the opening match at the brand new Birsa Munda Stadium in Rourkela. India did not concede any goal from PCs and won the match 2-0. Rohidas was one of the scorers, slamming the ball home from a rebound from a penalty corner opportunity.

In the goalless draw against England Sunday, India did remarkably well as they defended eight penalty corners without conceding a goal with midfielder and senior player Manpreet Singh being the first rusher on most of the occasion. Rohidas was the other first rusher in that match.

"For me, there is not much risk (being the first rusher). We have all



Amit Rohidas goes through his training drills along with his teammates, Wednesday
pic: BIKASH NAYAK

the equipments of protection for the first rusher, like the knee guard, hand glove, etc. So, there is not much of a problem," said Rohidas, who has played 133 matches for India senior side.

India had played crucial last few minutes with one man down due to cards in the last two matches and Rohidas said the team has been working a lot on how to deal with such a situation.

He said India would look to score as many goals as possible against Wales in the last Pool D match at the Kalinga Stadium here Thursday.

"It's an important match and we want to finish on top of Pool D. So, we will try to score a lot more goals," said Rohidas, who belongs to Saunamara village in Odisha's Sundargarh district which has produced more than 60 international players.

"But we will not take pressure and will play our normal game. Goals will come with that. We had played well against England and so we are confident. We will analyse video footage of Wales and plan accordingly."

Nadal suffers injury, bows out of Oz Open



DISAPPOINTING OUTING: Rafael Nadal wears a gloomy look on his face during his match against Mackenzie McDonald (not in pic), Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Jan 18: Rafael Nadal bowed his head during changeovers and rested his elbows on his knees, the very picture of resignation. What already was a poor start to 2023, following a year marred by all manner of health issues, reached a low point at the Australian Open Wednesday.

The defending champion and No.1 seed at Melbourne Park, Nadal injured his left hip and lost to Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in the second round, abruptly ending his bid for a record-extending 23rd Grand Slam trophy. He pulled up awkwardly at the end of a point late in the second set against the 65th-ranked McDonald.

Nadal was visited by a trainer on the sideline, then left the court for a medical timeout. Up in the stands, his wife wiped away tears. Nadal returned to play but was clearly compromised and not his usual indefatigable self, saying afterward that he could not hit his backhand properly and could not run much, either.

But Nadal added that, as the reigning champion of the tournament, he did not want to leave the court via a mid-match retirement.

He said the hip had been bothering him for a couple of days, but it was never as bad as it became Wednesday. Nadal was not sure exactly what the nature of the injury was, saying that he will have medical tests to determine if it has to do with a mus-

cle, joint or cartilage.

This is Nadal's earliest exit at any Grand Slam tournament since bowing out in the first round in Melbourne in 2016 against No.45 Fernando Verdasco. That also made Verdasco the lowest-ranked player to defeat Nadal in Australia - until, of course, McDonald Wednesday.

McDonald has never been past the fourth round at a major tournament. In his lone previous matchup against Nadal, at the 2020 French Open, McDonald won a total of just four games in a lopsided loss.

This result overshadowed everything else going on in Melbourne, of course, on a day that persistent rain pushed back the start of play on all but the three courts with retractable roofs until after 5 pm local time.

That meant some players - most notably, No.1 Iga Swiatek, No.3 Jessica Pegula and No.6 Maria Sakkari - won matches that put them in the third round before more than a dozen others even had contested a single point in the first round.

At night, 2022 French Open runner-up Coco Gauff got past 2021 US Open champion Emma Raducanu 6-3, 7-6(7-4) in a second-round meeting between two of the sports young stars. Raducanu has not made it past the second round at a Grand Slam tournament since she won the 2021 US Open as a teenager. That made her the first qualifier to claim a major trophy.

Gill hogs limelight in thrilling India win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Jan 18: Shubman Gill smashed a coming-of-age double hundred (208, 149b, 19x4, 9x6) to help India seal a 12-run win in a thrilling first ODI against New Zealand here, Wednesday.

Gill powered India to 349/8, with skipper Rohit Sharma (34) being the second best batter. In response, the Kiwis were reduced to 131/6 inside 29 overs. However, a blitzkrieg of a knock by Michael Bracewell (140, 78b, 12x4, 10x6) had almost pulled off a stunning victory before the visitors were bowled out for 337.

Bracewell had a crucial 162-run seventh wicket partnership with Mitchell Santner (57, 45b, 7x4, 1x6). Mohammed Siraj (4/46) was the pick of the Indian bowlers, while Kuldeep Yadav (2/43) and Shardul Thakur (2/54) bagged two wickets each.

Earlier, Gill oozed class in his special knock and batted through the innings with not much support from the other end. The double century, his maiden, was also his second successive three-digit score.

After India opted to bat, they reached 52 for no loss in the first 10



208 Gill's score in Hyderabad is now the highest against New Zealand in ODIs. The previous highest was Sachin Tendulkar's unbeaten 186 in 1999

23y132d Gill became the youngest player to score a double-hundred in men's ODIs. The previous youngest was Ishan Kishan, who set the record with his 210 against Bangladesh last month at the age of 24 years and 145 days

19 Innings needed for Gill to complete 1000 runs in ODIs. He is now the joint-second fastest to the milestone alongside Pakistan's Imam-ul-Haq. Fakhar Zaman is the quickest to the mark, having got there in 18 innings

349/8 India's total is the lowest total in ODIs to feature a double century. The previous lowest was 372/2 by West Indies against Zimbabwe during the 2015 World Cup, when Chris Gayle scored 215

2 Batters to score a double century in ODIs when no other batter reached fifty in the innings, including Gill in Hyderabad. The first was Martin Gupthil, who scored 237* against West Indies in 2015 - the second-highest score was Ross Taylor's 42

overs. Rohit once again promised a big hundred but flattered to deceive.

Rohit got out in the 13th over ended his innings. The crowd then welcomed superstar Virat Kohli with a massive roar. However, Kohli was undone by a beauty from left-arm spinner Santner. Ishan Kishan too did not last long. Suryakumar Yadav (31) joined Gill and did what he does best - increase the tempo of the innings.

At the other end, Gill got a life on 45 when Tom Latham fluffed a straight forward stumping chance off Bracewell with Gill expecting

the ball to turn. After Surya's departure, Gill shared a 74-run stand with Hardik Pandya (28), who got out in a rather bizarre fashion.

As India cruised towards 300, Gill reached 150 with a six. After that milestone, he went berserk and reached the 200 with three huge sixes off Ferguson in the 49th over.

Brief scores: India 349/8 (Shubman Gill 208, Rohit Sharma 34; Daryl Mitchell 2/30) beat New Zealand 337 (Michael Bracewell 140, Mitchell Santner 57; Mohammed Siraj 4/46, Kuldeep Yadav 2/43) by 12 runs.

Dutee Chand provisionally suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: India's top sprinter Dutee Chand has been provisionally suspended after her 'A' sample returned positive for prohibited anabolic steroids during an out-of-competition testing.

The report of the adverse analytical finding, a copy of which is in possession of PTI, says Dutee has tested positive for SARMS (Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators), a type of supplement that helps increase muscle mass and strength and is also known to help burn fat and improve stamina.

The urine sample of the athlete showed traces of 'andarine', 'ostarine' and 'ligandrol', which fall under the SARMS category and are banned under World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) rules.

In the letter issued to Dutee Chand January 3, 2023, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) said, "I do hereby inform you that your sample A was tested at the NDTL

(National Dope Testing Laboratory) in accordance with the procedure set out in WADA's (World Anti-Doping Agency) International Standard of Laboratories and was returned adverse analytical findings." The sample was collected out-of-competition December 5 last year at Bhubaneswar.

The 26-year-old can now opt for a 'B' sample test under WADA rules and if that also returns an adverse analytical finding (AAF), or she cannot establish that the anti-doping

rule violation was not intentional, she could be banned for four years.

The letter states that Dutee has seven working days to appeal for a 'B' sample test, failing which NADA will deem that she has waived her right to have the second sample analysed.

Given that the notice was issued January 3, Dutee's time to appeal for a 'B' sample test would have ended by now. However, Dutee, when contacted Wednesday said she was unaware of the 'A' sample testing positive. "I do not know," she

told this agency.

AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said he had no news about Dutee's positive test. "I have not received any news on her testing positive. Ask NADA. They inform us about the tests via registered post, which takes a few days to arrive. Ask Dutee if she has got the letter (of adverse analytical findings)," said Sumariwalla.

The Odisha athlete had a long battle with the International Amateur Athletic Federation (World Athletics) after being barred from competing in 2014 because of high levels of testosterone hormone, exceeding the standards laid down for female athletes.

The hormone, which is naturally produced in the body - less in females, more in males - is understood to give women significant competitive edge. However in 2018, IAAF altered its hyperandrogenism rules, excluding the 100m and 200m events from the gamut of the rules.

Erratic Srikanth out of India Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 18: A fighting Kidambi Srikanth couldn't sustain the pressure as he went down in straight games to Olympic and World Champion Viktor Axelsen in his opening men's singles match at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open Super 750 tournament here Wednesday.

Srikanth flattered to deceive as he squandered a 14-5 lead in the second game to go down 14-21, 19-21 to the World No.1 Dane.

World No.39 Aakarshi Kashyap and World No.34 Malvika Bansod also couldn't match their fancied rivals - USA's Beiwen Zhang and Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrung - and bowed out after losing their respective matches.

While Akarshi lost 15-21, 12-21 to former champion Zhang, Malvika squandered an 11-8 lead in the opening game to eventually go down 17-21, 12-21 to World No.12 Busanan.