

# Sudden death at Kalinga Stadium

India crash out with 4-5 defeat to New Zealand in sudden death shoot-out

### PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: Hosts India made a shock exit from the FIH Men's World Cup after losing to New Zealand in sudden death in their must-win crossover match in front of a relentlessly cheering 15000 home crowd here Sunday.

The loss ended India's hopes of a World Cup medal after 48 years. Despite vociferous support from the jam-packed Kalinga Stadium crowd, India allowed New Zealand to come back from two-goal deficit in the regulation time as the match ended at 3-3 in the reg-

ulation time. In the penalty shootout, the scores were also tied after the first five set of strikes and the match was finally decided via sudden death.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh had the golden chance to take India to victory in sudden death but he failed to do that as he missed the target. Veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh made two saves in the shootout to rescue India after they were 2-3 down. He saved another one during the sudden death and got himself injured and Krishan Pathak replaced him in the next three rounds of strikes. Finally, Shamsher Singh missed and Sam Lane scored to hand New Zealand the win. Contd...4



Indian players react after losing against New Zealand, in the 2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup match in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

### **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



### WOMAN KILLS YOUTH **DURING RAPE ATTEMPT BODY FOUND AFTER 7 DAYS**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Jan 22: A youth alleged of rape bid on a woman was beaten to death by the survivor at Gunjusahi village under Baripada Sadar police limits in Mayurbhanj district, police said Sunday.

Gunman on the loose after killing 10 near LA

PTI PHOTO

IT IS THE FIFTH MASS SHOOTING IN THE US THIS MONTH AND THE DEADLIEST SINCE 21 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN A SCHOOL IN UVALDE. TEXAS

## Jumbo carcass found sans tusks in Similipal

The Orissa High Court had last month observed that 2022 was perhaps the worst year for elephants in Odisha



Baripada, Jan 22: There seems to be no let-up in elephant deaths in Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district as the decomposed carcass of another tusker was recovered, Sunday.

Tusks were missing from the highly decomposed carcass of the pachyderm recovered Sunday at Bankadihi area under Talabandha forest range of North division inside Similipal Tiger Project of the sanctuary.

On being informed, regional field director of Similipal Tiger Project T Ashok Kumar reached the spot with forest officials and launched an inquiry. Deputy Director of Similipal Tiger Project Sai Kiran accompanied by forest officials and veterinarians conducted a post-mortem of the carcass. It is suspected that the tusker might have been killed by poachers 10-15 days back as the tusks are missing from the carcass.

The carcass of the tusker has been found at a time when there is growing concern over elephant casualties in the state. It is alleged that the poachers are sneaking inside the sanctuary and poaching jumbos



and Royal Bengal Tigers despite round the clock patrolling being undertaken by the forest officials. The Orissa High Court had last

month observed that 2022 was perhaps the worst year for elephants in the state. The HC made the observation while hearing a case pertaining to the poaching of an elephant by three forest officials in Similipal Tiger Reserve.

An elephant had been poached for tusks and three field staffers who had burnt the carcass to destroy evidence December 7 were later arrested. The matter came to the fore after the residents informed the forest officials.

Former honorary wildlife warden Bhanumitra Acharya did not rule out the involvement of forest officials in the tusker death as earlier they were similarly found involved in the death of another elephant.

Notably, the Forest department recently submitted a 10-pillar strategy in the Orissa High Court containing a 'Comprehensive action plan for the conservation of elephants and mitigation of humanelephant conflict in Odisha.

### **Bharat Jodo Yatra** reaches Samba

#### AGENCIES

Samba (J&K): The Bharat Jodo Yatra of the Congress reached Samba in Jammu and Kashmir Sunday afternoon, after covering 21 kilometres in more than six hours from adjoining Kathua amid heightened security in the wake of twin blasts in Jammu. The Congress said the foot march, being led by party leader Rahul Gandhi, will proceed according to its schedule and reach Jammu on Monday afternoon."This was the 128th day of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. It started from Hiranagar (in Kathua) at 7 am and reached its destination at Chak Nanak (Samba district) at around 1.15 pm," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said at the camp site.



Of course, I've divine powers to look into your past. But, first you need to create a Facebook account

### Man's body found stuffed in trolley bag

Khurda: The body of a 32-year-old man was found stuffed in a trolley bag in Haripur forests under Nachuni police limits here Sunday. The deceased, Manoranjan Mahapatra, was a resident of Lakhapada village under Ranpur police limits of the district, said Nachuni inspector in-charge (IIC) Chandrasekhar Jena. According to sources, a few youths of the locality spotted the trolley bag and informed the police. Soon, a team of the Nachuni police led by Jena reached the spot and opened the trolley bag P3 to find the body.

The deceased was identified as Mangal Murmu, 22, of Gunjusahi village. The revelation came after police recovered the decomposed body of the youth seven days after the incident from Gunjusahi jungle, Sunday. Police registered a case and also arrested the accused woman Kuni Murmu after recovering the body, IIC Madhusmita Mohanty said.

Police said Mangal visited the Makar Mela January 15, Sunday but never returned home. His mother Maisi Murmu searched for him in all possible locations but failed to trace him. Later, she lodged a missing complaint about her son at the police station, the next day.

Preliminary inquiry suggested that Mangal in an inebriated



condition tried to rape a woman at Gunjusahi jungle but failed to rape her after she assaulted him with a spade. She went on hitting him with a spade following which he died. Later, she escaped from the spot. Villagers informed police after

they smelled stench emanating from the jungle. Accompanied by a scientific team, police officials reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem to Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital (PRMMCH) at Baripada. Police also and identified the body as that of the missing youth. Further investigations were on, the IIC said

Monterey Park (US), Jan 22: A gunman killed 10 people and wounded 10 others at a Los Angelesarea ballroom dance club following a Lunar New Year celebration, setting off a manhunt for the suspect

in the latest mass shooting tragedy in an American community.

Capt. Andrew Meyer of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department said Sunday that the wounded were taken to hospitals and their conditions range from stable to critical. He said the 10 people died at the scene in the city of Monterey Park.

Meyer said people were "pouring out of the location screaming" when officers arrived on the scene at around 10:30pm. He said officers then went into the dance ballroom as firefighters treated the wounded.

The Lunar New Year celebration had attracted thousands. Monterey Park is a city of about 60,000 people with a large Asian population about 16 kilometres



from downtown Los Angeles.

It marked the fifth mass shooting in the US this month and the deadliest since 21 people were killed in a school in Uvalde, Texas, according to The Associated Press/USA Today database on mass killings in the US. The latest violence comes two months after five people were killed at a Colorado Springs nightclub.

Seung Won Choi, who owns the Clam House seafood barbecue restaurant across the street from where the shooting happened, told the Los Angeles Times that three people rushed into his business and told him to lock the door.

The people also told Choi that there was a shooter with a gun who had multiple rounds of ammunition on him. Choi said he believes the shooting took place at a dance club.

Wong Wei, who lives nearby, told The Los Angeles Times that his friend was in a bathroom at a dance club that night when the shooting started. When she came out, he said. she saw a gunman and three bodies.

WEAT	HER		
	BHUB	СТК	
<mark>∮</mark> MAX	32.0°⊂	30.5°C	
H MIN	18.5℃	18.5°C	Forecast
Humidity	91%	89%	
Rainfall	Nill	Nill	oggy weather mostly

### Modi praises CJI's pitch for judgments in regional lingo

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday lauded Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud's emphasis on making Supreme Court judgments available in regional languages.

"At a recent function, the Hon'ble CJI Justice DY Chandrachud spoke of the need to work towards making SC judgments available in regional languages. He also suggested the use of technology for it. This is a laudatory thought, which will help many people, particularly youngsters," Modi wrote on Twitter and shared on the site the relevant clip of the CJI's speech delivered at an event organised by the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in Mumbai.

The Prime Minister has in the



past often pitched for making judicial verdicts more accessible to the common man by making those available in regional languages.

'India has several languages, which add to our cultural vibrancy. The central government is undertaking numerous efforts to encourage Indian languages including giving the option of studying subjects like engineering and medicine in one's Matru Bhasha (mother tongue)," Modi said in another tweet.

# Young UK prefers samosa over biscuits with tea

Samosa comes second after granola bars, with some 8% of youngsters surveyed opting for the savoury Indian snack with their tea

### AGENCIES

London, Jan 22: The very English tradition of having biscuits with tea seems to be making way for more varied flavours in the United Kingdom, as a new survey found that many youngsters opt for more filling options such as samosas and granola bars as a tea accompaniment.

According to a survey of 1,000 people by the United Kingdom Tea & Infusions Association (UKTIA), granola bars are the tea snack of

choice for one in ten 18 to 29-yearolds, more than double the proportion of over-65s.

In second place was samosa, with some eight per cent of youngsters surveyed opting for the savoury Indian snack with their tea – but no one over 65 did.

ably also quite filling, so maybe people are

having that as a snack with their them up,' utive of the

"I think granola bars are prob-

tea to fill Dr Sharon Hall, the chief exec-

> UKTIA, told The Daily Telegraph newspaper. "They may be looking for some thing a little bit more substantial.

The same would apply to a samosa," she said. Hall suggested younger people

likely preferred "nutty or spicy flavours" as they evoked memo-

ries of dishes eaten on gap years while travelling

Gen Z have little time for the old rules of three formal meals per day, and TikTok has introduced them to a melting point of culinary

ons. Snacks won't ruin the meal, they are the meal JONNY FORSYTH DIRECTOR. MINTEL FOOD AND DRINK

maybe such food reminds them of recent travels they have taken and a cuppa with a samosa takes them back to that memory. We know from the data that a cuppa (tea) triggers many sorts of posi-

tive emotions, and that's something that really cuts across all age groups," she said.

A further study from the market research company Mintel shows that 16 to 24-year-olds are half as likely to enjoy a sweet biscuit with their tea as those over 55.

Mintel, which interviewed around 2.000 tea drinkers between August and October last year. warned that "future sales of sweet biscuits are at risk if the younger generation does not establish the hot drink with biscuits habit."

'Gen Z have little time for the 🗎 old rules of three formal meals per day, and TikTok has introduced them to a melting point of culinary traditions. Snacks won't ruin the meal, they are the meal," Jonny Forsyth, director at the group'ssubsidiary Mintel Food and Drink, told the newspaper.



"One thing that we are inter-

ested to find out more about is

around

the world



### **BEYONCE RETURNS TO STAGE AFTER FOUR YEARS**

Singer Beyonce, after a hiatus of four years, made her return to the stage in Dubai. Fireworks exploded above the venue as the iconic artist opened the show singing Etta James' At Last into a gold microphone.

### **JEREMY BROKE OVER 30 BONES IN SNOW PLOUGHING MISHAP**

Actor Jeremy Renner spoke about his snow ploughing accident and revealed that he broke 30 bones. Taking to Instagram Saturday, Jeremy shared a picture as he lay in bed while his physiotherapist helped him exercise. The actor seemingly was at home as lush greenery was seen outside his room.



### FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com

### accuracy • reliability • trust 🙇 FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181 ARIES

You may be taut with stress at work. But it doesn't ston you from knocking down your opponents. You are considerate but cunning when you need to be. People should know you by now. Ganesha say just march on ahead

### TAURUS

The day is coloured in the shade of arguments and belligerence for most part of today, predicts Ganesha. You may spend the afternoon in lengthy business discussions with friends. Things will look up by evening as you might get some spe cial treatment from your soul mate.

### GEMINI

Today, resolving issues will be a tough task, but you will be able to accomplish it nonetheless. It may take time, but don't lose hope. Persistence and hard work wil be rewarding. The grind will increase your understanding of the things happen ing around you. You will be able to understand those around you better

### CANCER

Today, in all likelihood, is going to be a challenging and complicated day for you, says Ganesha. You are likely to be a little short on confidence: either that or you may be feeling a little subdued.

You may want to carry some aspirin with you today, suggests Ganesha. For, there are strong indications that you shall be up against a lot of stress and tension at work This headache-inducing factor aside, you have the uncanny knack of beating your opponents at their own game

### 

Settling and resolving issues will be a long-drawn process today, says Ganesha. However, keep at it because the results will be well worth the efforts you put into it. You will feel more capable to look at things from others' perspective today. Loosen your grip on your wallet, as you may end up taking your sweetheart on a shopping spree



NAT'L RELEASE OF DAMAN'S HINDI VERSION Babushaan: It's like a dream come true

Bhubaneswar: As the Odia movie has gone to the national-level with Daman's Hindi version releasing February, its lead actor Babushaan is on cloud nine.

It is like a dream come true for him, says the actor.

Asked what made him sign a movie like Daman, he responds, "I have worked in varied genres of movies such as fam-

ily drama, action, love, and comedy. I wanted to do something different and found it (Daman) fit the bill. It has a unique subject which is based on a true incident and I would like to work

in more such movies in future.' Doesn't he think

that

fect

SRK's

Pathaan

will af-

You may not be as assertive as

### LEO

required on certain issues.

Nick Jonas for being wise 'beyond his years. Married to Nick since 2018, the actress revealed how he helps her to overcome her insecurities, re-

ports aceshowbiz.com. "He's a wise man beyond his years ... I get affirmations from him all the time, to remind me of my value when I forget or when I get insecure. He just sees through the fog for me. He

sees the best in people," the

Priyanka and Nick, 30,

have both enjoyed huge suc-

cess during their careers.

And the couple, who have

a 12-month-old daughter

WANT ME TO DO

BEFORE WE

TAKE OFF, SIR

Aitraaz actress said.

called Malti

IFFB 2023 to kick off today

Daman's viewership? Pat came his reply. "I don't think so as both the movies have separate groups of audience." said the Odia actor.

Babushaan, the son of yesteryear top star Uttam Mohanty, believes that the Odia film industry has potential to shine at all levels

"Odisha is very rich in culture, tradition, heritage and natural beauty. A lot of things are also happening in the state. Nowadays, you have OTT platforms to reach a wider audience. So, there is potential for our industry to further excel at the national and international level," concludes the Sister

Sridevi actor.

City film enthusiasts will get an opportunity to watch award winning movies, which were screened earlier in major film festivals across the globe, at the 12th edition of Indian Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IFFB) organised by Film Society of Bhubaneswar

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The 12th edition of seven-day long Indian Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IFFB) 2023, organised by Film Society of Bhubaneswar (FSB), will begin here at the Odissi Research Centre Auditorium, Monday.

Several award winning films screened earlier in major film festivals such as MAMI, IFFK, Busan, Talin, Rotterdam, San-Sebastian will be part of the event, said Subrat Beura of FSB.

The movies to be screened on the first day include Nine Hills One Valley by Haobam Paban Kumar of Manipur. Malavalam movie The Quarrel by Sanal Kumar Sasidharan and others



Satyajit Ray is one of the greatest filmmakers of world cinema

and IFFB will hold a retrospective on him with a line-up that covers his work spanning over 40 years. The viewers will get to see Ray's iconic movies such as Pather Panchali, Aparajito, Mahanagar, Charulata, Pratidwandi, Kapurush, Seemabaddha and Agantuk.

While there will be post screening discussions with the makers, directors like Sanal Sasidharan, Kamal KM, Gurvinder Singh, Romi Meitei. Babu Eshwar Prasad. Sidharth Chauhan, Prabhash Chandra, Parth Saurabh and Ritesh

Sharma have given their consent to be part of the programme.

"There are sessions planned to explore the artistic practice and working methods of the directors - an invaluable resource for students and our members interested in the moving images," added Beura. This apart, the students' film competition has attracted entries from several institutes .The shortlisted films will be screened at the festival and the winners will be announced at the closing cere

### mony, it was learnt. BFFs Suhana, Shanaya attend Kendall Jenner's Dubai party

Mumbai: The grand launch of Dubai's newest luxury hotel Atlantis The Royal in Palm Jumeirah saw many celebrities from across the world in attendance. Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan and Sanjay Kapoor's daughter Shanaya Kapoor were also showed up at the launch party. But what grabbed quite a few eye balls were the pictures

from super model Kendall Jenner's after party that the two attended.

Shanaya shared a few glimpses from the bash on her Instagram stories. One of the pictures shows Suhana and Shanaya posing with Kendall Jenner. The background of the picture shows the stunning skyline of the city, and the breathtaking view from the hotel.

Another picture shared by Shanaya Kapoor showed her and Shanaya wearing matching sparkly heels, while another picture shows their outfits as they got ready to attend the grand event. Shanaya is seen in a bright red dress, while Suhana looks stunning in a nude-colored body-hugging strappy dress



## **Priyanka** hopes to open doors for new gen girls

sphere, because we deserve

The actress enjoyed sig nificant success in the Indian film industry before she made the switch to

> in Jamshedpur in India, said: "Hopefully I'll open doors for the next genera tion of girls. Hopefully we'll Asian actors in Hollywood. I want to commemorate the success and achievements of South Asians outside of India, in the international

that position. Why should-

n't we be on the main

AGENCIES

stage?"

### Los Angeles: Priyanka Chopra praises her American pop-star husband

Hollywood. The Baywatch star hopes that she can become an inspiration for other aspiring actresses in Asia Priyanka, who was born

see more Indian or South

leads only to success. Sudden and unex pected profits are also on the cards as on the professional front, increased reputation and rewards knock on your door.

### **SCORPIO**

Today will consist of varying highs and lows at work and in confrontations, predicts Ganesha. At work, you may end up quar relling with your peers. You will be reasonable in your views and still you will find yourself on the receiving side of the argument. Evening will compensate for the tough day as you kick back and relax in the company of loved ones.

### **SAGITTARIUS**

Today is most likely to be a day of mixed fortunes for you, predicts Ganesha. At the

workplace, you may have a hectic afternoon, burdened with more work than you can han dle. In the evening, a loved one will understand your needs, and try to bring back cheer with a home-cooked meal for dinner.

### 

Whether or not your business will prosper will depend on how decisive you are, says Ganesha. Besides, it's time to test the potential of subordinates you have appointed, and see if they can deliver their best. And if they meet you standards, you can expect quick returns by the end of the day.

### 

You may not want to, but you have to pay the bills! Okay, so you can't even remember what you bought, and are cursing the loony credit cards. However, this may persuade you to be a bit more organised. There is no harm in taking ideas from others, suggests Ganesha.

### PISCES

A turning point in romantic liaisons is likely today, says Ganesha. In love, as at the office, you will discover that there is no substitute for hard work. However, evening promises bountiful pleasure to make up for all the sweat and tears.





### CALVIN AND HOBBES









CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

### SUDOKU

SOL

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.

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				2		
6					2	9
1		8	6		9	
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	8	3				

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2	-	E	f	1	5	4	D		1		G		0		А			L
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**SUD**(





# downtown



### **MAKING A MOVE**

Children during an interschool chess championship at Biswambar Bidyapitha in Puri, Sunday



### **COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
Vorld	67,32,82,011	64,48,14,188	67,45,967
ndia	4,46,81,921	4,41,49,228	5,30,733
disha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

# 174 posts of judges lying vacant in lower judiciary

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 22: The Supreme Court has been informed about 174 posts of judges lying vacant in the subordinate judiciary of Odisha against the sanctioned strength of 929

The affidavit filed in the apex court by senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, one of the four amicus curiae in a matter related to filling of vacancies in subordinate judiciary, has given the status of vacancies and necessary infrastructure in six states—Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana.

"Madhya Pradesh, with a sanctioned strength of 2,021 judicial officers in the subordinate judiciary has 671 vacancies, while Odisha, which has a sanctioned strength of 929 judges in the lower judiciary, has 174 vacant posts," the affidavit said.

The report filed by Hansaria and advocate Sneha Kalita said Bihar has 449 vacancies against the sanctioned strength of 2016 and Tamil Nadu has 272 vacant positions against 1340 sanctioned posts.

Punjab has a sanctioned strength of 797 judges and 209 vacancies, while Haryana has 778 posts and 308 vacancies. The top court had taken the affidavit on record when the matter was heard Thursday.

It took another step towards digitising the judiciary by seeking a concept note for setting up an online portal which will contain real time information about vacancies in district judiciary and judicial infrastructure across the country.

With regard to infrastructure Hansaria said there are 812 court halls in Odisha as against the sanc-

With regard to infrastructure, there are 812 court halls in Odisha as against the sanctioned





structure of Courts and residential facilities," he said in his report.

Hansaria urged the top court to

direct the states to issue appoint-

ment letters in all cases where se-

lection has been completed and

the recommendation for appoint-

ment made by the high courts

"It is further submitted that the

Central Government and the State

Government may be directed to

disburse the amount for con-

struction of the Court building

Hansaria said in case of non-

disbursal of fund by the state gov-

ernment, the Centre may be di-

rected to disburse the same at the

first instance subject to final ad-

justment to be made by it with the

Hansaria added the high court

and the state government may be

directed to hold a joint meeting

within a time frame and submit de-

tails of the steps taken by way of

a report to the top court.

state government.

within a period of four weeks.

tioned strength of 929 judicial officers. There are 706 residential units available for them.

With regard to Madhya Pradesh. he said, it has 1541 courts available as against the sanctioned strength of 2021 judicial officers. He said there are 1284 residential units available for them.

Hansaria said Bihar has 1505 court halls and 90 are under construction, while it has 1197 residential units available for 2016 judicial officers and 60 are under construction.

In Tamil Nadu, Hansaria said and improvement of infrastructhere are 1212 court halls. The state ture in terms of the proposal made has residential units for all the by the High Court within a time frame fixed by this Court," he said. 1340 judicial officers including 594 in rented buildings.

Hansaria's report said in Punjab there are 601 court halls including 32 temporary court rooms, while it has residential units available for all the judicial officers. Similarly, for Haryana, he said the state has sufficient court rooms for its 778 judicial officers and adequate residential units for all of them.

"Proposals by High Courts for funds and allocation of land are pending with both the State and



Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: Unidentified miscreants decamped with gold ornaments and cash worth lakhs of rupees from a temple under Chandrasekharpur police limits here late Saturday night, an official said Sunday.

According to sources, the incident came to the fore when the chief priest of Nilakantheswar Radhamadhav Jew temple in Sailshree Vihar area here reopened the temple early Sunday morning.

The priest was taken aback to find the gold ornaments of goddess Bimala and Laxmi and cash from the donation box missing," said a police official quoting the priest.

The police were trying to identify the accused from the CCTV footage that captured the whole incident, it was learnt.

### Anupam Kher at Lord's abode



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: Veteran actor Anupam Kher Sunday visited Srimandir in Puri and paid obeisance to the sibling deities.

Kher, who was in the state to attend the International Craft Summit at Jajpur, also met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the latter's residence in the Capital city earlier in the day.

Patnaik presented a hockey jersey to the veteran actor.

### **POLITICKLE** by MANJUL



# 32-yr-old's body found stuffed in trolley bag

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Jan 22: The body of a 32year-old man was found stuffed in a trolley bag in Haripur forests under Nachuni police limits here Sunday. The deceased, Manoranjan

Mahapatra, was a resident of Lakhapada village under Ranpur police limits of the district, said Nachuni inspector in-charge (IIC) Chandrasekhar Jena.

A few youths from the locality spotted the trolley bag and informed the police. Soon, a team of the Nachuni police, led by Jena, reached the spot and opened the trolley bag to discover the body. Later, Khurda superintendent of police (SP) Siddharth Kataria, Balugaon subdivisional police officer (SDPO)

Manas Ranjan Barik and other senior official reached the spot. "The body had multiple injuries on its head. Manoranjan was murdered elsewhere before being dumped in the forest," said a senior police of ficial who wished not to be named. A case of murder has been registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Manoranjan's family.

According to family sources, Manoranjan, who worked with a private firm, had been staying with his wife at a relative's place at Chandeswar for about a fortnight now. He left home for some work Saturday evening but did not return, a relative said quoting Manoranjan's wife.

According to the SDPO, two separate teams have been formed to investigate the matter.

### **45 FROM PAKISTAN VISIT SRIMANDIR** AGENCIES

Puri, Jan 22: Around 45 Hindus, including five children, hailing from Karachi in Pakistan visited the iconic Srimandir here and offered prayers, an official said Sunday

Ranjit Jena, the convenor of Odisha International Centre (OIC), which has sponsored and organised the Hindu pilgrims' trip to India, said they visited the 12th century shrine Saturday night.

He said OIC had been organising such trips every year but due to the Covid pandemic it was discontinued after 2018.

The Pakistan pilgrims before arriving at Puri had visited Mathura, Vrindaban and other important Hindu shrines

Jagannath Temple PRO JK Pattnaik said the pilgrims from Pakistan came to the temple gate where their traditional family priest guided them inside for darshan of the deities.

Adequate security arrangements were made by the temple and the police during their visit.

After about 40 minutes of stay inside the temple the Hindus from Pakistan left, the PRO said.

### Miscreants target $\,^+$ ex-hockey captain



tice parade was organised here Sunday at the Mahatma Gandhi Marg, the marked location for the state-level parade slated to be held for the Republic Day this year, Thursday. Another rehearsal

will be held January 24. Accordingly, keeping se

POST NEWS NETWORK

in view, the Commissionerate Police has issued traffic restrictions for public and private vehicles for smooth transportation as for both the rehearsal and the parade huge a congregation is expected, which may cause serious traffic congestion around the parade location. The rehearsal parade will also be held January 23 from 2pm to 5.30pm and from 7am to 10.30am Jan 24. Hence, the police have imposed a restriction around Mahatma Gandhi Marg.

"No heavy vehicles will be allowed to ply on Janpath from Ram Mandir to Rajmahal January 26 from 6:30am onwards. The light vehicles shall be allowed on Janpath but from Master Canteen square no vehicles will be allowed on Mahatma Gandhi Marg," informed a police official.

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: Unknown miscreants stole valuables worth lakhs from the residence of former Indian hockey captain Prabodh Tirkey located here in the Unit-VI area, Friday night. Based on the complaint lodged by Tirkev's associate, the Capital police have registered a case under Section 23 of IPC and have initiated an investigation.

Tirkey was in Rourkela while other members of his family had gone to his native place in Sundargarh. Meanwhile, a caretaker at their residence was out of town for the last few days.

Taking advantage of the situation, robbers entered Tirkey's home from back and decamped with valuables including 200 gram gold ornaments, two TV sets, computer, various medals and cups owned by the former captain. The caretaker who returned Saturday informed Tirkey about the theft over phone.

# **CREATING** Honey bee armies to ward off jumbos

n an attempt to prevent incidents of human-elephant conflict, the Madhya Pradesh government has decided to pit tiny honey bees against wild elephants that stray into farms and destroy crops in the border districts of the state.

Intoxicated on mahua flowers, pachyderms wander into the border districts and leave a trail of destruction before they are driven away or return to neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

In a circular issued last week, the state government listed a standard operating procedure (SOP) with a host of do's and don'ts for people in the eastern part of the state, officials said.

As one of the measures, people have been advised to install bee boxes in the affected areas to ward off elephants, they said.

Elephants have a natural fear of bees, as they dislike being stung on their trunks and eves.

Beekeeping will be promoted in the villages of Sidhi, Singrauli, Shahdol, Anuppur, Umaria, Dindori and Mandla districts that have a significant indigenous population, officials said.

The latest step will not only protect crops and property, but it will also provide livelihood to indigenous population in the districts bordering Chhattisgarh, officials said.

According to officials. the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, through its flagship 'Honey Mission' programme, had distributed 100 bee boxes to 10 beneficiaries in Morena district last year. The state forest department has roped in NGOs to spread awareness among local communities about tricks to tame and drive away tuskers, they said. "We have asked NGOs that have experience of working in areas affected by wild elephants to impart training and share their experiences

with the local communities," principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) JS Chauhan told PTL

With a little bit of understanding about the animal and by exercising restraint, people can avoid damage to life and property to a great extent, he said.

Tuskers can be chased away using high intensity

lights, firecrackers, burning cow dung cakes laced with chilli powder, buzzing sound of bees and by beating drums, the official said. "Our department is sharing these time-tested techniques with locals. We are constituting 'hathi mitra dals' to bridge the gap and share information with our field staff," said Chauhan, who is also the chief wildlife warden of the state.

Apart from this, solar fencing will be put up in sensitive areas to keep elephants at bay, he said.

Locals will be told not to hurl stones at elephants or confront them, as it may

agitate the animals, the official added. More than eight people were killed last year by wild elephants that wandered into the state from Chhattisgarh.

In April last year, a herd of pachyderms had killed five people in the Amjhor area of Shahdol after crossing over from Chhattisgarh.

A heap of mahua flowers, worth Rs 2 lakh, collected by some villagers had lured these elephants.

Elephants move towards human settlements in search of water and fodder in summers, as the water bodies in forests dry up and run thin.

Madhya Pradesh had just seven elephants in 2017. "This number has now touched the 60 mark. At least 60 wild elephants from Chhattisgarh have settled in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve besides other animals straying occasionally," Chauhan said. PTI



# downtown

## KISS organises guardians' meet

30,000 students are pursuing their

education. Each of the students

passing out from here is inspiring

the entire village to seek educa-

tion. All the students passing out are

becoming good citizens of the coun-

try," Samanta said in his address.

proud alumni for their achieve-

ments. They are Sadhak Karjee

who has cleared the Odisha Judicial

Service Examination and sportsper-

son Ajay Oram who is leaving for

Japan this month as Rugby coach.

parents who came from across

Odisha and from Assam, Jharkhand

and West Bengal. Samanta said he

would visit the Koraput district

soon to lay the foundation stone for

the upcoming hospital and school.

Expressing his thanks to all the

On the occasion, he felicitated two



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Jan 22: The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) organised a mega guardians' meet here Sunday, with the Founder of KIIT-KISS Achyuta Samanta expressing his heartfelt gratitude to them for their support and affection that has made the institute renowned the world over.

**OrissaPOST** 

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The meet was attended by 60,000 parents, 30,000 students along with proud alumni. Samanta said the gathering witnessed was 20,000 more than the previous event.

'We started KISS with only 125 tribal students from Mayurbhanj district way back in 1992-93. Today 30,000 students have passed out from the institute and another

#### fect occasion for the parents to meet their children, staff and be apprised about the latest developments in the campus. KISS has made elaborate arrangements for the parents to attend the meeting. Hailing the Founder's commitment to the cause of tribal educa-

tion from an early age, the parents said that he showed the courage to establish KISS and mainstream the tribal communities.

The Guardians' meet gave a per-

President of KIIT and KISS Saswati Bal called upon the students to always look after their parents and never forget their roots, their village and become good human beings.

Rajya Sabha MP Niranjan Bishi said Samanta is an inspiration for all who could realise at an early age the need to empower the tribal community through education-led socio-economic development, CEO of KISS Prashant Kumar Routray said the Founder has realised the dreams of the tribal communities for the education of the children. He said 10,000 students are studying in satellite centres through five district-level schools and more would be coming up.



SILVER JUBILEE: Urban Development Minister Usha Devi lighting the lamp on the occasion of BJD's silver jubilee celebrations in Cuttack, Sunday

### CMO visits 'goshala' in Jatni town

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: To assess the living conditions and facilities provided to stray cattles, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, accompanied by 5T secretary VK Pandian, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das, BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange visited the 'goshala' (cow shelter) situated at Jamukoli in Jatni town of Khurda, Saturday night



The goshala was set up by BMC in 2018 to rehabilitate stray cattle. It currently houses over 900 animals, mostly rescued across 5.5 acres of land

Naveen inquired about the food and arrangements made for the cows and asked the goshala workers for proper care. CMO fed fruits and vegetables to those animals and christened a new born calf as 'Krishna' The goshala was set up by BMC in 2018 to rehabilitate stray cattle rescued from the city. It currently hosts over 900 animals, mostly rescued before the hockey World Cup and is spread across 5.5 acres of land. "The goshala is to be expanded over 20 acres and Chief Minister has directed khurda administration to expedite land acquisition process for it," a BMC official said. Notably, the civic body has been struggling to deal with the cattle menace which is causing traffic obstructions and frequent road accidents. BMC has also warned cattle owners recently that hefty amount of fine will be imposed upon them if their cattle are found wandering on the roads and the rescued cattle won't be returned to them.

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 22: Popular Odia singer Humane Sagar's wife Shriya Mishra Sunday held a press conference in which she accused her husband of having an 'extra marital' affair. She also said that her husband's alcoholism has shattered her life.

Addressing a press conference here today, Shreya said, "Entry of a 'third person' in our married life led to the discord. It would be inappropriate to reveal the name of that person as we have taken time to resolve the issue amicably. I can't take any name at this time.'

According to Mishra, the torture started after the birth of her daughter. "Whenever I stopped him from consuming alcohol, I had to face his wrath. I kept mum because of his dignity and reputation," she said.

"I had advised him to limit the



liquor consumption as it was affecting his career and health, but he paid no attention.' "I want him to be mentally and

physically healthy. He should respect me and I am waiting for January 30.'

Hours after Shriya Mishra

opened up about their marital discord, Humane Sagar's denied all al-

legations and said that those were baseless. He said that his family is important to him and he is ready for a compromise

Shriya blames 'third person' for discord in marital life

"I have told police that we want an amicable solution to the issue.

An apology can fix the conflict. We are waiting for their response. But this is not the way to resolve this problem," he said while expressing displeasure over her press meet.

Humane said that he was shocked by the allegations levelled by his wife. "I am often away from home due to my work commitments. If I drink, I will do so with my friends. When I reach home, I would like to crash on the bed. I have been keeping so busy, where is the time to beat my wife or have an extra marital affair? I am not a 23-24-year-old who would go for flings," he said. The singer told the media about

videos, depicting their happy married life and his love for his daughter.

He confirmed that Shriva indulged in binge drinking with her family members and this led to the conflict. "My mother was definitely affected by this and this activity increased following the death

of my father." he said. While Humane admitted to some

cash transaction leading to this discord, he refused to divulge any details. He also refused to respond to allegations made by his mother against his mother-in-law. "My mother spoke to media only after see ing Shriya's father's bytes," he said.

Shriya, who has left her husband's house in Cuttack and living at her parental house in Balasore for over five months, had lodged a complaint at Mahila police station accusing Humane of physically and mentally torturing her for the last few months following which they were summoned for counsellingy Thursday.

After counselling, the couple has been given two days' time to settle the dispute amicably and asked to report to the police again if they failed to reach a compromise.

Mishra appointed member of OPSC

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: The State government today appointed senior OAS officer Shyama Bhakta Mishra as Member Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC).

As per the notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievance (GA&PG) Department, Mishra's appointment is for a term of six years from the date he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of 62 years whichever is earlier.

The conditions of service of Mishra as Member, OPSC shall be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Odisha Public Service Commission (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 1952 as amended from time to time, the notification said.

## Flautist Chaurasia recalls his association with AIR Odisha

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Jan 22: It was a day unlike any other, when George Harrison, the lead guitarist of the Beatles, stood at flautist Hariprasad



Chaurasia spent his early years at his father's 'akhada' without any willingness to learn the sport, but at the time "children had little choice in front of their fathers". "I never liked the sport in my

heart, but I was also afraid of my

father. Who would want to get

beaten by a wrestler." he said with

music from his neighbour, a dhru-

pad singer, but as a child of "nine

or ten. the music from the radio was

with the radio for children's pro-

grammes, for which he would earn

a handsome five rupees, accord-

father that your boy plays a great

flute on the radio, that's when he

got to know about it. I got a thrash-

ing of a lifetime," he recalled

most famous flutists took him from

one teacher to another, a job at the

All India Radio in Odisha, and

eventually the city of his dreams.

The journey to become one of the

"Once some neighbours told my

He got his first paid assignment

For some time he secretly learned

a playful smile on his face.

his primary teacher"

ing to the book.

laughing.



### CLASSIFIED

### LOST

I Sabita Khosla, W/o Aditya Sen have lost the sale deed of Plot No.-989/2875, Mouza-Boringpadar, Khata No.-356/646, on the way on Date 12.01.2023. When I was travelled by Bus from Kesinga to Junagarh. I searched the same but couldn't traced.

GRACEFUL MOVES: Artistes perform Odissi during a cultural programme organised by Chandrika Kala Niketan at Kala Vikas Kendra Auditorium in Cuttack. Sunday OP PHOTO

Chaurasia's doorstep to listen to the sound of his flute.

It came as a surprise to Chaurasia to learn of Harrison's identity, who would be disguised with a long beard. This meeting was just the beginning of a lifelong association between the two legendary musicians.

"One day I was playing and I didn't know somebody was standing at my door and he was George Harrison, one of the Beatles. He was listening to me quietly and brought a guitar the next day, then he took some 'bhaang' and we played together," the renowned flute player recalled.

"He had a long beard and was wearing a disguise so nobody could recognise him; he would come every day till he was there. Then he would come every year till he died. He loved Indian music, he loved his instrument," the 84-yearold added.

Speaking at a session titled after his newly published biography, "Breath of Gold" written by Sathya Saran, Chaurasia recalled his friendship that took both the artistes along with the likes of sitar maestro Pt Ravi Shankar, tabla player Alla Rakha and violinist L Subramaniam all over the world on music tours

"He once took me to his castle in 1970 or so, it was a little far from London. Huge castle, there was a studio and what not. But I loved how a foreigner was so interested in Indian music that he would change his entire getup. But here was a man who would come with your face hidden," Chaurasia said.

Born to a wrestler in 1938, Mumbai.

### **Continued from P1**

 $N^{\rm ew}\,{\rm Zealand\,\,will\,\,now\,face\,\,de-}_{\rm fending\,\,champions\,\,Belgium,}$ who topped Pool B, in the quarterfinals here Tuesday.

In the regulation time, India earned as many as 11 penalty corners and converted two of them while New Zealand got just circle two PCs.

Yet again, it was a case of ample goal-scoring opportunities for India but the forwards lacked fin-

### ishing skills.

India were on the offensive as soon as the match began with Mandeep Singh, who started despite taking a hit on his knee during training Saturday, making a fine run into the New Zealand

But India doubled the lead soon with Sukhjeet Singh scoring in the 24th minute, following India's fourth penalty corner.

Harmanpreet's drag-flick was palmed away by the New Zealand goalkeeper but it went up high and Sukhjeet was at the right place at the right time to volley it in

New Zealand pulled one back a minute before half time as Sam Lane deflected a Child's low cross from the left into the Indian goal. India were 2-1 up at the half time

New Zealand pressed for an equaliser in the third quarter and they got into the Indian 'D' on a few occasions but the home side swelled its lead by two goal margin through a penalty corner conversion in the 41st minute.

India earned three penalty corners in the third quarters, and scored from the third PC and seventh overall with Varun Kumar sounding the board cleanly.

Three minutes later, New Zealand again cut the deficit to just one goal with Kane Russell converting a penalty corner.

-Sudden death at Kalinga Stadium

In the last quarter, New Zealand made a spirited fightback and restored parity in the 50th minute following their second penalty corner of the match as Sean Findlay deflected in a Hayden Phillips strike. Goalkeeper Krishan Pathak saved India from disaster as he palmed away a high shot from Sam Hiha in the 51st minute.

In the earlier crossover match of the day, Spain beat Malaysia 4-3 in penalty shootout to qualify for the quarterfinals after the two sides were locked 2-2 in the regulation time.

Spain will face title contenders and Pool A toppers Australia in the last eight stage Tuesday.

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# state

# **Official negligence hampers Vyasa Sarovar beautification**

APLINGS WORTH RS 20 LAKH GO WASTE DUE TO CALLOUSNESS



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Jan 22: The beautification drive for 'Vyasa Sarovar', a tourist site in Jajpur district has been hit hard with funds allocated for purchase of saplings, going to waste, sources said Sunday. They informed that saplings of various plants worth Rs 20 lakh had been purchased. However, none of those were planted inside the Vyasa Sarovar premises. As result, they got decayed due to exposure to sun and rain.

**OrissaPOST** 

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The National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) has engaged consultancy agency 'Krishna Builders' to carry out beautification work within the premises of Vyasa Sarovar. The District Mineral Foundation (DMF) has sanctioned Rs 64 crore for the same purpose. The saplings were to be planted in over 200 acres of land. However, the work was not car-

### Odisha government is taking a number of initiatives to increase the green cover in the state. **Every year crores are** being sanctioned for afforestation

programmes, but none have been able to yield the desired result

### ried out in a proper manner and the entire amount, sources said, has

gone down the drain. Sources said that a case was filed before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) over negligence in development and beautification of Vyasa Sarovar. A bench of NGT had expressed displeasure over the delay in developmental and beautification work and issued a stay order.

The district collector in an affidavit before the NGT in August 2022, quashed claims that development and beautification drive have not been conducted. He had pointed out that work was on schedule. However, the situation of saplings drying up due to negligence provides a completely different picture to what the district collector had said.

This development has sparked concern among the residents and nature lovers. It also portrays largescale negligence by government officials and the consultancy agency who have failed to carry out proper utilisation of funds.

Sources said that Odisha government is taking a number of initiatives to increase the green cover in the state. However, the officials are not serious in implementing the initiatives of the government, the sources added. Every year crores are being sanctioned for afforestation programmes, but none have been able to vield the desired result. When contacted, Jayveer, a sen-

ior official of 'Krishna Builders' said that the saplings were purchased for beautification work. However, the saplings were not planted due to the NGT stay order. The official pointed out that because of the NGT order, beautification of Vyasa Sarovar has suffered a lot.

# CDMO assures probe, vows stringent action

### **GANGRAPE VICTIM FORCED TO WAIT 12 HOURS FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Jan 12: A day after a gangrape survivor in Keonjhar district was allegedly made to wait in a police van for over 12 hours for her medical examination, the chief district medical officer (CDMO), Dr Kishore Chandra Prusty said Sunday that the matter will be probed. Dr Prusty also said that all those responsible for the delay will face stringent action. He said the victim should have undergone an immediate medical examination on humanitarian grounds. Similarly, if the survivor is not a minor then any male or female doctor could have con-



ducted the medical examination, he pointed out.

Sources said that the survivor was taken in a police van to Anandapur sub-divisional hospital first for a medical examination, January 19. There the doctor refused

**Kendrapara officials** face Lokayukta heat the victim was made to wait for over 12 hours in the police van and faced extreme distress.

Zilla Parishad member Asima Mishra termed the incident as unfortunate when the concerned woman is a victim of gangrape. She demanded proper inquiry and stringent action against all those involved in the incident.

Local residents claimed that the delay occurred as doctors were not prepared to take risks conducting the medical examinations. They demanded the district administration to intervene and take stringent action against the erring doctors in this regard.

### NHRC seeks report on woman doctor's death

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Jan 22: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought details regarding the death of a woman doctor posted at the Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) at Baneikala under Joda police limits in Keonjhar district. The apex rights body has passed the order on Case No-45 filed by human rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak on the death of Dr Subhashree Kar. The commission in its order has asked the Keonjhar SP to file the

report within four weeks. Notably, Dr Kar participated in the 'Zero Nite Celebrations' with her co-workers on New Year's Eve, December 31. However, she was found dead in a room of her residence the next day. The door was locked from inside and police had to break in to recover the body.

## Mushroom cultivation empowers women in Kandhamal district

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani/Phiringia, Jan 22: Cultivation of edible mushrooms in Phiringia block of Kandhamal district is empowering women members of a self-help group in a true sense in multiple ways.

The cultivation has not only helped them in undergoing required training but helping them earn a handsome amount that is supporting their livelihood.

Reports said there are many women self-help groups in the rural areas of the state. But only few have the guts and efforts to thrive on obstacles and create a special identity for themselves. One such women self-help group is Maa Banjimaha SHG at Masiripada village under Ratang panchavat in



earning a good income from the cultivation. However, they often had to face crop loss due to unseasonal rainfall and thunderstorms.

They thought to do something new and finally decided to take up

forts to realise their dream.

### POST NEWS NETWORK Kendrapara, Jan 22: The state Lokayukta has directed District Collector Amrit Ruturaj here and

the audit officer in Jajpur district to file detailed reports over irregularities in utilisation of development funds, sources said Sunday.

The case regarding irregularities in utilisation of development funds in Kendrapara district was heard Tuesday by the Lokayukta. The case was filed before the Lokayukta praying for recovery of over rupees seven crore from officials who had failed to utilise the amount for development. The irregularities came to the fore during a local audit.

Speaking about the development, Pratap Chandra Mohanty, petitioner-cum-convenor of Odisha Soochana Adhikar Abhiyan (OSAA) said that he sought information regarding utilisation of development funds in Kendrapara district from the audit done, May 24, 2022. He got a reply on his application (Letter No-2841), July 4, 2022. The reply said the irregularities were committed between fiscals 2015-16 to 2020-2021. Earlier, Mohanty had filed written complaints to a number of people in the district administration and as well to the CMO.

Wife, lover held for murder bid on man-

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Padmapur, Jan 22: Police arrested Saturday a woman for her alleged involvement in the murder bid on her husband. The attempt was made by the woman's lover at Erada village under Sadar block in Bhadrak district. The attack on Shambhunath Dalei, a native of Kamargaon village under Basudevpur police limits in Bhadrak district, came when he

to conduct a medical examination

and referred the victim to Salania

community health centre (CHC).

However, doctors at Salania CHC

referred her back again to

Anandapur citing non-availabil-

ity of a female doctor. As a result,

visited his in-laws house, Thursday. Shambhunath was sleeping at his in-laws house when Rabindra Das, entered the room and attacked the former with a sharp-edged weapon inflicting serious injuries. Allegedly, the door of the room had been opened by the victim's wife Liza.



flee the state. After interrogating Rabindra, police also came to know about the involvement of Liza, the wife of Shambhunath in the murder bid. So she was arrested Saturday, Swain added. Both the accused were produced in court Saturday.

Police said Liza came in contact with Rabindra when the latter was working in a company in Tamil Nadu and entered into a relationship. The two planned to kill Shambhunath and flee to Tamil Nadu as the latter was proving an obstacle to their illicit relationship. The two hatched a plan and accordingly Liza invited Shambhunath to Erada village. At midnight, Liza opened the door and Rabindra tried to kill Shambhunath with a billhook. Hearing Shambhunath's scream, family members rushed inside. Rabindra panicked and fled the scene. However, before he could go back to Tamil Nadu he was arrested. He also narrated Liza's involvement in the whole plot.





Phiringia block. The women members of the

group have not only earned a name for themselves but earning a handsome income to meet their family expenses. This has helped them spread their name and become an example for others to emulate.

Sources said the group comprises of 11 members. Earlier, the women members were into vegetable cultivation. They were also

rooms and it began to sell like hotmushroom cultivation and made efcakes

When contacted, president Sannodevi Mallick, secretary At the outset, the women members built up a thatched house. They with-Bhanumati Mallick, said they are drew some money which they have interested to spread their cultivabeen depositing in banks as monthly tion in more areas and meet the desubscription towards their membermands of people if the government helps them in getting adequate ship. With the money in hand, they bought some mushroom seeds from training. This could also help them Bhubaneswar to start the cultivation. supply mushrooms to whole They reaped a good harvest Kandhamal district and earn more which they sold to the people livfrom their work, they added.

ing in the vicinity. People found

their mushroom good for con-

sumption and soon their name

began to spread in the area. They

started cultivating more mush-

Shambhunath is currently undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

On being informed, personnel from the Sabrang police station arrested Rabindra from Bhubaneswar. They were helped in their efforts to nab Rabindra by officials of the Airfield police station in the state capital. Sabrang IIC Shobhan Kumar Swain said that Rabindra was arrested Friday when he was trying to



SOCCER TOURNEY: Players of Sundargarh and Jharsuguda fight it out at the second semi final match of the first Veer Surendra Sai state-level football tournament organised by Sambalpur Sports Academy at Hawa Maidan in the town, Sunday OP PHOTO

## 'Sun tourism', the new in thing

Tourists do not just want snow-clad mountains; they prefer bright hues of the sun with it INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla/Manali, Jan 22: It is 'sun tourism' that is catching up fast in Himachal Pradesh as one gets more balmy days in the winter compared to the northern plains where the fog is screening out the sun, a worrying sign for climate scientists.

However, members of the hospitality industry are not complaining. They told this agency that many holidaymakers have now been preferring rooms with balconies that give a clear view of sun rise during winter above snowclad peaks. It is indeed a breath-taking site.

"There is a spectacular view of the snow-marooned Himalayan ranges right from the balcony. In fact, the sunrise is a breathtaking experience. We had a lovely time soaking up the sun and taking small strolls in nearby places at various times in the day, a marvelous getaway," remarked Prakshit Saini, a tourist from Delhi. He and his wife Nitasha were staying at a resort on the outskirts of Manali. Old-timers recall winters in Shimla and its nearby areas are not as harsh as they were till the late 1970s. "The smoke-belching chim-



neys, once the city's landmark, are a thing of the past," remarked Ramesh Sud, who has been living in Shimla since 1960.

Some residents have been wondering if the rise in minimum temperatures in recent years in winter is a result of global warming, though scientists have said the overall warming trend should not have any effect on local weather on such short-time scales, as per current models.

Shimla - known for the imperial grandeur of buildings that were once institutions of power when it was the summer capital of British India – saw the season's first snowfall January 13. Manali, some 250km from the state capital, saw just two spells of snow between January 13 and 21. "We are getting enquiries daily re-

garding the possibility of the bright sunny days amidst snowy landscape," Prem Thakur, who runs 'The Byke Neelkanth hotel in Manali', told this agency. "Now most of the tourists prefer not just snow but also the sun with chuckling white peaks in the horizon," he added

An official at the Shimla's meteorological office told this agency that popular tourist destinations like Shimla, Kasauli, Narkanda, Dharamsala, Palampur, Manali, Chamba and Dalhousie have been experiencing sunny days for the past two days with chances of widespread snow across the state January 24, ahead of the Republic

Day. Nikhil Handa, an Amritsar-based entrepreneur, who was holidaying in Shimla with his wife Shreyasi, said, "Magical sunrise! The hills are so beautiful.'

The mighty Dhauladhar peaks overlooking Tibetan Buddhist leader the Dalai Lama's official palace in Dharamsala is totally wrapped up in a white blanket. So are the chuckling mountains in the horizon of Shimla. So-( tourists are making a beeline for it also.





nature's process.

by hook or by crook

Man is a transitional being. He is not final. The step from man to superman is the next approaching achievement

in the earth evolution. It is inevitable because it is at once the intention of the inner spirit and the logic of

**SRI AUROBINDO** 

**Strength To Quit** 

her action is in sharp contrast to that of many current Presidents and

Prime Ministers across the world who hang on to power even after running

out of new ideas of governance. Some can be noticed harming their people

more than doing good during their tenure. Few are even refusing to quit after

having suffered electoral defeat. Former US President Donald Trump and

recently ousted Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro are latest examples of this

obduracy, undemocratic behaviour and utterly naked greed for power. There

are many others, including some in India, who desperately cling to power

The most remarkable thing about Ardern's resignation is that she leaves

as she entered, taking everyone by surprise. "I have given my absolute all

to being Prime Minister but it has also taken a lot out of me," she said, on

the verge of tears, as her parting shot at a Press conference. The candid con-

fession she made distinguishes her from the crop of several world leaders

occupying seats of power. She shocked her nation and also global audience

by admitting that she no longer had the energy "to do the job justice." This

is remarkable since the global trend for leaders is to continue even when

they are a liability rather than an asset for their people. Ardern's contri-

bution and hard work in steering her country during the CoVID-19 pandemic,

without trying to claim credit for anything, has distinguished her as a true

statesperson. She went on to prove that while there may be great advantages

in perseverance, there could also be downsides. Today, global leaders, in every

walk of life, have to realize that not giving up even when there are no new

ideas to pitch for, does not benefit humanity and turns into a total waste of

time and energy for the individuals. Unwillingness to let go could easily lead

not only to long lasting dissatisfaction but also higher dangers and myopia.

Present day psychologists give grit - the capacity to stick to a task when faced

with difficulties - a high position in explaining the ingredient termed 'suc-

When Ardern became New Zealand's Prime Minister in 2017, at the age

of 37, she was the country's youngest PM since 1856. She had a meteoric rise

after having been chosen the Labour Party's Prime Ministerial candidate

only two months before the election and without ever having held a minis-

terial position. She became the PM despite trailing behind her rival by 20

But once she was elevated to the coveted post, she began to show her unique

style of functioning characterised by rare empathy and forthrightness. The

following year she became the second head of government to give birth to

a girl child while in office and the first to take maternity leave for six weeks.

Her decision to restrict maternity leave to only six weeks created a con-

troversy, but she showed how a balance can be made between work and home.

In a characteristic remark she had then said: "I will be happy when a

Prime Minister's pregnancy is no longer in the news because it will be con-

The hallmark of Jacinda Ardern's style of functioning is her efforts to nor-

malise, even humanise, the position of a political leader when most leaders

the world over seemingly love to have an air of superiority enjoying all the

trappings of power. The way Ardern empathised with relatives of victims

of the attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, in 2019 in which 51 people

were killed and 49 seriously injured was indeed a shining example of the

human face of governance. She even wore a hijab to express solidarity with

the wailing mothers of the killed. No wonder, she was re-elected in the par-

liamentary elections of 2020 securing the highest votes - over 50 per cent -

It is true she is resigning at a time when her popularity seems to have plummeted and her party's position appears weak. This is because despite her remarkable leadership in tackling CoVID-19 pandemic, closing the country's

borders for two years, working for children and women, the country is facing a cost of living crisis. She is unable to cope with the situation. Added to all this is the recent incident of a hot mic in Parliament catching her call

the libertarian Act party leader, David Seymour, an 'arrogant prick'. She had

cess'. But Ardern may have proven them wrong.

points in the polls a few weeks earlier.

since 1946 and an absolute majority of seats

sidered normal.

ew Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern created history of sorts

by announcing her surprise resignation which will come into effect

February 7. With nearly seven months remaining before her term ends,

### FOCUS IMMIGRATION

# **BIDEN'S BORDER TRAVESTY**

n the eve of US President Joe Biden's inauguration, immigration advocates were optimistic that the incoming administration would end Title 42, a once-obscure rule that during the COVID-19 pandemic allowed border agents to reject migrants who might otherwise have qualified for asylum. While researching my forthcoming book, Precarious Protections. I interviewed lawyers working with unaccompanied immigrant children in Los Angeles who were confident that the new administration would restore the right to seek asylum in the United States But that is not what happened. The notion that asylum seek-

ers are gaming the US immigration system with bogus claims is unfounded. On the contrary, under both of Biden's predecessors. Barack Obama and Donald Trump, US immigration authorities interpreted the law too narrowly to protect most of the vulnerable children fleeing life-threatening violence in Central America.

But while the Obama administration combined humanitarian measures and enforcement, Trump's policies explicitly disregarded human rights and the rule of law, setting a dangerous and seemingly long-lasting precedent. Title 42 is a prime example. Justified as an exceptional measure to limit the spread of COVID-19. the policy was never endorsed by epidemiologists. But that did not stop the Trump administration from using it to strip people of the right to seek asylum, which is protected under both US and international law.

Two years into his presidency, Biden has failed to deliver on his promise of humane immigration reform. Instead, his administration continues to undermine human rights and expel migrants. Earlier this month, it even announced an expansion of Title 42, adding Nicaraguans, Cubans, Haitians, and Venezuelans to the growing list of individuals denied the right to seek asylum. The administration has also created a new parole programme to provide "a safe and orderly" path for individuals from



Stripping asylum seekers of their rights will not stop them from fleeing home countries where

these four countries to come to the US. But Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans who are also being expelled under Title 42 are not eligible for parole, despite widespread violence and well-documented human-rights violations There is nothing humanitar-

ian about this approach. The Biden such resources administration proposes replacing the right to seek asylum with an exceptional entry pathway for a small number of individuals. Under US immigration law, there is no upper limit on individuals seeking asylum. But the new programme limits entries from the four eligible countries to 30,000 parolees per month. The programme is also meant

in their countries.

to ensure Mexico's continued collaboration with US border enforcement. For every 30,000 parolees, an equal number of asylum seekers will now be expelled. Mexico's willingness to accept them "solves" the diplomatic problem that prevents the US from applying Title 42 to every migrant crossing the border - namely, that some countries have refused to cooperate with US deportations and to repatriate their citizens.

By requiring individuals to apply for admission from countries they fled because they were in danger or from transit countries like Mexico, where they face the risk of kidnapping, rape, abuse, and death, Biden's parole programme effectively ignores the plight of tens of thousands of

their legal status. Those admitted as parolees under Biden's programme who seek permanent protection from deportation would have no option but to apply for asylum, thus adding to the formidable court backlog, which is ostensibly what the Biden administration has been trying to avoid.

Under Obama, individuals could apply for CAM or come to the border. Eventually, Gael took matters into his own hands. He fled and was admitted at the US-Mexico border. That is probably why he is still alive. Conversely, under Biden's new policies, those "who irregularly cross the Panama, Mexico, or US border ... [and] fail to use these new [parole] pathways" will be expelled and ineligible for parole in the future.

Attacked by Trump for being 'weak" on immigration, Biden has decided to maintain Trump's agenda. The administration even plans to revive Trump's asylum bans, which disqualify migrants who arrived at the border through transit countries or entered the US between ports of entry from eligibility for asylum, even though the courts already struck down these policies. Biden also announced that individuals with special vulnerabilities seeking Title 42 exemptions should use an app called CBP One to schedule appointments at official ports of entry. But the app might as well have been named "metering 2.0." as it appears to be a digital version of Customs and Border Protection officers' illegal tactic of forcing asylum seekers to wait (sometimes for months) to be admitted. These are not solutions.

Stripping asylum seekers of their rights will not stop them from fleeing home countries where they face dangerous conditions. Those expelled under Title 42 will continue trying to cross the US-Mexico border-artificially driving up apprehensions and increasing the public perception of a border crisis – or they will die trying.

The writer is an assistant professor of comparative human development at the University of Chicago. © PROJECT SYNDICATE

## SPECTRUM REMINISCING BOSE Netaji and the Indo-Pacific narrative

retaji was an iconoclast. He impact, however, the two attempts and entered Kabul.

to apologize for that utterance. This may prompt one to conclude that she is running away and leaving her party in the lurch. One may not be inclined to take at face value her words that she is too drained out to lead the country. This may also be a ploy to boost her party's chance to win the elections later this year riding on the crest of a sympathy wave.



Chiara Galli

**ATTACKED BY TRUMP FOR** BEING **'WEAK' ON IMMIGRATION**, **BIDEN HAS DECIDED TO** MAINTAIN

**TRUMP'S** AGENDA



they face dangerous conditions

people already at the US-Mexico border. To be eligible for parole, individuals must have ties to someone in the US who has legal status and the financial means to support them, money to pay for airfare, and valid passports. Only the most privileged among those seeking asylum are likely to have

In 2018, I met Gael (a pseudonym), a 16-year-old Salvadoran boy who applied for a similar Obama-era programme called Central American Minors (CAM) that required children to apply for parole in their home countries Gael spent over two years in hiding and in danger with no response from the US government (a typical experience). He had received multiple death threats, and like other migrants fleeing violence, did not have time to wait for the bureaucratic process to run its course. If the sluggish implementation of CAM is any indication, and given the current disarray of the US immigration apparatus, pa-

role applications will not be decided promptly under Biden. Moreover, even the fortunate few who qualify for Biden's parole programme will be given only temporary work permits, putting them in a precarious position. Whereas individuals who are granted asylum have permanent

legal status, parole can be revoked at any time. One of Trump's first measures after taking office, for example, was to strip thousands of children paroled under CAM of

eration forces were halted within Thereafter, he was in touch with three miles of Imphal by the British

The inescapable truth, however, is that there is no other leader in the world today who has the courage to quit from a position of power, go back home and chill as a common citizen. Also, there is no leader on earth who is non replaceable.

### WISDOM CORNER

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

LEO TOLSTOY

Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.

LAO TZU

If you reveal your secrets to the wind, you should not blame the ind for revealing them to the trees.

**KAHLIL GIBRAN** 

### WORDS**WORTH**

### ■ Feebate

blend of fee and rebate, this is an idea that seeks to improve energy efficiency and reduce pollution. For example, when you bought a new car, you would pay an extra fee if it were an inefficient user of fuel, or alternatively get a rebate if it were energy-efficient. The neutral point would be set so that fees and rebates balanced, so it became neither an inflationary measure nor a disguised tax. Similar schemes have been proposed to reduce the consumption of water and other resources and as a way to improve the energy efficiency of new buildings. The term is mainly to be found in the USA; it has been around since the early 1990s at least (it appeared in Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign literature), and limited schemes have been applied in some places, though usually not under this name. Initiatives that penalise heavy users (gas-guzzler taxes, for example) strictly aren't feebate schemes, as there's no rebate element: others. like the British licence-tax reductions for small cars, should equally fall outside its scope, as there's no explicit balancing penalty. But most environmentalists seem to use the term loosely to mean any tax or charge that is scaled to encourage economy; the word is still mostly to be found in the jargon of such groups. All policies that operate through mechanisms similar to fuel-economy standards policies such as "feebates" that tax vehicles with lower fuel economies and subsidize vehicles with higher fuel economies - lead drivers who purchase more fuel-efficient vehicles to drive them more than they otherwise would (Environment, Jan. 1997). Governments could speed up this process, by insisting on higher standards for emissions, or by "feebates", making those who buy inefficient, polluting cars pay a fee used to rebate those buying cleaner, greener cars (Guardian, Nov. 1999).



Rup Narayan Das **THE INDO-PACIFIC MAY BE A NEW** 

STRATEGIC **LEXICON IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT, BUT THE REGION RESONATED IN NETAJI'S SUSTAINED** PERSEVERANCE FOR ATTAINING **SWARAJ** 

was an iconoclast in more cannot be compared **V** than one way. In the first place, although he qualified for the Indian Civil Service examination in 1920, securing the fourth position, he resigned from the ICS and plunged himself into the freedom struggle in April 1921. Secondly, although he joined the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi, he respectfully differed with him with regard to the methods and strategy of the freedom struggle adopted by the Congress. His meeting with Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das impacted and shaped his outlook and approach towards the freedom struggle.

What is most significant about him was that he effectively took the Indian freedom movement bevond the frontiers of India which was a rare feat in the history of India's freedom struggle. He creatively intertwined India's yearning for freedom with the prevailing dynamics of world history, and geopolitics during the Second World War. A similar abortive armed revolt against the British rule in India was undertaken earlier during the First World War in 1914 with the support of Germany under the leadership of Jatindrnath Mukherjee, popularly known as Bagha Jatin. In terms of scale and

The headline of the article has two dots - Netaji and Indo-Pacific. The Indo-Pacific may be a new strategic lexicon in the present context, but the region resonated in Netaji's sustained perseverance for attaining Swaraj. A fair amount of Netaji's struggle to liberate India was on foreign soil starting from nearer home in Afghanistan and Burma to the Far East in China including Taiwan, Japan, and the South-East Asia in Singapore; and Europe. He traversed the entire region during the tumultuous years of the Second World War to realise the objectives of liberating the motherland from British colonialism and left behind his footprints in the annals of history. Netaji navigated the tenuous path for Swaraj with steely determination and resolve.

On 16/17 January 1941, Subhash Chandra Bose, who was under the surveillance of the British Police. surreptitiously slipped out of his Elgin Road home in Calcutta and reached Delhi in the evening of 18 January 1941 and boarded a train to Peshawar. He had to face many hurdles before he could cross the Afghan border, which is very much in news today for different reasons

German leaders and other European leaders in order to seek their support for the cause of Swaraj. Ultimately, he reached Japan. The Japanese Prime Minister Hikedi Tojo welcomed him and promised him support in his mission.

In July 1943, he took over the leadership of the Indian Independence Movement from Rash Behari Bose in East Asia. He organised the Azad Hind Fauj with its headquarters in Singapore and became its Supreme Commander. On 21 October 1943, he proclaimed the formation of the provisional Government of Azad Hind at a historic assembly in Singapore. The provisional government was recognised by nine countries including the then three world powers - Japan, Germany and Italy. The INA headquarters was later shifted to Rangoon in January 1944. Subhas Bose ignited the Indian National Army with his clarion call, "Give me blood, I shall give you freedom."

The INA reached the Arakan front on 4 February 1944 and marched towards India's border with the call "Chalo Delhi." The Azad Hind Fauj crossed the Burma border on 18 March 1944 and for the first time. stood on the soil of India. The libArmy As they lacked air cover, they couldn't go further into Assam territory. The British forces under Lord Mountbatten, reinforced by air power, prevented the forward march of Azad Hind Fauj. The torrential rains of Burma, which started just at that time, submerged the INA supply lines and Netaii ordered the retreat of his forces.

After the suspension of INA activities, Bose went back to Singapore and issued instructions to the civilian and army wings of the provisional government of Azad Hind Fauj as to what they should do. It was decided to leave Singapore and move further eastwards. In the meantime, the surrender of Japan was officially announced on 15 August, and on 17 August 1945, Netaji took a plane from Saigon which crashed over Taipei, Taiwan. Although his passing away and the date and the circumstances under which he might have died are matters of conjecture and debate. it is known that he boarded a flight from Saigon which met a crash at Taipei, where it is believed that he might have died.

The writer is a Delhi-based scholar. Views are personal.

### Major breakthrough

Sir, The volatile Sun has been sparking solar storms on Earth on a regular basis. If powerful enough, these can be very dangerous for power grids, satellites, and even mobile phones. If a warning is received by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) or other space agencies on time, the impact on Erath and humanity can be lessened. Now, there has been a breakthrough as the NASA says that solar flares can be predicted and this means timely action can be taken to mitigate the impact. Scientists can now predict when and where the Sun's next flare might explode. Notably, solar flares are powerful bursts of energy and can have severe impact. Flares and solar eruptions can impact radio communications, electric power grids, navigation signals, and pose risks to spacecraft and astronauts. The NorthWest Research Associates (NWRA) team studied a large sample of active regions from the database, using statistical methods developed by team member Graham Barnes. The analysis revealed small flashes in the corona preceded each flare. These and other new insights will give researchers a better understanding of the physics taking place in these magnetically active regions, with the goal of developing new tools to predict solar flares.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

### Too little, too late

Sir, It is too late to penalise Air India with a hefty fine and to suspend the licence of the pilot in connection with the mid-air nauseating incident, involving traveller Shankar Mishra wee-weeing on a woman co-traveller in a New York-New Delhi flight in November last year, as enough damage has already been done for Air India to sully its image by itself. The Air India, which is seeking to restore its shoddy performance reputation after being sold to the Tata Group in January last year, has been caught with its pants down in the wake of this revolting incident. And it will be very difficult for the national air-carrier to repair its image, judging from the public uproar over its complete failure to handle this obscene incident swiftly. No wonder, a Twitter user mocked the incident: "Only three airlines offer onboard showers - Etihad Airways, Emirates Airline and Air India" (Etihad and Emirates aircraft do have showers for first-class passengers).

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

etters TO THE EDITOR Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are (0) 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

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# national



Pawar is an experienced leader at the state and national level. His contribution to the cooperative sector is huge and cannot be ignored EKNATH SHINDE MAHARASHTRA CM 

### **DRONE SHOT DOWN**

In a joint operation by Border Security Force and Punjab police, a drone carrying drugs was shot down near the India-Pakistan international border in Amritsar Sunday, officials said





The head of banned Kamtapur Liberatior Organisation (KLO), which has been agitating for long demanding a separate state, is currently a guest of the Assam government

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

Let (BJP national general secretary) B L Santhosh come, BJP national president J P Nadda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Union Home Minister Amit Shah and campaign against me. I will surely win from Kola SIDDARAMAIAH CONGRESS LEADER



Wright brothers and learnt about Isaac Newton's law of gravity and John Dalton's atomic theory, India had come out with the invention and scientific concepts

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN MP CM

### SHORT TAKES

### Three charred

Bilaspur: Three persons were charred to death when their car caught fire after ramming into a tree in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district, police said Sunday. The accident occurred at Khaira-Podi village between Ratanpur and Pendra road on Saturday night, Ratanpur-Kota sub divisional officer of police (SDOP) Ashish Arora said. A fire broke out in the car after it rammed into a tree on the side of the road. The victims could not get out of the vehicle and were charred to death, he said. The victims, whose skeletal remains were found inside the car, are yet to be identified, the official said.

### Idols recovered

Buxar (Bihar): Four 'ashtadhatu' (made of eight metals) idols of Hindu deities. which were stolen from a temple here a day ago, were recovered within 12 hours of the theft, a police officer said. One person has been arrested in this connection, and the police are on the lookout for four others who were involved in the theft, he said.



CISF personnel stand guard in view of Republic Day at Taj Mahal in Agra

# **Bharat Jodo Yatra** reaches Samba



### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Samba (J&K), Jan 22: The Bharat unprecedented and so has Jodo Yatra of the Congress reached Samba in Jammu and Kashmir been the case since it arrived Sunday afternoon, after covering in Jammu and Kashmir. We 21 kilometres in more than six saw people being pushed hours from adjoining Kathua amid back at several places, but heightened security in the wake of they did not pay any heed twin blasts in Jammu. and came out in large

The Congress said the foot march, being led by party leader Rahul Gandhi, will proceed according to its schedule and reach Jammu on Monday afternoon."This was the 128th day of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. It started from Hiranagar (in Kathua) at 7 am and reached its destination at Chak Nanak (Samba district) at around 1.15 pm," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said at the camp site.



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said police forces should be made more sensitive and trained in emerging technologies while further strengthening traditional policing mechanisms like foot patrols.

Addressing the 57th all India conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police, the prime minister also emphasised on enhanced cooperation between state police and central agencies to leverage capabilities and share best practices.

He recommended repealing obsolete criminal laws and building standards for police organisations across states."The prime minister suggested making the police forces more sensitive and training them in emerging technologies," according to an official statement.

He discussed strengthening the border as well as coastal security by organising frequent visits of officials. Prime Minister Modi underscored the importance of the National Data Governance Framework for smoothening data exchange across agencies.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, NSA Ajit Doval and others, attends the 57th All India Conference of Director Generals/Inspector Generals of Police, in New Delhi

#### he PM recommended repealing obsolete criminal laws and building standards for police organisations across states

he Prime Minister emphasised on enhanced cooperation between state police and central agencies to leverage capabilities and share best practices

He suggested that while police forces should further leverage technological solutions like biometrics etc., there is also a need to further strengthen traditional policing

forms to improve jail management. Prime Minister Modi called for replicating the model of the DGP/IGP conferences at the state and district levels for discussing emerging challenges and evolving best practices among their teams.

The conference covered various aspects of policing and national security, including Counter Terrorism, Counter Insurgency and Cyber Security. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval among others attended the three-day meet.

### **BRIDE CALLS OFF WEDDING**

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Farrukhabad (UP), Jan 22: It was mathematics that led to a wedding being called off in Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad district.

A 21-year-old bride called off her wedding when the groom failed to count currency notes. The shocking revelation came during the marriage rituals when the priest grew 'doubtful of the man's behaviour' and informed the girl's family.

The bride, Rita Singh, immediately walked off from the dais which led to a verbal spat between the two families and the police were called. The bride's family claimed that until the day of the marriage, they were unaware that the 23-year-old groom was 'mentally weak'.

Mohit, the bride's brother, said, "Marriages usually happen in good faith and the mediator was a close relative, so we trusted him and did not meet the guy. When the priest

РТІ РНОТО

told us about his odd behaviour, we decided to conduct a test and gave him 30 currency notes of Rs 10 to count which he could not. After knowing about his condition, Rita refused to marry him." After the girl called off the wed-

ding, a heated argument ensued between the two families. The matter reached the police who tried to mediate but the bride was not willing to give in so the baraat had to return. SHO Anil Kumar Chaube said, "No police complaint has been filed in the matter yet."

### **US** starts new initiative to cut visa wait time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: With an aim\_ to cut delays in visa processing in India, the US has launched new initiatives, including scheduling special interviews for first time applicants and increasing strength of consular staff.

### Man killed

Hyderabad: A man was hacked to death by three unidentified persons in broad daylight in Hyderabad on Sunday, police said. The assailants, armed with machetes and sickles, chased the victim and attacked him on Jiyaguda bypass road near Puranapul under Kulsumpura police station. The brutal killing was filmed by some passersby on their mobile phones. The video has gone viral on social media.

### Two dead

Shimla: Two people were killed and as many injured when a car they were travelling in fell into a gorge in Kinnaur district on Sunday, police said. The accident happened near Nichar at around 6 am, killing Amar Singh (47) and Mehbir (58), both residents of Rokcharang village in Kinnaur's Nathpa, they said.

### **Civilian injured**

Srinagar: A civilian was injured Sunday after terrorists hurled a grenade at security forces in Eidgah locality here, police said. "One grenade was lobbed by terrorists in Eidgah area which caused minor splinter injury to one person namely Ajaz Ahmed Deva, 32, son of Abdul Rasheed Deva and resident of Sangam, Srinagar," Srinagar police said on Twitter. Police said the injured person has been taken to hospital and is out of danger.

He said the tremendous response the yatra has received from people has unnerved the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is allegedly doing everything possible to harm Gandhi's image and using diversionary tactics to mislead the public from the real issues they are facing today.

"The response of the people to the vatra in the BJP-ruled states was unprecedented and so has been the case since it arrived in Jammu and Kashmir. We saw people being pushed back at several places, but they did not pay any heed and came out in large numbers to join Rahul Gandhi," Ramesh said.

After a day's break, the march started on Sunday from Hiranagar, near the International Border along

the Jammu-Pathankot highway, which was virtually sealed by police and other security forces, with all traffic diverted to other routes. Accompanied by Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

numbers to join

**Rahul Gandhi** 

Rasool Wani, working president Raman Bhalla and hundreds of volunteers carrying the tricolour, Gandhi was greeted by people waiting on both sides of the road.

people to the yatra in

the BJP-ruled states was

Ramesh said before the yatra started on Friday, Congress leaders, including former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijay Singh, paid tributes to party stalwart Girdhari Lal Dogra, a staunch Nehruvian who was the finance minister of Jammu and Kashmir for more than 20 years and a two-term member of Parliament.

Officials said adequate security arrangements have been put in place for Rahul Gandhi, with police, the CRPF and other security agencies keeping a tight vigil to ensure a peaceful march

mechanisms like foot patrols. Modi also favoured prison re-

Around 600 more officers of various levels attended the conference.

### TMC MPs share link to BBC series on PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: Lashing out at the Centre, Trinamool Congress MPs Mahua Moitra and Derek O'Brien Sunday shared the link to the controversial BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and vowed to fight against "censorship".

The government had on Friday directed social media platforms Twitter and YouTube to block links to the documentary titled "India: The Modi Question". The Ministry of External Affairs has trashed the documentary as a "propaganda piece" that lacks objectivity and reflects a colonial mindset. O'Brien was among the opposition leaders whose tweet on the documentary was removed by Twitter. On Sunday, the

two MPs also shared a list of Twitter links "blocked" on the government's direction

Twitter links of citizens blocked by Govt for sharing @BBC report. derekobrienmp & @pbhushan1 on it. My link is still up," Moitra tweeted. The firebrand TMC MP said she will not accept "censorship." She posted a link to the documentary on her official handle stating -"Sorry, Haven't been elected to represent world's largest democracy to accept censorship. Here's the link. Watch it while you can.""Govt on war footing to ensure no one in India can watch a mere @BBC show. Shame that the emperor & courtiers of the world's largest democracy are so insecure," she tweeted Saturday.

"Censorship. Twitter has taken down my tweet of the BBC documentary It received lakhs of views The one-hour BBC documentary exposes how PM hates minorities,' O'Brien had alleged Saturday. On Sunday, he said one of his tweets sharing the link is still up and shared it.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has slammed the controversial documentary, saying India's image cannot be disgraced with "malicious campaigns". In a series of tweets in English and Hindi on Saturday and Sunday he said minorities, or for that matter, every community in India is moving ahead positively. "Some people in India have still

not gotten over the colonial hangover. They consider BBC above the Supreme Court of India and lower the country's dignity and image to any extent to please their moral masters," Rijiju said.

As part of the multi-pronged approach to cut the visa backlog. the US embassy in Delhi and the consulates in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad conducted "special Saturday interview days" on January 21.

"On January 21, the US mission in India launched the first in a series of special Saturday interview days, as part of a larger effort to reduce wait times for first-time visa applicants," the US embassy said Sunday.

"The United States Embassy in New Delhi and Consulates in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad all opened consular operations on Saturday to accommodate applicants who require inperson visa interviews," it said in a statement. The mission will continue to open "additional slots" for appointments to take place on select Saturdays in the coming months."These additional interview days are just one component of a multi-pronged initiative to address the backlog in visa processing caused by COVID-19," it said.

# 'Himalayan Task': NDRF to station permanent teams in hills

NDRF director general (DG) Atul Karwal said the force is taking a number of steps to tackle disasters in the mountains as there is an 'aggravated' threat of such incidents occurring in the future

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is mulling to permanently station specialised mountaineering teams in the higher reaches of the Himalayas so that they are ready and acclimatised to launch swift rescue operations during snow avalanches, landslides and glacial lake outburst floods among others, officials said.

The federal contingency force has initiated a slew of measures to prepare its saviours for tackling natural and man-made catastrophes in these fragile mountain ranges on India's north which, according to experts, may see a rise in accidents due to a variety of reasons, including climate change and human development.

The force, that draws its complete manpower on deputation from paramilitary forces, proposes to keep multiple small teams of fourfive mountaineering trained personnel at the border posts of various Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) like the ITBP.

Apart from the China LAC guarding Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the Sashastra Seema Bal and



the Border Security Force too have posts at high-altitude as part of their mandate to guard the Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan borders.

NDRF director general (DG) Atul Karwal said the force is taking a number of steps to tackle disasters in the mountains as there is an "aggravated" threat of such incidents occurring in the future. He was speaking about the new initiatives being undertaken by them in this domain during a recent session on 'disaster response in

mountains', held to mark the 18th Raising Day of the force on January 19 here.

The Himalayas are a young mountain range...The forces that made them are still at work and hence these ranges are not settled and stable...Something is changing here and the reasons attributed to these by the experts are many like climate change, uncontrolled development and breach of load bearing capacity of these regions," Karwal said.

He recounted the 2013 flash floods in Uttarakhand, the February, 2021 glacial lake outburst floods in the border town of Chamoli and the latest incident of land subsidence in Joshimath and nearby areas, as some of the disasters that took place in the mountainous areas in the recent past.

"There is full possibility of such disasters occurring much more than before and in an aggravated manner and hence the NDRF has to be prepared to meet these challenges...," the DG said."The mountain rescue skills and capabilities will not only help us in the hilly terrain of the north but also else where. These skills are useful everywhere as traversing through ropes is an expertise required for many other operations including high-rise rescue," he said.

Karwal said it is being thought and planned that specialised mountain rescue trained teams of the NDRF, with a strength of four-five personnel each, will be stationed for three-four months in rotationat high-altitude (above 10.000 feet) posts of CAPFs.





# **Thousands lose jobs in Surat's diamond industry**

ACCORDING TO THE SURAT DIAMOND WORKERS UNION'S ROUGH ESTIMATE, SOME 10,000 DIAMOND WORKERS THEIR JOBS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS BECAUSE OF PRODUCTION CUTS AND SMALL UNITS CLOSING DOWN

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Surat, Jan 22: Thursday, January 19, 31-year-old Vipul Jinjala, a diamond worker, consumed poison and ended his life. He is survived by his wife and two children.

His younger brother Paresh told the media that for the last few months his older brother was facing a financial crunch, as along with the rising inflation, salaries were shrinking and it had become difficult for his brother to make the two ends meet and this might have led to his suicide.

Vipul is not the only one, thousands of workers are struggling to meet their family needs, finding it difficult to regularly pay EMIs of housing or vehicle loans, children's school fees and meeting the daily household expenses, said Ramesh Jilariya, president of the Surat Diamond Workers Union.

According to the union's rough estimate some 10,000 diamond workers have lost their jobs in the last few months because of production cuts and small units closing down. The union is demanding that

the state should strictly implement

### Kerala grants menstrual leave for students in state-run institutions

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Jan 22: The Kerala government has decided to grant menstrual leave to students in all state run higher education institutions The state Higher Education Department, in an order issued recently stated that girl students can now appear for their semester exams with 73 per cent attendance instead of the 75 per cent mandated under the University Rules.

Moreover, it also said that all fe male students above the age of 18 can avail up to 60 days pregnancy leave.

Earlier January 16, State Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice, R. Bindu, in a Facebook post, had praised the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) for being the first educational institution in the state to implement menstrual leaves. The minister had also announced that they will take necessary steps to implement a similar policy in universities across the state.

Countries like the UK, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea Spain, and Zambia have provisions for menstrual leaves.



labour laws in the diamond sector, which should be covered under the Factory Act, where the worker gets ESCI, provident fund, fixed working hours and other social and health security benefits that other workers get. Jilariya's complaint is that

presently diamond workers don't have any social security, as they are not registered employees, and not getting a salary slip or filing income tax returns, so they don't get other benefits too. It is true that production is down

by 20 to 21% because during the

peak of the Christmas season imports had declined by 18% from America and other countries, explains Vijay Mangukia, regional chairman of the Gems & Jewellery Promotion Council.

According to data, in December 2022 the country's finished diamond exports stood at \$ 2356.70 million, which is a 18.90% decline from December 2021's \$ 2905 million exports.

Because of this, production units have to cut production, admits Mangukia, but disagrees that thousands of labourers are jobless. Production cut is not met by laying off workers, instead, units have re duced working hours from 12 to 10 or 8 hours and instead of one weekly off, now units give 2 weekly offs.

Jilariva countered this explanation and alleged that because of the cut in working hours and increased weekly offs, workers cut and polish less diamonds. Since their salaries are linked to pieces and performance, these steps are proving disastrous for the workers.

Not a single diamond unit has closed down in the last two to three months, claimed Nanubhai Vekariya, president of the Surat Diamond Association. On the contrary he claimed that an unnecessary hue and cry is being made over the recession, whereas the industry is working at 100 per cent capacity. According to Vekariya 3000 units are employing 7 lakh workers in Surat.

## After HC rap, Kerala govt starts attaching properties of PFI activists



This is for the first time that such an action has been taken where the assets of a large number of people engaged in destruction of public property have been attached

Kochi, Jan 22: Two days after the activists who were arrested.

Across the various districts in several PFI activists.

taken over by the state government was former general secretary of PFI Abdul Sathar at whose two-storied house and 13

cluded 14 activists in Wavanad, five each from Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam and Trissur and four in Kasargod.

who was asked to be present before the court, tendered an apology for the delay and explained measures being taken by the government to recover the damages. He stated that the steps for recovery will be

done taken January 15 and re-

quested a time for a month to com-

But last Wednesday, the court

while clearly expressing its displeasure on the tardy progress

asked the state government to en-

sure that they submit a report be-

fore the court January 23 that all

recovery procedures have been

completed in the districts and

Incidentally, it was the division

bench of Justices AK Jayasankaran

Nambiar and CP Mohammed Nias

took suo motu cognisance of the

proceedings against the PFI and di-

rected all the lower courts, wher-

ever the cases have been regis-

tered, to see that no one from it

should be let out on bail unless the

If the compensation is not paid,

then steps should be taken to con-

fiscate personal assets of all those who

indulged in the destruction, it said.

time that such an action has been

taken where the assets of a large

number of people engaged in de-

struction of public property have

Incidentally this is for the first

compensation is paid.

been attached.

posted the case for January 24.

plete all the procedures.

formed the court that the total dam-

age caused to properties across the

state during the September 23, 2022

bandh amounted to Rs 5.20 crore.

The same day, the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) V. Venu,

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kerala High Court hauled up the state government for delay in recovery of damages caused by banned Popular Front of India (PFI) activists during a bandh to protest countrywide raids and arrest of its leaders, revenue officials began attaching the properties of those PFI

the state, right from Friday morning, revenue officials along with a large posse of police officials began action by taking into possession houses and properties of

Among those whose assets were Karunagapally in Kollam district cents of land were attached.

The list from other districts in-

December 23, the state had in-

Guruvaur temple has 260 kg of gold, nearly 20,000 gold lockets

The centuries-old shrine, where Lord Vishnu is

worshipped as Krishna, attracts thousands of people from across the country every year

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrissur, Jan 22: The famed Guruvaur Sree Krishna Temple in this central Kerala district, which recently revealed details of bank deposits to the tune of over Rs 1,700 crore, has declared that it also has over 260 kg of gold in stock

In an RTI reply, the authorities

of the temple said it has 263.637 kg of gold comprising precious stones and coins, and nearly 20,000 gold lockets

The management of the shrine had earlier refused to give details due to security reasons. The RTI document, which was

provided after an appeal, showed that the temple owns 6,605 kg of silver, 19,981 gold lockets and 5,359 silver ones

The RTI, however, has not revealed the total value of gold and silver since the antiquity of some of them has not vet been established. In December last, the RTI revealed the bank deposits to be to the tune of Rs 1,737.04 crore and land of 271.05 acres the value of which



was yet to be assessed. The centuries-old shrine, where

Lord Vishnu is worshipped as Krishna, attracts thousands of people from across the country every year. Details of the assets were given following a RTI query from M K

Haridas of Guruvayur and presi-

dent of an organisation named Proper Channel. Haridas alleged that neglect and

inaction of the temple devaswom with regard to the development of the shrine and the welfare of its devotees prompted him to seek the details through RTL

After long search, rogue Embattled Tharoor set to meet Sonia Subsequent to his contesting the party presidential polls against Mallikarjun Kharge and elephant PT-7 tranquilised losing it by a mile, Tharoor's popularity has shot up like never before and continues to surge INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 22:

Moreover, women employees in Bihar government services are eligible for two days special menstrual leave every month since 1992.

### **INVESTORS' MEET** Kerala Oppn accuses CM of fudging facts

### AGENCIES

Kochi, Jan 22: The Opposition in Kerala boycotted the investors meet Saturday and accused Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and State Industries Minister P Rajeev of misleading the people regarding the growth of the state's industrial sector.

Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan alleged that the state government was 'blatantly' lying about the progress made in the state.

"It's in contrast to the figures put out by the Reserve Bank of India in its latest report. Here claims are being made that in the past one year, one lakh new units started functioning and two lakhs new jobs were created.

"According to the RBI report, Kerala lags behind other south Indian states. While in Tamil Nadu Rs 4.5 lakh crore capital invest ment took place in the industrial sector, in Kerala it was just Rs 0.76 lakh crore. Likewise, in numerous units in Tamil Nadu, 26 lakh jobs were there, in Kerala it stands at 3.34 lakh. Surprisingly, this government has added to the list even those units which were started by the people who took loans from banks," said Satheesan. "The Vijayan government has miserably failed in making any progress in the industrial sector," he added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Palakkad, Jan 22: A wild elephant, which has been wreaking havoc in a few villages in Kerala's Palakkad district for over two years, was captured Sunday morning after a forest department team tranquilised it. The elephant, which was code-

named as Palakkad Tusker-7 (PT-7), was roaming inside the forest at Dhoni and neighbouring villages in the district was found by the Rapid Response Team after a search that went on for several hours.

A team led by chief veterinary surgeon, Dr Arun Zachariah, tranquilised the wild elephant around 7 AM. Excited over the achievement of the forest department's team, State Forest minister: A K Saseendran. renamed PT-7 as 'Dhoni', the village where the elephant had hit hard.

"We started our operation at 4.30 AM and spotted the elephant at around 6 AM. We were able to tran-



quilise it at around 7 AM," Zachariah told the media. He said the whole operation was the result of great team work. "An individual will not be able to do this all alone. Our team worked like well-oiled machinery. We are trying to understand the nature of this animal. We are planning to train it to become a kumki elephant," Zachariah told the media. A Kumki elephant is used to trap

and train their wild counterparts. Saseendran, who had earlier in the day hailed the officials involved

in the operation, reached Dhoni village to congratulate the team. He also visited the caged animal.

"From now onwards this elephant will be known as Dhoni," the Minister said. Dhoni villagers expressed happiness in the capture of the animal that was wreaking havoc in the region for sometime now.

"At least from now, we can sleep peacefully. Earlier, in the evenings, we were afraid that this elephant would appear before us any time," a villager told the media, expressing great joy. Meanwhile, state minister MB Rajesh felicitated Zachariah. Once the PT-7 was tranquilized, three kumki elephants were used to guide the wild jumbo into the truck and from there to the cage.

"The forest officials did a commendable job in capturing the wild elephant. The animal was wreaking havoc on the people of the Dhoni and neighbouring villages near forest in Palakkad." Saseendran told PTL

Undeterred by backlash from the top brass of the faction-ridden Congress in Kerala, three-time Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor will soon be calling on former party president Sonia Gandhi and her successor Mallikarjun Kharge to brief them on the happenings in the party state unit.

Interestingly, the soaring popularity of the Thiruvananthapuram MP has all his senior party colleagues setting aside their differences and uniting to take on him.

Subsequent to his contesting the party presidential polls against Kharge and losing it by a mile, Tharoor's popularity has shot up like never before and continues to surge.

Numerous invites, cutting across political affiliations and religious and socio-cultural groups from all across the state, coming his way bears testimony to his rising clout.



Sources close to him say that Tharoor is determined not to succumb to the pressure tactics of his colleagues and attend all possible programmes.

Working Committee is practically A media critic on condition of ruled out and then his option is anonymity said that his senior to contest and it's going to be an colleagues will be left shaken acid test not just for him, but for when he decides to throw in his those who oppose him, as both will be engaged in a fight to finhat to get into the party's highestdecision making body. ish," said the critic.

# App comes in handy for health workers in fight against TB

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Jan 22: A mobile application is helping bridge the gap in knowledge regarding tuberculosis for thousands of healthcare workers as the Central government strives to achieve its ambitious target to reduce the TB burden by 2025.

After its initial launch in January 2022, the 'Ni-kshav Setu' app has helped over 17,000 frontline healthcare workers and other staff at the district, state and national levels to gain knowledge regarding various aspects of the disease, including diagnosis, treatment, and assessment of their training through digital modules,

according to officials. As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), the total number of incident TB patients (new and relapse) in 2021 in India was

19,33,381, a 19 per cent rise compared

to the previous year. The Union government has set the aim to strategically reduce the TB burden in the country by 2025. five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals, under its National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

"The Ni-kshay Setu application aims to boost the ability of healthcare workers to treat the patients by helping reduce the knowledge gap regarding the disease," said Dr Harsh Shah, national coordinator of the TB project at the Gandhinagar-based Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) which developed it.

Since the launch of the second and updated version of the app earlier this month, it is attracting nearly a thousand users per week, Shah told PTI.

He said the number of additions



keeps growing as the app expands its base to serve the requirements of healthcare workers across 35 states and Union Territories. The need for the app was first felt

after a survey covering 460 healthcare workers, more than 900 TB patients, frontline workers, state and district TB officials and private doctors in Gujarat and Jharkhand revealed gaps in their knowledge regarding the bacterial disease.

The knowledge assessment showed the gaps ranging from 20-45 per cent among different cadres. Knowledge on patient management and new case findings were the lowest scoring among all interviewed sections," Shah said.

He said the app helps users to assess presumptive TB patients as per their details and symptoms and provides decision-making algorithms to arrive at their diagnosis and treatment regimen.

"It also provides a geospatial mapping of health facilities along with the availability of services. There is also an interactive artificial intelligence (AI)-based chatbot to answer queries of users. This app is available in multiple languages with choice-based learning and real-time patient-centric care," Shah said.

Additional Director of the Gujarat State TB Training and Demonstration Centre, Dr Pankaj Nimavat said the app is particularly good regarding diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

"Given the strong opposition

that he has from a huge majority

of the senior party colleagues, a

nomination to the Congress

"Healthcare workers get to know where to refer the patients in case they suffer from adverse drug reactions and how to deal with the case," Nimavat said.

He said the app is also helping in capacity building for healthcare workers as part of the government's 'End TB Strategy' by assessing workers and providing the facility for in-built tests before and after their training.

As per the WHO's Global TB Report 2021, the estimated incidence of all forms of TB in India in 2020 was 188 per 100,000 population and the total number of incident TB patients (new and relapse) during 2021 was 19,33,381.









# national



The government is making every possible effort that no stone is left unturned to equip the country to deal with challenges which may arise due to the fast-evolving global security scenario RAJNATH SINGH DEFENCE MINISTER

### **AIR QUALITY DIPS**

The air quality in Delhi dipped to the very poor category Sunday with the overall air quality index (AQI) of the city at 373





We have presented our case forcefully and I am hopeful that the pressure politics will have no impact on the EC. We have

full faith and trust in this institution and there will be only one Shiv Sena, the real one which is led by Thackeray

SANJAY RAUT SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

Some level of factionalism exists in every political party, but leaders should look at the bigger picture and the collective goal

SHASHI THAROOR CONGRESS LEADER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

terview of Justice RS Sodhi (retd),

a former judge of the Delhi Court,

saying it is the "voice of a judge"

and that majority of people have

similar "sane views". Justice Sodhi

said the right to frame laws lies

with Parliament and the apex court

cannot frame laws as it does not

Constitution? Only Parliament will

amend Constitution. But here I feel

the Supreme Court for the first

time 'hijacked' the Constitution.

After 'hijacking' they (SC) said that

we will appoint (judges) ourselves

and the government will have no role

in it," Justice Sodhi said in Hindi.

tually majority of the people have

similar sane views. It's only those

people who disregard the provi-

sions of the Constitution and man-

date of the people think that they

are above the Constitution of India."

Democracy is its success. People

rule themselves through their rep-

resentatives. Elected representa-

tives represent the interests of the

People & make laws. Our Judiciary

'Real beauty of Indian

The law minister tweeted that "ac-

... Whether you can amend the

have the right to do so.

The LG wrote the letter with a political motive and said no work has been done in the education

department of Delhi. His allegations are an insult to the students and teachers of Delhi. I am requesting the LG not to mock the work of our teachers, who have done wonders in the department

MANISH SISODIA DELHI DEPUTY CM

### SHORT TAKES

### Jawan dies

Lucknow: A constable of the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) died due to a firearm injury allegedly caused by his own rifle under Ashiana police circle here. As per the police, the 26-year-old jawan, deployed with Fatehpur PAC unit, was on duty in Lucknow. His wedding was scheduled for January 26. 'He was found in a pool of blood by his colleagues after they heard a gunshot from the Vajra police vehicle. He was rushed to the KGMU trauma centre where doctors pronounced him dead," said Ajay Prakash Mishra, station house officer, Aashiana police station.

### Guard killed

Patna: A security guard in Bihar's Darbhanga district was gunned down after the

# **Rijiju cites judge** with 'sane views' on collegium

he government and the judiciary have been at loggerheads over the process of appointment of judges to the higher judiciary

he apex court has questioned the government for delay in clearing the appointments of Supreme Court and High Court judges

is independent and our Constitution is Supreme," the minister tweeted.

New Delhi, Jan 22: As the tussle Hours later, Rijiju tweeted again between the government and the to say that all the three organs of judiciary over the collegium system the State - the Legislature, the appeared to intensify, Law Minister Executive and the Judiciary - must Kiren Rijiju Sunday sought to supwork together in the larger interest of the nation. The appointment port the views of a retired high court judge who said the Supreme of judges to the Supreme Court Court "hijacked" the Constitution and the high courts has become a by deciding to appoint judges itself. major flashpoint between the Rijiju shared the video of an in-Executive and the Judiciary.

While Rijiju has described the collegium system to appoint judges as something "alien" to the Indian Constitution, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has questioned the top court for striking down the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act (NJAC) and a related Constitutional amendment.

Also the chairman of Rajya Sabha, Dhankar had said a law passed by Parliament, which reflects the will of the people, was "undone" by the Supreme Court and "the world does

not know of any such instance". By bringing the NJAC law, the government had sought to overturn the collegium system which came into being in 1992. The apex court has questioned the government for delay in clearing the appointments of Supreme Court and high court judges.

Last week, the Supreme Court collegium had for the second time reiterated the names of two advocates for appointment as judges of the Calcutta High Court "expeditiously", saving it was not open for the government to repeatedly send back the same proposal.

### Student stabbed for objecting to throwing of garbage

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 22: A Class 11 student was brutally stabbed by half a dozen assailants after a quarrel over throwing of garbage outside his house in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar area, police said on Sunday. An FIR was filed at the Ashok Nagar police station under IPC's Section 307 (attempt to murder).

The entire incident of half a dozen armed persons attacking the 19-year-old student was captured in CCTV footage accessed by IANS.

A senior police official said that an information was received from LBS Hospital that Nitesh, 19, a resident of Dallu Pura, was admitted by his brother Rupesh, with stab wounds all over his body. He was later shifted to GTB Hospital for treatment.

Police said that the victim resides along with his family as tenant on ground floor accommodation and is a Student of class 11.

"He was attacked by another tenant, namely Krishna Rajak, 40, who resides on the first floor. As per preliminary investigation, both of them had a quarrel on throwing of garbage, ensuing which the accused attacked the victim with his shaving razor. The accused was apprehended from his work place in Noida where he does sewing jobs,' DCP, East, Amrutha Guguloth said. Further investigations are on.



in front of a theatre at Narengi in the city on Friday, where the film is slated to be screened.

The far right-wing group's volunteers tore down the film's posters and burnt them. "Bollywood actor Shri @iamsrk called me and we talked today morning at 2 am. He expressed concern about an incident in Guwahati during screen-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

T Narsipura Taluk here, has been

According to sources, this is said

to be the second such human death

in the last 48 hours, and the fourth

since November 2022 in the taluk.

The boy, identified as Jayanth, had

gone missing from Horalahalli vil-

lage of the taluk on Saturday

evening, and his mauled body was

found about one kilometre away on

the outskirts of the village amidst

Karnataka Chief Minister

Basavaraj Bommai said the gov-

ernment had taken the incident

seriously and added that all meas-

shrubs, police said.

found dead, police said Sunday.

that his government will enquire about the demonstration against the movie and ensure that 'no such untoward incidents' would occur again

licity stunt" and AJP questioning why Sarma took Shah Rukh's call at 2 am in the night since he "doesn't even know" the actor.

Notably, the CM had on Saturday said action would be taken if law and order is violated, though Khan had not called him over the matter



**Teacher suspended** 



the demonstration against the movie and ensure that "no such untoward incidents" would occur again. The development comes a day after the CM had said "who is Shahrukh Khan? I don't know anything about him or his film

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 22: Assam Chief

Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

said Bollywood actor Shah Rukh

Khan talked to him over the phone

early on Sunday and expressed

concern over a protest against his

Sarma assured the actor that

his government will enquire about

'Pathaan'," while responding to

queries by reporters about the vi-

olent protest by Bairang Dal ac-

tivists, who held a demonstration

new film 'Pathaan' in the city.

consignment at a fuel station on Saturday night. The deceased, identified, as Pramod Paswan (64), was deployed on night duty at the fuel station in Madhopatti village under Kamtaul police station in the district. While he was on duty, a Mahindra pickup van came to the fuel station followed by two bikers. They were unloading the liquor cartoons at the fuel station. Pramod Paswan objected to the act of liquor mafia, resulting in a verbal spat after which they shot him from close range.

### Infant drowns

.....

Kanpur: A two-and-half-vearold girl died after falling into a water drum kept inside her home in Rawatpur area of the city. The freak incident took place on Saturday evening and the victim, Lakshmi, daughter of Jitendra, was taken to Lala Laipat Rai hospital where she was declared 'brought dead'. According to the family Lakshmi was probably playing with the water in the drum and must have fallen inside.

### **Restaurant attacked**

Noida: Some miscreants allegedly thrashed a man and his sister running a restaurant in Noida Sector-46, and also vandalised the eatery. A video of the incident has surfaced. The incident took place on the night of January 19 at Fit Foodie restaurant in Glory Market of Sector-46, Noida. Some youths were doing stunts in front of the restaurant. The brother and sister stopped them from doing stunts. The men got angry and attacked the duo with sticks, vandalising the restaurant.



A general view of a tent city built for pilgrims during the annual Magh Mela in Prayagraj



### **BJP's Tripura waterloo**

Among the four states in Northeast going to polls this year, BJP leadership is facing its waterloo to retain power in Tripura. What has shocked the ruling BJP is a reverse trend being witnessed in the state where not only MLAs but allies are dumping the ruling party. These MLAs are either joining the Congress or a strong regional outfit TIPRA-Motha. The BJP's key ally, IPFT which had won eight Assembly seats in alliance with the BJP in 2018, has quit and may join hands with the Congress or TIPRA. What is bothering BJP is that even after removing the Chief Minister, Biplab Kumar

Deb and installing Dr Manik Saha, things are not working well. The Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA Motha) which commands influence in 20 tribal seats also withdrew support from the government.

### **BJP** worried

The hype created by the BJP leaders in public notwithstanding, findings of internal surveys has made the leadership worried. A brain-storming session held recently at the party headquarters, the BJP raised the number of vulnerable Lok Sabha seats from 144 to 170 plus. It was only after this marathon exercise that top BJP leadership including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief J P Nadda and others started touring states after states where the party found chinks in its armory. The number of vulnerable seats went up to 170-plus as Opposition parties are moving in the direction of pitching a common candidate in at least 350 Lok Sabha constituencies against the BJP. Prime Minister Modi's growing charisma, BJP's organised war machinery, massive pumping of funds and diatribes has made even the regional parties worried. These parties are working hard to reach a tacit

understanding to field a common candidate against BJP in majority of states.

PTI PHOTO

### Congress' big worry too

f the BJP leadership is fixing nuts and bolts in the run up to the Lok Sabha polls, the Congress is also facing its waterloo in many states. The BJP's focus is how to win Muslim votes while retaining its Hindu vote bank. Similarly, the Congress wants to gain a pie among the Hindus while retaining its Muslim vote banks. Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra may have succeeded in earning praises but he has a long way to go. The Congress party's Hindu vote bank which late Indira Gandhi retained has been withered away by her successors. The disaster followed when it lost its Muslim vote bank as well in states after states beginning with UP. Earlier, Indian Muslim League was confined to Kerala and AIMIM in Hyderabad. Lately, many parties have come into being promising to take care of their interests.

### Falling like ninepins

Rahul Gandhi's team faced great difficulty in selecting 120 'Yatris' capable of walking 3,000 km with Rahul Gandhi for 150 days from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. They

#### ures were being taken to capture the leopard at the earliest. Also, Mysuru, Jan 22: In a suspected compensation will be given to the case of a leopard attack, a 11-year boy's family soon, he told reporters old boy, who had gone missing from in Mysuru's Nanjanagudu.

ing of his film. I assured him that

it's duty of state govt to main-

tain law & order. We'll enquire

and ensure no such untoward in-

cidents," Sarma said on Twitter.

Opposition leaders tore into

the CM's statement made on

Sunday as volte face after his non-

chalance a day before, with the

Congress describing it as a "pub-

ND DEAD

Stating that he has gathered information regarding the incident, Bommai said, "the places where last three incidents of leopard attacks have taken place are in the radius of 3 km, so I have telephoned the Conservator of Forests and have directed the Forest department to do detailed combing, with the help of special teams by taking men from other districts, and to do all that is required for the capture of the leopard." Instructions have been given to deploy special armed watch staff to ensure that no more lives are lost, and also to create awareness among people, he added.

were selected not only because of their unflinching loyalty but also because of their physical stamina. In this test of survival of the fittest, a few of them failed too. But many senior Congress leaders had to cut a sorry figure as they couldn't keep pace with Rahul Gandhi and even lost their balance.

### **PESB to fast-track** appointment

Prime Minister Modi is known for experimenting in bringing talent from outside to inject new ideas in governance. Apart from SEBI, Jal Jeevan Mission, Aayush and other sectors. Modi experimented with bringing in a private sector honcho from the private sector in Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). Accordingly, Mallika Srinivasan became the first chairman of the most powerful person to appoint Chairman. managing directors and directors in 170-odd public sector companies. Mallika Srinivasan is a highly successful entrepreneur who established TAFE as a mass manufacturer of tractors and the company grew fast with revenues in excess of Rs. 10.000 crores. But despite her best efforts, there are more than 50 vacancies in Board-level positions in Central PSUs.

### for sexual harassment

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 22: The Tamil Nadu education department has suspended a government school teacher for sexually harassing girl students.

The teacher, Manjunath (43) was serving at the Government high school, Pikanapalli in Tamil Nadu's Hosur district. According to the officials of the Hosur district education department, some girls lodged a complaint with the district education officer, Govindan who conducted an inquiry and found that the teacher was guilty.

The inquiry report from the district education officer was forwarded to the Chief Educational Officer of Tamil Nadu, K.P. Maheswari. The Chief Educational Officer while speaking to the me-



diapersons said that the suspension was implemented after the received report from the district education officer stated that the teacher was guilty of abusing the girl students.

It is to be noted that parents of some girls have lodged a police complaint and that the suspended teacher was likely to be arrested and charged under the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuses (Pocso) Act.

Dr. R. Mukundadas, a retired professor of education from Chennai while speaking to IANS said, "The teacher must be dismissed from service. He has brought disgrace to the whole teaching profession and that stringent action must be taken against such people who exploit innocent children sexually."





# international



deliveries of offensive weapons to **Kyiv that threaten Russia's territories** will lead to a global catastrophe VYACHESLAV VOLODIN SPEAKER OF THE DUMA, RUSSIA 

### KING CHARLES CORONATION

**Buckingham Palace Sunday revealed** further details of the grand Coronation Ceremony planned for King Charles III in May, which will involve scores of street parties being held across the UK and Commonwealth nations. The 74-year-old royal will be formally crowned at Westminster Abbey in London May 6





I will keep having those conversations with our NATO allies and friends, to facilitate the

donation of the best military equipment to Ukraine to help them defend themselves against this brutal invasion

JAMES CLEVERLY FOREIGN MINISTER, UK

Decoupling our economy from the Chinese market would not be in the interest of jobs in Germany



The way Jacinda has

been treated, particularly by some segments of our society -- and they are a small minority - has been utterly abhorrent. It does not represent who we

CHRIS HIPKINS | INCOMING PM, NEW ZEALAND

### SHORT TAKES

are as a country

### Peru arrests 200

Lima: Peruvian police arrested over 200 people accused of illegally entering the campus of a major Lima university, while authorities in Cusco shut the Incan citadel of Machu Picchu and the Inca trail as deadly anti-government protests spread nationwide. The country has indefinitely shut the tourist site Machu Picchu in the latest sign that anti-government protests that began last month are increasingly engulfing the South American country. Some 46 people have been killed in the weeks-long clashes and another nine in traffic accidents related to the barricades set up amid the protests

### Israel PM fires min

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Beniamin Netanvahu dismissed a senior cabinet member with a criminal record Sunday, complying with to a Supreme Court ruling even as he pursues contested iudicial reforms that would curb its powers.

### **'CULTURAL GENOCIDE'**

Canada to pay \$2bn for abuse in residential schools

The discovery of more than 1,300 unmarked graves at the sites of the former schools over the past two years has dragged the legacy of those institutions back into the spotlight as Canada reckons with its dark colonial past

### AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ottawa, Jan 22: Canada will pay hundreds of Indigenous communities more than \$2 billion in compensation for nearly a century of abuse suffered by children in residential schools, its government has announced.

A class-action lawsuit brought by 324 Indigenous communities has resulted in the Can\$2.8 billion (US\$2.1 billion) settlement, which will be placed in a not-for-profit trust inlependent of the government.

It will be used to "revitalize Indigenous education, culture, and language - to support survivors in healing and reconnecting with their heritage," according to a press release. "It has taken Canada far too long to own up to its history, own



up to the genocide it committed and recognize the collective harm caused to our nations by residential schools," said Garry Feschuk, an Indigenous leader who is one of the plaintiffs in the suit.

"It is time that Canada not only recognize this harm, but help undo from their families, language and culture. Many were physically and sexually abused, and thousands are believed to have died of disease, malnutrition or neglect.

The discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves at the sites of the former schools over the past two years has dragged the legacy of those institutions back into the spotlight as Canada reckons with its dark colonial past. More than 1,300 graves have been identified, the most recent about 10 days ago.

The precise terms for disbursing the \$2.8 billion will be determined by the federal court February 27.

A national commission of inquiry in 2015 called the residential school system a "cultural genocide.



### Quran-burning in Sweden draws flak

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Istanbul, Jan 22: Outrage over a Quran-burning protest in Sweden produced a second day of protests in Turkey, reflecting tensions be tween the two countries.

it by walking with us. This settle-

ment is a good first step," he said

in the statement released Saturday.

Canada's government sent about

150,000 children into 139 residential

schools mostly run by the Catholic

church, where they were cut off

From the late 1800s to the 1990s,

Some 250 people gathered outside the Swedish Consulate in Istanbul, where a photo of Danish anti-Islam activist Rasmus Paludan was set on fire. Paludan burned Islam's holy book outside the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm Saturday, sparking protests in Istanbul and Ankara that night.

Participants in Sunday's event carried green flags featuring the Islamic proclamation of faith and banner that said "We condemn Sweden's state-supported Islamophobia." A sign on a window of the Swedish Consulate read, "We do not share that book-burning idiot's view."

The protests have renewed concerns about Turkey holding up Sweden and Finland's bid to join NATO. Turkey has not yet ratified the Nordic nations' memberships



Sweden needs to address Ankara's security concerns.

Meanwhile Pakistan has strongly condemned the "abhorrent" act of the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, stressing that the move hurt the sentiments of the 1.5 billion-strong Muslim community across the globe.

Several Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait, denounced the Quran burning. "Saudi Arabia calls for spreading the values of dialogue, tolerance, and coexistence, and rejects hatred and extremism," the Saudi Foreign Ministry said.

### Married Hindu girl abducted, raped after she refused to convert to Islam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Jan 22: A married Hindu\_ girl abducted from Pakistan's southern Sindh province has said she was threatened by her kidnappers to convert to Islam and raped her after she refused to change her religion, the latest in a string of such atrocities committed against members of the minority community. The girl said in a disturbing video uploaded on social media that she was raped in Samaro town in the Umarkot district and the police are yet to register a case against the suspects. Till Sunday, the police in Mirpurkhas have failed to register a case against the accused persons named by the girl, a Hindu local leader said. "The girl and her family are sitting outside the police station but no case has been registered as yet,' the leader said. The girl, who is already married, claims in her video that she was abducted by Ibrahim Mangrio, Punho Mangrio and their accomplice. She said they threatened her and told her to convert to Islam, but when she refused, she was raped for three days. The victim said she returned home after managing to escape her abductors The abduction and forced conversion of young Hindu girls have become a major problem in the interior of Sindh, which has a large Hindu population in Thar, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Ghotki and Khairpur areas. Most of the Hindu community members are labourers. In June last year, teenage Hindu girl Kareena Kumari told a court here that she was forcibly converted to Islam and married to a Muslim man. In March last year, three Hindu girls - Satran Oad, Kaveeta Bheel and Anita Bheel - were abducted. converted to Islam and married to Muslim men within eight days. In another case on March 21 last year, Pooja Kumari was brutally shot dead outside her home in Rohri, Sukkur. Apparently, a Pakistani man wanted to marry her but she refused and he and two of his accomplices opened fire on her a few days later. Not only young teenage girls but older Hindu women have also fallen prey to abduction and forced conversions

## **Global indecision** killing more of our people: Ukraine

ANTI-GOVT STIR: Thousands of people protest against the government of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez at Cibeles Square in Madrid, Spain

The stern reaction comes as Ukraine allies are hesitant to supply tanks to limit Russian gains

Biden in a tough spot before 2nd term call **Total count of classified** 

**MORE SECRET DOCUS FOUND** 

The discoveries have

Pledging to find "every legal means" of keeping Aryeh Deri in public office in the future, Netanyahu told him he was being removed from the interior and health ministries during the weekly cabinet session. The Supreme Court last week ordered Netanyahu to dismiss Deri, citing his 2022 plea-bargain conviction for tax fraud.

### **Brazil army** chief axed

Brazil: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has sacked the country's army chief, Julio Cesar de Arruda, in the wake of riots earlier this month by supporters of former leader Jair Bolsonaro military sources told AFP Saturday. Arruda had only taken up the post December 30, two days before the end of Bolsonaro's mandate, and was confirmed by Lula's administration in early January. He will be replaced by southeastern army commander Tomas Ribeiro Paiva, GloboNews reported



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Kyiv, Jan 22: Ukraine Saturday blasted the "global indecision" of its allies after Germany refused to supply its vaunted Leopard tanks to bolster Kyiv's fighting capacity in the nearly year-long war with Russia. On Friday, some 50 nations agreed

to provide Kyiv with billions of dollars' worth of military hardware, including armoured vehicles and munitions needed to push back Russian forces. But German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said that despite heightened expectations, "We still cannot say when a decision will be taken, and what the decision will be, when it comes to the Leopard tank."

"Today's indecision is killing more of our people," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo

Podolyak tweeted. "Every day of delay is the death of Ukrainians. Think faster," he said.

Several allies echoed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in saying the tanks were essential to Ukraine's fight with its much larger neighbour.

In a joint statement the foreign ministers of the three Baltic states urged Germany "to provide Leopard tanks to Ukraine now."

"This is needed to stop Russian aggression, help Ukraine and restore peace in Europe quickly," said a message tweeted by Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics and endorsed by his Estonian and Lithuanian counterparts.

In Berlin, hundreds of people demonstrated outside the Federal Chancellery building calling for Germany to send tanks to Ukraine. Berlin has been hesitant to send

the Leopards or allow other nations to transfer them to Kyiv. Reports earlier in the week indicated Germany would agree to do so only if the US provided its tanks as well. Washington has said providing its Abrams tanks to Ukraine is not feasible, citing difficulties in training and maintenance.

become a political liability as he prepares to launch a reelection bid, and they undercut his efforts to portray an image of propriety to the American public after the *tumultuous presidency* of his predecessor, Donald Trump

#### AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Jan 22: Officials from the US Department of Justice found six more classified documents during a search of Joe Biden's family home in Delaware this week, the president's personal lawyer said in a statement Saturday.

The new disclosure served up another embarrassing twist for Biden in an affair dogging him just as he gets ready to declare whether he will run for another term in 2024. Biden insists he has done nothing wrong and has downplayed the situation as an innocent mistake.



Documents from his time as vice president and marked as classified first turned up in an office at a Biden-affiliated think tank in Washington last year, and then again at his home in Delaware. Altogether they are about a dozen documents.

After the second find, the White House offered to let the Department of Justice search the Delaware home -- the search was carried out Friday and is now concluded, Biden attorney Bob Bauer said. "DOJ took possession of materials it deemed within the scope of its inquiry, including six items consisting of documents with classification markings and surrounding materials," Bauer said.

The search lasted more than 12 hours and covered "all working, living and storage spaces in the home," Bauer said.

"DOJ had full access to the

documents found in the residences and private offices of Biden has now increased to nearly a dozen and a half

President's home, including personally handwritten notes, files, papers, binders, memorabilia, todo lists, schedules, and reminders going back decades," he said. Some of the new papers seized were from Biden's time in the Senate and some were from his tenure as vice president, according to Bauer.

The discovery, which first came to light earlier this month, has dented Biden's brand as a return to competency and honesty after the scandal-filled years of Donald Trump's presidency and brought intense scrutiny from the media and Republicans in Congress.

Indeed, the scandal comes as a different special prosecutor investigates the potentially far more serious case of Trump hauling off hundreds of documents from the White House to his Florida residence and his alleged obstruction of government efforts to get them back

Chinese authorities excludes those

who died at home, and some doc-

tors have said they are discour-

aged from putting Covid on death

certificates. China January 14 re-

ported nearly 60.000 Covid-related

deaths in hospitals between

December 8 and January 12, a huge

increase from the 5,000-plus deaths

reported previously over the entire

As millions of migrant work-

ers return home for Lunar New

Year celebrations, health experts

are particularly concerned about

people living in China's vast coun-

tryside, where medical facilities

are poor compared with those in the

pandemic period.

affluent coastal areas.

## Chinese pray for health in Lunar New Year after Covid chaos

Some health experts expect that more than one million people will die from the disease in *China this year, with* British-based health data firm Airfinity forecasting Covid fatalities could hit 36,000 a day this week

### REUTERS

Beijing, Jan 22: China rang in the Lunar New Year Sunday with its people praying for health after three years of stress and financial hardship under the pandemic.

Queues stretched for about one kilometre (a half-mile) outside the iconic Lama temple in Beijing, which had been repeatedly shut before Covid-19 restrictions ended in early December, with thousands of people waiting for their turn to pray for their loved ones.

One Beijing resident said she wished the year of the rabbit will bring "health to everyone"

"I think this wave of the pandemic is gone," said the 57-yearold, who only gave her last name, Fang. "I didn't get the virus, but my husband and everyone in my family did. I still think it's important



to protect ourselves." Earlier, officials reported almost 13.000 new deaths related to Covid in hospitals between January 13 and 19, adding to the nearly 60,000 in the

month or so before that. Chinese health experts say the wave of infections across the country has already peaked. The death toll update, from

### **6**0,000 Covid-related deaths between Dec 8 and Jan 12

1 3,000 new deaths between January13 and 19

China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention, comes amid doubts over Beijing's data transparency and remains extremely low by global standards.

Hospitals and funeral homes were overwhelmed after China abandoned the world's strictest regime of Covid controls and mass testing December 7 in an abrupt policy U-turn, which followed historic protests against the curbs.

The death count reported by





# business



### **BRAZIL, ARGENTINA TO BEGIN** PREPS FOR COMMON CURRENCY

Brazil and Argentina will announce this week that they are starting preparatory work on a common currency. The plan, set to be discussed at a summit in Buenos Aires this week, will focus on how a new currency could boost regional trade and reduce reliance on the US dollar



022-23 - 4.42.901

2021-22 - 2.37.811

2020-21 - 48.179

4 per cent share, followed by two-

per cent).

more than 90 per cent

share, followed by MG

Motor (7.2 per cent) and

Hyundai (1.8 per cent). In the elec-

tric two-wheeler segment, Ola leads

the market followed by Okinawa

and Hero Electric," Soumen Mandal,

senior research analyst, IoT, auto-

motive and devices ecosystem at

Counterpoint Research told IANS.

electric passenger vehicles in India

is expected to increase to more

By 2025, the market share of



The Australian economy will begin to soften a bit this year and that is the inevitable likely consequence of higher interest rates and a slowing global economy

JIM CHALMERS TREASURER, AUSTRALIA

To strengthen the EV ecosystem, we plan to train and reskill 25.000 mechanics install charging stations, and expand our pan-India presence with 1,000 touch-points for faster EV adoption

SOHINDER GILL CEO, HERO ELECTRIC

Support provided by the government to promote electric and zero emission vehicles through schemes such as

FAME II, need to be continued till penetration of such automobiles crosses a particular threshold with a good level of localization

GIRISH WAGH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TATA MOTORS

### SHORT TAKES

### 343 infra projects show cost overruns

New Delhi: As many as 343 infrastructure projects, each entailing an investment of ₹150 crore or more, have beer hit by cost overruns of more than ₹4.5 lakh crore, as per an official report. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, which monitors infrastructure projects of ₹150 crore and above, out of 1,438 projects, 343 reported cost overruns and as many as 835 projects were delayed. "Total original cost of implementation of the 1438 projects was ₹ 20,35,794.75 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be ₹24,86,069.52 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of ₹4,50,274.77 crore (22.12% of original cost)," the ministry's latest report for December 2022 said. According to the report, expenditure incurred on these projects till December 2022 was ₹13,45,794.16 crore,

SLOW BUT STEADY INDIA TAKING THE EV TURN

0

N G

GRE

**INDIA ON TOP GEAR IN ITS DRIVE TO ACHIEVE AMBITIOUS 2030 MILESTONES** AS SALES SURGED IN LAST TWO YEARS

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 22: Despite some initial hiccups, the EV penetration in India is slowly but steadily increasing, especially in the escooter segment. Now, the fourwheeler manufacturers have also joined the bandwagon, pushing India's aim to significantly cut the dependency on traditional fuels and internal combustion enginedriven vehicles by 2030.

### **CHARGING INFRA NEEDS BIG PUSH**

New Delhi: To help India realise its EV dream, creating a vast network of public stations and community charging stations (in societies) in key metro cities is a daunting task and at the moment, the country stares at a huge gap as EV adoption increases, especially in the twowheeler segment. At the end of 2022, India had 2,700 public charging stations and 5,500 charging connectors. The country is likely to have 10,000 public charging stations by the end of 2025, according to Counterpoint Research. The country may require some 20.5 lakh charging stations by 2030 - a mammoth task that has to be complemented with a surge in

EV sales till that time.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

top gainers.

By 2030, the government expects the EV sales penetration to be 30 per cent for private automobiles, 70 per cent for commercial vehicles, and 80 per cent for two and threewheelers, which would not only reduce the country's oil import bills in the longer term, but also ensure a cleaner environment.

The sales of electric vehicles (EVs) in the country witnessed a surge in the last two years. While 48,179 EVs were sold in 2020-21, the figures increased to 2,37,811 in 2021-22 and 4,42,901 in 2022-23 (till December 9, 2022).

Union Minister for Heavy Industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey, said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha last month that the

ministry has imple-**EV financing will** mented a scheme titled be the most important 'Faster Adoption and enabler of EV adoption Manufacturing of in the coming years Electric Vehicles in India Phase II' (FAME SAMEER AGGARWAL

India Phase II) to pro-FOUNDER & CEO, REVFIN mote adoption of electric/hybrid vehicles in

the country At present, Phase-II of the FAME India scheme is being implemented for a period of five years from April 1,2019 with a total budgetary support of ₹10.000 crore.

According to auto industry experts, in terms of EV adoption at the moment, the three-wheeler segment is leading the market with a



**PV SEGMENT** Tata Motors – 909 MG Motor - 7.2% Hyundai - 1.8% **2W SEGMENT** Ola Electric - 17.57% Three-wheelers - 4% Two-wheelers - 3.5% Okinawa Autotech - 16.47% Hero Electric - 15.75% Passenger vehicles - 1.3

#### than 6 per cent.

wheelers (3.5 per cent) and Currently, the market is domipassenger vehicles (1.3 nated by Tata Motors, MG Motor and Hyundai, but other companies like Mahindra, BYD, Maruti "In the passenger car segment, Suzuki and Volkswagen have also announced their roadmaps to in-Tata Motors leads 'the market with troduce EVs.

A key reason for the rising demand for EVs is their low emission level, which is anticipated to spur market revenue growth during the forecast period.

Compared to other petrol or diesel-powered vehicles, EVs release fewer greenhouse gases and air pollutants. For a market that already has over 13 lakh EVs including 2Ws, 3Ws, and 4Ws, and continues to grow, the coming years hold tremendous promise.

# 'No cut in petrol prices before oil cos recoup losses'

IOC, BPCL, HPCL posted a record combined net loss of ₹21,201.18 crore

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi, Jan 22: Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Sunday hoped petrol prices will be reduced no sooner state-owned oil companies recoup past losses.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) have for the past 15 months not revised petrol and diesel prices in line with the cost. The losses incurred are now being recouped after oil prices slid.

"I will hope if under-recoveries (or losses) end, prices should come down," he said at an event here. Softening of international prices

from multi-year peak hit last year had led to companies making profit on petrol but they continue to incur losses on diesel At one time, profit on petrol was

₹10 per litre but subsequent firming of oil prices have trimmed it down to halve. Diesel losses have widened to ₹13 a litre from ₹10-11 earlier this month, industry sources said.

Puri said oil companies acted as responsible corporate citizens by not burdening consumers of the rally in global energy prices in aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine

We didn't ask them to hold prices. They did it on their own,' he said

That freeze had led to record high losses of ₹17.4 per litre on petrol and ₹27.7 a litre diesel for the week ended June 24, 2022.

The three fuel retailers haven't changed petrol and diesel prices since April 6, 2022, despite input crude oil prices rising from \$102.97 per barrel that month to \$116.01 per barrel in June and falling to \$82 per barrel this month.

Holding prices when input cost was higher than retail selling prices led to the three firms posting net earnings loss. They posted a combined net loss of ₹21,201.18 crore dur-

sidy. Puri said the six-month loss numbers are known and they have to be recovered. International oil prices have

been turbulent in the last couple of years. It dipped into the negative zone at the start of the pandemic in 2020 and swung wildly in 2022 -- climbing to a 14-year high of nearly \$140 per barrel in March 2022 after Russia invaded Ukraine, before sliding on weaker demand from top importer China and worries of an economic contraction.

But for a nation that is 85 per cent dependent on imports, the spike meant adding to already firming inflation and derailing the economic recovery from the pandemic.

So, the three fuel retailers, who control roughly 90 per cent of the market, froze petrol and diesel prices for the longest duration in at least two decades. They stopped daily price revision in early November 2021 when rates across the country hit an all-time high, prompting the government to roll back a part of the excise duty hike it had effected during the pandemic

to take advantage of low oil prices. The freeze continued into 2022 but the war-led spike in international oil prices prompted a ₹10 a litre hike in petrol and diesel prices from mid-March before another round of excise duty cut rolled back all of the ₹13 a litre and ₹16 per litre increase in taxes on petrol and diesel effected during the pandemic.

That followed the current price freeze that began April 6 and still continues. The oil ministry is pushing for compensation for the three retailers to make up for the losses they incurred.

### Inflow in gold ETFs plunges 90% in '22 M-cap of four of top-10 firms add ₹82,481 crore

Gold ETF, which aims to

New Delhi, Jan 22: Four of the 10 most valued firms together added ₹82,480.67 crore in market valuation last week, with HDFC Bank and Adani Total Gas emerging as the

While Infosys and HDFC were the other gainers, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of

track the domestic physical

gold price, are passive investment instruments that are based on gold prices and invest in gold bullion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: Inflow in gold exchange traded funds (ETFs) plunged by 90 per cent to ₹459 crore in 2022 due to rising prices of yellow metal, increasing interest rate structure coupled with inflationary



flow of ₹4,814 crore seen in the seg ment during 2021 and ₹6,657 crore in 2020 data with Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed. However, the asset base of gold ETFs and investors' ac-

On the domestic front, investors are preferring to invest in equities over other asset classes with the segment attracting an investment of ₹1.6 lakh crore in 2022, way higher than ₹96,700 crore seen in the preceding year.

The positive inflow helped in pushing assets under management of gold funds by over 16 per cent to ₹21,455 crore at the end of December 2022 from ₹18,405 crore a year ago.

During the year, the folio numbers in gold ETFs surged by 14.29 lakh to 46.28 lakh in December 2022 from 32.09 lakh in December 2021. This shows that investors have be-



or 54.13 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects.

### Iranian currency at all-time low

Dubai: Iran's troubled currency fell to a record low against the US dollar Saturday amid the country's increasing isolation and possible Europe Union sanctions against Tehran's Revolutionary Guards or some of its members. The dollar was selling for as much as 447.000 rials on Iran's unofficial market on Saturday, compared with 430,500 the previous day, according to the foreign exchange site Bonbast.com. The EU is discussing a fourth round of sanctions against Iran and diplomatic sources have said members of the Revolutionary Guards will be added to the bloc's sanctions list next week.

rallied ₹33,432.65 crore to ₹9,26,187.54 crore, the most among the top-10 firms. Adani Total Gas, the new entrant to the coveted list, added ₹22,667.1 crore, taking its market valuation to ₹4,30,933.09 crore. HDFC's valuation jumped ₹17,144.18 crore to ₹4,96,067.07 crore and that of Infosys climbed ₹9,236.74 crore to ₹6.41.921.69 crore.

India and Life Insurance

Corporation of India (LIC) faced

erosion from their market valuation.

The valuation of HDFC Bank

However, the market capitalisation (mcap) of Hindustan Unilever tumbled ₹17,246 crore to ₹5,98,758.09 crore.

The valuation of Reliance Industries tanked ₹16,676.24 crore to ₹16,52,604.31 crore. The mcap of LIC went lower by ₹8,918.25 crore to ₹4.41.864.34 crore and that of State Bank of India declined by ₹7,095.07 crore to reach ₹5,28,426.26 crore.

**Reliance Industries remained** the most valued domestic firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC, LIC and Adani Total Gas

pressures This was way lower than an in-

count or folio numbers increased in 2022 from the preceding year.

come more inclined towards gold related funds.

ing April-September despite accounting for ₹22,000 crore announced but not paid LPG sub-

### Musk announces higher priced subscription for ad-free Twitter

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, Jan 22: Twitter Boss Elon Musk has announced that a higher-priced subscription to the microblogging platform with no ads will be available in the coming weeks.

"Ads are too frequent on Twitter and too big. Taking steps to address both in coming weeks," Musk tweeted. "Also, there will be a higher-priced subscription that allows zero ads," he added.

Moreover, a Twitter user known as "The Rabbit Hole" commented on Musk's tweet, asking, "Can individual users opt to monetise accounts through ads? Currently, advertisers reach out individually

to users; creating a solution integrated with the platform will let Twitter take a cut and give creators a pathway to monetising our content.

To which Musk replied: "Maybe there's a way to do this by placing an ad below tweet details

Meanwhile, fighting hard to stay afloat, Twitter offered a new incentive to skeptical advertisers where the micro-blogging platform will match advertisers' ad spending up to \$250,000.

According to a report in The Wall Street Journal, the platform, acquired by Elon Musk for \$44 billion, is "dangling free ad space by offering to match advertisers' ad spending up to \$250,000.'



"The full \$500,000 in advertise ing must run by February 28," the report mentioned, citing internal emails.

#### **TWITTER HEADCOUNT**

After a report claimed that Twitter is down to 1,300 full-time active employees from more than 7,500 last year, its CEO Elon Musk refuted the report, saying the microblogging platform has nearly 2,300 active working employees.

Musk took over Twitter in October and swiftly moved through a number of product and organizational changes. The company rolled out Twitter-verified Blue check-mark as a paid service and also laid off about 50% staff.

### Pak's interest expenses surge

Islamabad: Amid reluctance to opt for debt restructuring, Pakistan's interest expenses have shot up significantly to ₹2.57 trillion during the first half of this fiscal year, which is equal to 65 per cent of the annual debt servicing budget, and is forcing the government to cut out its other expenses except those on defence, according to a media report. Sources in the Ministry of **Finance told The Express** Tribune that during the July-December period of the current fiscal year, there was an alarming increase of 77 per cent in the cost of interest on the federal government debt stock. The finance ministry paid about ₹2.57 trillion in interest costs, up by ₹1.1 trillion or 77 per cent, according to the sources.

# Everything to know about waiting periods in health insurance

nvesting in an appropriate health insurance cover is one of the most important steps toward prudent financial planning. A welldesigned, comprehensive health cover ensures that we are equipped to handle any medical exigency without making a dent on our pockets. Every health insurance policy has a few clauses and intricacies that you must know to have a better understanding of the pol-

#### What is a 'waiting period,' in health insurance?

icy, one such term is 'waiting period.'

Waiting period,' is the period, in which one needs to wait before he/she can avail the benefits of the policy. This pre-defined time period is explicitly mentioned in the policy document; the waiting period starts as soon as the policy commences.

#### What are the different types of waiting periods?

You might be wondering if there is more than one kind of waiting period, if yes, what is the difference between them and how do they work? A health insurance policy typically has a few different types of waiting periods: we will have a look at each one of them:

## **Cooling off** period:

This is famously called the initial waiting period. This is the period that

serve before they can start availing the benefits of their health insurance policy. The standard coolingoff period is 30 days; during this period, you will not be able to make claim for any hospitalisation arising out of illness. However, you must know that you can file a claim for hospitalisation arising out of accidents from day 0; the 30 days waiting period does not apply to accidental hospitalisation.

> Waiting period for pre-existing diseases: Pre-exist-

ing diseases refer to the ailments or health conditions that

one has to Bhaskar Nerurkar, Head – Health Administratior Team, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

the policyholder has before buying the health insurance. Any ailment that you have been diagnosed with before buying the health insurance will be considered a 'pre-existing,' disease. Conditions like blood pressure, diabetes, thyroid, and asthma are part of this list. The waiting period for these diseases typically ranges from 2 to 4 years.

### Disease-specific waiting period:

Insurers impose a waiting period on certain diseases like hernia, cataract, and joint replacement surgery to name a few. This waiting period varies from 2 to 4 years. Each insurer has a list of ailments for which the insured has to serve the waiting period; the list is clearly mentioned in the policy document. The waiting period for each ailment is also explicitly mentioned.

#### Waiting period for maternity benefits:

Maternity cover in a health insurance policy typically has a waiting period ranging from 9 months to 6 years. This means that you will be able to file maternity-related claims only after serving the defined period.

#### Waiting period for psychiatric illness:

Mental illness is mandatorily covered under health insurance as per the regulatory guidelines. The waiting period for such illness is usually 2 years; however, it may vary from insurer to insurer and it will be mentioned in the policy document.

#### Is there a way to bring down the waiting period?

Yes, you can reduce some of

the waiting periods by paying an additional premium. How much reduction you can get, will vary from insurer to insurer and product to product. You may check with your insurer and avail the benefits of a reduced waiting period by paying an additional premium.

When you buy health insurance, do have a close look at the waiting periods to avoid any surprises later. It is anyway recommended that you read your policy document thoroughly to have a clear understanding of your coverage. The policy copy explicitly mentions the covers, exclusion, and other terms and conditions in lucid language to avoid any confusion for the policyholder. I hope this article will help youunderstand your health insurance policy better.











# **Spain scrape past Malaysia**

**DESPITE HEROIC EFFORTS, ASIAN SIDE GO DOWN IN SUDDEN DEATH SHOOTOUT** 

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Jan 22: Spain beat Malaysia 4-3 in penalty shootout in a thrilling crossover match to qual ify for the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup after the two sides were locked 2-2 at the Kalinga Stadium here Sunday. Spain now face title contenders and Pool A toppers Australia in the last eight stage Tuesday.

After the two sides were goalless at half time, Faizal Saari put Malaysia ahead in the 35th minute but Marc Miralles (41st) and Xavier Gispert (42nd) scored in quick succession to put Spain 2-1 up. Shello Silverius then scored a fine field goal to make the scoreline 2-2.

In the penalty shootout, it was 3-3 after the first set of five players took their shots. Firhan Ashari. Saari and Suhaimi Shahmie Irfan scored for Malaysia, while Marhan Jalil and Silverius missed. Miralles Bonastre Jordi and Xavier scored for Spain while Alvaro Iglesias and Marc Reyne failed to score. As the two teams were tied 3-3, sudden death was applied. Spain's Miralles scored while Ashari missed.

Spain, who had finished third in Pool D behind England and India, dominated the match with a lot of circle penetration but the speedy Malaysians were impressive in the counter-attack. Such was dominance of Spain that they got eight



Spanish players celebrate after their victory over Malaysia at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Sunday OP PHOTO

penalty corners, but failed to convert a single one. Malaysia earned just one penalty corner, but wasted it. Malaysia were able to put the ball in the Spanish goal in the first minute of the fourth quarter but the goal was disallowed with the umpire ruling that the ball had touched the back stick of Saari. chief coach Max Caldas erupted in

However, looking at how the game progressed, Spain will have a very tough time against the Australians. Whenever, the Malaysians attacked the Spanish defenders were caught napping. Spain won the match 4-3 in sudden death but as their players and

joy, they had all the reasons to feel lucky to escape with victory as they had failed to make the most of their chances and ball possession. They had to thank goalkeeper Garin, who was brought in as a substitute just for the shootout and did his job superbly by pulling off a couple of good saves.

## Reid harps on mental aspect

Coach feels that India did not go into the game in the best frame of mind

#### AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: India's chief coach Graham Reid said Sunday that the team need a mental conditioning coach going ahead after the hosts lost to New Zealand in penalty shootout in a crossover match to crash out of the hockey World Cup here.

Reid's comments could be an indication that his team were not able to deal with the mental aspect of the game. "We need to do something different perhaps. Following this, we will work on how we can get a mental coach involved. I think that is an important part for the future of the team," a distraught Reid said at the post match conference.

"As far as the drills or training are concerned, we do what all other teams do. I have been in this game for a long time and I know what other teams are doing. If there is anything necessary, a silver bullet out there, I do think that (is) mentally," the Indian coach added. In the shootout, India and New

Zealand were tied 3-3 after five shots. Captain Harmanpreet Singh had the chance to seal the match in the first round of sudden death when New Zealand's Nic Woods fluffed his chance, but he inexplicably chose to take a direct hit from a distance and wasted the golden chance.

Asked why he took a shot like that in a crucial moment, Harmanpreet said, "It was a good opportunity and

No. 3 Jessica Pegula got to the quar-

terfinals in Australia for the third

vear in a row by defeating 2021

French Open champion Barbora

Krejcikova 7-5, 6-2, and awaited



Lalit Kumar (2nd left) celebrates with teammates after scoring the opening goal for India against New Zealand PTI PHOTO

I wanted to score and seal the match. But it did not happen," Harmanpreet said.

Harmanpreet was asked whether captaincy put pressure on him and affected his performance. "It is a team game. Everybody has been talking about my (lack of) penalty corner conversions. But I had not gone into a match without wanting to score. I feel no pressure. I have to work harder and the same for the team also," Harmanpreet stated.

Reid said the team would need to go back to the drawing board and sort out the mistakes.

"Tonight, we lacked consistency. In the last quarter, for example, we let ourselves down. We threw the ball away kept doing stuff like that. Things like that made it very difficult for ourselves," Reid pointed out. "It is very hard to answer questions

### Tirkey laments missed chances

Bhubaneswar: Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey lamented Sunday that the hosts wasted chances galore during their sudden death defeat in the crossover match against New Zealand as they made a shock exit from the hockey World Cup here. "We got a lot of chances to win the match. We have been talking that penalty corners are very important to win matches, but we wasted one after the other," Tirkey said in a video on his Twitter handle. "After that, we got the chance to win in the penalty shootout. We got two chances. Our goalkeepers saved twice in sudden death and we had the chance to win, that also we wasted," Tirkey added.

after such a loss. It is (lack of) skill execution at the end of the day. We need to work on that," Reid signed off.

### SPORTS MINISTRY STOPS ALL ACTIVITIES OF WFI

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya, Jan 22: The Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) emergency general council meeting, scheduled here for Sunday, was called off after the Sports Ministry directed it to suspend all ongoing activities owing to the various allegations against the sports body and its president.

The ministry said it has asked the WFI to suspend 'all ongoing activities with immediate effect', including the ranking tournament in Gonda, UP, WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's stronghold.

In a press release, the Sports Ministry said it 'has communicated to the Wrestling Federation of India on Saturday that in view of the Government's decision to ap

SHORT TAKES

### point an Oversight Committee to investigate the various allegations raised by athletes against the Federation, WFI will suspend all ongoing activities with immediate

functioning of WFI'.

the sports body's chief.

Ravi Dahiya.

effect, unless the Oversight Committee is formally appointed and takes over the day to day Sharan has been accused of sexually harassing women wrestlers and working like a dictator by some of the country's top grapplers, including Vinesh Phogat,

Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and The loss made Swiatek wonder The ministry had Saturday also suspended WFT's assistant secretary Vinod Tomar, a fallout of the grapplers' allegations of sexual harassment and corruption against

### Seeds tumble at Melbourne Park WORLD NO. 1 IGA SWIATEK SENT PACKING BY ELENA RYBAKINA, GAUFF LOSES

AGENCIES

Melbourne, Jan 22: It was a day of major upsets at the Australian Open tennis tournament here Sunday as World No. 1 Iga Swiatek and seventh seed Coco Gauff were both sent packing by their respective opponents. Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina defeated Swiatek 6-4, 6-4 in a fourth round match to set up a clash with 2017 French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko who trounced Gauff 7-5, 6-3.

whether she needs to reassess her outlook. "I felt like I took a step back in terms of how I approach these tournaments, and I maybe wanted it a little bit too hard. So I'm going to try to chill out a little bit



more," Swiatek said. "I felt the pressure, and I felt that I don't want to lose instead of I want to win," she added.

In other women's action Sunday,

the winner of the night match between two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka and unseeded Zhu Lin.

Both the 22nd-seeded Rybakina, a 23-year-old who represents Kazakhstan, and the 17th-seeded Ostapenko, a 25-year-old from Latvia, made it this far in

Melbourne for the first time. In men's singles, 22-year-old American Sebastian Korda - whose father. Petr. won the 1998 Australian Open – reached his first Grand Slam quarterfinal by edging No. 10 Hubert Hurkacz 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (10-7), unseeded Jiri Lehecka upset No. 6 Felix Auger-Aliassime 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-3), and No. 18 Karen Khachanov eased past No. 31 Yoshihito Nishioka 6-0, 6-0, 7-6 (7-4). In another late night match

### Bad day for Indians

MELBOURNE: Sania Mirza's last women's doubles Grand Slam match ended in defeat as she went down 4-6. 6-4. 2-6 in the second round of the Australian Open here Sunday. Mirza and her Kazakh partner Anna Danilina. seeded eighth, lost to Belgium's Alison Van Uytvanck and Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina. On the other hand, the Indian men's doubles pair of N Sriram Balaii and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan's run in the competition ended when they were beaten by the French duo of Jeremy Chardy and Fabrice Martin 4-6, 4-6.

played on the day, Stefanos Tsitsipas held firm in the face of a Jannik Sinner onslaught to clinch a thrilling 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3 fourthround victory.

Seyoung, Vitidsarn

### TOF AGONY ECSTAC

### emerge champions

New Delhi: An Seyoung snapped a run of losses against two-time World Champion Akane Yamaguchi with a come-from-behind win in the women's singles final, becoming the first Korean woman to win the India Open badminton tournament here Sunday. Seyoung defeated World No. 1 Yamaguchi 15-21, 21-16, 21-12. In the men's singles final, Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn also pulled off a stunning upset as he beat Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark 22-20, 10-21, 21-12 in a match that lasted 64 minutes. Korean Seyoung was ecstatic after her victory. "I knew that the match will be another long battle. So I had made up my mind to be ready," she said with the help of an interpreter after her 72minute battle.

### **Back on track**

Potchefstroom: India put their women's Under-19 T20 World Cup campaign back on track in Group 1 Super Six stage with a commanding seven-wicket win against Sri Lanka here Sunday. Indian bowlers put up a superb show to restrict Sri Lanka to 59 for nine in 20 overs. Sixteen-year-old legspinner Parshavi Chopra (4/5) stole the show and was well-supported by leftarm spinner Mannat Kashyap (2/16). India then scored the winning target in 7.2 overs with Soumya Tiwari (28 n o, 15b, 5x4) leading the charge. When Sri Lanka batted, except for skipper Vishmi Gunaratne (25) and Umaya Rathnayeke (13) none of the other batters, could get double digit scores. AGENCIES

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- Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh reacts in pain after getting injured during the shootout Sunday
- 2 New Zealand players are over the moon after the win Sunday
- 3 Disconsolate fans at the Kalinga Stadium after India's loss
- Δ A fan all decked up in India colours ahead of the game Sunday
- New Zealand goalkeeper Hayward pulls off a save during the shootout





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