



RAVEENA NOMINATED

Actor Raveena Tandon has been chosen as a delegate at the prestigious W20, the women's wing at G20 New Delhi summit

LEISURE P2



POWER OUTAGES CONTINUE

Large parts of Pakistan experience electricity outages despite the government's claim that power supply has been restored

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA TOP ODI CHART

India claim top spot in men's ODI team rankings after completing a clean sweep Tuesday against NZ

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Woman Maoist, aide held in Nabarangpur

Nabarangpur: A female Maoist cadre and her aide were apprehended Tuesday during a joint operation of SOG and DVF personnel and CRPF from Hatigaon Reserve Forest under Raighar police limits of this district. They were identified as Poje Mandvi alias Anita (25) and Samudra Bagh (32), both cadres of Nuapada division. Anita is originally from Motodi village in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh while Bagh is a native of Nangalbod in Sinapali block of Nuapada district. Sources said that the two have been involved in many cases of violence in Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi districts and the neighbouring state of Chhattisgarh. A police press release said that Anita had joined the organisation in 2010 while Bagh did so in 2017.

Drag-horror death revisited in Surat

Surat: A 24-year-old man riding a motorcycle was killed after he was knocked down by a car and dragged for around 12km after getting stuck under the four-wheeler in Surat district of Gujarat, an incident which revived the memories of the Delhi road accident wherein a young woman had similarly lost her life. The hit-and-run accident occurred on the night of January 18 on the Kadodara-Bardoli road when the victim, later identified as Sagar Patil, was riding the bike while his wife was in the back seat, a police officer said Tuesday.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We toppled the govt, formed ours. There's nothing more for me to do. I don't want to be Governor anymore

Air India fined ₹10L

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA imposed Tuesday a fine of ₹10 lakh on Air India for not reporting two incidents of unruly passenger behaviour onboard a Paris-New Delhi flight in December last year. This is the second time in less than a week that the watchdog has taken enforcement action against the airline in connection with unruly passenger behaviour. In a statement, DGCA said the incidents of passenger misbehaviour occurred December 6, 2022 on the AI-142 flight from Paris to New Delhi. It came to the notice of the regulator only this month. One drunk passenger was caught smoking in the lavatory and another passenger allegedly relieved himself on a vacant seat.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	60978.75	↑ 37.08
NIFTY	18118.30	↓ 0.25
DOLLAR	81.72	↑ ₹0.33
EURO	88.50	↓ ₹0.04
GOLD	₹56,807	↓ ₹8
SILVER	₹67,974	↑ ₹10

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	33.5°C	30.5°C
MIN	15.1°C	15.0°C
Humidity	67%	89%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Foggy weather mostly



PAYING HOMAGE: Members of Paika Akhada Council perform to mark the death anniversary of Buxi Jagabandhu near Odisha State Museum in Bhubaneswar

Despite gag, parties to screen BBC's Modi docu

The development comes amid claims that the Centre has asked both YouTube and Twitter to block all links to the narrative

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 24: Various political groups in Kerala announced Tuesday they would screen the controversial BBC documentary *India: The Modi Question* in the state. The decision has prompted the BJP to urge Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to intervene and put a stop to such endeavours.

The documentary produced by British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), UK's Public Broadcaster, has been earlier called by the External Affairs Ministry as a 'propaganda piece' that lacks objectivity and reflects colonial mindset. While it was not made available in India, some YouTube channels appear to have uploaded it to promote an anti-India agenda. Sources said that YouTube has been instructed to block the video if it is again uploaded on its platform. Twitter has also been directed to identify and block the tweets containing the link to the video on other platforms. The opposition parties including the Congress and the Trinamool Congress has termed



JNU students stoned

New Delhi: The JNU students' union could not hold Tuesday the proposed screening of a controversial BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi because the varsity's administration snapped power and internet connections at the union's office, students alleged. They, however, watched the documentary on their mobile-phones and other devices. Students, who had gathered for the screening of the documentary, claimed that stones were thrown at them.

all district headquarters of the state on Republic Day. The SFI, in its Facebook post, said the documentary would be screened in various college campuses in Kerala.

THE TRUTH ALWAYS COMES OUT AND BANNING OF THE PRESS AND USING INSTITUTIONS LIKE ED AND CBI AGAINST PEOPLE CAN'T SUPPRESS THE TRUTH FROM COMING OUT

—RAHUL GANDHI

SCBMCH patient dies sans oxygen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 24: The demise of an octogenarian male patient at the SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here Tuesday sparked off a major controversy with family members of the deceased blaming the authorities for his death. Bhagabat Mohanty (81) an asthma patient, had been shifted to SCBMCH from the Balasore district headquarters hospital as he developed complications. He was undergoing treatment at the Casualty ward. While being shifted to another ward Tuesday, he breathed his last. A family member of Bhagabat alleged that the patient had died because he did not have oxygen support. He said that the oxygen mask had been removed while Bhagabat



was being taken to the Old Medicine ward and that resulted in his death. "We had requested SCBMCH staff not to remove the oxygen support. However, no one listened to us. Even when Bhagabat had been taken to the new ward, he was not provided oxygen," the relative alleged. "We frantically requested that Bhagabat be put on oxygen support, but a staff did not do so, citing that his duty period was

already over. By the time, the oxygen cylinder arrived, Bhagabat had already breathed his last," the family member added. Administrative officer at the SCBMCH, Abinash Rout informed that a committee has been formed after discussions with the SCB superintendent and the HoD of the Medicine department to probe the developments leading to Bhagabat's death. "There was an issue with oxygen which led to Bhagabat's death," Rout said. "The panel will probe the process starting from the patient's admission and find out the lapse. If the allegations of the patient's family are true and if any fault has been committed by the SCBMCH staff, we will take strict action immediately," he added.

Oz, Belgium enter semis

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: Goalkeeper Andrew Carter saved a penalty stroke by Marc Miralles with five minutes to the final hooter as Australia came back from a two-goal deficit to prevail over a fighting Spain in the first quarterfinal of the FIH Men's World Cup 2023 here Tuesday at the Kalinga Stadium. In the second quarterfinal played on the day, defending champions Belgium overcame some stubborn resistance from New Zealand and emerged 2-0 winners to seal their spot in the last four stage. Tom Boon (11th) and Florent van Aubel (16th) scored for Belgium. Australia were leading 4-3 with five minutes to go when Spain earned a penalty stroke for a stick-

check foul inside the shooting circle. But the experienced Carter correctly guessed the direction of Miralles' push and palmed it away and helped the Aussies seal their place in the semifinals. Jeremy Hayward (32nd and 36th) struck a brace of goals for Australia while Flynn Ogilvie (29th) and Aran Zaleski (31st) contributed one goal each. Xavier Gispert (19th), Marc Recasens (24th) and Miralles (40th) were the scorers for Spain. Australia have won the title in 1986, 2010 and 2014 and bagged bronze in the last edition of the tournament played here in 2018. However, they will have to tighten their defence if they want to win a fourth title. Whenever Spain was on the counter-attack, the Aussie defence looked shaky. **MORE P12**

Prostitution racket busted in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 24: The Commissionerate Police busted Tuesday a major sex racket that was allegedly operating out of a house here in the guise of a web channel. Officials said that the sex racket was operating out of the house in Suryavihar locality under Badambadi police limits. Officials informed that a team comprising personnel from Badambadi police station and a special squad raided the house after receiving allegations and credible inputs regarding the sex racket. They said that five women have been rescued from the house while two customers have been arrested. "We have registered a case under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. As the probe is in its initial stage, I will be able to share further details at a later stage," Cuttack DCP Pinaki Mishra told mediapersons here. "Five women have been rescued while two persons have been arrested," he added. Mishra, while not wanting to name the web channel, also informed that a detailed investigation will be carried out to see whether it had any hand in operating the sex racket. He also stated that efforts are on to trace the mastermind (in this case a man) of the racket. Police officials said that the person, who had taken the house on rent and the owner will also be questioned to ascertain whether they have any connection with the criminal activities. "We have been getting information that this racket had been running for a long time. It couldn't have done so without the involvement of others. Hence we will be probing all angles and questioning all those who were at the crime scene," a senior police official informed.

3 Indian films earn Oscar nominations

RRR'S HIT SONG 'NAATU NAATU', DOCUMENTARIES ALL THAT BREATHES AND ELEPHANT WHISPERERS VIE FOR TOP HONOURS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Los Angeles, Jan 24: 'Naatu Naatu', the hit dance track from SS Rajamouli's blockbuster *RRR*, continued its winning march Tuesday by earning a coveted nomination for the Original Song at the Oscars 2023 where Indian documentaries *All That Breathes* and *Elephant Whisperers* walked away with nods in Documentary Feature and Documentary Short categories. *The Last Show*, India's official entry in the International Feature category, however, failed to make the cut in the final five. 'Naatu Naatu' will compete with 'Applause' from *Tell It Like a Woman*, 'Hold My Hand' from *Top Gun: Maverick*, 'Lift Me Up' from *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* and 'This Is a Life' from *Everything*



Everywhere All at Once. The song, filmed on Ram Charan and Jr. NTR has been composed by MM Keeravani and choreographed by Prem Rakshith. It has legions of followers on social media trying to master its steps. "WE CREATED HISTORY!!

Proud and privileged to share that #NaatuNaatu has been nominated for Best Original Song at the 95th Academy Awards," the film's official Twitter handle posted. Keeravani shared his excitement over the nomination on Twitter: "Congratulations to my team!! Big hugs to all," he tweeted. This is the third major international recognition for 'Naatu Naatu', sung by Kaaala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj, after Keeravani won a 'Golden Globe' as well as a 'Critics Choice' award for the track. The film also won the 'Critics Choice' award for Best Foreign Language Film. *All That Breathes*, which is competing for an Oscar alongside *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed*, *Fire of Love*, *A House Made of Splinters* and *Navalny*, has also emerged as one of the best documentaries this year.

All That Breathes is also nominated for a BAFTA Award. It previously won the 'World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Documentary' at this year's Sundance Film Festival, a film gala that promotes independent cinema and filmmakers, and earned the Golden Eye award for the best documentary at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival. Sharing his joy director Shounak Sen said he was 'a bit lost for words' at the moment. "It's feeling extraordinarily difficult to say something that doesn't sound like a cliché. We're utterly besides ourselves with joy and a bit lost for words at this moment, utterly relieved, happy and somewhat discombobulated," Sen stated. The Oscar ceremony will be held March 12, 2023, at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today's events will be dominated by lots of friends. Life will seem to you to be a huge party, even if it is just tea that you are having together. However, Ganesha suggests that you set aside the evening for a special friend.

TAURUS
Prepare yourself to handle ordinary situations in an extraordinary way, foretells Ganesha. Today, you will get a lesson in how people work. Before arriving at any crucial decision, explore the pros and cons with a balanced mind, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
There is every possibility that you will keep your partner in the loop while making important decisions today, predicts Ganesha. And this will prevent a grave misunderstanding. Later in the day, you will benefit from the insights of your soul mate. You will tend to be a little bit on the spiritual side today.

CANCER
The first half of the day may leave you a little flummoxed. You may get discouraged when things are not going your way, predicts Ganesha. But your subconscious mind knows how to handle such situations. You will take a break from the rat race, and take a detour to your home. You may even pack your bags and take your partner to a faraway sojourn.

LEO
You need to keep your temper in check today. Your mood swings will leave you irritated, especially in the morning. You will be busy dealing with a lot of issues today, and this will add to your tensions. However, you will find the solution to all your problems within a day or two, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
You might spend most of your day at the table today, planning and mapping your future. Keep your partner in the loop while making important decisions. Take the approval of your family as and when required so that no misunderstanding creeps up in the days to come. You will be surprised at the advice you get from your partner and loved ones, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
Today, you touch a new high when it comes to self-reliance. The pledges and promises you make may tend to perplex people at your workplace. Afternoon may see you taking on other people's responsibilities as well. Your vigour reaches its highest point in the evening, expects Ganesha.

SCORPIO
It seems like a fruitful day in business, and to deal in money matters, foresees Ganesha. On the career front, you may be occupied with important meetings. Things will work out for you if you manage to strike a balance between your ideas and implementation. Heavy expenditure may be on the cards as you feel tempted to buy jewellery for your beloved, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Time is something that once spent can never be earned back, says Ganesha. The importance of time will dawn upon you today as you undertake the massive challenge of organising your life and planning your goals. At the workplace, you will put in a lot of effort, but may fall short of reaching a level that is expected of you.

CAPRICORN
The day bodes well, especially for public servants. An impending business transaction with the government will keep you busy, and suggestions from friends and peers may prove beneficial, says Ganesha. Professionals, however, need to be more proactive, as their expertise will be tested.

AQUARIUS
Fortune is mighty pleased with you, so go ahead and play roulette if you wish! Partnerships will work today, as will business deals. But somewhere, a dark sentiment may cloud your thinking. Ganesha says that you should enjoy yourself and take life a bit lightly.

PISCES
Your peers will be the cause of a few confrontations today. Legal disputes may also arise. Take the advice of your elders to resolve these conflicts. Meditative techniques will help restore your calm, says Ganesha.

AFFLECK'S AIR TO HAVE GLOBAL RELEASE APRIL 5

Hollywood star Ben Affleck's next directorial effort *Air*, about the birth of the Air Jordan brand and the partnership between Nike and a rookie Michael Jordan, has set an April 5 global theatrical release date, before it heads to streaming platform Prime Video.

Conman Sukesh hits back at Nora

MUMBAI: After actor-dancer Nora Fatehi said that alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar promised her a big house and luxurious lifestyle on the condition of being his girlfriend, the latter in a new statement revealed he paid money to Nora for a house in Morocco.

Nora recently recorded new statements in connection to her alleged involvement in the Rs 215 crore extortion case involving Sukesh. Besides Nora, Jacqueline

Fernandez is also involved in the matter. In a recent statement to the media, Sukesh said, "Today she (Nora) talks about me promising her a house, but she already has taken a large amount from me to purchase a house for her family in Casablanca, Morocco, all these new stories are crafted by her to escape law after ED statement 9 months ago given by her."

Nora in her statement to the court in the alleged extortion case, mentioned that Sukesh had promised her 'a big house and a luxurious lifestyle' if she agreed to be his girlfriend. Nora said that the alleged conman 'sought undue favour from her' via his close aide Pinky Irani.



AGENCIES

12TH INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL BHUBANESWAR

Ray's *Aparajito* highlight of day 2

Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: Day 2 of the 12th Indian Film Festival Bhubaneswar (IFFB) witnessed screening of four highly acclaimed movies. Film maker Siddharth Chauhan was present on the occasion.

First to be displayed was Satyajit Ray's *Aparajito* (1956), the second installment of his *Apu Trilogy*. It has won 11 international awards, including the Golden Lion and Critics Award at the Venice Film Festival, being the first movie to win both.

Siddharth Chauhan's debut directorial venture *Amar Colony* (2022) was next in line. The movie takes the viewers through the lives of a crippled widow who demands respect for her beloved pigeon, a lonely pregnant



woman who finds her escape in a tomato and a religious devotee of Lord Hanuman who fights paranoia with a mace. Speaking about the experimental and magical realist motifs used in the film to depict desire, Chauhan said, "I wanted to make a film that I have never seen before. I wanted to test myself and make something original, not with bits and pieces drawn from anything else I have already seen."

Mahesh Narayan directed Malayali film *Ariyippu* (2022) or Declaration was the third

film of the day. It depicts the life of Hareesh and Reshmi, an immigrant couple working in a medical gloves manufacturing factory near Delhi. When an old video involving Reshmi resurfaces among the workers of that factory, it opens up a Pandora's box that threatens Hareesh and Reshmi's jobs, as well as their marriage.

Tamil movie *Witness* (2022), directed by Deepak, was the final film of the evening. The plot revolves around a mother, a sanitation worker, whose son dies while cleaning sewers in an apartment society.

RAVEENA CHOSEN DELEGATE AT W20

Mumbai: Actor Raveena Tandon wears many hats. Apart from being a National Award winning actor, she is also known to be a philanthropist, associated with various causes. Now, she has been chosen by the ministry to be a delegate at the prestigious W20, the Women's Empowerment engagement wing at G20 India's Presidency, a report said.



Women in our country contribute to diverse sectors to run the economy and their efforts should be recognized internationally."

The Women 20 (W20) is an official G20

actress said, "I am honoured to be invited and to represent 675 million Indian women in India as part of this delegation."

engagement group, established during the Turkish presidency in 2015. The objective is to ensure that the gender considerations are mainstreamed into G20 discussions and translated into the G20 Leaders Declaration as policies and commitments that foster gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

"Having this summit is a fantastic opportunity to empower women and provide them with more rights for their full social and economic participation. The proposed priority areas to be discussed are very much in line with my expectations," adds the actor.



MEMORABLE TOUR TO EXPERIENCE THE DIVINITY OF SHREE JAGANNATHA DHAM!

Flagging off of **श्रीरथ jagannatha yatra - a bharat gaurav tourist train**

The train to cover many religious & heritage sites of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand, before finally arriving at Shree Jagannatha Dham in Odisha

Destinations to be covered - Kashi, Baidyanath Dham, Bhubaneswar, Konark and Gaya along with Shree Jagannatha Temple during 7N/8D tour

Halt facility at Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Tundla, Etawah, Kanpur and Lucknow Railway Stations

Tour facilities to Pilgrims

3 AC Class | Onboard Veg Meals | Offboard Veg Meals from Good Quality Restaurants/Hotels/Banquets
All Transfers and Sightseeing by Buses | Accommodation in AC Hotels | Onboard Infotainment System
CCTV Camera | Security Guard | Travel Insurance for the Passengers

Jointly by

Dharmendra Pradhan Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Ashwini Vaishnaw Minister of Railways, Communication, Electronics and Information Technology

G. Kishan Reddy Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region



25th January 2023 | 3:30 PM
Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

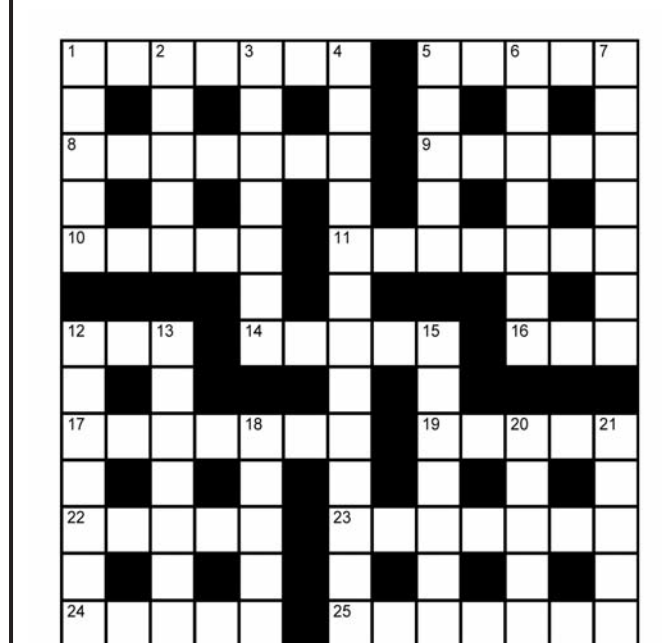


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Dinner starters
 - 5 Lightweight wood
 - 8 *Arabian Nights* character
 - 9 Smooth fabric
 - 10 Raw fish dish
 - 11 Avoids
 - 12 Wrath
 - 14 Faux pas
 - 16 Bashful
 - 17 Martial art
 - 19 Insomniac's state
 - 22 Jingle
 - 23 Devilfish
 - 24 Extinct flightless birds
 - 25 Bureaucratic procedure
 - 3 Soft dessert (5,2,6)
 - 4 Playful trait
 - 5 Rudimentary
 - 6 Animal groups
 - 7 Free pardon
 - 12 Wounded
 - 13 Savoured
 - 15 Elevated in status
 - 18 Journeys
 - 20 Greek letter
 - 21 Follow
- Down
- 1 Bedlam
 - 2 Draws close

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

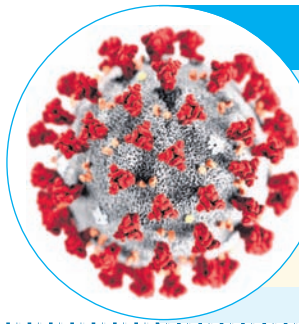
7	9	4	6	5	2	3	8	1
1	5	6	8	3	9	2	4	7
3	8	2	7	1	4	9	6	5
9	4	7	5	6	3	8	1	2
2	3	5	4	8	1	7	9	6
8	6	1	9	2	7	5	3	4
4	1	9	2	7	8	6	5	3
5	2	3	1	9	6	4	7	8
6	7	8	3	4	5	1	2	9

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



COURTESY CALL

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik presents a jersey of Indian hockey team to playback singer Sukhwinder Singh at his residence in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	67,36,29,982	64,55,93,294	67,48,650
India	4,46,82,104	4,41,49,436	5,30,737
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Saluting Every Voter



Rajiv Kumar

Today, January 25, marks the foundation day of Election Commission of India (ECI), also celebrated as National Voters' Day (NVD) since 2011. Its purpose is to sensitise the citizens of India about their rights and responsibilities as voters. The ECI was established January 25, 1950 on the eve of the first Republic Day. The Constituent Assembly gave it a Constitutional status under Article 324 to ensure independence of its functioning and decision making. Establishing a permanent, central and autonomous Commission to conduct elections based on the adult suffrage in an era of low literacy and non-existent electoral rolls is a tribute to the foresight of the Constituent Assembly. The institution's competency, impartiality and trustworthiness have been upheld in 17 Lok Sabha elections, 16 elections each to the office of the President and Vice President, 399 Legislative Assembly elections till date. The 400th Assembly elections are underway. Contrary to occasional international experiences, election results in India have been never in dispute. Individual elections petitions are adjudicated by relevant High Courts. The ECI has earned the trust of both political parties and citizens of India. The commitment is to enhance and deepen it. Strong and inclusive electoral participation is crucial for building a robust democracy. Elections in a vibrant democracy should be more than free, fair, regular and credible. They ought to be popular and participatory as well in order to bear their full weight upon governance. The right to vote is power only when exercised. We are reminded of a saying of Mahatma Gandhi - "If leaving duties unperformed, we run after rights, they escape us like a will-o'-the-wisp."

India is the world's largest democracy having 94 crore plus registered electors. Still the actual voting figure of 67.4 per cent in the last general elections (2019) leaves a lot to be desired. The challenge is to motivate the missing 30 crore electors to the booth. Missing voters have many dimensions like urban apathy, youth apathy, domestic migration, others. As in most liberal democracies, where enrolment and voting are voluntary, persuasive and facilitative methods are best. This entails targeting the low voting constituencies and underperforming segment of voters.

The ECI has already institutionalised systems for facilitating two crore plus voters of age 80 years and above, 85 lakh PWD voters, enrolling of 47,500 plus third gen-

der people. Recently, I thanked over two lakh centenarian voters by a personal letter to recognize their commitment to democracy. On November 5, 2022, I had the mournful honour of paying homage to Late Shyam Saran Negi at Kalpa in Himachal Pradesh. Acknowledged as the first voter in the First General Election of India (1951), he never missed out on exercising franchise, before passing away at the ripe age of 106. The example of Late Shyam Saran Negi inspires us to cast our vote dutifully.

Young voters are the future of the Indian democracy. The next gen, born around and after 2000, has started joining our electoral roll. Their participation as voters would shape future of democracy, almost throughout the entire century. It is, therefore, critical that democratic roots are seeded at school level before students attain voting age. Simultaneously, youth are being engaged through various mediums in order to bring them to the polling booths. So is the case with urban voters, who tend to display voting apathy.

The ECI is leading the development of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) like toilets, electricity, drinking water and ramps at every polling station. The Commission is keen that the facilities developed in the schools should be of permanent nature, which is financially prudent decision as well.

In democracy, voters have a right to be informed about the background of candidates they vote. Enabling the voter to make informed choices thus assumes critical importance. It is for this reason that the criminal cases, if any pending against the candidates should be notified in newspaper. Also, while every political party is within its right to promise welfare measures in its manifesto, voters equally have right to know their financial implications to the public exchequer.

Though muscle power has largely been subdued, there still remain a few

states where election-related violence impinges upon free choice of voters. Violence should have no place in democracy. Curbing money power remains a bigger challenge in the elections. The scale and quantum of inducement offered to voters is felt more acutely in certain states than others. Though, stricter vigilance by law enforcement agencies have resulted in record seizures as witnessed during recently held elections, there can be no substitute for sincere and vigilant voters in a democracy. Mobile apps like C-Vigil has helped common citizen report incidents of violation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC), thereby helping the Election Observers initiate prompt action (within 100 minutes) against the offenders.

Retention and deepening of democratic spaces through credible electoral outcomes, worldwide, stands at a cusp. Sheer scale and speed with which the social media can disseminate the facts and views/fake news has propensity to overwhelm other aspects of the technology in election management. Unconstrained by underpinning of moral and legal spaces, which govern ECI's role and framework, anti-democratic chatter uses technology as an effective tool of its trade.

Hundreds of fake media videos/content are loaded and circulated before every election. In the absence of shelf-life, they continue to linger after the elections are over, especially those which attack key/core election domains. World over there is a growing expectation that the social media platforms proactively use their enormous AI capabilities, in the least, to red flag such evident disinformation efforts. The responsibility to protect the free spaces including free speech is co-shared. The realisation that deep fakes make job of Election Management Bodies much more difficult, needs to dawnand self-correction effected.

The NVD epitomizes the resolve of ECI to pull all stops out to make elections inclusive, participatory, voter friendly and ethical. The theme for 13th NVD (2023) is "Nothing Like Voting, Vote for Sure". As evident, the theme is such that it can capture the imagination of the voters. When citizens take pride in being a voter, as part of their civic duty, its impact on the level of governance is sure to be felt. Happy Voters' Day.

The author is the Chief Election Commissioner of India.

Tight security for R-Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: The Commissionerate Police has made a three-tier security arrangement for the state-level Republic Day parade at Mahatma Gandhi Marg here January 26, an official said, Tuesday.

Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Kumar Bansal Tuesday reviewed the security arrangements and preparations for the mega event. "We've deployed adequate personnel across the City to ensure smooth conduct of the parade," the DGP said. According to Bansal, the Republic Day parade this year will witness huge footfall as it is being held in a grand manner after two years of Covid lull.

"Today was the final rehearsal for the 74th state-level Republic Day celebrations. The contingents including Army, Navy, differ-



ent wings of state police, schoolchildren and NCC cadets participated in the parade enthusiastically. We also watched excellent cultural performances by different groups.

For the last two years, we could not arrange the parade in full scale due to Covid. It is very pleasant that this year we are organising the parade as it was used to be done in the pre-Covid years," Bansal added.

Twin City police commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi said that 200 police officers will be deployed across the City. Three-tier security arrangements will be in place at the Mahatma Gandhi Marg. As many as 30 platoons of police force and intelligence officials will be deployed to keep strict vigil on the parade ground in order to avoid any untoward incident.

Notably, the Commissionerate Police has already issued traffic advisory to avoid any inconvenience to the public during the parade.

Meanwhile, the full dress rehearsal for the R-Day parade was held at the Mahatma Gandhi Marg Tuesday morning.

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Bharat Gaurav train from today



POST NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi, January 24: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Wednesday will flag off Shri Jagannath Yatra tourist train on its eight-day journey covering famous pilgrimage sites of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha. The train will leave from Sadfardjung railway station here

tion in Jharkhand and tourists will proceed to visit Baidyanath dham Jyotirlinga temple. Further train will depart from Jashidih to Puri where a stay for two nights will be arranged for tourists in the hotels. While at Puri, tourists will visit Shri Jagannath temple, Sun temple at Konark and temples of Bhubaneswar. After Puri, Gaya will be the last destination where the visit of Vishnupad temple will be covered in the tour. Train will return back to Delhi February 1.

Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train launch is in line with the Union government's initiative "Dekho Apna Desh" to promote domestic tourism

to embark on the eight-day journey covering Shri Jagannath temple of Puri, Varanasi, Baidyanath Dham and Gaya. At Varanasi, the tourists will visit Kashi Vishwanath temple and corridor along with the Ganga ghata and Arati. After Varanasi, the train will move to Jasidih Railway sta-

launch is in line with the Union government's initiative "Dekho Apna Desh" to promote domestic tourism. At a price range starting from Rs 17,655/- per person, the IRCTC tourist train will be an all inclusive tour package covering train journey in third AC, night stay at hotels, all meals, all transfer and sight-seeing in buses, travel insurance and services of guide.



RAZING DOWN: An excavator engaged by CMC demolishing illegally constructed shops at OMP Market Complex in Cuttack, Tuesday

Conference on rising heatwaves

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: The International Panel for Climate Change claims that heat wave happened to be the biggest killer in Asia, out of all hazards that are affected public health in 2010-2020, in their sixth assessment report. "India recorded 280 heat waves days across 16 states in the summer of 2022," revealed Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), based on the data of India Meteorological Department. CSE organised a conference with Pilo Mody College of Architecture (PMCA), Cuttack and discussed the issue of rising heatwaves and strategies needed to combat it using better urban planning and designing. The conference was at-

tended by about 90 persons from the field of planning and architecture. "Lack of climate responsive planning and design is leading us towards public health concerns and poor liveability with compromised thermal comfort and deteriorating air quality," Rajneesh Sareen, Programme Director, CSE highlighted. "Density of building, orientation of the street, distance to greenery and water bodies are some of the factors that affect heat stress. Master plans and building byelaws need to be amended to include these factors as a part of cooling strategy," Sareen added. "Innovation in designing of buildings, less use of technology such as air conditioner and other cooling instruments can reduce the temperature of the city.

Constable recruitment: HC allows 4 yrs of age relaxation

POST NEWS NETWORK
Cuttack, Jan 24: The Orissa High Court Tuesday asked the Additional Chief Secretary of the Home department to allow four years of relaxation in the upper age limit of those applying for the constable (civil) posts in the Odisha Police advertised December 30, 2022, an official said. Justice AK Mohapatra gave the directive while hearing a batch of petitions seeking age relaxation for the constable posts. According to the case details,

the State Selection Board (SSB) has invited applications from eligible candidates for filling the 4,790 posts of constables (civil) in the Odisha Police December 30, 2022. The upper age limit for the applicants was 23, it was learnt. A few of the candidates, however, moved the HC seeking relaxation of the upper age limit from 23 to 32 for the unreserved (UR) category applicants. They claimed that many of the eligible candidates could not get the chance to apply for the constable jobs as there was no recruitment

to the post in the last four years. While considering the petitioners' plight, the HC allowed four years of relaxation in the upper age limit for the post. The age relaxation is, however, applicable to the particular notification. "The SSB is not required to cancel the advertisement. It shall publish a corrigendum by granting age relaxation of four years by January 30, 2023. Besides, a fresh date for holding the recruitment examination will be fixed by February 20, 2023 and subsequently published by the SSB," the HC observed.

KIIT inks MoU with NBCC for skill-based training



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: The KIIT Deemed-to-be-University Tuesday signed a MoU with the National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) to impart skill-based programmes to the students of both KIIT and KISS and make them industry ready. The function was attended by the founder of KIIT-KISS Achyuta Samanta and GM HR of NBCC Debasis Satpathy. As per the MoU, skill development and industry-oriented internship training will be provided for KIIT and KISS students with a focus on SC/ST and students from the financially weaker section. In his address, Samanta called upon NBCC to also set up a research facility on the KIIT campus. He said that KIIT has witnessed significant growth over the years and has excelled in various

national and international rankings. The GM of NBCC hailed the achievements of KIIT and said that it is one of the few institutions from Odisha known the world over. He said that under the skilling initiative, students from KIIT and KISS can also visit NBCC project sites outside the state for exposure. NBCC also signed a MoU with the Kandhamal district administration for the construction and renovation of CHCs under various social welfare schemes. Samanta, who represents Kandhamal as an MP in the Lok Sabha, said the district has shown phenomenal developments in different socio-economic parameters and stands at the 9th place among all aspirational districts in the country. Kandhamal CDMO Manoj Kumar Upadhyaya signed MoU on behalf of the district administration.

2 Odisha students included in Pariksha Pe Charcha with PM

POST NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi, January 24: Two students from Ganjam district will be among 102 students from different states of the country participating in the sixth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) - 2023 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Talkatora Indoor Stadium here January 27. Sreyash Kumar Tripathy and Ayush Dash both students of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas in Ganjam district will participate in Pariksha Pe Charcha along with their teacher Ramakrushna Patti. According to the ministry of Education, more than 43 thousands students and over eight thousands teachers from Odisha registered for pariksha pe charcha this year. At least four thousand parents also registered for Pariksha pe Charcha with the Prime Minister. Union Education Minister said Tuesday that over 20 lakh questions have been received from the students.

Edu directly proportional to discipline of mind: Satpathy

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: The first talk of the year for the SAI Thought Leadership Series was delivered by Spiritual Thinker, Writer & Philanthropist, Chandra Bhanu Satpathy Tuesday at SAI International School, where he touched upon the 'Value of Indian Culture & Tradition' and shared his valuable insights on the pivotal role of Indian values in education & leadership. He emphasized on how the religious & cultural values of India provide a rich tapestry for the country's youth to learn from, being the agents of change as thoughtful leaders of the 21st century. It was also streamed live on YouTube for the parents of SAI International Education Group. Addressing the students, Satpathy said, "Education is di-



rectly proportional to discipline of mind & discipline comes from the culture passed on through generations, from our forefathers as a legacy that is never to stay static but to evolve with time." Igniting the young minds with essential life lessons, Satpathy shed some light on how the ancient Puranas, Upanishads, Mahabharata & Ramayana depict the essence of Indian values & culture in the most sublime way and how the teachings from these contribute towards one's personality in totality, beyond just academics.



Achievers with accomplishments in the national arena of science, technology & innovation were felicitated on this occasion. Expressing her views on the session, Silpi Sahoo, Chairperson, SAI International Education Group, said, "With improved learning & health, increased tolerance, and opportunities to come together with others, our age-old culture preserved in scriptures, contributes immensely towards enhancing our quality of life and increases overall well-being for both individuals and communities."

NIA nabs top Maoist from Malkangiri

AGENCIES
Malkangiri, Jan 24: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has reportedly nabbed a dreaded Maoist Ranju Khila alias Chanti from the Swabhiman Anchal here Tuesday, sources said. As per reports, Chanti was involved in the 2012 ambush on BSF personnel which resulted in the death of four jawans and was carrying a bounty of Rs 3 lakh. Chanti was earlier arrested by the Malkangiri police and had been out on bail before the NIA nabbed him.

Digital learning centre inaugurated

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: Humara Bachpan Trust (HBT) observed National Girl Child Day Tuesday in the presence of 60 adolescent girls and women from five communities at Baramunda here.

Despite gag, parties to screen BBC's Modi...

Continued from P1
Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan also urged Vijayan not to allow screening of the documentary and sought his urgent intervention in the matter. In a Facebook post, Muraleedharan said that re-introduction of allegations rejected by the Supreme Court questions the credibility of the highest court of the country. The Centre had last week directed blocking of multiple YouTube videos and Twitter posts sharing links to the documentary. The two-part BBC documentary, which claims it investigated certain aspects relating to the 2002 Gujarat riots when Modi was the chief minister of that state, has been trashed by the Ministry of External Affairs as a 'propaganda piece'. Meanwhile in a separate development a section of students of the University of Hyderabad (UoH) screened the BBC documentary on its campus, prompting the University authorities to seek a report. It was screened Sunday by a group of students under the banner 'Fraternity Movement-HCU unit'. However, no permission was sought by the students' group from the authorities before screening the documentary.

Rijiju's fresh salvo against judiciary...

Continued from P1
The Supreme Court had uploaded January 19 its letters publicly refuting the government's objections to the elevation of three candidates, including an openly gay advocate, as judges. The disclosure led to disquiet in the security establishment as the practice has always been to keep the confidentiality of intelligence agencies who scrutinise prospective candidates for appointments to the higher judiciary the High Court and Supreme Court. Meanwhile in a separate development, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal took a swipe at Rijiju over his remarks that the government has not taken a single step to undermine the judiciary, asking whether his 'controversial statements' were meant to strengthen it. Reacting to the remarks, Sibal tweeted, "Rijiju: Another gem. 'The Modi government has not taken a single step to undermine the judiciary...' (sic). Are all your (Rijiju) controversial statements meant to strengthen the judiciary," the former law minister asked. "You might believe it. We lawyers don't," the senior advocate said.

Chimps and humans share risk-taking behaviour

Adolescent chimpanzees share some of the same risk-taking behaviours as human teens, but they may be less impulsive than their human counterparts, according to a new research. The study gets at age-old nature-or-nurture questions about why adolescents take more risks: because of environment or because of biological predispositions? It is published by the American Psychological Association, US. "Adolescent chimpanzees are in some sense facing the same psychological tempest that human teens are," said lead researcher Alexandra Rosati, University of Michigan, US. "Our findings show that several key features of human adolescent psychology are also seen in our closest primate relatives,"

said Rosati. According to the study, the researchers conducted two tests involving food rewards with 40 wild-born chimpanzees at a sanctuary in Republic of Congo. The chimpanzees voluntarily participated in the games in order to receive food treats, the study said. The research is published in the Journal of Experimental Psychology: General. Chimpanzees can live to be 50 years old and experience adolescence at about 8 to 15. Like humans, chimpanzees show rapid changes in hormone levels during adolescence, start forming new bonds with peers, show increases in aggression and compete for social status, the study said. According to the study, in the first test, adolescent and adult



chimpanzees could choose between two containers in a gambling task. One container always contained peanuts, a food that chimpanzees somewhat like. The other container concealed either a disliked food - a cucumber slice - or a favourite food - a banana slice. The chimpanzees could play it safe and get the peanuts, or take a chance for some coveted banana at the risk of ending up with unappetizing cucumber, the study said. The scientists recorded the chimpanzees' emotional reactions and vocalizations, including

moans, whimpers, screams, banging on the table or scratching themselves. Saliva samples also were collected to track hormone levels, the study said. During several rounds of the test, adolescent chimpanzees took the risky option more often than adult chimpanzees, but adolescents and adults had similar negative reactions when they received cucumber, the study said. The study also included a second test, modelled after the famous 'marshmallow test' with human children, which examined delayed gratification where chimpanzees could receive one banana slice immediately or wait for one minute to receive three slices. Both adolescent and adult chimpanzees chose the greater delayed reward at a similar rate.

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Ganjam tops nation in MGNREGA work



in 2022-23 fiscal, they said.

In 2021-22, Ganjam district provided 100 days of work to 1,29,290 households and topped the country.

The district had also generated 2,99,00,497 man-days of work under the rural employment scheme during the last fiscal, ranking fourth in the country, they said.

The job created under the labour-intensive scheme has helped rural people to sustain their livelihoods during the post-pandemic period and helped the job-seekers to stay back in their native villages without returning to their workplaces where they were employed before the outbreak of the Covid-19 in the country, said Vassan.

Various infrastructure projects like cattle hostels, rural parks, rural tourist circuits, model hatcheries, library-cum-infotainment centres, model ponds, cremation sheds, gymnasiums and others were taken up under the scheme, apart from construction of roads, and drains, he said.

Over 4 lakh migrant workers had returned to Ganjam when a national lockdown was imposed in 2020 to check the spread of coronavirus. Several workers stayed back even after the situation had normalised, which was leading to an increase in demand for jobs in the MGNREGA, said Berhampur MP, Chandra Sekhar Sahu.

cer, Ganjam zilla parishad (ZP), said. Ganjam was followed by Barmer (2.18 crore) in Rajasthan and Tiruvannamalai (2.13 crore) in Tamil Nadu in generating man days during the period.

Kandhamal district (35,141), Barmera (34,994) and Bolangir (26,209) stood second, third and fourth respectively in the country in providing jobs to 100 households during the period, the officials said.

Ganjam district has also achieved the top position (58 per cent) among 30 districts of the state in the participation of women under the scheme, the officials said.

The district has an annual target of generating 3.54 crore man-days

Man shoots arrow at nephew over suspected sorcery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur/Ghasipura, Jan 24: A youth sustained critical injuries after he was shot at with an arrow by his uncle over suspected witchcraft and sorcery at Bandhasimulia village under Ghasipura police limits in Keonjhar district, Monday.

The injured nephew was identified as Ratnakar Bindhani and the accused as Rabi Bindhani of the village. The incident occurred when Ratnakar was busy in some discussion with some villagers. Suddenly, his uncle Rabi shot an arrow at him. Ratnakar has been admitted to the Anandapur hospital for treatment.

On being informed, police rushed to the spot and arrested Rabi for the offence. A case was registered in this connection and further investigation was on.

Police van overturns while chasing ganja smugglers; 2 injured

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Jan 24: Two officials were seriously injured after a police vehicle turned turtle near Kradikupa village under Mohana police limits of this district Monday morning. The accident took place while the police van was chasing another vehicle involved in ganja smuggling. The contraband-laden vehicle was coming from Antarba side.

As per reports, the police van overturned during the chase after its driver lost control over the vehicle while negotiating a turn.

Assistant sub-inspector LV Basupali and the vehicle's driver suffered injuries in the accident. They were initially rushed to the Mohana Community Health Centre and later shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.



VOICING GRIEVANCES: Women coming out of the Keonjhar Collectorate after submitting a memorandum to the ADM alleging illegal sand mining and smuggling near Silisuan village bordering Jhumpura and Sadar tehsils, Tuesday OP PHOTO

'Bring Netaji's Austin to Cuttack'



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 24: Demands are being made to bring Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Baby Austin car to his birthplace 'Janakinath Bhawan' at Odia Bazar in Cuttack, after the state government making all efforts to place Biju Patnaik's iconic Dakota plane at the airport for public viewing.

The legendary freedom fighter had used the car from 1930 to 1941 and had reportedly travelled from Kolkata (then Calcutta) to Burma. However, the whereabouts of the

The legendary freedom fighter had used the car from 1930 to 1941 and had reportedly travelled from Kolkata (then Calcutta) to Burma. However, the whereabouts of the car is not known

The country celebrates January 23, the birthday of the nationalist leader, as Parakram Diwas. The state government has converted Janakinath Bhawan into Netaji Museum at his birthplace. The state government had brought back the Dakota aircraft used by Biju Patnaik from Kolkata January 18.

The aircraft was lying abandoned at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport for decades.

The dismantled plane will be reassembled and then positioned at a designated place at the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here for public viewing.

Temp rising; foggy mornings likely

Bhubaneswar: The night temperatures have been rising consistently across the state since the beginning of the week. A bulletin released by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday said that the maximum temperature in cities of the state might cross 30 degrees Celsius. IMD predicted that the maximum temperature in Bhubaneswar will be 32.8 degrees Celsius and in Sambalpur it will reach 33.2 degrees Celsius. The IMD said that there is unlikely to be any change in the minimum night temperature in Odisha.

Fake notice asks college girls to have boyfriends; plaint filed

PNN & AGENCIES

Paradip, Jan 24: A college in Jagatsinghpur has lodged a police complaint over a fake notice directing girl students of the institute to mandatorily have a boyfriend before Valentine's Day, February 14.

The 'notice' bearing the forged signature of the principal of SVM Autonomous College has gone viral

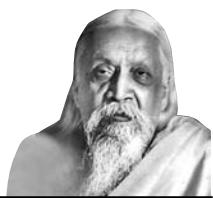
on social media. Principal Bijay Kumar Patra said, "We've seen the fake notice. Some mischievous elements have made it viral. This has been done to malign the reputation of our college."

"I've filed a complaint with the police," Patra said.

An official of Jagatsinghpur police station confirmed receipt of the principal's complaint and said that the matter is under investigation.

What the soul sees and has experienced, that it knows; the rest is appearance, prejudice and opinion.

SRI AUROBINDO



Collegium Collision

The controversy surrounding the Supreme Court's insistence on the Collegium system, which is publicly being kept alive by Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju through his daily statements to the media, is indeed very interesting to watch. Rijiju, on a daily basis, is attacking the Collegium system under very many pretexts. For example, he had recently said that choosing Judges for the High Courts and the Supreme Court is a time consuming exercise that the Hon'ble Judges need not undertake. It would save their valuable time, he claimed. What he meant, obviously, was that the prerogative of choosing 'committed' Judges best be left to his Master alone. In response, the SC Collegium set a new precedent by asking the Central government to give seniority to reiterated names over new proposals that the government had sent to the Court. The Collegium not only set a new precedent but made it amply clear that it was prepared to go all the way on a collision course.

Watching Rijiju perform his acrobatics in clear synchronization to what Prime Minister Modi's tune is playing is unfortunate just because the government has thought it fit to get itself exposed on such an undemocratic move. Supporters would certainly bandy around the excuse that even former Prime Minister late Indira Gandhi had sought to control the judiciary during the Emergency of the mid 1970s. That counter argument is precisely what the people of this country should not be desirous of listening. It is the people who voted out the Congress because of all the wrong doings of the past. Therefore it is but natural to expect that the new formation (now old by nearly 9 years!) would make every effort possible to ensure no evil of the past, no matter how attractive it may seem in current times, is allowed to be raised from the grave and offered life again. Giving excuses that the past government had resorted to this or that wrong act and so it is being repeated presently defeats the very purpose of changing political parties to form new governments after elections. And as for the bit of transparency brought about by the SC in the matter of putting up the police and intelligence reports on the judges under consideration in public domain, it would have been wise for Rijiju to appreciate the move of the Apex Court instead of criticizing it. His government should take a leaf or two from what the Court has done.

The idea of a 'committed judiciary' is in itself a very deadly thought in any democracy. It is interesting to note how the supporters of the present BJP government at the Center hit out at all those who dared to show even simple curiosity about the currently controversial BBC documentary on the Gujarat riots of 2002 and the role played in it by today's most prominent politicians. All, barring none, hit back by saying that how come the opponents of the government do not pay heed to the 'clean chit' given to PM Modi by the Supreme Court but prefer to appreciate what their former colonial masters are dishing out.

This implies the Supreme Court does cater to all whims and fancies at some point of time or the other. Now it may be the 'other' time! Yet, Rijiju is on record saying: "If Judges are involved in identifying the next judges, which is an administrative job, it will definitely have an adverse impact on their duty as a judge. Collegium system has kept the senior judges extremely busy in picking the next judges." Without refuting Rijiju on any of his many recent opinions regarding the futility of continuing the Collegium system and his support for the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) in which members will include the Chief Justice of India (ex officio chairperson) along with the Union Law Minister, Leader of the largest Opposition party in Parliament and two other prominent citizens (without doubt to be nominated by the Central government), one may wonder if this will be the done thing for all and every such appointments.

If this does become truly the accepted norm, then it could safely be said that prior to the formation of the Union Cabinet, the Prime Minister-elect should also confer with the CJI, Leader of the second largest party in the Lok Sabha and two prominent individuals to be chosen on merit for short listing of new ministers. Similarly, every Chief Minister in every state would be required to do the same. Only after this exercise is resolved should the President for the Union and the respective Governor for the state accept to swear in the new cabinet and all its ministers.

Well, there needs to be a serious rethink.

WISDOM CORNER

- The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. - MAHATMA GANDHI
- What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you. - RALPH WALDO EMERSON
- Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it. - HENRY DAVID THOREAU

WORDSWORTH

Fidimplicatory

It's an adjective that describes individuals who put their faith in someone else's views. It rather looks like the sort of word somebody has forged in a fit of misplaced inventiveness. It was created by Sir Thomas Urquhart in 1652 in a book with a Greek title which has the subtitle The Discovery of a Most Exquisite Jewel. He took it from the church Latin fides implicita, implicit faith. He used it as a scathing epithet for academic types, gown-men, who were very happy to believe the assertions of their predecessors and were prepared to take all things literally on trust and without examination. So far as anyone knows, Sir Thomas was the only person who ever used it. It did appear in an issue of Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine in 1817, but in a caricature of Sir Thomas that had him refer to "those shallow and fidimplicatory coxcombs, who fill our too credulous ears with their quisquiliary debaterations". Those are a nice pair of knock-down words, as Humpty Dumpty might have said to Alice. Quisquiliary is Urquhart's variation on quisquilian, meaning worthless or trivial; debateration comes from the Latin debaterare, to prate or blab out. These old-timers certainly knew how to insult people. We've largely lost the art of elaborate epithetical impugment, relying more on crude invective these days. Polysyllabic scurrility should be our watchword!

Fiddlesticks

A fiddlestick was undoubtedly at first a violin bow. (Both fiddle and violin come from the Roman goddess of joy, Vitula, who gave her name to a stringed instrument; fiddle came down to us via the Germanic languages, violin through the Romance ones.) Fiddlestick is recorded from the fifteenth century, and Shakespeare used a proverb based on it in Henry IV: "the devil rides on a fiddle-stick", meaning that a commotion has broken out; the imagery is obviously related to the broomstick of a witch, and perhaps there's some thought behind it of the noise that a fiddle might make if the devil got to play it. At some point in Shakespeare's lifetime, it seems fiddlestick began to be used for something insignificant or trivial. This may have been because a violin bow was regarded as inconsequential or perhaps simply because the word sounds intrinsically silly. It took on a humorous slant as a word one could use to replace another in a contemptuous response to a remark. George Farquhar used it in his play Sir Henry Wildair of 1701: "Golden pleasures! golden fiddlesticks!". From here it was a short step to using the word as a disparaging comment to mean that something just said was nonsense. There is a link between the violin bow and ship's table senses of fiddle, in that the word has been used in several fields for various wooden contrivances with a more or less fanciful resemblance to a violin and that this is the source of the ship usage. But otherwise, ship's fiddles and the retort are unconnected.

FOCUS ECONOMY

NATION OF THE RICH

Speeches of Union ministers, especially at the top, the Prime Minister, are prepared by highly qualified people and many announcements are made regarding what is often said the fast-paced progress of the country. However, public memory is short and the sufferings of the poor and the impoverished remain. Much hype is being created following India taking over the presidency of G-20, and high expectations being raised about the forthcoming Union budget.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE RURAL SHIFT OF THE POPULATION IS CLEARLY MANIFEST AS ALSO FALL IN REAL INCOMES



While the government is helping the business class in various ways, the so-called experts are against subsidies, which mostly go to the poorer sections

Richest: The India Story'

While the government is helping the business class in various ways, the so-called experts are against subsidies, which mostly go to the poorer sections. However, it is necessary to point out here that till date no data is available in the country regarding facilities or incentives given to businessmen to promote their products and earn higher profitability. But subsidies to the poor are always highlighted. A few years back, a Deputy Governor of the RBI had estimated that the rich consume much more benefits from the exchequer than the large number of poor and economically weaker segments of the population.

The Oxfam India CEO, Amitabh Behar pointed out that "India is unfortunately on a fast track to becoming a country only for the rich." The country's marginalised - Dalits, adivasis, Muslims, women and informal sector workers are continuing to suffer in a system which "ensures the survival of the richest." It has been clearly revealed in the report that the rich benefited from reduced corporate taxes, tax exemptions and other incentives, the report added. And the present government is determined to promote their interests.

To correct this disparity, there have been various suggestions to tax the rich and channel the money for social infrastructure spending, especially in health and edu-

cation sectors. Now Oxfam has reiterated this and, in the section on India, asked the finance minister to implement progressive tax measures such as wealth tax in the upcoming budget.

A two per cent tax on the entire wealth of India's billionaires would support the nutrition of the country's malnourished population for the next three years, the report stated. A one per cent wealth tax could fund the National Health Mission, India's largest health-care scheme, for more than 1.5 years, it added. Taxing the top 100 Indian billionaires at 2.5 per cent or taxing the top 10 Indian billionaires at 5 per cent would nearly cover the entire amount required to bring an estimated 150 million children back into school, Oxfam rightly observed.

But unfortunately, the corporate tax rate has been slashed from 30 per cent to 22 per cent and no resultant investment boom by the private sector has been manifest. If such encouragement has not inspired the top business class, why not increase the corporate tax rate to say 28 per cent or so.

If the government continues to protect the business class and does not want to tax them, development projects would have to be reduced as also welfare expenditure. Thus, if there is no enhanced - not 'adequate', as this term is somewhat confusing - allocation for health and education or even for the rural job scheme or rural

housing scheme, the economic conditions of the impoverished sections would not improve.

The Periodic Labour Force Surveys show an increase in workers engaged in agriculture between 2018-19 and 2020-21. At the same time, percentage of workers engaged in manufacturing and services declined. The rural shift of the population is clearly manifest as also fall in real incomes. Growth in nominal wages of both farm and non-farm workers has lagged behind price changes or inflation for many months.

Meanwhile, in the present fiscal manufacturing is estimated to grow much slower this year at about one-third or one-fourth of the rate recorded last year. Export growth may be around half this year affecting products such as textiles and jewellery which are job rich. Another job-rich sector is construction that has barely risen above its pre-pandemic position after gaining some momentum last year.

Considering all these factors, specially the government's ambitious projects, the rural infrastructure spend, particularly on health, education and housing may not be sufficient enough to bring about a real transformation. By such transformation, it is meant that the per capita income of the lowest 50 per cent of the population would increase significantly. This would enable higher growth keeping in view the fact that the richest 10 per cent of the population contribute just 4 per cent to the nation's goods and services tax (GST) collections while the bottom 50 per cent pay 64 per cent, as per the Oxfam report.

As this writer has reiterated time and again, the development strategy has to be geared towards the rural sector, especially the backward villages with the involvement of the panchayats and the voluntary organisations working at the grassroots levels. Resources are obviously a big constraint for which, taxing the rich is imperative. Moreover, tax monitoring has to be done scrupulously so that the influential corporate class as also high income professionals do not get an opportunity to show reduced incomes.

The writer is Sr: Consultant & Guest Faculty at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kolkata.

IN JEST THIS

Humans have been sitting around for ages

Millions of years ago, a cave-man named Oongah stumbled upon a large rock with a flat upper surface. Exhausted from hunting, he decided to take a break on the rock. "Feel good," he thought. After a few minutes of sitting in the hot sun, he had another thought: "Feel even better in cave."

Oongah was a strong man, but he could barely lift the rock off the ground. He enlisted the help of his friend, Dongah, but the two of them were able to move the rock only a meter before Dongah dropped it and walked away in a huff. Didn't life pose enough challenges without having to lift rocks for no reason?

But when Dongah dropped the rock, it rolled on its side and Oongah had a brainstorm. The rock was heavy but it could be rolled slowly without much effort. It took him just an hour to roll the rock into his cave, but twice as long to convince his wife that it was worth keeping. She liked the space in the cave and didn't want a big rock in the middle of it. If sitting on the ground

was good enough for their ancestors, it was good enough for them.

Within a week, Oongah had made improvements to his new sitting arrangement. He rolled the rock against a wall, so he had a backrest. And he rolled another rock in front of it, so he could put his legs up. "Feel like paradise," he thought.

His friends were impressed. They took turns sitting on the rock and putting their legs up. They realised what they had been missing in their own caves and felt envious of Oongah.

A caveman named Mongah offered Oongah some berries, while pointing at himself and the rock. Oongah understood what Mongah wanted. He searched for a couple of special rocks and rolled them into Mongah's cave. And just like that, the first furniture moving business was born.

Mongah was delighted. He gave Oongah a positive review through a yelp that was heard far and wide. Other cavemen came to see what the fuss was about, and soon Oongah

was rolling rocks into dozens more caves. He was recognised everywhere, gradually becoming the world's first rock star.

But some of the elders were not happy about these developments. An older caveman named Hongah was particularly upset that the youngsters were getting so much satisfaction from rolling stones. He did not believe in moving rocks, nor did he believe that cavemen should be sitting on them. He knew that sitting on the ground occasionally was unavoidable, but now Oongah was elevating the practice.

A sedentary lifestyle might lead to all kinds of problems, he thought. But the youngsters ignored his protests. As if to spite him, Hongah's own son got himself five rocks, two serving as leg rests and another two serving as arm rests.

It wasn't long before Hongah felt vindicated in his beliefs. Two cave-men began to complain about back pain. Another caveman hurt his head falling off a rock. The word spread around the land, and de-

mand for Oongah's services hit rock bottom.

Desperate to keep his business going, Oongah hired a handsome caveman named Bongah to sit on rocks periodically throughout the day while smiling and flexing his muscles. Through Bongah's endorsement, Oongah was able to convince his fellow cavemen that it was good for them to break up long periods of walking with a little sitting.

Oongah would have been pleased to know that millions of years later, in the 21st century, scientists were convincing people that it was good for them to break up long periods of sitting with a little walking.

Just five minutes of walking for every 25 minutes of sitting can significantly reduce blood sugar and blood pressure, according to researchers at Columbia University in New York City.

If Oongah could have read their study in the journal "Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise," he'd also be convinced to do less sitting. Their research is rock-solid.



Melvin Durai

JUST FIVE MINUTES OF WALKING FOR EVERY 25 MINUTES OF SITTING CAN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE BLOOD SUGAR AND BLOOD PRESSURE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Inclusive nationalism

Sir, Appropriately and rightly so, the family of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has pulled away itself from taking part in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) programme of observing the legendary freedom fighter's 126th birth anniversary on January 23, as the family felt that the organisation's philosophy has always been paradoxical with that of Bose's inclusive beliefs. The RSS has intensified its vain efforts to co-opt Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose into its pantheon of saffron heroes. The Sangh Parivar's political orientation with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has always been conflicting and seeking to distort and falsify all that the hero stood for secularism. No doubt, Bose was a devout Hindu with a saintly streak of self-abnegation in him. He was deeply inspired by the Bhagavad Gita and the teachings of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda. Yet, he was uncompromising in his belief of Hindu-Muslim unity. If Bose were alive today, he would have rejected outright the RSS' agenda of turning India into a Hindu Rashtra, as it is totally antithetical to his ideology of secular and inclusive Indian nationalism.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Deplorable state

Sir, A statue is meant for giving reverence and gratitude to the departed noble soul. Many statues are lying in a dilapidated condition in our state including those in the state capital. We got freedom from the clutches of the British Raj due to the honest efforts of these great patriots. But, these statues are cleaned and garlanded only on the birthdays of these great men and women and on other special occasions. This is neither fair nor justifiable. On the remaining days of the year, anti-social elements take advantage of these dilapidated statues. Banners, leaflets, hoardings and pamphlets hover around these statues throughout the year. This is painful and deplorable. The culture department should rise to the occasion and keep these statues neat and clean all throughout the year and not just on special occasions. Advertisements should be banned around these statues. Proper security arrangements should be made for the safe-keeping of the statues. Then only it will be our true tribute and reverence for these colossal figures who gave us liberation from the foreign rule.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

national

of the day quote

Our coal, iron and mica light up big cities in Gujarat and Maharashtra and power the nation's industries but Jharkhand is the most backward state. It has been exploited for long...For the past 20 years BJP has exploited it but we won't allow it...Now we will govern our state

HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

The leaders of the RJD claim every now and then that there was a deal between the RJD and the JD-U. If any such things had happened in the past, it should be disclosed in the Executive Committee meeting of the party. Why are RJD leaders saying this all the time? Do they want to remove Nitish Kumar

UPENDRA KUSHWAHA | D-U PARLIAMENTARY BOARD PRESIDENT

It is difficult to be born in India and it is more difficult to be born as a human being. If there is an opportunity to be born in Uttar Pradesh, then it is a pride for an Indian

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Sisi begins visit to India

New Delhi: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi arrived here Tuesday on a three-day state visit with a focus on enhancing bilateral ties in a range of areas including agriculture, digital domain and trade. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sisi will hold wide-ranging talks Wednesday following which the two sides are expected to ink half a dozen agreements to boost ties in a number of areas.

BJP leader shot dead in Manipur

Imphal: Manipur BJP leader Laishram Rameswar Singh was shot dead by some armed miscreants near his house at Khetri Leikai in Thoubal district Tuesday, police said. Police, who have arrested one of the suspects, said that the reason of the killing is not yet known while a probe is on to unearth the motive and nab the culprits. Singh, 50, the convener of the state ex-servicemen cell of the ruling BJP, was standing near the gate of his house when the gunmen, came in a car, fired at him and then fled. He was immediately rushed to a private hospital where he succumbed to his bullet injuries.

Army to procure new-age drones

New Delhi: The Indian Army has kick started the process to procure 130 new-age drone systems to bolster its overall surveillance and combat capabilities along sensitive border areas, officials said.

5G network can be misused: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 24: Warning against the vulnerabilities of the high-speed 5G telecom network, papers submitted at a key security meet have noted that it can provide an excellent platform for middlemen and agents for creating linkages for crimes such as drug trafficking, human and organ trafficking, money laundering and terror financing. The papers noted that the 5G network is built on easily accessible and open Internet protocols and it inherits all the vulnerabilities of previous generations which make it vulnerable to cyber-attacks and compromising the security of the entire system. The IPS officers who wrote the papers suggested that a reserved 5G bandwidth and highly secured equipment should be developed proactively for sensitive government related communications and for military usage and only approved and authenticated firms with the least cyber risk or with maximum



safety protocols should be allowed to work in for the government agencies. "With crypto currencies and decentralised banking systems gaining further popularity using the real-time 5G networks, the linkages and financial trail will be difficult to trace." "The 5G can provide an excellent platform for the middlemen and agents for creating linkages for crimes like drug trafficking, human and organ trafficking, money laundering, terror financing, etc.," the papers said. Apart from the prime minister, the three-day annual conference was attended by Union Home Minister Amit

Shah, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and about 350 top police officers of the country last week-end. The 5G network core is built on easily accessible and open Internet protocols such as HTTP and Transport Layer Security (TLS). In a Network-Slicing environment, different sub-networks will have different natures of cyber security. Keys for radio interface encryption are delivered across unsecured routes. Vulnerabilities such as IDOR (Insecure Direct Object Reference) could arise. Due to network function virtualisation (NFV), criminals can employ or execute attacks to access and even alter telephone numbers (target lists) to be monitored. There are several improvements in 5G that support such remote control functions like drones, robotic surgery, etc. But criminals can exploit this aspect too. Another issue in 5G is the operations of edge computing where processing is done at decentralised inter-communicating nodes close to the user network.



The government's negative attitude towards panchayats and villages became evident when it repeatedly postponed elections. Eventually elections were held on the orders of the court and the sarpanch was elected by the votes of the public

BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | CONGRESS LEADER

PM'S 'PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA' JAN 27

A record 38 lakh students registered this year for participation in "Pariksha Pe Charcha", an annual interaction of students with Prime Minister Narendra Modi about issues relating to exam stress. The registrations are at least 15 lakh higher than last year, according to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan



QUAKE HITS NEPAL

Tremors felt in Delhi-NCR

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 24: A 5.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal Tuesday afternoon with tremors also being felt in the northwestern region of India, including Delhi and Jaipur.

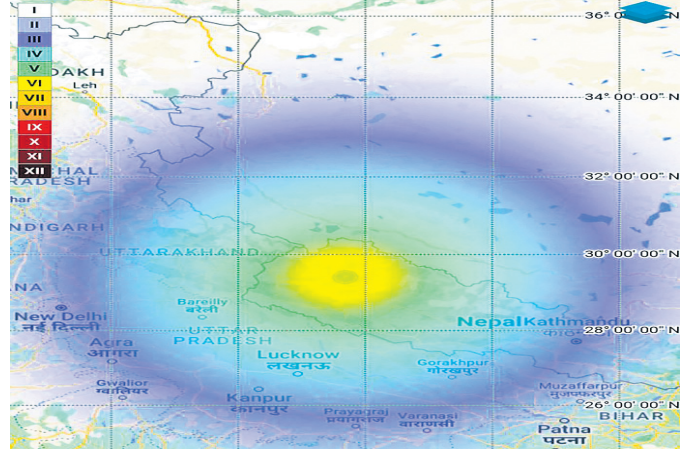
At least one person was killed and another was injured in the earthquake that struck Nepal's Bajura and Bajhang districts.

According to preliminary information, a number of houses were either destroyed or damaged in various parts of the two districts as a result of the earthquake, measuring 5.9 Richter scale, with its epicentre in Bajura district of western Nepal at 2.43 p.m. (local time).

Police said at least two houses in Gaumul Rural Municipality of Bajura were completely destroyed as a result of the earthquake.

The National Centre for Seismology said the quake struck at 2.28 pm and the epicentre was located in western Nepal, about 148 km east of Pithoragarh in the border state of Uttarakhand.

Reports of shaking furniture, ceiling fans and wall frames came from Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan as



the strong tremors struck the Himalayan region.

A senior seismologist said the epicentre of the quake was located in the 2,400 km Himalayan Collision Zone that stretches from the Hindukush mountain ranges to as far as present-day Myanmar.

The Himalayan Collision Zone is a seismically active region and the 5.8 magnitude tremor was the fourth earthquake along the 2,400 km region in the 24 hours ending 3 p.m. Tuesday.

A 4.8 magnitude earthquake had hit the Cachar region of Assam

Monday at 7:12 p.m. And two quakes of 3.2 and 2.8 magnitudes were reported in Bhutan at 10:55 a.m. And 12:53 p.m. Tuesday.

In a tweet in Hindi, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "Tremors were felt in Delhi. I hope all of you are safe."

"It was scary as the tremors hit," said Shantanu, who resides in a high-rise tower in Noida.

Amit Pandey, a Delhi resident, said, "I was on the fifth floor of one of the blocks at the Civic Centre. I felt a growling noise beneath my feet and a mild shake, when the

WESTERN NEPAL IS FREQUENTLY HIT BY EARTHQUAKES FROM MILD TO MODERATE INTENSITY

IN DECEMBER 2022, THREE TREMORS JOLTED WESTERN NEPAL IN QUICK SUCCESSION

IN APRIL 2015, A DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE OF 7.8-MAGNITUDE ROCKED NEPAL, KILLING NEARLY 9,000 PEOPLE AND WOUNDING NEARLY 22,000 OTHERS

IT ALSO DAMAGED OVER 800,000 HOUSES AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS

tremor passed through perhaps."

Many others in the towering Civic Centre, the headquarters of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, also felt the tremors which hit when the House proceedings were underway.

Tremors were felt in parts of Rajasthan's capital city of Jaipur as well. There was no immediate report of loss of life or property from there.

Tremors were felt in many parts of Uttarakhand, including Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, and people came out of their homes and offices in panic.

There was no immediate reports of damage to property and injury to anyone, officials said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Jan 24: Several people are feared trapped after a four-storey residential building collapsed in Lucknow's Hazratganj Tuesday, officials said.

At least nine people have been pulled out of the rubble and sent to hospitals, even as the rescue operation is on, they said. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who earlier talked about the death of three people in the incident, retracted his comment later.

Talking to PTL, he said there were initial reports of three people in unconscious condition and were feared dead. "But now information is coming that nobody is dead. Those rescued from the building have been moved to hospitals," Pathak said.

"The rescue operation is going on. NDRF-SDRF personnel have arrived at the spot. Police jawans and fire brigade personnel have



also arrived at the spot," he said. Asked if the collapse on Wazir Hasan road was due to an earthquake earlier in the day, Lucknow District Magistrate Suryopal Gangwar said, "It is too early to comment as our efforts currently are directed to save the lives of the people trapped inside."

He, however, said locals informed the authorities that some work was going on in the basement of the building. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to provide adequate treatment to the injured. Directions have also been issued to hospitals to stay alert.

FIR lodged against Swami Prasad Maurya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Jan 24: An FIR was registered against Samajwadi Party leader Swami Prasad Maurya Tuesday over his controversial remarks on 'Ramcharitmanas', police said.

"A case has been registered against Swami Prasad Maurya at the Hazratganj police station for allegedly outraging religious feelings with his recent remarks on Ramcharitmanas," a police officer said.

The FIR was registered following a complaint by Shivendra Mishra, a resident of Aishbagh locality in Bazar Khala area of Uttar Pradesh, he said.

The case was lodged under relevant sections of IPC, including 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 298 (deliberate intention of wounding religious feelings), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 153 A (wanton vilification or attacks upon the religion, race, place of birth, residence etc), police said.

Meanwhile, Lette Hanuman Temple, where the statue of Lord Hanuman is in a lying position, in the state capital has banned the entry of the Samajwadi Party leader. A banner saying "Adharmi Swami Prasad Maurya ka mandir me pravesh varjiti" (entry of Swami Prasad Maurya inside temple is banned) has been put up outside the temple.



Youth dies after being dragged by car for 12 km



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Surat, Jan 24: A 24-year-old man riding a motorcycle was killed after he was knocked down by a car and dragged for around 12 km after getting stuck under the four-wheeler in Surat district of Gujarat, an incident which revived the memories of the Delhi road accident wherein a young woman had similarly lost her life.

The hit-and-run accident occurred on the night of January 18 on the Kadodara-Bardoli road when the victim, later identified as Sagar Patil, was riding the bike while his wife was in the back seat, a police officer said Tuesday.

A citizen recorded the video of the speeding car on his mobile phone which helped the police in identifying the vehicle, he said, adding the driver of the car will be arrested soon.

"The victim Sagar Patil was riding a motorcycle with his wife Ashvini sitting pillion on the night of last Wednesday when a

speeding car hit the two-wheeler but the driver didn't stop and kept driving. The woman fell. She was rushed to a hospital but Patil was not found at the spot," said Surat (Rural) superintendent of police Hitesh Joysar.

"At late night (hours after the incident), a body was found in an area located around 12 kilometres away from the spot of the accident under the limits of the Kamrej police station.

The body was of Patil. Prima facie, he was killed after getting stuck under the car and dragged on the road," he said. The police officer said a citizen sent him a video clip which helped in getting the details of the car and detecting the crime. "The accused will be arrested soon," he said. A 20-year-old woman was killed after her scooter was hit by a car, and her body was dragged for 12 kilometres under the four-wheeler and was found by a road in the Kanjhawala area of Delhi January 1, police had said in a statement.

DELHI-LIKE HORROR IN GUJARAT

AI modifies in-flight alcohol service policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 24: Amid recent incidents of unruly passenger behaviour, Air India has modified its in-flight alcohol service policy wherein cabin crew have been told to tactfully further serving of alcohol if needed.

The Tata group-owned airline has been slapped with penalties in the last few days by DGCA for the unruly behaviour of passengers onboard two international flights for reporting lapses.

The exact changes in the revised policy could not be immediately ascertained. According to the revised policy guests should not be permitted to drink alcohol unless served by the cabin crew and that the cabin crew be attentive to identifying guests that might be consuming their own alcohol.

"Service of alcoholic beverages must be carried out in a reasonable and safe manner. This includes tactfully refusing to (further) serve a guest alcohol," as per the policy. In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said the airline has reviewed its existing in-flight alcohol service policy, taking reference from other carriers' practice and input from the US National Restaurants Association's guidelines.

Advertisement for M/S OM SARALA SECURITY SERVICES PVT. LTD. including details of services, appointment process, and contact information.

Advertisement for National Institute of Technology Delhi recruitment of faculty positions, including details of the institute, application process, and contact information.

Advertisement for the Office of the Superintending Engineer Rural Works Division, Balliguda, including details of the division, bid identification number, and application process.

Advertisement for East Coast Railway tender for coaching mitra, including details of the tender, value, and submission process.

Advertisement for Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, including details of the company, branch office, and a notice regarding symbolic possession.



A Saraswati puja pandal themed on teacher recruitment scam being prepared in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

NATURE LOVERS WORRIED IN TN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 24: Nature lovers and conservationists are worried as the number of arriving Olive Ridley Turtles during the breeding season has come down.

In the areas between Basant Nagar and Neelankari in Chennai, around a dozen nests of Olive Ridley turtles have come up. The nesting season of the Olive Ridley turtles commenced in the first week of January but the arrival of the turtles in Chennai and adjoining beaches has come down drastically.

Chennai conservationist Arjun R said, "The Olive Ridley turtles have to come by this time of the year. The arrivals this season are less as the season of their breeding has commenced in January first week itself." Wildlife department officials said that the department has already set up nests for the turtles to lay eggs in Besant Nagar, Neelankari and Injambakkam.

Environmentalist Perivayaran Swaminathan, who closely monitors the Olive Ridley turtles, said, "The breeding season has begun but the arrival is less. However, I think that by February end we can collect the turtle eggs along the coastline."



He said that there are a large number of Olive Ridley turtle carcasses washed ashore and that this is due to the turtles flippers getting entangled in gill nets and trawlers. The turtles after getting stuck in the nets try to wriggle out but eventually end up drowning. Even though there are devices to remove the turtles from the nets but the fishermen don't use them as that would lead to a large catch of fish getting out from the net.

Conservationists and wildlife experts are planning a major campaign among the fishermen community across the coastal belts of Tamil Nadu to impress on them the necessity of the protection of the Olive Ridley turtles. Another conservationist Sunil K.R. said, "We will be conducting a major campaign across the fishermen belt so that they understand the need for protecting these turtles."

Question on 'Azad Kashmir' figures in ABTA test paper

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 24: Controversy over a question on "Azad Kashmir" in the test paper of West Bengal School Service Commission (WBBSE) is yet to be over and a fresh row has started in the state after similar question appeared in the exam paper published by All Bengal Teachers' Association (ABTA).

Besides WBBSE officially releasing the test paper compilation every year, which contains Class 10 final test examination (pre-board) questions of some leading schools and acts as a guide for the candidates appearing for the Class 10 board examinations, ABTA also publishes a parallel exam paper on its part. The ABTA is basically an association of Left leaning school teachers in the state.

Last week there was major political uproar over the issue after a question in WBBSE's test paper was detected where the students were asked to point out the location of "Azad Kashmir" on the map. Now, a fresh uproar has started with the ABTA. A question paper released by it asks the students to write a note of "Azad Kashmir".

ABTA's general secretary Sukumar Pain admitted the existence of such a question in the association's test paper. "But the syl-



Last week, there was a major political uproar over the issue after a question in WBBSE's test paper was detected where the students were asked to point out the location of 'Azad Kashmir' on the map

labus of the board itself has reference to this matter.

The state government-approved books too have reference to this matter. Since there is a controversy in the matter, it would have been better if the related question had not been there in our test paper," he said.

Meanwhile, controversies over the question in WBBSE's test paper has reached the Central level, with the Union education ministry having sent a communique to the state education department seeking an explanatory note in the matter.

UKRAINE CRISIS, EUROPE SLOWDOWN

TN textile industry seeks export incentives

The exporters said that the economic slowdown and the uncertainty in the European market following the Ukraine war have led to a predicament for the industry which has been controlling the European market in the knitwear section



A 5 per cent interest subsidy on export credit is required for MSME and non-MSME manufacturers. It is to be noted that the buyers are delaying payment globally citing several issues

KM SUBRAMANIAN | PRESIDENT OF TIRUPPUR EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 24: The textile industry of Tamil Nadu has sought export incentives and additional credit support in the budget for 2023-24 of the Union government to be presented in Parliament on February 1.

The Tiruppur textile industry which is the pioneer for exporting of textiles from Tamil Nadu and for that matter from South India has sought for credit support to the micro, medium and small scale units (MSME). The industry has sought credit support

under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

The exporters said that the economic slowdown and the uncertainty in the European market following the Ukraine war have led to a predicament for the industry which has been controlling the European market in the knitwear section.

K.M. Subramanian, President of Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA) in a statement said, "A 5 per cent interest subsidy on export credit is required for MSME and non-MSME manufacturers. It is to be noted that the buyers are delaying payment globally citing several issues."

The Textile exporters also said

that Summer Good orders, a major order from European countries have fallen drastically for Tiruppur textile industry. Exporters and knitting company owners said that there is a decline of 30-40 per cent of the orders from the European market itself and this has affected the survival of the industry.

The exporters also demand that the quantum of rebate under RoSCTL (Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies on Export of Garments and Made-ups) which is provided as duty credit scrips, must be increased. The Tiruppur knitwear industry also want a removal of import duty on raw cotton and imposition of anti-Dumping duty on imports of Viscose Staple Yarn (VSY).

The Kancheepuram Silk Sari prices have also gone up due to the increase in import duty of silver and gold used in zari or jarigai. This has also led to the reduction in sales of Kancheepuram Sari's which are a brand in itself.

It is to be noted that Tamil Nadu accounts for 19 per cent of the textile output of the country and also 40 per cent of the spinning mills in the country. Its first in apparel production in the country and second in textile production.

FIR against Great Indian Circus



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 24: Police in Tamil Nadu have registered an FIR against the administrators of the Great Indian Circus for forcing dogs, horses and camels to perform tricks which are not approved by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

The FIR registered at the Dindigul Taluk police station after receiving a complaint from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), India, is under Sections 3 and 11(1)(a) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, and under Sections 26 of PCA Act, for forcing animals to perform unregistered tricks.

The FIR also includes Section 289 of the IPC, 1860, for negligent conduct with respect to a dog that ran into the sitting area. In its complaint to the police, PETA India also submitted evidence of a violation of laws. "Great Indian Circus condemns dogs, camels and horses to a bleak existence, denying them everything natural and important to them," said PETA India Cruelty Response Coordinator Shilpa Chaudhary on Tuesday.

Raniganj may face Joshimath-like crisis

A CAUTION ON THIS COUNT HAS BEEN FLAGGED OFF BY WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE LAST WEEK AS SHE CLAIMED THAT A JOSHIMATH-LIKE TRAGEDY IN RANIGANJ WILL AFFECT THE LIVES AND LIVELIHOOD OF OVER 20,000 PEOPLE IN THE REGION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 24: Is Raniganj, the coal belt in West Burdwan district of West Bengal, heading towards a crisis similar to that of Joshimath in Uttarakhand where land subsidence has affected hundreds of houses, shops and other establishments? For several reasons, experts do not rule out Raniganj facing a Joshimath-like situation in the coming days unless all necessary steps are taken to arrest the man-made irregularities that are making the area increasingly subsidence-prone.

A caution on this count has been flagged off by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee last week as she claimed that a Joshimath-like tragedy in Raniganj will affect the lives and livelihood of over 20,000 people in the region.

She had blamed the Central government for not providing adequate funds for rehabilitation of the people of Raniganj. Trinamool Congress MLA from Raniganj assembly constituency, Tapas Bandyopadhyay claimed that

Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA), the implementing authority for rehabilitation of the people of the affected people in the area, has received just Rs 150 crore as against the Centre-announced rehabilitation package of Rs 2,600 crore.

Local BJP leader and former mayor of Asansol Municipal Corporation Jitendra Tiwari has claimed that rampant corruption by ADDA in utilisation of the Central funds is pushing Raniganj towards this inevitable crisis. While a political slugfest in the matter is going on, IANS makes an attempt to get into the technical details on why this region has become so vulnerable to land-subsidence - somewhat like Joshimath.

According to a civil engineer Pradipta Mitra, after a mine is abandoned by the official coal excavating authority like Coal India Limited the abandoned mines need to be filled up with a mixture of sand, soil and water.

"But often, there is grave negligence in this filling up process, which creates a vacuum there in



the abandoned mines area. And after new constructions are made over these vacuum spots, the soils there are often unable to bear the weight and pressure of the new constructions and as a result frequent subsidence takes place in these areas," Mitra pointed out. However, he added, that there will be a difference in the land-subsidence nature in Raniganj that that of Joshimath.

"In case of Joshimath the entire area is highly prone to land-subsidence. However, in the case of Raniganj, those areas are prone to land subsidence where there are constructions over such abandoned mines which have not been properly filled up. So, the land-subsidence nature in Raniganj area will be in a scattered manner unlike Joshimath. Still the apprehension of loss of life and property is there," Mitra explained.

Columnist and a veteran observer of the coal sector, Sunil Mukhopadhyay, said that since the abandoned mines of Coal India Limited in the Raniganj area are

not filled up with the mixture of sand-soil-water adequately, such abandoned mines become the easy target for the smugglers for illegal coal mining.

"When regular mining takes place, the coal is excavated leaving pillars of coal blocks, which act as the support for the land over the undergrounds. Now it is the duty of the coal excavating entity to fill up the gaps between the pillars after abandoning the mines with that sand-soil-water mixture, so that the illegal miners are unable to target those coal-block pillars for illegal excavation." Now since there is blatant negligence in that filling up process, the smugglers target those pillars and start cutting and excavating coal from those pillars. Naturally, in this process the pillars become weak and the land-subsidence happens. And why does this negligence in filling up happens? The guess is easy.. it is a nexus between the officials of the coal mining entity and the coal smugglers," Mukhopadhyay added.

R-DAY PARADE Ex-KLO members to handle police band

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 24: A group of former association of banned outfit Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), all back in mainstream now, will be handling the police band at the forthcoming Republic Day parade at Alipurduar district in the northern sector of West Bengal on January 26 this year.

A district police official said that from time to time, several KLO associates, who surrendered arms voluntarily, were inducted as homeguards in the state police. "Some of them were given training in police bands. So, this year we have decided to assign such personnel the task of managing the police band at the Republic Day programme in the district," said an official of the district police.

It is learnt that the process of making them participate in the programme started around eight months back. First, they were given a couple of months of training with the police-band team associated with the Rapid Action Force battalion of the state police at Siliguri at the adjacent Darjeeling district. Thereafter they got special training from the other band-units attached to different sections and battalions. "Now, they are totally ready to make their presentation as the decorum and dignity of the Republic Day parade," the district police official said.

Airports on high alert

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 24: Security at the four international airports in Tamil Nadu has been heightened to curb the possibility of smuggling exotic species of wild animals into the country through them.

A few weeks ago, security officials at the Chennai and Tiruchi airports seized exotic species of coir snakes, ball pythons, pygmy marmosets, and star tortoises that were brought into the country from Thailand and Cambodia.

In Chennai, the exotic species were found to be in possession of a passenger, but in Tiruchi, the animals were found abandoned in the airport. Sources in the air intelligence unit said that they have received a tip-off that more such species are being sought to be brought into the country through Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai airports and these are used by people as domestic animals. In rare cases, some of these exotic species are smuggled to China where they are used as medicines.

Customs had made 11 seizures of exotic species from the Tamil Nadu airports in 2022. The seized species include albino porcupines, de brazza's monkeys, ball pythons, king snakes, and star tortoises. Five people were arrested and on questioning, admitted to a major racket behind the smuggling of exotic species into Tamil Nadu.

Police sources said that there is a thriving illegal pet trade in



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many parts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh and these exotic species are being brought in for such markets. A senior Greater Chennai Police official said: "The exotic species is a new trade which is slowly catching up in several south Indian states. The airports of Tamil Nadu are becoming the hot spots for smuggling in of exotic species. Central agencies have also provided inputs regarding the smuggling of exotic species into Tamil Nadu airports."



Everyone saw the drama of the BJP. The public had gotten fed up with their rule in the MCD. They gave mountains of garbage and ruined the entire capital

SECURITY BEEFED UP

The Delhi Police have stepped up anti-sabotage checks, verification drives and patrolling in the national capital ahead of Republic Day to thwart any untoward incidents, officials said



of the day quote

I may not be able to attend the function in person, but my best wishes are with Rahul Gandhi. He is fighting hatred and violence and has walked 3,500 kms from Kanyakumari to Kashmir spreading the message of harmony among people

Being a vast country with a diverse terrain and geography, India can have its own model for disaster or emergency response which can be emulated by other countries

We (BJP) are not just a political organisation but also a party working for social concerns... India and the whole world saw the social face of the party during the Covid period

SURGICAL STRIKE REMARKS

SINGH MONDAY HAD QUESTIONED THE SURGICAL STRIKES AND ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF PEDDLING LIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jhajar Kotli/Jammu, Jan 24: Rahul Gandhi Tuesday rebuffed his party colleague Digvijaya Singh for questioning surgical strikes calling his statement "ridiculous" as the Congress sought to stave off mounting attacks from the BJP and said the armed forces are doing their job "exceptionally well" and do not need to give any proof.

Rahul snubs Digvijaya Singh



I don't agree with Digvijaya Singh's statement. We trust the Army. The Army need not clarify on what it does. We are a democratic party. We are not a dictatorship. We do not appreciate Digvijaya Singh's views. I can assure you that Digvijaya Singh's views are not shared by the party

Setu." The BJP also asked the Congress to make its stand clear on the issues of terrorism and national security and targeted Rahul Gandhi as well.

As Rahul Gandhi snubbed Singh, Singh, who made the remarks while addressing a public meeting during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir Monday, has not commented on the controversy yet.

DGCA slaps ₹10L fine on AI over Paris-New Delhi flight incidents

This is the second time in less than a week that the watchdog has taken enforcement action against the airline in connection with unruly passenger behaviour



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 24: Aviation regulator DGCA Tuesday imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on Air India for not reporting two incidents of unruly passenger behaviour on-board a Paris-New Delhi flight in December last year.

for not reporting the incident to DGCA and delaying in referring the matter to its Internal Committee, which is a violation of applicable DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements," the statement said.

SHORT TAKES

SC order on Mishra's bail plea today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce Wednesday its order on the bail plea of Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, an accused in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

Ruckus delays Delhi's mayor election again



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 24: The high-stakes Delhi mayor election was stalled for the second time this month as the House was adjourned till further notice by the LG-appointed presiding officer following a ruckus by some councillors.

Man flings currency notes off B'lore flyover, faces case

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Jan 24: An unidentified man flung off currency notes from a Bangalore flyover Tuesday, leading to a traffic jam on the roads below as people scrambled to gather the money, police said.



it when they saw currency notes of ₹10 denomination falling at their feet from both sides. The development created huge commotion in

the usually crowded Kalasipalya locality, as people, in a mad rush to pick the currency notes, created a traffic jam. The traffic cops present at the spot were left at their wit's end.

HP: 5 killed in three separate accidents

Shimla: Five people, including a woman and her son, were killed while six others sustained injuries in three separate accidents in Shimla and Una districts in Himachal Pradesh, police said Tuesday.

Fetus found in sewer

New Delhi: Investigations are on after a human fetus was found in a sewer at South Delhi's Ambedkar Nagar area Tuesday, police said.

Man killed

Kolkata: A 35-year-old man was lynched in West Bengal's Howrah district by two local youths after he made an attempt to prevent his minor daughter's molestation.

SHRADDHA MURDER CASE

Delhi police files over 6K-page chargesheet against Poonawala

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 24: A Delhi court Tuesday extended the judicial custody of Aaftab Amin Poonawala, accused of murdering his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, till February 7, an official said, adding, the Delhi police has also filed a chargesheet in the case which contains 6,629 pages.



A member of Army's 'Daredevils' motorcycle team shows his skills during the Military Tattoo and Tribal Dance festival (Adi Shaurya : Parv Prakram Ka) marking the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (Parakram Diwas), at JLN Stadium in New Delhi

'Manjulika', 'Money Heist' robber on Metro take everyone by surprise

In the videos that have gone viral, a woman is seen dressed as Manjulika -- a character from the popular movie 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa', on board a train, with some of the passengers looking "scared" due to her antics.



who is wearing a costume similar to that of a robber in the web series 'Money Heist'.

questions were raised if the Metro coaches were becoming one of the spots for shooting reels for the social media.

she pushed him away. In the second video, a boy is seen in the costume of 'Money Heist' on the same metro coach. He was seen holding two bags that were later thrown off.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Noida, Jan 24: An ad that was shot on a moving Metro train with commuters on-board took everyone by surprise as the endeavour is not something to which people are generally accustomed to. In

the videos that have gone viral, a woman is seen dressed as Manjulika -- a character from the popular Bollywood movie 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa', on board a train, with some of the passengers looking "scared" due to her antics.

international



I have proposed to China that the two countries hold talks between their foreign ministers to quickly resolve any new conflicts in the disputed South China Sea
FERNAND MARCOS JR. | PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT

NEW RESEARCH

Researchers are working on a Covid-19 vaccine that people may drink instead of receiving with a needle, expanding their focus onto mucosal vaccines, which include nasal vaccines as well as 'swish and swallow' oral vaccines



of the day quote

Russia strongly supports the issue of reform at the UN Security Council to accommodate African, Asian and Latin American nations
SERGEI LAVROV | RUSSIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER

We still have to evaluate the situation if it turns out that Sweden's application is stalling for a long time to come
PEKKA HAAVISTO | FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER

We've long called for regional stability in South Asia. That's certainly what we want to see. We want to see it advanced. When it comes to our partnership - our partnerships with India and Pakistan, these are relationships that stand on their own. We do not see these relationships as zero-sum
NED PRICE | US STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON

WHO CALLS FOR ACTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations/Geneva, Jan 24: In the wake of fatalities among children linked to cough syrups and medicines made by manufacturers based in India and Indonesia, the WHO has issued an "urgent call to action" to countries to detect and respond to incidents of falsified medical products and protect children from contaminated medicines.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said that over the past four months, countries reported several incidents of over-the-counter cough syrups for children with confirmed or suspected contamination with high levels of diethylene glycol (DEG) and ethylene glycol (EG).

The cases are from at least seven countries, associated with more than 300 fatalities in three of these countries, with most young children under the age of five. The WHO said the contaminants are toxic chemicals used as industrial solvents and antifreeze agents that can be fatal even in small amounts, and should never be found in medicines.



FULL BLOOM: A woman takes pictures at a picking garden with over 200,000 tulips created by Dutch tulip growers on the Museumplein for National Tulip Day where everyone can pick two bunches for free, in Amsterdam, Netherlands

War with China not an option: Taiwan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taipei, Jan 24: Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen told Pope Francis in a letter that war with China is "not an option" and said constructive interaction with Beijing, which claims the island as part of its territory, depends on respecting self-ruled Taiwan's democracy.

Vatican City is the last European government to have diplomatic relations with Taiwan instead of Beijing, although the United States and other Western nations maintain extensive informal ties. Taiwanese leaders are uneasy about Vatican efforts to develop relations with Beijing. Tsai, in the letter released by her office, expressed support for Vatican positions on Russia's war against Ukraine, "migrant-friendly policies" and public health.

"We identify profoundly with your views," Tsai wrote. Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war and have no official relations but are linked by billions of dollars in trade and investment. The Chinese Communist Party regularly flies fighter planes and bombers near Taiwan to enforce its stance that the island is obliged to unite with the mainland, by force if necessary.

Tsai noted Francis's Jan. 1 message for the World Day of Peace that the "virus of war" must be cured. She quoted herself in an Oct. 10 speech rejecting armed conflict across the Taiwan Strait and calling for "peace and stability." "Armed confrontation is absolutely not an option," Tsai wrote.



"Only by respecting the commitment of the Taiwanese people to our sovereignty, democracy and freedom can there be a foundation for resuming constructive interaction across the Taiwan Strait," Tsai's letter said.

China stepped up efforts to pressure the island, including firing missiles into the sea, after then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the U.S. House of Representatives in August became the highest-ranking American official to visit the island in 25 years. Legislators from Britain and other countries also have visited Taiwan in a show of support for its elected government.

SHORT TAKES

Netanyahu flies to Jordan

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a surprise trip to Jordan Tuesday to meet with King Abdullah II, his first visit since taking power at the helm of Israel's most right-wing and religiously conservative government in history. Jordan's official statement suggested that the rare meeting between the leaders, who have long had a rocky relationship, dealt primarily with the status of a sensitive holy site in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Ardern makes final appearance

Wellington: Jacinda Ardern made her final public appearance as New Zealand's prime minister Tuesday, saying the thing she would miss most was the people, because they had been the "joy of the job." Ardern, who has been a global icon of the left, shocked the nation Thursday when she said she was resigning as leader after more than five years because she had nothing left in the tank.

Air pollution alert

London: Mayor of London Sadiq Khan issued a high air pollution alert for Tuesday and called on Londoners "to be careful over the next few days" and avoid unnecessary car journeys. The UK capital has experienced moderate air pollution since the weekend as a result of continuing cold, still, and foggy conditions creating poor dispersion of vehicle emissions. Pollution alert messages will be displayed across the Transport for London (TfL) public transport network and schools in the city will also be notified as part of actions planned by the Mayor's office.

ANOTHER TRAGEDY

7 dead as California mourns 3rd mass killing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Half Moon Bay (US), Jan 24: A gunman killed seven people at an agricultural businesses in Northern California, plunging the state into mourning again in the wake of its third mass killing in eight days.

Officers arrested a suspect in Monday's shootings, 67-year-old Chunli Zhao, after they found him in his car in the parking lot of a sheriff's substation, San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus said. Seven people were found dead and an eighth injured at a farm and another location several miles away, the Sheriff's Office said. Officials believe Zhao worked at one of the facilities and that the victims were workers as well, Corpus said. Officials haven't determined a motive for the shooting.

California is still reeling from an attack on a Lunar New Year celebration in Monterey Park that killed 11 and cast a shadow over an important holiday for many Asian-American communities. Authorities are still seeking a motive for the Saturday shooting.

"For the second time in recent days, California communities are mourning the loss of loved ones in a senseless act of gun violence," President Joe Biden said Tuesday morning. "Even as we await further details on these shootings, we know the scourge of gun violence across America requires stronger action."

The new year has brought six mass killings in the US in fewer than three weeks, accounting for 39 deaths. Three have occurred in California since Jan. 16, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University. The database tracks every mass killing — defined as four dead or

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The killings occurred on the outskirts of Half Moon Bay, a city about 30 miles (48 kilometres) south of San Francisco

Half Moon Bay Vice Mayor Joaquin Jimenez said the victims included Chinese and Latino farm workers

including the offender — committed in the U.S. Since 2006. The killings occurred on the outskirts of Half Moon Bay, a city about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of San Francisco. Half Moon Bay Vice Mayor Joaquin Jimenez said the victims included Chinese and Latino farm workers. Some workers lived at one of the facilities and children may have witnessed

the shooting, she said. Corpus said it wasn't immediately clear how the two locations were connected. The Sheriff's Office first received reports of a shooting in the afternoon and found four people dead and a fifth wounded at the first scene. Officers then found three more people fatally shot nearby, Capt. Eamonn Allen said in a news release.



Police officers detain a man, believed by law enforcement to be the Half Moon Bay mass shooting suspect, in Half Moon Bay, California, US

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AILING ECONOMY

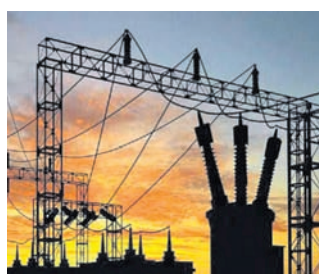
Power outages continue in Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Jan 24: Large parts of Pakistan Tuesday experienced periodic electricity outages despite the government's claim that the power supply was fully restored across the country following a nationwide breakdown, the second in nearly four months.

The country sank into darkness due to the sudden breakdown of electricity on Monday morning after frequency variations hit the national grid, disrupting normal life and affecting millions of people. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday apologized to the nation for the inconvenience caused by the countrywide power outage.

Taking to Twitter, the premier wrote: "On behalf of my government, I would like to express my sincere regrets for the inconvenience our citizens suffered due to the power outage yesterday." "On my



orders, an inquiry is underway to determine reasons for the power failure.

Responsibility will be fixed," he tweeted. Minister for Energy

orders, an inquiry is underway to determine reasons for the power failure.

The restoration failed to provide sustained power to large parts of the country and hours-long power outages were witnessed in Islamabad and other major cities.

Responsibility will be fixed," he tweeted. Minister for Energy

Khurram Dastgir said Tuesday that electricity has been fully restored at grid stations across the country. "Power at all 1,112 stations of the national grid has been restored," Dastgir tweeted. The restoration failed to provide sustained power to large parts of the country and hours-long power outages were witnessed in Islamabad and other major cities.

Officials said that it was being caused by low production as compared to the demand. Dastgir said the country's transmission system had not been affected but explained that electricity was required to get power plants and dams up and running.

BIGGEST SHAKE-UP

Ukraine purges officials, governors

REUTERS

Kyiv, Jan 24: Ukraine dismissed more than a dozen senior officials including governors of several major battlefield provinces Tuesday in the biggest shake-up of its wartime leadership since Russia's invasion last year.

Separately on Tuesday, a long-awaited decision on whether allies could send German-made heavy tanks to Ukraine finally confronted Berlin, after Poland said it had formally sent its request to the German government. Among Ukrainian officials who resigned or were dismissed on Tuesday were the governors of the Kyiv, Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and adjacent Dnipropetrovsk are frontline provinces now; Kyiv and Sumy were major battlefields earlier

- Governors of five provinces among officials removed
- Kyiv says Zelensky's actions respond to public call for justice
- Poland submits request to Germany to send tanks to Ukraine
- Ukraine says spring offensive could be decisive

in the war.

A deputy defence minister, a deputy prosecutor, a deputy head of President Volodymyr Zelensky's office and two deputy ministers responsible for regional development were among the others who left.

Some, though not all, had been linked with corruption allegations. Ukraine has a history of graft and shaky governance, and is under international pressure to show it can be a reliable steward of billions of dollars in Western aid.



There are already personnel decisions - some today, some tomorrow - regarding officials at various levels in ministries and other central government structures, as well as in the regions and in law enforcement
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINE PRESIDENT

Covid cut known human trafficking, but war a risk: UN

THE NUMBER OF DETECTED TRAFFICKING VICTIMS FELL 11% IN 2020, THE MOST RECENT YEAR FOR WHICH DATA IS AVAILABLE IN MOST COUNTRIES, THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC) SAID IN ITS SEVENTH GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



REUTERS

Vienna, Jan 24: The Covid-19 pandemic led to the first drop in the known number of human trafficking victims in 20 years as trafficking opportunities and policing

were reduced, but the Ukraine war has probably now caused a new surge, a UN report said Tuesday.

The number of detected trafficking victims fell 11% in 2020, the most recent year for which data is available in most countries,

the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said in its seventh Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

"In 2020, for the first time, the number of victims detected globally decreased," the UNODC said in a summary of the report, adding that the biggest drops were reported in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in south and central America but also sub-Saharan Africa, east Asia and the Pacific region.

"This change in trends could be the result of three different factors affecting especially low- and medium-income countries during the pandemic: lower institutional capacity to detect victims, fewer opportunities for traffickers to operate due to Covid-19 preventive restrictions, and some traf-

ficking forms moving to more hidden and less likely to be detected locations," it said.

Initial data for 2021 from just 20 countries suggests a further fall in 2021 in parts of southeast Asia, central America and the Caribbean, it said. Trafficking for sexual exploitation saw the sharpest drop of 24%. For the first time since the UNODC started collecting data, detected trafficking in this category as a percentage of the whole was roughly the same level as that of trafficking for forced labour, at around 39% each, the report said.

"Sexual exploitation may have reduced due to the (pandemic-related) closure of public spaces and it may have also been pushed into less visible and less safe locations, making this form of trafficking more concealed and harder to be detected," the UNODC said.

NEW SURGE

