

# ban on hijab

AGENCIES

Mysore, Dec 22: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Friday said the restrictions on wearing hijab (head scarf) in educational institutions in the state will be lifted from December 23 and observed that choice of dress and food is personal.

Speaking at the inauguration of three police stations in Nanjangud in Mysore district, the Chief Minister said no one should indulge in vote bank politics.

Lashing out at the BJP, Siddaramaiah said, "They say 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' (cooperation of all, development of all) but sideline those wearing caps, burqa and sporting beard. Is this what they mean?

When someone in the crowd asked about restrictions on wearing hijab, the CM said, "No (restrictions). You can wear Hijab. I have instructed (the officials) that there will be no restriction from tomorrow onwards. You can wear and eat whatever you want. It's up to you." "... Your choices are yours and my choices are mine. It's that simple," Siddaramaiah said amid the cheering crowd.

## **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 22: There seems to be no end to controversies in Indian wrestling as Olympic medallist grappler Bajrang Punia Friday returned his Padma Shri award to the government in protest against the election of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh loyalist Sanjay Singh as the president of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

Thursday, Sanjay Singh was elected as the president of the WFI after the panel led by the close aide of Brij Bhushan won 13 of the 15 posts. The wrestlers had demanded

that no close associate of Brij Bhushan should enter the WFI. Bajrang was conferred with

the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian honour in the country, in 2019 after a consistent run on the mat that saw him win laurels at top international events.

He posted a letter on X after making an attempt to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament but was stopped at Kartavya Path by the Delhi Police. The Tokyo Games bronze winner placed the Padma Shri on the letter he had written to the prime minister, and put it on the pavement.

"I had received this honour from the government but I feel

despite this honour I could not protect the honour of the daughters of this country, so I do not deserve to keep this award,'

Bajrang told reporters. The administration is right in saying that I have not taken prior permission to meet the PM, so I could not meet him. I have kept the Padma Shri here on top of the letter because I cannot put it on the floor," he said adding that he will not take it back home.

BAJRANG

returns Padma

Asked what his message to the Prime Minister was, Bajrang said, "If the voice of women wrestlers has not yet reached you and if it reaches you in future please help them in getting justice." Later, Bajrang posted his let-

ter on X with a message, "I am returning my Padma Shri award to the Prime Minister. This is just my letter. This is my state-

ment." The 29-year-old world championship medallist wrote: "Dear PM Ji, hope your health is well. You must be busy in many work but I am writing this to draw your attention to the wrestlers of the country. You must be aware that the women wrestlers of the country started a protest in

January this year against Brij Bhushan Singh accusing him of

CHIEF MINISTER LAYS FOUNDATION FOR 'MAHIMA PEETH' REVAMP

sexual harassment. I too joined their protest. The protest stopped after the government promised strong action.'

Expressing his disappointment, the star wrestler added, "But there was no FIR against Brij Bhushan even after three months. We again took to the streets in April so that the police at least file an FIR against him."

"There were 19 complainants in January but the number came down to 7 by April. This means Brij Bhushan exerted his influence on 12 women wrestlers."

New Delhi, Friday

DEJECTED GRAPPLER: Wrestler Bajrang Punia holds his Padma Shri award near the Kartavya Path in

# **Odisha land of God: Naveen SUSPENSION OF 146 OPPOSITION MPs INDIA** bloc rally in Bhub

# Fog warning for 13 dists

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 22: As the cold wave intensified in Odisha with 16 places recording temperatures below 10 degrees Celsius, the IMD Friday warned of dense fog in 13 districts of the state.

The IMD in a yellow warning said that dense fog is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Jajpur, Nayagarh, Khurda, Puri, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Koraput.

G Udayagiri in Kandhamal district was the coldest place in the state at 4.6 degree Celsius, the Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar said, adding that 16 places in the state recorded temperatures at or below 10 degree Celsius.

G Udayagiri was followed by Semiliguda at 5.6 degree Celsius, Phulbani 6, Kirei 7.1, Koraput 7.7, Keonjhar 7.8, Daringbadi 8, Angul and Bhawanipatna 8.6, Rourkela 8.7, Sundargarh and Nabarangpur 9, Sonepur 9.3, Jharsuguda 9.4, Ranital 9.4 and Chipilima 9.8 degree Celsius.

The twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded 13.4 and 13.2 degree Celsius, respectively.

# **MAOISTS BLOW UP RAIL TRACKS**

PNN & AGENCIES

PTI PHOTO

Rourkela/Chaibasa, Dec 22: Members of the banned CPI (Maoist) blew up a portion of railway tracks in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, some 30 km away from the Odisha border, disrupting train services on the busy Howrah-Mumbai route for several hours, police said Friday.

At least 13 trains were can-

celled and one has been diverted

due to the incident, a railway

official said. The incident oc-

curred late Thursday night in the

Chakradharpur division of South

Eastern Railway between

Mahadevsal and Posoita sta-

tions, around 150 km from

Ranchi, West Singhbhum

Superintendent of Police

Ashutosh Sekhar said. "Security

has been tightened in the local-

ity. The repair work on the rail-

way tracks has been started from

early morning," he said, adding

that Maoists also put up ban-

Vinit Kumar said that train op-

erations in the division have

been restored around 9 am Friday.

explosion occurred between

Mahadevsal and Posoita sta-

tions, which blew up the third

line of the section. No casualty

has been reported," Kumar said.

"Around 10:08 pm Thursday, an

Chakradharpur Division Assistant Commercial Manager

ners and posters in the area.



IN	DEX		VARI	ATION
RSES	SENSEX	71106.96		241.86
BOURSE	NIFTY	21349.40		94.40
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	83.17	₽	₹0.10
CURR	EURO	91.65		₹0.41
NO	GOLD	₹63,103		₹600
BULLION	SILVER	₹ 75,850		₹424

#### WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	27.7°C	26.8°⊂
Min Temp	13.4°C	13.2℃
Humidity	82%	81%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST		
DRY WEATHER VERY LIKELY	2	-
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Bhubaneswar/Dhenkanal, Dec 22: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday laid the foundation stone for rebuilding and beautification of 'Mahima Peeth' at Joranda in Dhenkanal district.

Patnaik, who visited the sacred seat of the Mahima sect of Hinduism, established by Mahima Gosain in the early 19th century, said: "Odisha is the land of God. The 'peeth' has given Odisha a special place on the spiritual map of India.<sup>3</sup>

The state government has sanctioned Rs 112 crore for the development of 'Mahima Peeth', Patnaik said.

Apart from a meditation centre and a 'Bati Mandap' (lamp house), beautification activities will also be carried out, he said.

The followers of the 'Mahima' sect are mostly spread across Odisha and in some parts of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh,



A monk takes a selfie with CM Naveen Patnaik and 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian

Telangana. Jharkhand. Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. There are around 5 lakh



Bhubaneswar, Dec 22: Joining the nationwide protest against the suspension of a large number of Opposition MPs, the Odisha leaders of the INDIA group took out a rally here Friday.

Senior Opposition leaders, including state Congress chief Sarat Pattanayak, former party presidents Prasad Harichandan and Jaydev Jena, CPI's Ramakrushna Panda, SP state president Rabi Behera, and others participated in the rally.

Holding banners with anti-Narendra Modi government slogans written on them, the protesters walked from Master Canteen Square towards the state Assembly.

They also raised slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Pattanayak said all the leaders of INDIA constituents have come together as democracy is under threat under the BJP government.

of Indian democracy. If the Modi government suspends all Opposition MPs, there will be no democracy in the Parliament. It is like murder of Indian democracy," he said.

"Our Constitution is the sou

Altogether 146 Opposition MPs were suspended from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha during the just concluded Winter Session for demanding a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah in the House the December 13 Parliament security breach issue. The Central government has

suppressed the voice of Opposition MPs, who were elected by lakhs of people in the country, the Congress leader said.

"We appeal to the people of our country and Odisha to remove the dictator Modi government in the upcoming election," he said.

The suspension of 146 opposition MPs in Parliament is an attack on Indian democracy, said CPI's Panda.

# SHORT TAKES

# 'Shift officers from home dists'



of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the Election governments to shift out officers

New Delhi: Ahead Commission has directed the state

posted in their home states as well as those who have served in a particular place for a "considerably long period." The poll panel in a letter to the chief secretaries of all states pointed out that the term of the present Lok Sabha as well as the state Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh ends on different dates in June next year. In 2014 as well, the Parliamentary polls as well as the Assembly elections in four states were held together. The poll panel issues such directions to the states ahead of the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls to ensure that officials with political leanings do not interfere with the electoral process and do not disturb the level-playing field.

# Macron to be R-Day chief guest: MEA New Delhi: French

President Emmanuel Macron will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations January 26 that would make him the sixth French leader to grace the prestigious annual event. The

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Macron will be visiting India at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India had invited US President Joe Biden to be the Republic Day chief guest but he expressed his inability to travel to India in January. The reasons for Biden's decision are believed to be the State of the Union address in late January or early February, Biden's focus on his re-election bid and Washington's increasing focus on the Hamas-Israel conflict. "At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Emmanuel Macron, the President of France, will be visiting India as the chief guest for the 75th Republic Day celebrations," the MEA said in a statement.

# 302 succumb to big cat attacks in 5 yrs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 22: A total of 302 people died in tiger attacks in the country over the last five years with Maharashtra accounting for over 55 per cent of these deaths, according to official data.

The Centre has disbursed ₹29.57 crore as compensation to the families of the victims.

While 112 people died in tiger attacks in 2022, 59 died in 2021, 51 in 2020, 49 in 2019 and 31 in 2018, the government told the Lok Sabha earlier this week.

During this period, Maharashtra alone recorded 170 such deaths -- 85 in 2022, 32 in 2021, 25 in 2020, 26 in 2019 and two



MAHARASHTRA RECORDS THE HIGHEST SUCH DEATHS, FOLLOWED BY UTTAR PRADESH AND WEST BENGAL

in 2018. Uttar Pradesh reported 39 deaths due to tiger attacks in 2019 and five in 2018. in the last five years -- 11 each in

However, this number has steadily decreased over the years, from 15 in 2018 to just one in 2022

The data showed an increase in tiger attack-related deaths in Bihar -- zero in 2019, one in 2020, four in 2021 and nine in 2022.

The number of tigers in India increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022, an annual rise of six per cent, according to government data released in July this year.

With a 50 per cent increase in the last four years, Madhya Pradesh has the maximum number (785) of tigers in the country, followed by Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560), and Maharashtra (444).





In West Bengal, 29 people died.



# elsure



## SELENA: SELF-RESPECT **IS MY FIRST PRIORITY**

Amid her blooming romance with Benny Blanco, singer-actress Selena Gomez spoke about her priorities in a relationship. The actress, in an interview, said self-respect and holding space for the feelings of others are a top priority on her list for any partner.

## VIN DIESEL ACCUSED OF SEXUALLY ASSAULTING FORMER ASSISTANT

The Fast and Furious fame Vin Diesel has been accused of sexually assaulting his former assistant, who sued the actor Thursday. The former assistant alleged that in 2010 he pinned her against a wall in a hotel suite and masturbated in front of her, reports Variety.



#### FORTUNE FORECAST



#### ARIES

Think positive today and watch the world around you changing. Regardless of how difficult things may seem, Ganesha advises you to take it without getting upset. If you set your mind to something you can do it. You have the Midas touch today, so it is a good time to introduce a new strategy

#### TAURUS

Ganesha urges you to be prepared for setbacks and disappointments today. Your efforts may end in being a waste of precious time and energy. The results you get are likely to be far below your expectations. Falling short of your tar get is likely to weigh you down with stress and anxiety.

## GEMINI

You will be in a state of heightened sensitivity today. Therefore you need to curb down on your emotions. You will be able to successfully express your feelings to someone, and your feelings will play a vital part in your life, says Ganesha

# CANCER

Ganesha suggests you not to be sentimental or hasty. Try to handle things deftly i stead of dodging bad episodes or turning a blind eve to them. You will give priority to domestic and private life in stead of career or business aspects.

LEO

You will feel more emotional today and share your feelings with your friends and near ones. For those who are searching for a life-partner, this might be the time when you will get hitched. You will develop a new perspective on some issues in the office. Your day will be different than normal, says Ganesha.

# VIRGO

Ganesha predicts that you will be rewarded today for all the good work done earlier. You will prefer to manage things in your own way, rather than taking orders from others. However, Ganesha advises you not to throw your weight around, but to stay calm and composed.

### .IBRA Nothing comes for free – keep this in mind as you

may have to pay your dues for the success you desire today, especially if it is a new project that you have

# **'Idea of death** lifts my spirits'

Mumbai: Actress Sobhita Dhulipala shares that during the low phases of her life she likes to look back and enjoy the small joys and prefers living in the moment.

She elaborates saying, "Like, I could literally die tomorrow and I will die happily. I am very motivated and inspired by the knowledge that we all are going to die. It makes me appreciate the moment better. In fact, whenever I am having a bad day I think ki yaar it will pass too because so many things have passed, right?'

The Night Manager actress adds, Some things might not go right, but you can't hold on to them. Because as humans we have just limited time to live so in that limited time you have so many things to do. So, the idea of death really lifts my spirits.'

She opines, "I do think that spending time alone is necessary to restore. When we are living in the company of people who you share an equation with you function differently from the way you do when you are alone. It is important for us to know both the sides. You have multiple facets to your personality and you need to explore those. This makes us also a little softer and empathetic towards others is what I

feel. AGENCIES



# lence in

Mumbai: Actor Salman Khan was seen greeting

Haasan, a mental health advocate, who has often publicly shared her own battles, has spoken about audience choosing their entertainment judiciously as films soaked in violence hold sway in

theatres

Mumbai:

Actress Shruti

In a recent interview, the Luck actress said, "I that cinema and music, there are different kinds of TV shows, different kinds of books, some depict violence and some don't. Yes, I am a mental health advocate and the biggest thing I would advocate for knowing what you are watching." She further explained about the Salaar teaser being called violent. "A teaser for a film is like a disclaimer of content. It's to know whether you are ready to watch that content. That discretion has to lie with the viewer and that does fall under the ability to judge one's own mental state of mind. Some people enjoy fast-paced action or thrillers, some people are triggered by emotional drama. So, it's really up to the viewer's discretion," added the actress. On the work front, Shruti was last seen in Waltair Veerayya, Veera Simha Reddy and will be seen next in *Dacoit*.

AGENCIES

# Salman, Abhishek's unexpected reunion

Abhishek Bachchan at producer-distributor Anand Pandit's birthday bash with a big

pear hug and the video has gone viral. A video from the party shows Salman warmly welcoming Amitabh Bachchan and Abhishek with a hug. A video shared by celebrity paparazzi Viral <mark>Bhayani posted a video on Instagram</mark> apturing the moment.

The clip shows, Salman wishing Anand Pandit. Amitabh then comes in and the *Dabangg* star approaches <mark>the thespian greeting</mark> him with a handshake and a warm hug.

Following Amitabh, Abhishek reets film producer Sajid Nadiadwala, later sharing a bear hug with Salman. The two were seen having a conversation as well. This was a rare sighting as Salman and Abhishek, who have been seldom seen exchanging pleasantries. The two share some history as Salman and actress Aishwarya Rai were in a relationship. However, the actress later tied he knot with Abhishek in 2007.

# Katrina finds Tamil very difficult

Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif, gearing up for the release of the highly anticipated thriller Merry Christmas alongside Vijay Sethupathi, recently shared insights into the linguistic challenges she faced during the film's shoot.

Katrina shared that she was very, very stressed and consumed with trying to learn her Tamil lines. She wanted to rehearse in a way that they sound fresh and spontaneous [while shooting]. And that was, for her, a very, very tough task. She finds Tamil and Malayalam really, really difficult. It's hard to distinguish between the consonants and vowels.

The trailer for *Merry Christmas* introduces a suspenseful narrative set on Christmas Eve. The actress, alongside Vijay Sethupathi, engages in playful banter, and as the night unfolds, unexpected events take place. Katrina expressed her admiration for Vijay Sethupathi's ability to seamlessly switch between Hindi and Tamil, describing him as phenomenal.

The film, directed by Sriram Raghavan, also features Sanjay Kapoor, Vinay Pathak, Pratima Kannan, Tinnu Anand, Radhika Sarathkumar, Shanmugaraja, Kevin

undertaken. Be prepared to invest a considerable amount of time and effort in vour endeavours. Spare money can be used to purchase new assets that may pay dividends in the future.

#### **SCORPIO**

In all probability, your mood is extremely hawkish today. Your belligerence may even put off Lady Luck for the time being. Ganesha advises you to stay away from confrontations and troubles of any kind. The evening, however, promises to be relaxing.

### SAGITTARIUS

Lady luck is all smiles for you today, predicts Ganesha. Suddenly, you feel like multitasking and becoming a jack of all. This is likely to keep you busy, almost throughout the day. If need be, your colleagues and peers will lend a helping hand.

# **CAPRICORN**

You are in hot water, but do not lose hope during these turbulent times. Maintain a calm head over your shoulders and deal with the problems, guides Ganesha. Also, do not jump to conclusions or be argumentative with the people around you, as you may end up being at the losing end.

# 

You will not need a reason to party today. Be it the news of a friend getting married or you buying a new car, you are in a mood to celebrate life like anything! Apart from this, you will have a smooth sailing through out the day, foresees Ganesha.

## PISCES

A day of mixed fortunes awaits you, where taking risks could prove to be your undoing, or provide you with handsome returns, says Ganesha. This is because you could come out on top by treading cautiously, but uncalculated risks will probably throw your calculations out of gear. Your success rate is unlikely to be too high: hence it may be a tough day for you.

#### PEANUTS TELL HIM TO SHUT UP, SIR, THE KID BEHIND ME HOW MUCH FARTHER TO ABOUT OR I'LL CRACK HIS CALLED ME A NAME. AN HOUR CAMP, SIR BINDING AND DIM MARCIE HIS OUTLOOK!

# **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



# BREVITY

was was an jus CHECK OUT THIS DOPE SONG I WROTE! ORIGINAL SYNTH Paw au



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# 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.

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# SOLUTIONS

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YOU HAVE A COLORFUL WAY OF TALKING, SIR





Jay Babu, Rajesh Williams, and Pari, while Ashwini Kalsekar and Radhika Apte make cameo appearances. AGENCIES



downtown

**DANCE FEST** 

Artistes perform during International Arka Dance Festival at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday



# 7 projects worth **₹1,482cr okayed**



SLSWCA approved the plan of Tech AIC DRI Pellets Pvt Ltd to set up an integrated steel products manufacturing plant with 0.7 MTPA capacity in Keonihaı

MAS Udyat India Pvt Ltd's proposal for integrated textile facility in Khurda got the SLSWCA approva

ALENN STEEL INDUSTRIES PVT LTD'S PROPOSAL TO SET UP CR PRECISION PIPE CTURING UNITS, BLACK AND HRPO PIPES MANUFACTURING UNITS, COIL SLITTING AND PARTING UNITS IN JAJPUR GOT THE APPROVAL

people.

gion

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. Dec 22: The State-Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA), chaired by Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, approved seven projects spanning across diverse sectors worth Rs 1,482.53 crore that would generate 11,969 jobs, Friday.

The SLSWCA approved the plan of Tech AIC DRI Pellets Pvt. Ltd to set up an integrated steel products manufacturing plant with a capacity of 0.7 MTPA in Keonjhar. With an investment of Rs 800 crore, the project is expected to generate employment for 2013 individuals and contribute to the economic

# Experts urge media to guard children's privacy

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 22: UNICEF organised a roundtable discussion on 'portrayal of children in media' in collaboration with the Odisha Women in Media (OWM) collective here Friday to emphasise the vital role of media in protecting and promoting children's rights.

The event fostered a conversation about the influence of media on children's understanding of the world and the prevailing narratives. The insightful panel discussions also delved into the profound impact media has on reception of children's issues in the cultural sphere and the society in general.

While addressing the

growth of the region. MAS Udyat India Private Limited's proposal for integrated textile facility in Khurda got the SLSWCA approval. With an investment of Rs 214.4 crore, the facility will provide jobs to 8,844

Limited for setting up facility for compressed biogas and fer-The SLSWCA approved the mented organic manure in proposal of Vinner Labs Private Balasore with Rs 121.21 crore Limited to set up a manufacinvestment. The initiative will provide jobs to 69 individuals. turing unit for fine chemicals in Ganjam with an investment **Terrestrial Food Processors** of Rs 52 crore. The unit is ex-Private Limited, a part of the

pected to create 130 employment JK Paper Group, will be investopportunities, contributing to ing Rs 60.6 crore to set up a maize the industrial growth of the recorn processing plant in Rayagada. With an employment MR Unicast Private Limited's potential of 198, the initiative proposal for manufacturing minwill enhance the economic landing and crusher equipment along scape of the region, it was learnt.

with casting units in Sundargarh

with an investment of Rs 56.32

crore also got a go-ahead from the

will be a significant step towards

Alenn Steel Industries Private

units, black and HRPO pipes

manufacturing units, coil slit-

ting and parting units along with a cut-to-length unit in Jajpur

with an investment of Rs 178

crore got the approval. It would

create employment opportunities

The SLSWCA approved the

proposal of Reliance Bio Energy

for 465 individuals.

manufacturing sector.

DA: City chief civil supplies officer held

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 22: A day after carrying out simultaneous raids at multiple premises belonging to the chief civil supplies officer (CSO) of Bhubaneswar over allegations of possessing disproportionate assets (DA), the state Vigilance Friday arrested the official for possessing DA to the tune of 134 per cent of his known sources of income.

Vigilance sources said Bhubaneswar chief CSO Prashanta Kumar Gantayat was taken into custody for pos ssion of DA, which he could not account for satisfactorily A case (37/2023) has been registered against Gantayat and his spouse at Bhubaneswar Vigilance police station under Sections 13(1)(b) and 12 of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 2018. During the searches, a threestorey building at Pandara, a two-storey building at Chandrasekharpur and a flat Laxmisagar, all in Bhubaneswar, were found in the name of Gantayat and his family. Besides, a flat in Berhampur, five plots, including three in posh locations in Bhubaneswar, were also found in their name. "Around 625 gram of gold jew-

Bhubaneswar: Baripada Vigilance



CHRISTMAS AHEAD: Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Kalinga dressed up as Santa Clause pose for a photo on the institution premises in Bhubaneswar, Friday

# Do not form new dist sans nod: HC

Bhubaneswar: The Orissa High Court has directed the administration not to issue any final order on the formation of new districts without the permission of the court. The court order came at a time when the state government has initiated steps to upgrade Padampur sub-division in Bargarh to a separate district as promised by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during a bypoll last year. In its order passed Thursday, a division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice BR Sarangi and Justice MS Raman has stated that the government can continue its process of reorganisation of districts, but it cannot finalise anything without the consent of the HC. The court was hearing a plea filed by Rairangpur Bar Association president Akshaya Kumar Mohanty with a prayer to declare Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj as a new district.

# **CSIR-IMMT** hosts **IISF** outreach programme

Bhubaneswar: City-based CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) hosted an outreach programme of the India International Science Festival (IISE), 2023 here recently. IISF is a collaborative endeavour taken by the ministries of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and the departments of Space and Atomic Energy to promote science among enthusiasts. It is organised in partnership with 'Vijnana Bharati,' a movement for science spearheaded by scientists across the country.

# Rayagada alumina refinery to boost state economy: CM

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 22: Aditya Birla Group's alumina refinery and apparel manufacturing unit in Rayagada district signify the beginning of a new chapter in Odisha's industrial landscape, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, while presiding over the groundbreaking ceremony for the mega projects, Friday.

The alumina refinery, which is being established at Kansarigudaan with an investment of Rs 8,000 crore, will provide employment to over 4,000 people. Similarly, the apparel complex being set up in Phulujuba village of Rayagada with Rs 114 crore investment is poised to generate 3,000 jobs.

Joining the groundbreaking ceremony of both projects on virtual platform, the CM said it is a testament to the untapped potential that lies within the state's natural resources. "The project signifies the beginning of a new chapter in Odisha's industrial landscape," he said.

With this, Patnaik said, Odisha has also once again proved its mettle as a preferable destination for investment in manufacturing. He thanked the Aditva Birla Group for choosing tribal ma-



alumina refinery, which is being established at Kansarigudaan with an investment of Rs 8,000 crore, will provide employment to over **4,000** people

The Aditya Birla Group's

jority Rayagada district for its industrial ventures.

Patnaik said that the alumina refinery, with an investment of Rs 8,000 crore, will significantly contribute to the state's economy by adding a substantial 2 million tonne per annum of refined alumina from bauxite ore. He also expressed happiness that the group is also setting up an apparel manufacturing unit in addition to the alumina refinery in

Rayagada. The CM assured that Team Odisha will ensure the smooth implementation of this project through its 5T (transformational)

initiative. Patnaik also thanked the people of Rayagada for their support for the industrial projects. He said that both the projects will bring prosperity to Rayagada and the district will be a bright spot in the industrial map of

India. Earlier October 5, a pact was formalised with Hindalco Industries Limited to establish a long-term linkage for raw materials for the HINDALCO Alumina Refinery at Kanshariguda in Rayagada.

The Aditya Birla Group has also committed to set up an apparel manufacturing unit at Phulujuba village in the tribaldominated district with a capacity to manufacture 36 lakh shirts annually.

"This facility will create employment opportunities for 3,000 local youth. Importantly, this initiative focuses on maximising the participation of women in the workforce, contributing to the empowerment of Rayagada's local communities," Patnaik said.

**Ex-LAMPCS** official gets 3 years in jail

> court Friday sentenced a former government official to three years of imprisonment after finding him guilty in preparing fake list of persons, who were granted loans under a debtwaiver scheme. The convict, Narendra Prasad Panda, was the managing director of Large-sized Adivasi Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd (LAMPCS) in

Mangovindpur gram panchavat of Mayurbhanj district. The court also ed a nenalty of Rs 10 000 w pronouncing an additional two months' jail for default in payment. Panda was booked for the offence under Section 13(2) 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988 along with other cases registered under other IPC provisions. As per sources. Panda accepted undue favours from the ineligible list of individuals in the form of cash or other material, which incurred losses to the government exchequer. The district Vigilance will approach the competent authority for stoppage of pension of Panda, said an official.

William Hanlon Jr, chief of field office at UNICEF Bhubaneswar, emphasised the organisation's mission to champion responsible and positive representation of children. "Media has the power to shape the narratives that contribute to the well-being and future of our younger gen eration. Every child's story deserves to be told with authenticity, empathy, and respect," he said.

UNICEF Odisha specialist in social policy Ajay Singh said, "When reporting about children, we must be positive. Reporting should also protect privacy. We should prioritise rights problems over other frivolous ones.

ellery, Rs 1.48 crore bank and insurance deposits, Rs 1.21 lakh in cash, a four-wheeler and two two-wheelers were found from them." an official said.

## ULTIMATE KHO KHO LEAGUE - SEASON 2 Naveen presents first ticket

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Dec 22: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday presented the first ticket for the Ultimate Kho Kho League -Season 2 which will commence from December 24 at the JN Indoor Stadium in Cuttack.

Host and defending champions Odisha Juggernauts will take on Rajasthan Warriors, here.

"Promotion of traditional Indian sport Kho Kho is crucial for us and Ultimate Kho Kho League provides an opportu-

teams the very best and a memorable experience in Odisha,' said Patnaik.

The Ultimate Kho Kho -Season 2 will feature India's top 145 players, including 33 young talents aged between 16 and 18. Defending champions Odisha Juggernauts, Chennai Quick Guns, Guiarat Giants, Mumbai Khiladis Rajasthan Warriors, and Telugu Yoddhas will be the six franchises to fight for the coveted crown in the upcoming season "It is a privilege to meet

Naveen Patnaik, and we are de-

lighted to present him with the first ticket for the second edition of Ultimate Kho Kho. Odisha has emerged as the vibrant nucleus of sports in India, proudly hosting a series of prestigious events in recent years. His vision has laid the foundation for a sporting legacy that continues to inspire and captivate us. As we begin the second chapter of Ultimate Kho Kho, the excitement is extremely high, especially as we host this edition in Odisha," said Tenzing Niyogi, CEO and League Commissioner of Ultimate Kho Kho.

DMD: Govt to study models for CoE in state

#### ODMDA stages protest over 8-point demands for treatment of children suffering from life-threatening muscle disease

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 22: In a move likely to bring respite to parents in the state fighting for some palpable relief from the hassles and high expenses involved in the treatment of 'Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) to their suffering children, the Odisha government Friday said it will explore possibilities for opening a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for the treatment of the rare genetic disease

Special Secretary, Health department Dinabandhu Panda, additional secretary Subhananda Mohapatra and joint secretary Mamata Barik who held discussions with a delegation of Odisha Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Association (ODMDA) said that the government is studying the various treatments available for DMD. Accordingly, a framework is being designed to address the issue effectively.

The Health department has also sought details of a MoU signed by the Madhya Pradesh government for establishment of CoE which would be a reference point for opening such a centre in Odisha

Currently, there are 11 CoEs across the country including one in neighbouring West Bengal.

Earlier in the day, more than 80 parents of the children suffering from DMD staged a protest at Lower PMG to press for the fulfillment of their 8-point charter of demands, including immediate treatment and monthly pension for their immobile kids. Around 60 of the suffering children sat on a dharna. The agitating parents from

across the state voiced their resentment over the alleged apathy of the Union and state governments in devising calibrated



strategies to deal with the dreaded muscle disease. Although they expressed their gratitude to state government for providing Rs 10 lakh onetime grant for purchase of wheelchairs, regular physiotherapy, 'treatment' and other requirements of the patients, the lack of facilities for effective treatment in the state has left them in de-

spair.

ODMDA president Bishnu Charan Panigrahi said, "We are leading a very miserable life as our children have lost mobility and most of them are wheelchair bound. We had staged our first agitation here in February, following which the state government announced to provide Rs 10 lakh to each DMD child.

However, we have to stage another dharna today as our pending demands remained unfulfilled. Immediate treatment of our children is our primary demand.'

nity for masses to enjoy the thrill

of this unique game. I wish the

Panigrahi also urged the government to spread awareness and educate people about the disease so as to prevent it at prenatal stage.

"A test is available which can find out if the foetus has the defective gene. Many DMD cases would be prevented If the government starts spreading awareness about the test," he said.

Dinesh Behera from Bhadrak, whose 12-year-old son is suffering from the disease, said parents have to carry children all the way to the Kolkata CoE for basic tests. "We urge the government to open a CoE for DMD in Bhubaneswar as it will save the child and parents from a lot of hassles and expenses," he said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Dec 22:The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has directed the Nabarangpur district administration to pay a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the family members of a minor girl student who was reportedly gang-raped by two of her teachers at a school in November this year. The OHRC has issued the order while hearing a plea filed by rights activist

Prabir Kumar Das. "This Commission taking serious view of the matter hereby recommends that a sum of Rs 5,00,000 as interim compensation be paid pending for final conclusion of the trial," the OHRC order said.

The Commission has also directed the Nabarangpur district Collector and other concerned authorities to pay the balance of Rs 5,00,000 to victim's parents if the accused are pronounced guilty by the court after completion of the trial.

OHRC orders ₹5L for minor

gangrape survivor's family

The authorities have also been instructed to make the payment to the minor victim's father and mother jointly and ensure that Rs 3 lakh out of the interim compensation amount be kept in a fixed deposit account in any nationalised bank.

Notably, the petitioner informed the OHRC that the 13year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by the headmaster and a junior teacher of her school on the school premises in Raighar block of the district November 7. The minor girl developed severe pain following which she narrated her ordeal before her parents who subsequently rushed her to the nearby community health centre (CHC) and also lodged a complaint with the police November 9. The doctors at the CHC who claimed that the girl might have been sexually assaulted laterreferred her to the district headquarters hospital.





# power post

all of them developing and

emerging-market economies

and 100 other countries are ex-

ploring the idea. These currency

areas have embraced two com-

mon arguments in favor of a

CBDC: that it can boost finan-

cial inclusion and improve the

efficiency of payments and

Of course, CDBCs also have

against them is that commercial

banks could be sidelined as

households and firms substi-

tute CBDC holdings for com-

mercial bank deposits. This risk

grows if a CBDC pays interest

(like bank deposits do). Another

concern is that the central bank,

as the CBDC issuer might obtain

sensitive information about

CBDC holders' finances and pri-

vate spending decisions. And

yet another concern is that

CBDCs running on a proof-of-

work blockchain consensus

mechanism would be extraor-

But there is a third argument

in favor of CBDCs. If (and only

if) a CBDC bears interest and is

accompanied by the abolition of

physical cash, it will enhance the

effectiveness of monetary pol-

icy by eliminating the effective

lower bound (ELB) on policy

The ELB, an artifact of cen-

days. On the first day it is

of action would be warranted

numbers could be about the econ-

flects on what the numbers mean.

to action when none is war-

fluctuate within a range, the

range depending on the indi-

vidual circumstances. If any

medication is taken because the

body temperature reaches 98.8,

Statistics can either convey rel-

tral-bank paper currency with

interest rates.

dinarily energy-intensive.

settlements.

## FOCUS ECONOMY

Our actual enemy is not any force exterior to ourselves, but our own crving weaknesses. our cowardice. our selfishness, our hypocrisy, our purblind sentimentalism SRI AUROBINDO



# **Time For Overhaul**

The recent security lapse at the Parliament has highlighted the inherent risks associated with prolonged vacancies in critical positions, emphasizing the urgent need for a reevaluation of our approach to national security. This most significant breach since the 2001 terror attack, has prompted a reassessment of key affairs, particularly the management of personnel at the highest echelons.

One glaring issue lies in the extended absence of a full-time joint secretary to head the Parliament Security Service. Currently filled by Brijesh Singh, a director-level officer, the Executive Director (Security) position at the Parliament has been vacant for too long.

In the aftermath of the security breach, there was a presumption among officers across services that the Executive Director (Security) would be promptly replaced. However, it was discovered that the vacancy had persisted since mid-November, following the departure of Raghubir Lal, a 1997-batch IPS offer to Uttar Pradesh as ADG (Security) after completing an extended one-year tenure.

Further, the incident has woken up the government to the precarious situation of key central armed police forces like the CRPF and CISF, which have been operating under ad hoc arrangements for months. Notably, the post of CRPF Director General has been ad hoc managed by ITBP DG Anish Dayal Singh since the beginning of this month, replacing Dr Sujoy Lal Thaosen. Similarly, the DG CISF post has been filled by IPS officer Neena Singh in an ad hoc arrangement, since the retirement of Sheel Vardhan Singh in August.

Prolonged vacancies in such critical roles pose a direct threat to national security and demand swift action.

#### New Rajasthan CM hits the ground running

In a notable display of urgency, newly appointed Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma wasted no time in making his mark on the administration. Even as he is consulting the Centre on the composition of his cabinet, within hours of assuming office he announced the selection of three seasoned IAS officers for crucial roles in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

Though it is pointed out that this is a temporary arrangement, T. Ravikanth was appointed as the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, succeeding Kuldeep Ranka who served ex-chief min-



ister Ashok Gehlot. Adding further depth to Sharma's team, Ms Anandhi, an IAS officer of the 2007 batch, assumed the role of Secretary to the CM, while Dr Saumva Jha of the 2017 batch joined as Joint Secretary to the CM, to inject fresh perspectives and youthful dynamism

Such prompt actions, observers note, not only set the tone for Sharma's leadership but also underscore the urgency with which he aims to address key issues facing Rajasthan, as much as his desire to distance his government from the previous Congress government under Gehlot. Still, these are early days of the administration and among Sharma's tasks will also be to show that despite his rookie status within the BJP, he has what it takes to do a good job.

#### UP Chief Secy's next move remains a mystery

With the appointment of three new faces as chief ministers in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the Modi sarkar, once again, revealed its penchant for unpredictability. The attention has now shifted to the intensifying politicking in Uttar Pradesh, where some punters are predicting a similar upheaval. However, among UP babu circles the big question is whether Chief Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra will get another extension of service.

Mishra's trajectory follows a unique and unprecedented path. Originally the Union Secretary for Urban Affairs, he became chief secretary of Uttar Pradesh in December 2021. A growing consensus suggests that Mishra's tenure may extend beyond this month, marking his third successive extension. But, unlike previous extensions, this one might be limited to six months.

If Mishra indeed secures another extension, sources claim that political rivals are expected to resort to legal challenges, as seen recently in similar cases like that of ED chief SK Mishra and Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar. However, the Centre has successfully navigated such challenges in the past. Another school of thought suggests that after December 31, Mishra may wade into politics and potentially contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from UP. This however seems like a remote possibility given the Centre's likely reluctance to release him before achieving its Mission 2024. Mishra is unlikely to defy the decisions of the Centre.

# **FAREWELL TO CASH** he European Central Bank and the US

Across advanced economies, central banks appear willing to keep policy rates high enough for long enough to restore inflation to the 2% target range by the end of 2024

zero nominal interest rates, was a frequent binding constraint on advanced-economy monetary policy from the 2007-09 financial crisis up until policymakers (belatedly) began hiking interest rates in late 2021 and early 2022. Because central banks were unable to set policy rates at significantly negative levels, their critics. One argument they had to resort to quantitative easing (QE) – monetizing their balance-sheet expansions through massive purchases of public and private securities.

QE was not only ineffective in boosting below-target inflation rates but also contributed to asset bubbles that continue to threaten financial stability, and made it far too easy for improvident governments to run excessive budget deficits.

Across advanced economies central banks appear willing to keep policy rates high enough for long enough to restore inflation to the 2% target range by the end of 2024. But low inflation plus a low neutral real interest rate will increase the likelihood of the ELB again becoming a binding constraint in the case of future contractionary and disinflationary shocks.

After all, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's most recent estimates of r-star – the real interest rate consistent with full employment and stable ontarget inflation – are barely above 0.5% for the US. That low level makes eliminating the ELB highly desirable. Should inflation or employment end up materially below target, the Fed would be able to set significantly negative interest rates, if needed.

Moreover, the standard financial-stability argument against interest-bearing CBDCs makes little sense. If private holders of bank deposits decide to switch to a CBDC, and if the resulting disintermediation is considered undesirable, the central bank can make offsetting deposits with the affected financial intermediaries. A fear-driven run out of uninsured bank deposits into CBDCs can be offset and neutralized in the same way.

Similarly, while no CBDC can fully replicate the privacy of physical cash, that might not be so bad. The anonymity of cash makes it a preferred option for criminal and terrorist organizations worldwide. Moreover, the information made available to the central bank (and the government) will depend on the design and implementation of the CBDC.

At one extreme, there could be a completely centralized model, with commercial banks other financial institutions, and

all firms and households hold ing accounts with the central bank. But there could also be a two-tier system in which banks and other eligible financial institutions maintain wholesale CBDC accounts with the central bank and administer the retail CBDC to the public. A retail CBDC account would effectively be a conventional bank account guaranteed by the central bank. Administrators of retail accounts would pass on to the relevant authorities only the information required to comply with rules to combatmoney laundering and the financing of terrorism. In the US, this would include compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act.

Or, at the other extreme, there could be a completely decentralized distributed-ledger-based system, like many blockchainbased crypto currencies and stable coins today. Although proof-of-work consensus mechanisms (what Bitcoin uses) are very energy-intensive and don't scale well, proof-of-stake blockchains (like Ethereum's since September 15, 2022) may be able to surmount these obstacles. Either way, a blockchain allows for transaction history to be in the public domain, while individuals' identities can remain private (which is why some cryptocurrencies are also being used by criminal and ter rorist organizations).

Finally, paying interest on CBDCs would not adversely affect either financial inclusion or the efficiency of the payments and settlements system.

Policymakers who oppose abolishing physical cash and introducing an interest-bearing CBDC should think again. This is the moment to do both - before the effective lower bond (ELB) returns.

> The writer, a former member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England, is an independent economic adviser.

# SPECTRUM LIFESTYLE



terest on them and abolish cash. The United States is a CBDC laggard. According to the By Willem H Buiter Atlantic Council's CBDC tracker, CBDCs have already been fully launched in 11 currency areas,

PAYING **INTEREST ON CBDCs WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT EITHER FINANCIAL INCLUSION OR** THE EFFICIENCY **OF THE** 

**PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENTS SYSTEM** 

#### Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

## WISDOM CORNER

- An arrogant person considers himself perfect. This is the chief harm of arrogance. It interferes with a person's main task in life LEO TOLSTOY becoming a better person.
- Who controls the past controls the future; who controls the present controls the past. **GEORGE ORWELL**
- Morality is a matter of money. Poor people cannot afford to have morals. So they have religion KHUSHWANT SINGH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1805: Joseph Smith, an American prophet whose writings, along with the Bible, provide the theological foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and other Mormon denominations, was born.
- **1815:** British author Jane Austen published her fourth novel, Emma, which centres on a precocious young woman whose misplaced confidence in her matchmaking abilities occasions several romantic misadventures.
- **1876:** The first comprehensive constitution of the Ottoman Empire went into effect, giving the sultan full executive power.

### LO

### **GI INSURANCE**

irman Jones was assigned to the Hinduction centre, where he advised new recruits about their government benefits, especially their GI insurance. It wasn't long before Captain Smith noticed that Airman Jones was having a staggeringly high success-rate, selling insurance to nearly 100 % of the recruits he advised. Rather than ask about this, the Captain stood in the back of the room and listened to Jones' sales pitch. Jones explained the basics of



insurance to the new recruits, and then said: "If you have GI insurance and go into battle and are killed, the government has to pay \$200,000 to your beneficiaries." "If you don't have GI insurance, and you go into battle and get killed, the government only has to pay a maximum of \$6,000." "Now." he concluded, "which groups do you think they are going to send into battle first?'



STATISTICS CAN **EITHER CONVEY** RELEVANT INFORMATION WHICH CAN LEAD **TO SOUND DECISIONS. OR THEY COULD BE** 

**MISINTERPRETED LEADING TO ACTION WHEN** NONE IS WARRANTED

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,

send in their valuable comments, opinior

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

Tuppose you take your tem- it can lead to undesirable perature on two successive side-effects.

The reason we should not 98.2 degrees, on the second day start medicating ourselves when it is 98.8 degrees. What would the body temperature reaches you infer from these readings? 98.8 is because the body tem-More importantly, what course perature has a natural range of variation. This variation is due as a result? A lot of people take to various factors such as the notice and act on information ambient temperature, our cloththat is not very different from the ing, what we may have eaten, example cited above. We often whether we have just exercised, read items in newspapers with etc. Dr. W.E. Deming, a noted statistics to make a point. The statistician and management guru who helped the Japanese inomy, the number of accidents, or dustry become world leaders, the crime rate, etc. We read the called this natural variation numbers but not everyone recaused by "common causes." If the statistic (in this case, the body temperature) is within some defined limits, no action is evant information which can lead to sound decisions, or they required. But if it goes outside these limits, then Deming said could be misinterpreted leading that we need to investigate and ranted. In the above case, it possibly take action. So once the should be clear that no action body temperature crosses, say 100 needs to be taken. Why? Because degrees, it may be a sign that typical human temperatures one needs to see a doctor.

Deming wrote that if the data only shows natural or random variation, any action in response to a change from one period to the next would make the system

unstable, with the potential to increase the variation in the data. In the case of the body temperature example given at the beginning of this article, most healthcare professionals agree that unnecessary medication to counter random changes in the body temperature can lead to problems. We should take steps to improve one's health, such as eating well and exercising. But action should not be taken to counter a slight blip in the body temperature.

According to Deming, any unnecessary intervention based on short term changes in data would make the system unstable. with higher highs and lower lows.However, when the change is significant, i.e., the data crosses the limits beyond the natural variation, investigation into the cause of that occurrence is warranted and action needs to be taken. In the body temperature analogy, if the temperature were to cross 100 degrees, it often signals an infection for which some treatment becomes necessary.

Examples of misguided overreaction to data are seen in sev-

eral walks of life. Perhaps one of the more glaring examples is when a company announces a drop in the sales or profit number compared to the previous quarter or year. The immediate reaction of the stock market is to selling of the stock which often leads to a drop in its price. Sales and profits of organisations do not always go up in a straight line. Any panic selling of a company's stock in response to a poor quarter or year is unwarranted as long as the company remains healthy.

This article was written to emphasise the need to develop literacy in reading statistical data. Data is important for managing organisations, communities, and nations. However, collecting data involves time and cost. Therefore, we need to make sure that the data is put to proper use. In addition to the cost of collecting data, incorrect reaction to random fluctuations in the data can lead to worsening the system. The message should be clear. We need a better understanding of how to interpret statistical data.

### Let's stand united

#### Sir, The recent surge in COVID-19 cases in India is alarming, as the active caseload approaches 3,000. This resurgence of the virus demands urgent attention and a concerted effort from both the government and citizens. While we have made commendable progress in vaccination drives and public health awareness, it is evident that the battle against this virus is far from over. There is an urgent need for reinforced measures to curb the spread, including rigorous testing, contact tracing, and ensuring access to vaccines and healthcare facilities in every region of the country. Collaboration between the government, healthcare professionals, and communities is pivotal in overcoming this challenge. As responsible citizens, we must remain vigilant and proactive in our efforts to combat the virus. I encourage everyone to get vaccinated and to strictly follow the prescribed guidelines to protect ourselves and our communities. Together, we can overcome this adversity and emerge stronger. Let us stand united in our fight against COVID-19. Maimul Safui, HOWRAH

## Blessing in disguise

Sir, The motley group that intruded into Parliament did not blow up anything except their own futures. But they have unwittingly done the nation a favour on two counts: one by exposing flawed security in the most hallowed of premises, and two by underscoring that there are issues that underlie the social fabric that politicians are ignoring.

Shanthi Ramanathan, GHAZIABAD

#### Respect the cyclists

Sir, Cycling is a popular mode of transport. It causes the least pollution and boosts our immune system. No fossil fuel is emitted by cycling. It is a cheaper form of transport. It strengthens our cardio-vascular system. Our weight remains balanced, and our heartbeat becomes normal through cycling. The practice also promotes friendship and brotherhood. Apart from this, it is good for mental and physical health. But more often than not, cyclists are lampooned as poor and destitute. And they are criticised as paupers and mischief mongers on the road. As cyclists emitno poisonous gases into the environment, they should be more respected. Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR





# **OrissaPOST** SATURDAY | DECEMBER 23 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

# state

# **ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

# BJD likely to play woman card in 3 Jajpur segments

The Women Reservation Act is one of the factors behind the ruling party planning to pick women as its candidates in various constituencies



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 22: The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) will likely go for a change of candidates and play the woman card in Barchana, Bari and Korei Assembly segments of Jajpur district in the upcoming 2024 elections.

Chatters have been abuzz that BJD may do so as the ruling party candidates won from Bari and Barchana constituencies with very less vote margins. On the other hand, in case of Korei. the aim is to reduce the clout of some influential party leaders who are aspiring to field their kin from this constituency.

The Women Reservation Act is another factor behind the ruling party planning to play the woman card and field more female candidates from various constituencies in the state.

The ruling party BJD was invincible in the last general and Zilla Parishad elections with its candidates wresting the majority of the seats. This has adversely impacted the saffron party which now stands on a shaky ground. The BJP's organisational base has weakened after BJD's stunning victory.

A few days after BJP's MLA candidate Tushar Parida from Dharmasala Assembly segment joined BJD, his party colleague

candidate and MLA Biswaranjan Mallick from Bari segment also followed suit and joined the ruling party

Mallick was first in Congress, then contested as an independent and then joined BJP. He was quite active in politics during his stint in BJP. He contested as an independent in 2014 elections and was defeated by a margin of only 7,173 votes. Later, he contested as a BJP candidate and was defeated by only 4.062 votes in 2019 elections.

However, after joining the BJD, he has gone silent. On the other hand, Bari MLA Sunanda Das has kept herself active in politics by engaging in various developmental works. It is being claimed that if the party chooses to play the woman card, then she may be fielded again in the 2024 elections.

However, if Mallick has been promised of something while joining BJD, then it may spoil the chances of Bari MLA Das. It is also claimed that the possibility of a woman candidate being fielded by the BJD from Barchana and Korei constituencies is more if the party chooses a male candidate from Bari segment.

The district BJD's women unit president Sabita Rout from Korei and former block chairperson Itishree Samal from Barchana

are likely to be the frontrunners for tickets if the party opts to play the woman card. On the other hand, the possi-

bility of incumbent Korei MLA Ashok Bala being fielded again cannot be ruled out as he won from this constituency by a mar-

gin of over 30,000 votes. Chatters are even abuzz that the party might also go for fielding former MLA Akash Das Nayak, BJD's organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das aka Bobby or any of his kin, former MLA and minister Prafulla Ghadei from Korei Assembly segment.

The ruling party is also searching for an alternative of Barchana MLA Amar Prasad Satpathy as he won from this constituency by a margin of only 1,485 votes from his BJP rival in the last elections. The name of Amar's son

Adwitiya Satpathy, retired IAS officer Nirmal Mishra. Itishree Samal and Janmejaya Lenka figures among the bevy of alternative candidates.

When asked about the possibility of change of candidates, the district BJD president Saroj Kumar Mohapatra said that the candidates are being selected as per the direction of party supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik



A DAY FOR MATHS: Students display various geometrical figures on the occasion of National Mathematics Day at Panchaput High School under Maneswar block in Sambalpur district. Friday

#### Life term for dowry killing 13 sent to jail for fishing in Gahirmatha sanctuarv

#### PNN & AGENCIES

Balasore, Dec 22: Balasore District and Sessions Judge Asanta Kumar Das Friday convicted a murder accused and sentenced him to life along with a penalty of ₹10,000.

The court further ordered one year RI in the case of non-realisation of the fine amount from the convict.

According to the prosecution, Alok Das, 36, of Khadigadia village under Simulia police station limits, was arrested by police in October 2016 on the charge of killing his wife, Malati Das, following an FIR lodged by the complainant Ghanashyam Das.

The complainant, the brother of the deceased, had stated that the marriage of his sister was solemnised one year ago, and the accused was torturing Malati

# Former Jajpur CDMO stabbed during failed 👌 burglary; 2 detained

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Dec 22: Unknown miscreants broke into the house of retired Jajpur CDMO Raghunath Padhi and stabbed him multiple times in Charigharia area under Town police limits in Bhadrak district in the wee hours of Friday.

The matter came to the fore after Padhi informed about the incident to one of his relatives Suresh Behera. According to Suresh, when he rushed there Padhi was lying on the floor in a pool of blood.

A profusely bleeding Padhi was admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) in Bhadrak and later shifted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack as his condition deteriorated.

The attack took place at around 4am Friday when Padhi woke up and saw an unknown person inside his room. When he shouted for help, suddenly the miscreant attacked and stabbed him in the abdomen, thigh, chest, and hand seven times. Padhi and his wife were the only members present in the house during the attack.

Informed, Rourkela DSP Anshuman Dwibedi along with Town PS IIC Birendra Senapati and the dog squad reached the spot and started an investigation.

Notably, miscreants had made attempts to burgle Padhi's house at least five times earlier. Police suspect that the miscreant broke into the house with the intention of theft.

A case has been registered and two persons have been detained for questioning in this regard, said IIC Senapati.



No.A-1055

# Outbreak toll rises to 15 in Steel City

Dharani Ranjan Satpathy

held meeting with the

staff and doctors of RGH,

the details of which were

not disclosed. However,

a source in RGH said it

was all about reviewing

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Dec 22: With another person succumbing to suspected cholera at a private hospital here Friday morning, the total death toll owing to the outbreak has reached 15, sources said. However, the official

It is almost clear that diarrhoea and cholera struck due to contamination of

other places.

the situation.

water," complained one Madhavi Jain of Hanuman Chowk in Chhend area.

RDC Northern Division Sarat Chandra Dalei also made a whirlwind tour of Rourkela including RGH Thursday. Interacting with media, he said, "We are taking care of everything. The

# EAST COAST RAILWAY

Kendrapara: In a mid-sea

hour of Friday arrested 13

surveillance, Gahirmatha Marine

Sanctuary personnel in the wee

fishermen for illegally catching

Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary.

Ranger of Gahirmatha Marine

the fishermen including a

fish at the 'No Fishing Zone' within

Sanctuary Pradosh Moharana said

the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary

with the fishing vessel. The forest

marine fish catch, 1,000-feet-long

Kani nets, 2,000-feet-long Ilisa net,

fishermen. The arrested fishermen

were booked under Sections 27,

29, 31 of Wildlife (Protection) Act,

1972 and punishable under

Section 51 of the said Act and

later produced before the JMFC

court of Rajnagar which remanded

personnel also seized 50 kg of

2 GPS sets and 2 VHF sets from

the possession of the arrested

septuagenarian trespassed into

Date : 14.12.2023

SI No. (1) Assets Description: PROVISIO OF TEA STALL (GMU) AT SAINTALA STATION "E" CATEGORY (SAINTALA) PLATFORM 01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS. Station : SAINTALA (SFC). SI No. (2) Assets Description : PROVISION OF TEA STALL (GMU-W) AT LOISINGHA STATION "E" CATEGORY (LOISINGHA) PLATFORM 01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS, Station : LOISINGHA (LSX), SI No. (3) Assets Description : PROVISION OF TEA STALL (GMU) AT ATTABIRA CATEGORY (ATTAB PLATFORM 01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS. Station : ATTABIRA (ATS). SI No. (4) Assets Description : PROVISION OF TEA STALL (SMU - PHY CHALLANGED) AT BALANGIR STATION "B" CATEGORY (BALANGIR)/ PLATFORM 02/03 (BARGARH END) RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS. Station BALANGIR (BLGR). SI No. (5) Assets Description : PROVISION OF TEA STALL (SMU - ST) AT BISSAN CUTTAK STATION "E" CATEGORY (BMCK)/PLATFORM 01 RAIL WAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS. Station : BISSAM CUTTACK (BMCK). SI No. (6) Assets Description : PROVISION TEA STALL (SMU - ST WOMEN) AT HARISANKAR ROAD STATION "D CATEGORY (HSK)/ PLATFORM 0 **RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS** Station: HARISANKAR ROAD (HSK). SI No. (7) Assets Description : PROVISION OF TEA STALL (GMU - UR) AT IHARSUGUDA ROAD STATION CATEGORY (JHARSUGUDA ROAD) LATFORM 02 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS. Station : JHARSUGUDA ROAD (JSGR).

#### them into jail custody. physically and mentally soon Mallick said. The Odisha Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (A Government of Odisha Undertaking) **e** ä (An ISO:9001:2008 certified Govt. Company) Industrial Estate, Madhupatna, CUTTACK – 753 010. Odisha. Tel No. : 0671-2341204 ,2342816 Fax : 0671-2341875/2342561 cltd@gmail.com, osicmd@gmail.com, OSIC GST No. 21AAACO2101M1Z . CAD-3415 **TENDER CALL NOTICE** ender Notice No.6532/OSIC/MKT Dt.21.12.2023 he Odisha Small Industries Corporation Ltd., Cuttack nvites sealed bids from experienced registered Distributors/

Office of the Superintending Engineer, **Betnoti Canal Division** Laxmiposi, Dist.- Mayurbhanj, PIN-757107 Email ID- eebcd.laxmiposi@gmail.com AUCTION SALE NOTICE NO. 17/2023-24 of SE, BCD, Laxmiposi Total 07 nos. of work No. of Work Reserve Price/ Upset Price Rs.730.00 to Rs.9738.00 Auction Money / E.M.D. Rs.40.00 to Rs.490.00 01 (One) Month from the date of Period of Completion

after the wedding ceremony de-

He said Malati was residing

with them, deserting her mat-

rimonial house. However, the

accused took her along with him

from their house a few days be-

fore the incident, assuring that

filment of the cash demand, the

But in the event of non-ful-

he would not torture her.

of a sharp-edged weapon.

manding a dowry of ₹1 lakh.

sources pegged the toll at Rourkela seven. Government Hospital (RGH), which is maintaining the record of deaths and hospitalisations remained tight lipped about the toll. The deceased, a resident of Power House Road, was admitted to the hospital only

two days back. Meanwhile, Rourkela ADM Subhankar Mohapatra and Sundargarh CDMO

water being supplied here situation is under control by WATCO. In the last one and it will improve soon.' Joint secretary of week, WATCO has repaired nearly 60 leaks on the pipes Health Ashok Paikray in the affected areas like Panposh, Kissantola,

very guardedly said, "The reason could be due to con-Chhend, Ruptola, Plant taminated water. But, that Site Road, Narla Road and is being taken care of.

However, we are trying to "The water looked pale ascertain whether it was yellow and even if you due to water or food."

boil it a residue would sit Meanwhile, the RMRC at the bottom of the utenis trying to find the actual sil. Besides, we also found reason of the outbreak of black but very small living diarrhoea and cholera in objects floating in the the Steel City.

# Smart Braille classroom soon in school for the blind at Burla

'Annie', a comprehensive Braille self-learning device will be used to teach the students in the smart classroom for the visually impaired

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Dec 22: A state-of-the-art smart Braille classroom will be set up in the state government-run school for the blind at Burla in Sambalpur district.

Sambalpur The **Municipal Corporation** (SMC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) for this purpose Thursday, the official said.

As per the MoU, MCL will provide the funds for developing the smart Braille classroom, while the corporation will execute the project, SMC Commissioner Vedbhushan said.

The smart Braille classroom represents a cuttingedge, interactive learning approach equipped with



an audio system and a distinctive feature designed to capture and analyse children's usage patterns.

Principal of the government school for the blind Susama Sahu said the smart classroom will make learning easy and interesting for the visually impaired students. The students here will also

gain technical knowledge. 'Annie', a comprehensive Braille self-learning device, that makes learn-

ing fun, engaging, and intuitive for blind students will be used to teach the students in the smart classroom for the visually im-

A teacher of the school said 'Annie' is a learning system that uses touchfriendly devices to teach. It guides students with a friendly voice, so they don't need constant help.

However, the teacher suggested that training for educators on the smart Braille classroom concept would be essential before its launch.

The school for the blind, deaf and dumb was established at Burla in 1972. In the year 1980, the school was taken over by the government.

In the year 1992, the school for the deaf and dumb and school for the blind was separated.

SI No. (8) Assets Description : PROVISION OF TEA STALL (SMU - MINORITY) AT JUNAGARH ROAD STATION "D" JUNAGARH ROAD STATION CATEGORY (JUNAGARH ROAD) PLATFORM 01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS. Station : JUNAGARH ROAD (JNRD).

SI No. (9) Assets Description : PROVISION OF REFRESHMENT ROOM (GMU) AT BHAWANIPATNA STATION CATEGORY (BHAWANIPATNA) PLATFORM 01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS. Station : BHAWANIPATNA

SI No. (10) Assets Description : PROVISION OF TEA STALL (GMU) AT NUWAPADA ROAD (NPD) STATION "D" CATEGOR (NUWAPADA ROAD)/ PLATFORM 01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS. Station NUWAPADA ROAD (NPD).

SI No. (11) Assets Description : PROVISION OF MULTI PURPOSE STALL (SMU FREEDOM FIGHTER/WAR WIDOWS AND WIDOWS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DISLOCATED DISPLACED DUE TO THEIR LAND HAVING BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE RAILWAY FOR ITS OWN USE) AT KANTABANJI STATION "B" CATEGORY (KANTABANJI)/PLATFORM 01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS Station: KANTABANJI (KB.I) Auction Start Date & Time: 02.01.2024 at 1000 hrs. (for sl. no. 1 to 10) and 03.01.2024 at 1100 hrs. (for sl. no. 11). Auction Close Date & Time: 02.01.2024 at 1200 hrs. (for sl. no. 1 to 10) and 03.01.2024 at 1130 hrs. (for sl. no. 11). complete information including e-tende ocuments are available in website www.ireps.gov.in (E-auction module) Sr. Divisional Commercial Manage PR-910/0/23-24 Sambalou

egree Colleges of Bolangir District under Transformation of initiative of Government of Odisha. The detai specifications, quantity of the items along with terms and conditions is available in OSIC website. Any corrigendum changes/modifications will appear in OSIC website: www.osicltd.in only and all the bidders are further advised o keep referring OSIC website for any updates with eference to this advertisement.

OIPR-14073/11/0087/2324

UGB

Dealers/Manufacturers for procurement, supply & installation

of Smart Interactive Panel along with its accessories &

peripherals in High Schools, High Secondary Schools and

By order of MD Sc

d/-General	Manager	(0)

5 Date & Time of availability of bid document in the office of the undersigned		From 28.12.2023 at 10 A.M. to 08.01.2024 upto 1.00 PM		
6	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the office of the undersigned	Upto 5.00 PM of 08.01.2024		
7	Date of Opening of bid	09.01.2024 at 11.30 AM		
8 Name & Address of the O.I.Q.		Office of the Superintending Engineer, Betnoti Canal Division, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj-757107		
OII	PR-32272/11/0001/2324	Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Betnoti Canal Division, Laxmiposi		

POSSESSION NOTICE

ssue of work order.

(Sponsored by State Bank of India) Regional Business Office: Region-V, Bhawanipatna-766001, Dist.: Kalahandi, Email: ro.bhawanipatna@ukgb.in

UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK

(For Immovable Property)

[See Rule-8-(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Utkal Grameen Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction c inancial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act. 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12 ead with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act. calling ipon the Borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from he date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that he undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are nereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the said properties will be subject to the charge of the Utkal Grameen Bank for the amount stated below with interest, cost and incidental expenses thereon.

BRANCH NAME / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Possession Notice
CHICHAIGUDA BRANCH / Borrower: Sri Narendra Kumar Chalan, S/o: Basudev Chalan / Guarantors: 1) Sri Naubal Singh Chalan, S/o: Narendra Kumar Chalan, 2) Sri Jaya Prakash Chalan, S/o: Sri Basudev Chalan, All are At/P.O: Bhejipadar, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766014	All that Part & Parcel of the immovable property consisting of Mouza: Bhejipadar, Tahasil: Junagarh, Khata No.: 174, Plot No.: 644, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.05 Dec., in the name of <b>Sri Narendra</b> <b>Kumar Chalan</b>	20.12.2023 + interest &	08.06.2023 / 20.12.2023
HABASPUR BRANCH / Borrower: Sri Rupesh Kumar Agrawal, S/o: Rabi Shankar Agrawal, Near Lingaraj Lodge, At: Junagarh, P.O: Junagarh, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN- 766014 / Guarantor: Sri Dillip Kumar Agrawal, S/o: Jagdish Prasad Agrawal, At/P.O: Habaspur, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766023	All that Part & Parcel of the immovable property consisting of Mouza: Junagarh, Tahasil: Junagarh, Khata No.: 171/1821, Plot No.: 1482/3904, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.07 Dec. & Plot No.: 1483/3905, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.13 Dec., in the name of <b>Sri Rupesh Kumar Agrawal</b>	20.12.2023 + interest &	30.09.2023 / 20.12.2023
NANDOL BRANCH / Borrowers: 1) Sri Ratha Naik, S/o: Dibakar Naik, 2) Smt. Sukun Goud, W/o: Sri Ratha Naik, Both are At: Kapsara, P.O: Kutrukhamar, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766002 / Guarantors: 1) Sri Sankarsan Mohapatra, S/o: Sudarsan Mohapatra, At: Gobara, P.O: Kutrukhamar, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766002, 2) Sri Manmohan Mallik, S/o: Ulasa Mallik, At: Kapsara, P.O: Kutrukhamar, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766002	All that Part & Parcel of the immovable property consisting of Mouza: Kapsara, Tahasil: Kalahandi, Khata No.: 126, Plot No.: 638/1274, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.05 Dec., in the name of <b>Smt. Sukun Goud</b> & Khata No.: 126, Corresponding New Khata No.: 136/244, Plot No.: 638/1274, Corresponding New Plot No.: 638/1477, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.02 Dec., in the name of <b>Sri Ratha Naik</b>	₹ 3,93,431/- as on 20.12.2023 + interest &	19.08.2023 / 20.12.2023
JUNAGARH BRANCH / Borrower: Sri Sunil Kumar Padhi, S/o: Late Raghunath Padhi, At: Ward No.: 4, P.O: Junagarh, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766014	All that Part & Parcel of the immovable property consisting of Mouza: Junagarh, Tahasil: Junagarh, Khata No.: 171/1201, Plot No.: 1348/3212, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.02 Dec., in the name of <b>Sri Sunil Kumar Padhi</b>	+ interest &	08.08.2018 / 20.12.2023
Place: Bhawanipatna Date: 22.12.2023			norised Officer Grameen Bank









# HOLLYWOOD – At a glance

Securing the coveted title of

Best Picture at the

Academy Awards,

Evervwhere All at

pinnacle of an exceptional

awards season, emerging as the most

decorated winner since 2008's Slumdog

Millionaire. The film clinched a total of

Once marked the

Everything

seven Oscars

Oscar triump

made waves a

the film also

the Screen

Actors Guild

Awards and

Independe

amassing

setting

Spirit Awards

accolades a

records alo

its illustrious

Lipika's

distinction

While not much can be written about the fate of

Odia movies, barring a few like

Sweet Housewife, some indi-

vidual achievements made

the state proud. Four-time

National Award winner

Lipika Singh Darai

earned the rare distin

ten emerging figures

from the Indian film

industry selected

for the prestigious

British Academy

Television Arts

Breakthrough

Initiative.

BAFTA (The

of Film and

tion of being one of the

Phalguna Chaitra, Puskara, and My

the Film

Prior to its

Everythi

Everywhei

Oscars

hiahest arossina concert film of all time, with over \$250M worldwide As if that vift rules wasn't the wor denough, her

avlor Swift The Eras Tour became the

# Barbenhiemer, Everything *Everywhere* in spotlight

became the moststreamed artist in a single <sup>1</sup> day in Spotify's history, her "Cruel Summer" from a fourvear-old album hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and 'The Eras Tour' itself was the highest-grossing tour of the /ear. making her a hillionaire She got six Grammy ominations, including Album of the Year. No vonder Time crowned her "Person of the Year."

VERYTH

1989 (Taylor's

Version)

bowed at

No. 1 on

Billboard

200. she

From the Hollywood Sign turning 100 to singer Taylor Swift's box office bonanza with 'The Eras Tour', to 'Friends' actor Mathew Perry's death, to bumper success of 'Barbenheimer'.

> 2023 was an eventful year for Hollywood. Here's a look at some of the highlights



CON

Boycott to **BAFTA** 

The outgoing year was a mixed bag for the Odia film industry. While 2022 provided a

glimmer of hope with movies like 'DAMaN', 'Pratikshya', and 'Adieu Godard', garnering critical

Dy mid-July, amid an industry-wide strike, DWonder Twin Barbie and Oppenheimer, soared at the box office, collectively grossing over half a billion dollars worldwide. Greta Gerwig's Barbie, featuring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, secured 18 nominations at the Critics' Choice Awards 2024. Concurrently, Christopher Nolan's Oppenheimer, starring Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt, Robert Downey Jr., and Matt Damon, also registered astonishing

umber at the box office

July 13, halting th film and TV ndustry alongside the WGA. After a five-month period. November 8, the Writers Guild of America leadership reached

Strike ran Drescher SAG-AFTRA sident nitiated a strike

SAG-AFTRA

a tentative agreement with the AMPTP companies, describing the deal as exceptional in their announcement.

at least six movies making it to the Rs 500 crore club and a couple of more on the way. The eye-popping business made by films like Pathaan, Jawan, Gadar 2, Tiger 3, and Animal made the industry as well as stars like Shah Rukh Khan and Sunny Deol return to their winning ways. In a noteworthy year post-Covid, the industry is poised to surpass the 2019 record of Rs 10,948 crore in 2023, reaching an expected Rs 11,000 crore, according to a recent report by

ll is not

lost—an

A lost—a adage

held true for the Hindi

film industry in 2023-with

Ormax Media. Despite an existential crisis in 2022 due to the influence of South Indian films, Bollywood's redemption came this year with as many as six blockbusters cited above. Pathaan, SRK's comeback movie, set the revival tone, and Gadar 2, featuring Sunny Deol, resonated with patriotic themes. The success signifies a robust return for Indian

cinema, blurring the lines between cinema halls and OTT platforms in 2023. The year also saw noteworthy OTT debuts and long-format shows by Kareena Kapoor. Kajol, Tamannaah Bhatia, Shahid Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha, and Aditya Roy Kapoor further narrowing the gap. National Film Awards for top stars Alia Bhatt, Kriti Sanon, and Pankaj Tripathy and the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for veteran Vaheeda Rehman only sum up how the showbiz fared in a year that draws to a close.

#### appreciation, 2023 will be remembered for controversies and a few individual glories Mrs Asia World 2023 Candhya Dalai, originating J from Rayagada, reached a significant milestone by clinching the coveted Mrs. Asia World 2023 title on October 15 in

Pattaya, Thailand. Sandhya's

securing the titles of Mrs

additionally bestowed

with an honorary doc-

torate degree from

the International

Peace University

in Coimbatore.

thus earning

the esteemed

title of Dr

alongside

her

name

path to success includes **Prem Parija:** India 2020 and Mrs. India The new verse 2020 (virtual quaran-'Commando' tine queen). Possessing a postgraduate degree in ▲ disha-born actor Prem Political Science, she was

**U**Parija made his debut as protagonist in Vipul Amrutlal Shah's action-thriller web series based on the popular film Commando - which originally starred Vidyut Jammwal. The web series premiered on Disney+ Hotstar.

sion soap oper<u>as and e</u>

Lead role for Odia girl in Tollywood

23 was like the citing start of a new apter if Shah Rukh Khan's life were a movie. For the past few years, things

have been tough for the actor. His movies didn't have the same magic as before, making fans and experts wonder if his time as a top actor was over. But just like in great stories, the hero made a comeback in 2023, Khan in Bollywood. In 2014, his movie Happy New Year though his films made money, fans and critics weren't among his best projects.

leturn of

VAIBHAVI UPADHYAYA

Actress Vaibhavi Upadhyay, known for character Jasmine Mavani in the 2017 sitcom *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai*, died in a car crash, May 22, Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh. She

was only aged 38 when she died.



music for around 40 films and wrote songs for 30 others

SWARUP NAYAK

Noted Odia music composer, lyricist, singer and actor

Swarup Naik died of cancer at a private hospital in Cuttack, at the age of 76, October 27. He composed



PINTU NANDA Actor Pintu Nanda, who started his career through an Odia daily soap on DD Odia, died in Hyderabad, March 1, at the age of 45, due to cirrhosis of the liver. He appeared in more than 115 Odia movies as hero,

villain, character artiste and comedian.













With several blockbusters, the outgoing year not only put the struggling Hindi film industry back on track, but also witnessed one of the biggest individual comebacks in Indian cinema history, as top star Shah Rukh Khan became the only Indian actor to deliver two consecutive ₹1,000 crore films in one calendar year. The glamour world also had its share of marriages, separations, and memorable losses. **Orissa POST** looks back on the year gone by...

# vbiz on a roll



Indian performers are making their mark on the global stage & 2023 was no different. While Deepika Padukone continued from where she left in 2022, there were several others who got global recognition for their exploits. Here's a look at some of the shining stars

Since the last few years, more and more

#### Deepika Padukone The Om Shanti Om actress hogged the spotlight at

international level as a presenter at the 2023 Oscars held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. She introduced the live performance of the Best Original Song nominee. Naatu Naatu, which received a standing ovation. She was also adjudged "The Global Star" by *Time Magazine* for taking Bollywood to the world.

## a Bhatt

Alia debuted with Hollywood star Gal Gadot in Heart Of Stone. She also made her Met Gala debut paving tribute to fashion icon Karl Lagerfeld in a creation by Prabal Gurung.

## Sonam Kapoor

The Khoobsurat actress was in the news for attending and performing at King Charles' coronation ceremony held at London. Sonam was given the distinction of introducing he Commonwealth virtual choir at the ceremony.

## Anushka Sen

The popular TV actress was appointed as the Honorary Brand Ambassador of Korean Tourism from India. She also made history by becoming the first Indian to present the official anthem at COP28 in the UAE

Radhika Madan

Radhika became the first Indian actress on jury at Tallinn Film Festival and the youngest jury member at the ternational Emmy Awards.

# Vir Das

The ace comic became the first Indian Comedy at the International Emmy Awards 2023. He won the award for his Netflix comedy special, Vir Das: Landing.

## Jason Bretfelean

elangana born Jason won the Mister Global 2023 title at the age of 19 while representing India in the male pageant in Thailand besting contestants from 36 countries.



for his romantic roles, he surprised everyone by becoming an action hero in Jawan and Pathaan. With a mix of charm and intensity, the new and improved King Khan won over audiences. It's interesting to note that the last time SRK had three

releases in a year was in 2004 with Main Hoon Na, making it to be the year of resurgence for Shah Rukh was a big success. However, between 2014 and 2023, even Veer-Zaara, and Swades - all now considered classics



Veteran actor Rio Kapadia, best known for films such as Dil Chahta Hai, Chak De! India, and Happy New Year, passed away after a battle with cancer, September 14, in Mumbai. He was 66.



## **Kiara & Siddharth**

Raghav

After keeping their

anticipated union

unfolded against the

Leela Palace in Udaipur

Rajasthan, which took

place September 24,

Raghav Chadha's highly

stunning backdrop of The

embraced the solemnity of

Anand Karaj and Hindu

The internet said 'wow' when it witnessed the dreamy and picturesque wedding of Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra. The couple's fairy tale-like wedding was held in Rajasthan, in Jaisalmer's regal Suryagarh Palace February 7. The wedding pictures got a



# Swara Bhasker & Fahad Ahmad

Actress and political activist Swara Bhasker entered the realm of matrimony with political leader Fahad Ahmad January 6. Swara officially announced her union with Fahad Ahmad February 16, but the marriage was register arlier in court January 6



# Randeep Hooda &

Lin Laishram Actor Randeep Hooda tied the knot with his longtime girlfriend and actress Lin Laishram in a traditional Meitei wedding ceremony in Manipu capital Imphal



3.0

0

This year, a few celebrities embraced

some of the most talked about affairs of

the year:



## Lipsa Mishra & **Akash Acharya** Odia actress Lipsa Mishra known fo

Toh Aganara Tulasi Mu got hitched to bovfriend Akash Acharva in ubaneswar February 27.



Mukti Mohan & **Kunal Thakur** Dancer and actress Mukti Mohan tied the knot with the Animal





dominance *Be it 'Pushpa', 'KGF', 'Vikram' or 'RRR', in recent years,* South Indian film industry dominated the national

• Movies

Web sei

Saas, Bahu Aur Fla

Jawan Pathaan

Gadar 2

Tiger 3

Farzi

Scoop

Jubilee

Asur 2

entertainment scene like never before. 'RRR' went on to make history at the 95th Oscar Awards with 'Naatu Naatu' becoming the first song from an Indian production to win the Oscar for Best Original Song

# *Naatu, Naatu* fever

aatu Naatu achieved the N historic feat of being the naugural song from an Indian production nominated and subsequently victorious in the Best Original Song category at the Oscars. Although the live rendition may not have replicated the dynamic energy of the film version, witnessing lyricist Chandrabose and composer MM Keeravan accepting their award was truly stirring.

With sweeping the awards at the Oscars, RRR continued to thrive





admirers marveled at star weddings, 2023 also saw a iotable prevalence of high-profile celebrity separations, leaving fans speculating about the reasons behind the splits



iubhav-Varsha





ANDRE BRAUGHER Actor Andre Braugher, who was best known for his character 'Captain Holt' in Brooklyn Nine Nine died December 11, at the age of 61, following a brief illness.

**GUFI PAINTAL** Gufi Paintal was a actor known for his iconic role 'Shakuni' of BR Chopra's *Mahabharat* in 1988. He was not only an actor but also served in Indian Army during

Sino-Indian War 1962. Lahore-born Paintal died in

Mumbai at the age of 78





# MATHEW PERRY

drowning in his Jacuzzi

Actor Mathew Perry, who was best known for playing 'Chandler Bing' on *Friends*, was found dead at his Los Angeles home, October 28, at the age of 54, due to



# Tara Sutaria- Aadar Jain



# MICHAEL GAMBON





nodel Georgia Andriani but got separated after dating for more than four years. While Arbaaz was tight-lipped about the development, Georgia said, "We both knew it wouldn't have lasted



















forever because we were very















After his divorce with Malaika Arora, Arbaaz started dating

received by SS Rajamouli, the director.

Guneet Monga and Gonsalves 'Pushpa, Kabhi Jhukega Nahi'

South Indian actor Allu Arjun was honoured with a National Award for best actor in his outstanding performance in the film Pushpa: The Rise directed by Sukumar. Arjun was the first Telugu actor to win this award in 68 years.

'Rocketry, rocketing too far'

Rocketry: The Nambi Effect, a Tamil film, which was released i the year 2022, biographical drama

to receive the Nationa Awards, like Best Stunt Choreography Best Special Effects Best Choreography, Best Background

# **PHOTO POST**



Children dressed as Santa Claus during pre-Christmas celebrations at a school in Jabalpur

**OrissaPOST** 

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 23 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR



A Swedish-made archer self-propelled howitzer of Ukraine's 45th separate artillery brigade fires at Russian positions in the Donetsk region



Anganwadi workers stage a protest demanding a hike in their wages in Solapur



A woman with her child on a cold day in Gurugram





**P8** 



Mourners lay candle lights outside the headquarters of Charles University for victims of mass shooting in Prague, Czech Republic. A lone gunman opened fire at a university Thursday, killing more than a dozen people and injuring scores of people

Students wear face masks in Jammu amid rise in Covid cases in the country



A delivery van stands in the water of the Elbe during a storm surge near the fish market in Hamburg, Germany

Telangana minister Jupally Krishna Rao during the inauguration of PETEX INDIA 2023, an exhibition on pet care, in Hyderabad







# national



It is disappointing that caste is being mentioned during serious debates in Parliament P CHIDAMBARAM CONGRESS LEADER

# **SANJAY TO REMAIN IN JAIL**

A Delhi court Friday dismissed the bail application of senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh in a money laundering case related to the Delhi excise policy 'scam', observing that he was connected with the 'proceeds of crime to the extent of Rs 2 crore' and the case against him was 'genuine'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

the country.

Session and gave a call to people

to unite in saving democracy in

The protest organised under

the banner of the Indian National

**Developmental Inclusive Alliance** 

(INDIA) was attended by

Congress president Mallikarjun

Kharge, former party chief Rahul

Gandhi and the leaders of Left

parties, DMK, NCP, SP, NC, TMC,

JMM, RJD and other members

Addressing the gathering,

Kharge said the leaders of the

INDIA parties have come to-

gether as democracy is under

threat under the BJP-led gov-

ernment."When everyone unites,

(Prime Minister) Narendra Modi

will not be able to do anything.

The more you try to crush us, the

more we will rise. We are fight-

ing unitedly to save the coun-

Amit Shahji have taken the re-

'Modiji and (Home Minister)

try and democracy," he said.

of the opposition coalition.



A special camp was organised in Chennai for expeditious settlement of claims by general insurance companies in areas

impacted by cyclone Michaung and similar efforts would be made in four districts of Tamil Nadu affected by excessive rains and flood

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN FINANCE MINISTER

Saddened by the news of the shooting incident at Prague's Charles University. Deenest condolences to the families of the victims

S JAISHANKAR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

It is a proud moment for all Manipuris and we will all stand for a strong and united India... I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for acknowledging the importance of Manipur and naming a defence warship after Imphal N BIREN SINGH MANIPUR CM

SHORT TAKES

### **Kejriwal summoned** for third time

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has issued a fresh summons to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for questioning for January 3 in the excise policy-linked money laundering investigation, sources said Friday. This is the third notice to Kejriwal, also the national convenor of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), after he refused to appear before the federal agency on two earlier summons for November 2 and December 21. The Chief Minister is currently undertaking a Vipassana meditation course.

## Students forced to clean toilets

Bangalore: Close on the heels of an incident in Kolar where school students were 'forced' to clean the soakpit, another incident of pupils being allegedly asked to clean toilets at a government school here has come to light. In a viral video, some of the students were purportedly seen cleaning the toilet at Andrahalli in the city. Following the incident, parents of students expressed outrage and staged a protest outside the school campus demanding strict action against its administration.

# **NIKHIL GUPTA CASE**

# No Indian jurisdiction: Czech justice ministry



New Delhi, Dec 22: India's judicial authorities have "no jurisdiction" in the case involving Nikhil Gupta, Czech justice ministry spokesperson Vladimir Repka has said, days after his family approached the Supreme Court seeking its intervention in the matter.

Gupta, charged by the US government of involvement in a conspiracy to kill a Sikh separatist on American soil, has been in a jail in Prague since he was detained in the Czech Republic around six months ago.

The US has approached the Czech government for Gupta's extradition and proceedings relating to it are underway." Any judicial authorities of the Republic of India have no jurisdiction in the matter in question, the case is under the jurisdiction of the competent authorities of the Czech Republic," Repka said.



approached the Supreme Court last week pleading for issuing direction to the Indian government to intervene in the extradition proceedings and ensure a fair trial in the case. The US federal prosecutors have charged Gupta of working with an Indian government employee in the foiled plot to kill US-based Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who holds dual citi-

zenship of the US and Canada. India has already constituted a probe committee to investigate allegations. Repka also responded to allegations made in a petition filed in the Supreme Court by Gupta's family that he is not having adequate legal representation in the Czech

A family member of Gupta, 52, Republic.



sponsibility to destroy democracy and the Constitution. These people are working to crush the Dalits, tribals, labourers, women and farmers. That is why we have formed the INDIA bloc to save the country," the Congress chief said. "People holding high consti-

tutional posts say that 'I am a man of this caste, hence they are insulting me. We are not even allowed to read the notice in the House. So can I say that the Modi government does not even allow Dalits to speak?" Kharge asked the gathering.

Noting that the freedom of speech is enshrined in the Constitution and this freedom was given to people by

ties will spread," he said shunting out 150 MPs from Parliament, the government has shut out the voice of 60 per cent Indians, he added.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar said the leaders of the bloc are ready to pay whatever price required to be paid to save democracy in the country. DMK's Tiruchi Siva accused the BJP of attempting to destabilise the country's federal and secular structures. "The INDIA bloc will oust the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," he said.

S T Hasan of the Samajwadi Party (SP) said this is not the suspension of the MPs, but the suspension of the country's democracy. Hasnain Masoodi of the NC demanded a statement in the House as to how the security lapse occurred in Parliament. Mausam Noor of the TMC said the MPs who raised questions on the security lapse in Parliament were suspended. Sitaram Yechury of the CPI(M) said democracy is being killed across the country. "If we want to save democracy and the

Constitution, we will have to remove the Modi government from power," he said.

"If bigotry had a face, @INCKarnataka govt would

be the Best of it! At a time,

when whole of Karnataka is

reeling under severe drought,

farmers staring at the worst

of crisis with loss of crops &

no rainfall & hardly any de-

velopment works taking off,

all that @CMofKarnataka &

his team of cabinet ministers

could think of is flaunting their



# K'taka CM draws flak as video in luxury jet goes viral

Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal

Nehru and B R Ambedkar, he

said, "We are not afraid of the

Modi government. No matter

how hard you try to bury us in

the ground, we are those seeds

who have the habit of grow-

MPs from Parliament and passed

all the laws without any oppo-

sition. This is not good for democ-

racy," the Congress chief said.

sition members were suspended

from Parliament for demanding

answers from Shah on the

December 13 Parliament security

breach issue."The more hatred

the BJP spreads, the more love

and brotherhood the INDIA par-

Rahul Gandhi said the oppo-

You threw out the opposition

ing again and again.

*In the viral video,* Siddaramaiah is seen seated in a swanky private jet along with Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, among others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Dec 22: The opposition BJP Friday came down heavily on the Congress government in Karnataka for flaunting their "rich fortunes and luxury lifestyles" following a viral video on social media showing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his cabinet colleague B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan in a private jet.

The CM hit back by questioning the flying preferences of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the viral video,



Siddaramaiah is seen seated in a swanky private jet along with Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, among others.

In a post, Minister Khan is seen walking inside the jet with a popular Bollywood song playing in the background. Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra in a post of 'X' said:

Rich Fortunes & Luxury Lifestyles over the poor damsels of the State!" "By the way, they were traveling in this luxurious aircraft to seek funds for drought relief works! What a crude mockery of our distress! Splurging the Taxpayers' money comes so easy for @INCIndia ministers!" Vijayendra said in the so-



cial media post.

### **Custodial remand** of Jha extended

New Delhi: A Delhi court Friday extended till January 5 the police custody of Lalit Jha, the alleged 'mastermind' of the Parliament security breach incident, for his sustained interrogation. Special Judge Hardeep Kaur extended Jha's custody on an application moved by the Delhi police. Police sought extension of Jha's custody, saving he was needed to be taken to various places for investigation, which was "at a crucial stage". The Public Prosecutor told the court he was required to be guizzed further to unravel the entire conspiracy and to get to the root of the matter."We have to find out the actual persons involved in the conspiracy... All are required to be looked into in totality while investigating this matter. We have to find out the ultimate objective of the offence," the prosecutor told the court.

Man arrested

New Delhi: A man has been

arrested for allegedly killing

resident of Bihar's Samastipur,

had allegedly strangulated his

live-in partner Tamanna (32) in

leave his children, they added.

August after she pressurised him to divorce his wife and

his live-in partner in outer

Delhi's Nangloi area four

months ago, police said.

Pankaj Kumar Mehto, a

# 22 cases of JN.1 found so far, Kerala woman recovers

States have been urged to ensure effective compliance of the detailed operational guidelines for revised surveillance strategy for COVID shared by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 22: Twenty-two cases of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1 have been detected in the country till Thursday, with 21 cases being reported from Goa and another from Kerala, official sources said.

In Goa, the sources said, no clustering of cases of the JN.1 variant has been seen and all infected people have recovered without complications. Those infected had mild upper respiratory tract infection with symptoms of mild dry cough, sore throat with or without fever. they said.

In November, 62 samples were sent to different INSACOG labs for whole genome sequencing for detection of the JN.1 variant, while in December, so far, 253 samples have been sent, the sources said Friday."A total of 22 cases

of the JN.1 variant have been reported till December 21 in the country," an official source said.

The Kerala case, a 79-year-old woman, has recovered without complications. She had mild symptoms and was the first case of JN.1 to be detected in India. The detection was made December 8. NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr V K Paul Monday had said that the scientific community in India is closely investigating the new variant but stressed on the need for states to ramp up testing and strengthen their surveillance systems.

Even though the number of cases is rising and the JN.1 sub-variant has been detected in the country, there is no cause of immediate concern as 92 per cent of those infected are opting for home-based treatment, indicating mild illness, officials said.

There is also no increase in hospitalisation rates and COVID-19 is an incidental finding in people hospitalised due to other medical conditions. In a letter to states and Union territories. Union Health Secretary Sudhansh Pant Monday had underlined the critical COVID-19 control and management strategies considering the upcoming festive season and advised them to put in place requisite public health measures to minimise the risk of increase in transmission of the disease.

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#### जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय Ø Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi-110067

#### Advertisement No. RC/70/2023

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the posts of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor & Professor in various Schools/Special Centres of the University as per latest UGC Regulations.

The details of vacancies qualifications general instructions etc. are available in JNU website https://www.jnu.ac.in/career. The last date for submission of online applications completed in all respects. shall be 29th December, 2023 (5.30 PM)

Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the University website. REGISTRAR

CBC 21284/12/0002/2324

#### **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT** SAHEED LAXMAN NAYAK MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL. KORAPUT

Tel. No. 06852 252121

E-mail: supdtsInmchkpt.od@gov.in, sInmchkpt22@gmail.com No. 6995/2023 Date: 21.12.2023

#### **TENDER CALL NOTICE**

No.E-659:- The Medical Superintendent, SLNMCH, Koraput-764020, Dist. Koraput, Odisha invites sealed Tenders in plain papers/pads are nvited from intending Manufacturers/Distributors/Stockiest/Wholesaler for supply of medicine and medical consumable items in bulk quantity to the indersigned as per requirement of the hospital which will be valid for a period of one year from the date of approval or till finalisation of next tender The detail information terms and condition can be obtained from the office of the undersigned in all working day after publication in newspapers. The bidder can also download the tender documents directly from the websit www.koraput.nic.in and www.slnmch.nic.in. The last date of receipt o enders through Regd. Post/ Speed Post is on or before Dt: 12.01.2024 & the Tender will be opened on Dt: 16.01.2024. It may be extended. The Superintendent, SLNMCH, Koraput reserves right to accept/reject/ cance any or all the tenders in full or part without assigning any reason thereof.

1	Date of sale of Tender Paper			
2	Cost of Tender Paper	Rs. 4000/- (In shape of Demand Draft in favour of Medical Superintendent, SLNMCH, Koraput payable at Koraput)		
3	Cost of EMD	Rs. 50000/- (In shape of Demand Draft in favour of Medical Superintendent, SLNMCH, Koraput payable at Koraput)		
4 Last date of receipt of Tender 12.01.2024 till 5 P.M. Paper				
5	Date of opening of Technical Bid	16.01.2024 at 12.00 A.M.		
6	Date of opening of Financial Bid	16.01.2024 at After completion of Technical Bid		
7	Venue for opening Technical Bid and Financial	Office of the Superintendent, SLNMCH. Koraput		
8	Address for Correspondence	Office of the Superintendent, SLNMCH, Koraput, At-Pujariput, Po/Dist- Koraput		
	Sd./- Su	uperintendent, SLNMCH, KORAPUT OIPR-10121/11/0013/2324		

"e" P		nt Notice-		4
<b>BID IDENTIFIC</b>	CATION NO	). SAL-BDI	(-3-P1 OF	2023-24
<ol> <li>Name of work</li> <li>Class of Contract</li> <li>No. of works</li> <li>Value of Work</li> <li>Time of Complet</li> <li>Type of Bid</li> <li>Summary for key</li> </ol>	(Riv tor :- Varie :- 30 N :- Rs.1 ion :- 6 Ca :- Perc	er & Saline) es from "D" C los. (Details a 11.02 lakhs to alendar Mont centage Bid	works Class to "B" C s per NIT availa o 48.96 lakhs hs	able in website)
Procurement Officer	Bid Identi- fication No.	Availabilit	y of tender e bidding To	Date & time of opening Bid
Superintending Engineer, Salandi Canal Division, Bhadrak	SAL- BDK-3 P1 OF 2023-24	27.12.2023 at 11.00 AM	10.01.2024 UPTO 5.00 PM	
Further details can b gov.in / www.dov Cancellation to the a OIPR-32005/11/0004/23	vrodisha.gov above notice	in. Any a will be public <b>Sd./- Sup</b>	ddendum/ shed in this w perintendin	Corrigendum/

# CORRIGENDUM

Section-II (Eligibility Criteria) No.MM-39

The Bidder must satisfy all of the following General and Technical Eligibility Criteria to participate in this Tender:-

1. General Eligibility Criteria (Necessary support documents are to be enclosed:

- A. Each Technical Bid must Contain the Requisite Tender Document Cost of Rs.6000/- and EMD of Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) as per the advised mode in the Tender Document
- B. The Bidder should be a Registered Company in the business of construction and Earth work. Necessary Certificates are to be enclosed.
- The Bidder must have been registered with GST and must furnish C. the GST Registration Certificate, PAN of the Firm.
- D. The Bidder shall submit a self Declaration as mentioned below either with the technical bid or before opening of the financial bid

#### Self Declaration

#### I here by declare that:-

- 1. I have not been declared in-eligible for corrupt and fraudulent practises
- 2. I have no history of defaulting in execution of work under State Govt./ Central Govt.
- 3. I have not been blacklisted by Central/ State Government. 4. No Criminal proceedings in any Court of Law is pending against me. 5. I undertake that after completion of building, I will provide quarterly
- maintenance support for next two years.

Signature of Bidder

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division OIPR-08125/11/0017/2324

# **OrissaPOST** SATURDAY | DECEMBER 23 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

# international



We are working in a highly dangerous situation. More than 135 of our colleagues have paid (with) their lives. We're working in a highly complicated system where different verifications have to go in ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

## **RESTRICTIONS ON ONLINE GAMIN**

China released draft guidelines aimed at curbing excessive spending on online gaming in the latest move by the ruling Communist Party to keep control of the virtual economy



# Israel expands ground offensive Imran, Qureshi get uote

Israeli forces signalled they were widening their ground offensive with a new push into central Gaza Friday, as the UN

Security Council was expected to vote on a resolution to increase humanitarian aid to stave off the threat of famine

Tibetans are a democracyloving people who wish to practice their own religion freely and have their own wishes and

desires acknowledged as we do in the United States of America MICHAEL MCCAUL US HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The country wants to strengther

cooperation with the United States to combat climate change

HUANG RUNOIU CHINA'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

The Artemis programme is the most ambitious space exploration effort in generations. For the first time in more

than half a century, the United States will return astronauts to the lunar surface. We will establish the first lunar base camp and the first station in lunar orbit all of this in collaboration with our allies and partners

KAMALA HARRIS US VICE PRESIDENT

# SHORT TAKES

## Irag donates fuel to Gaza

Baghdad: Iraq has donated 10 million litre of fuel to the Gaza Strip, the media reported. "A ship carrying 10 million litre of gas oil has sailed through the international water toward the Suez Canal," Iraqi military spokesman Yahya Rasoul was quoted by the media as saying Thursday. Rasoul said the Iragi government had coordinated with the Egyptian authorities about the shipment sent to the Palestinians stranded in Gaza. Xinhua news agency reported.

## 20 killed in rebel attack

**Bangui (Central African** Republic): At least 21 people, including children and a soldier, were killed by rebels during attacks targeting a

Rafah (Gaza Strip), Dec 22: The Palestinian death toll in Gaza surpassed 20,000, health officials said Friday, the latest indication of the staggering cost of the war as Israel expanded its ground offensive and ordered tens of thousands more people to leave their homes

AGENCIES

The deaths, amounting to nearly 1 per cent of the territory's pre-war population, are just one measure of the devastation wrought by the conflict that over 11 weeks has displaced nearly 85 per cent of Gaza's people and levelled wide swaths of the tiny coastal enclave.

Israel, shielded by the United States, has resisted international pressure to scale back its offensive and has said it would press on until Hamas, the militant group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years, has been destroyed.

On Friday, the military ordered tens of thousands of residents to leave their homes in Burej, an urban refugee camp, and surrounding communities, within the territory that Israel originally told people to flee to.

The air and ground campaign also continued in the north, even as Israel says it is in the final stages of clearing out Hamas militants there. In the city of Rafah, on the

border with Egypt, an air strike on a house killed six people, in-



cluding an infant, according to Associated Press journalists who saw the bodies at a hospital. Rafah is one of the few places in Gaza not under evacuation orders, but has been targeted in Israeli strikes almost every day. Gaza's Health Ministry said

Friday that it has documented 20,057 deaths in the fighting. It does not differentiate between combatant and civilian deaths. It previously said that roughly two-thirds of the dead were women or minors. It said 53.320

HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE GAZA STRIP

**CROSSING FROM EGYPT AND THE ISRAELI-**CONTROLLED KEREM SHALOM CROSSING

Palestinians have been wounded Israel blames Hamas for the high civilian death toll during its intense air and ground campaign, citing the group's use of crowded residential areas for military purposes

Israel declared war after Hamas militants stormed across its border and killed some 1,200 people and kidnapped 240 others. Israel's military says 139 of its soldiers have been killed in the ground offensive. It says it has killed thousands of Hamas mil-

itants, including about 2,000 in the past three weeks, but it has not presented any evidence to back up the claim.

Meanwhile, phone and internet services were gradually being restored late Thursday, after the latest communications blackout of 35 hours. Repeated cuts in communications have hampered aid deliveries at a time of unprecedented humanitarian needs in Gaza.

The hunger eclipsed even the near-famines of recent years in Afghanistan and Yemen, according to Thursday's report, which warned that the risk of famine is "increasing each day," blaming the hunger on insufficient aid entering Gaza.

The war has also pushed Gaza's health sector into collapse. Only nine of its 36 health facilities are still partially functioning, all located in the south, according to the World Health Organisation.

WHO relief workers reported 'unbearable" scenes in two hospitals they visited in northern Gaza: Bedridden patients with untreated wounds cry out for water, the few remaining doctors and nurses have no supplies, and bodies are lined up in the courtyard.

Israeli forces have raided a series of health facilities in the north in recent weeks, detaining men for interrogation and expelling others



AGENCIES

Islamabad, Dec 22: In a relief to jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan ahead of elections, Pakistan's Supreme Court Friday approved his and close aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi's bail in the cipher case related to the alleged leakage of state secrets.

The apex court also directed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders to submit surety bonds worth Rs 1 million each. the Dawn newspaper reported.

The order was issued by a three-member bench headed by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and comprising Justices Athar Minallah and Sved Mansoor Ali Shah on a set of PTI petitions ahead of the February 8 general elections. The case is based on the allegation that a diplomatic document sent by the Pakistan embassy in March last year was mishandled by Khan, 71, and Qureshi, 67, and they violated the secrecy laws of the country.

However, Khan will remain in jail as he is convicted in the Toshakhana corruption case about the concealment of details of state gifts. During Friday's hearing, Justice Masood observed that the statement of a witness is taken on oath, but Azam Khan's - ex-principal secretary of for-

han and Qureshi, who is also Abehind bars, were first indicted in the case October 23. Both had pleaded not guilty

The trial was being held at the Adiala Jail and four witnesses had already recorded their statements when the Islamabad High Court termed the government's notification for a jail trial "erroneous" and scrapped the entire proceedings

mer premier Khan who is a key witness in the case - statement was taken without one, the Express Tribune newspaper said. During the court proceedings, the top court also heard the petition against Khan and Qureshi's October 23 indictment.

Meanwhile, in a huge setback to the party of Imran Khan, Pakistan's top election commisison rejected Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf's organisational elections and its plea to have cricket bat as the electoral symbol for the February 8 general elections.

A five-member panel of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Monday reserved the verdict after concluding the hearing of multiple petitions filed by members of the PTI against the party elections held December 2 in Peshawar.

# SNIPPETS

## Congress launches probe into Osprey prog

Washington: A congressional oversight committee has launched an investigation into the V-22 Osprey programme following a deadly crash in Japan which killed eight Air Force special operations service members. The entire Osprey fleet remains grounded following the November 29 crash with the exception of limited Marine Corps flights in emergencies. More than 50 US service members have died in Osprey crashes over the lifespan of the programme, and 20 of those died in four crashes over the last 20 months. The Osprey is a fast-



#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prague, Dec 22: Three foreign nationals were among the 25 people wounded when a student opened fire at a university in the Czech capital, Prague, shooting dead 14 people before killing himself, authorities said Friday. It was the worst mass shoot-

ing in Czech history. Interior Minister Vit Rakusan said police in Prague worked overnight and all the 14 who died in Thursday's attack have been identified. The Institute of Music Sciences confirmed that its head. Lenka Hlavkova, was among the dead. The Czech Foreign Ministry confirmed that three of those wounded were foreigners — two from United Arab Emirates and one from the Netherlands. The bloodshed took place at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, where the 24-year-old shooter was a student, Prague Police Chief Martin Vondrasek said. Petr Matejcek, the director of the police regional headquarters in Prague said the gunman killed himself on the balcony of the university building when police officers approached him. The gunman's name has not been released. Early Friday, with the scene of the shooting still sealed off by the police, people could be seen lighting candles to mourn the victims at an impromptu vigil by the university headquarters.



security outpost and a village in northern Central African Republic, according to local authorities."The rebels first attacked the army checkpoints, killing one person and wounding several others, before attacking the civilian population, killing about 20 people," Ernest Bonang, a federal lawmaker who represents Nzakoundou, the village attacked Thursday.

#### India, Nepal to ink power deal

Kathmandu: India and Nepal will ink a long-term power deal during the visit of Indian **External Affairs Minister S** Jaishankar in the first week of January, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" said Friday. Speaking during the inauguration of the Inaruwa substation of Nepal Electricity Authority, Prachanda said that Nepal is doing extremely well in the sector of power generation. "A long-term agreement between Nepal and India will be reached during the upcoming visit of Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Nepal in the first week of January," Prachanda said.

## Wildfire rages

Cape Town: A wildfire was burning for a third day on a mountain near Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa. The wildfire started Tuesday on the mountain slopes of Simon's Town, around 40 km south of Cape Town and part of the City of Cape Town metropolitan municipality, Xinhua news agency reported. So far, the wildfire has burnt nearly 1.140 hectare of land in the area, said a statement issued by South African National Parks on social media Thursday evening.

People take part in the winter solstice celebrations at the Stonehenge prehistoric monument on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England AP/PTI PHOTO

# Plane with over 300 Indians on board grounded in France

#### AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Vatry, France, Dec 22: A Nicaragua-bound plane carrying more than 300 Indian passengers has been grounded in France over suspected "human trafficking", authorities said Friday.

The aircraft carrying passengers "likely to be victims of human trafficking" was detained Thursday after an anonymous tipoff, the Paris public prosecutor's office told AFP. The plane had taken off from the United Arab Emirates

The national anti-organised crime unit JUNALCO has taken over the investigation, prosecutors said.

The prefecture in the northeastern department of Marne said the A340, operated by Romanian company Legend Airlines, "remained grounded on the tarmac at Vatry airport following its landing".



moving airframe that can fly like both a helicopter and an airplane but its many crashes have led critics to warn it has fatal design flaws.

#### Attacks on US bases in Syria by pro-Iran militias

Damascus: Pro-Iran militias have launched 60 attacks on American bases in Syria since October 19 in retaliation for the US' backing of Israel during the Gaza conflict, a war monitor reported. The attacks, which included rocket shells and drone strikes, have been targetting the US bases in eastern Syria rather than the energy fields that some US bases were built on, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights Thursday. The Britain-based watchdog group said the attacks had recently escalated as the Israeli military campaign in the Gaza Strip continued, noting that the US forces are tight-lipped about their losses, Xinhua news agency reported.

### Pacific storm barreling down on S California

Santa Barbara (US): A Pacific storm that pounded California's coastal areas and stranded motorists was poised to pounce on the southeastern area of the state through Friday, bringing flood threats to a sweeping area extending from San Diego into the Mojave Desert and even into parts of Arizona. As millions of Californians scrambled to finish their holiday shopping or prepared to head out onto highways. the National Weather Service issued flood watches for low-lying urban areas and the deserts.

# New AI tool can help in nerve disorder screening

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington/New Delhi, Dec **22:** Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that can detect a nerve-related disorder known as carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS)

The tool developed by IISc researchers in collaboration with Aster-CMI Hospital, Bangalore detects CTS by identifying the median nerve in ultrasound videos.

CTS arises when the median nerve, which runs from the forearm into the hand, is compressed at the carpal tunnel part of the wrist, resulting in numbness, tingling or pain, the researchers said. It is one of the most common nerve-related disorders,

specifically affecting individuals who perform repetitive hand movements, such as office staff who work with keyboards, assembly line workers, and sportspersons, they said.

Doctors currently use ultrasound to visualise the median nerve, and assess its size, shape, and any potential abnormalities.

"But unlike X-rays and MRI scans, it is hard to detect what is going on in ultrasound images and videos," said Karan R Gujarati, a former MTech student at IISc.

"At the wrist, the nerve is quite visible, its boundaries are clear, but if you go down to the elbow region, there are many other structures, and the boundaries of the nerve are not clear," said Gujarati, first author of the



study published in the journal Transactions on IEEE Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control.

Tracking the median nerve is also important for treatments that require doctors to administer local anaesthesia to the forearm or block the median nerve to provide pain relief. The team turned to a machine

learning model based on transformer architecture, similar to the one powering ChatGPT.

The model was originally developed to detect dozens of objects simultaneously in YouTube videos. The team stripped the model's computationally expensive elements to speed it up, and cut down the number of objects it could track to just one – the median nerve, in this case.

They collaborated with Lokesh Bathala, Lead Consultant Neurologist at **Doctors** Aster-CMI Hospital, currently use to collect and annotate ultraultrasound to visualise sound videos the median nerve, and from both healthy particassess its size, shape, ipants and peoand any potential ple with CTS, to train the model. abnormalities Once trained, the

model was able to segment the median nerve in individual frames of the ultrasound video.

"Imagine a video of an autonomous car. If the car is moving on the road, you want to track the car," said study corresponding author Phaneendra K Yalavarthy, Professor at CDS. "In the same way, we are able

to track the nerve throughout the video," Yalavarthy said. The model was also able to automatically measure the crosssectional area of the nerve, which used to is diagnose CTS. This measurement performed is manually by a sonog-

rapher. "The tool automates this process. It measures the cross-sectional area in real time," said Bathala.

It was able to report the crosssectional area of the median nerve with more than 95 percent accuracy at the wrist region, the researchers added.



# business



The convergence of policy thrust, and India's entrepreneurial vigour will propel the sector's growth and ensure a consistent supply of quality-assured affordable medicines for patients, both in India and globally SUDARSHAN JAIN | SECRETARY GENERAL, IPA

## **ROOFTOP SOLAR PROJECTS: SBI, WB INK PACT**

State Bank of India (SBI) Friday said it has signed a \$165 million (over ₹1,300 crore) Line of Credit (LoC) with the World Bank for promoting rooftop solar project in the country. The LoC is for supporting grid-connected rooftop Solar PV Projects in residential and institutional sectors, SBI said in a regulatory filing



■ Ola Electric plans to raise ₹55bn

First listing by auto firm since 2008

First IPO attempt by an Indian EV

Ola Electric's IPO comes at a time

when India has seen a record 213

electric two-wheeler segment

with a 32% market share and

competes with TVS Motor, Bajaj

Auto and Ather Energy, ac-

cording to data from the Society

Of Manufacturers Of Electric

However, battery scooter

maker Ola Electric had slashed

its sales goals for 2023-2025 by

more than half and delayed its

target of achieving profits by a

year, after reduced government

incentives pushed up e-scooter

Ola Electric's IPO comes at a

time when India has seen a

record 213 IPOs this year, in-

cluding from Tata Technologies

and JSW Infrastructure, while

the benchmark indexes have

firm

Vehicles.

prices

IPOs this year



A significant 10 per cent of the applicants opted for long-term investments through SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans).

Almost 30 per cent of the investors who invested in the NFO were new to Axis Mutual Fund, advocating their faith in us

B GOPKUMAR MD AND CEO, AXIS AMC

With an investment of \$1.2 billion, Essar Oil UK is positioned to be the world's first low carbon refinery. The

industrial carbon capture facility, combined with our upcoming hydrogen fuel switching project, will reduce the refinery's CO2 emissions by 95 per cent

DEEPAK MAHESHWARI CEO, ESSAR OIL UK



supported by tailwinds from accelerated formalisation of the industry

SUJOY SAHA VP AND SECTOR HEAD, ICRA

## SHORT TAKES

#### Flipkart gets \$600mn

New Delhi: Flipkart has secured \$600 million of funding from US retail giant Walmart at around 5-10 per cent higher valuation, sources aware of the development. The company confirmed that it has secured \$600 million from Walmart. Sources, who did not wish to be identified, said that the funding has come at a higher valuation in the range of 5-10 per cent without disclosing the actual figures. The last disclosed valuation was \$37.6 billion or ₹2.79 lakh crore when it raised \$3.6 billion or about ₹26,800 crore from GIC, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, Softbank Vision Fund 2, Walmart, DisruptAD, Qatar Investment Authority, Tiger Global etc. Another source said that the valuation of the company is still below

# FOOD PRICES Inflation outlook clouded Ola Electric joins RBI policy to remain disinflationary, align inflation to 4% target

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 22: The overall inflation outlook is expected to be clouded because of volatile and uncertain food prices, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said at the recent Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

Governor Das-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which met December 6 to 8, unanimously decided the keep the key interest rate (repo) unchanged at 6.5 per cent citing inflationary concerns.

"The overall inflation outlook is expected to be clouded by volatile and uncertain food prices and intermittent weather shocks," the Governor opined, as per the minutes of the meeting released Friday.

He said that a resurgence of vegetable price inflation is likely to push up food and headline inflation 'We have to remain highly

alert to any signs of generalisation of price impulses that may derail the ongoing process of disinflation," he said.

Das also stressed that in these circumstances, monetary policy has to be actively disinflationary and any shift in policy stance now would be premature and risky.

Deputy governor and MPC member Michael Debabrata Patra too opined that monetary policy has to remain on high alert with a restrictive stance.



We have to remain highly alert to any signs of generalisation of price impulses that may derail the ongoing process of disinflation SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

"...The monetary policy reaction function needs to assign a higher weight to inflation relative to growth in a forwardlooking sense," Patra said, while voting for a status quo on the policy rate and continuing with the stance of withdrawal of accommodation.

RBI executive director and MPC member Rajiv Ranjan said the economy is running at full steam. Growth has been resilient and continuously surprising on the upside.

"It is important to note that for the first time in Q2:2023-24, the fault lines in India's growth story since the pandemic - tepid private investment and rural demand – seem to be gaining traction," he said.

Ranjan also stressed that the best way monetary policy can support this high growth trajectory is by maintaining its commitment to price stability. The three government-ap-

pointed members on MPC ---Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal and Jayanth R Varma -- too had voted for keeping the rate unchanged. The repo rate has remained at 6.5 per cent since

According to the minutes, Bhide said given that inflation remains well above the target over the short term, with the projected headline CPI rate of above 5 per cent up to Q1: 2024-25. there is a need to continue the policy support for sustaining the trajectory to the target. **RBI MPC** opined that domestic food inflation unpredictability. volatility in crude oil prices and financial markets in an uncertain international environment pose risks to the inflation outlook

Goyal opined that if inflation sustainably approaches 4 per cent by the middle of 2024 real rates can easily become too high if nothing is done.

"A repo of 6.5 per cent in 2018 and tight liquidity with headline inflation of around 4 per cent, even though core inflation was around 6 per cent, proved severely deflationary. Both headline and core inflation fell steeply over the next year," she said.

MPC member Varma noted that current indications are that, after many difficult quarters, the economic environment is turning more benign in terms of both inflation and growth.

The challenge for monetary policy is to facilitate this benign outcome where inflation trends down and growth remains robust, he said.

The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled for February 6-8, 2024

**RISING DEMAND** 

# **IPO listing frenzy**



#### REUTERS

Bangalore, Dec 22: India's Ola Electric plans to raise ₹55 billion (\$661.9 million) in an initial public offering, according to draft papers filed with the country's market regulator Friday.

In what could potentially be one of the biggest IPOs in the country next year, the listing will be the first by a two-wheeler maker in India since the debut of Bajaj Auto in 2008.

The IPO would set a precedent as this is the first attempt at a public listing by an Indian EV (electric vehicle) firm.

The proposed IPO is a fresh issue of equity shares up to ₹5,500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 95,191,195 equity shares, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP)

The IPO will comprise an issue of fresh shares, while CEO Bhavish Aggarwal will sell up to 47.4 million shares, the draft prospectus dated December 22 showed.

Ola Electric dominates India's

# Forex reserves jump to \$615,971 billion

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

scaled record highs.

Mumbai, Dec 22: India's forex reserves jumped \$9.112 billion to \$615.971 billion in the week ended December 15 and the quantum of increase is one of the highest for a week, according to RBI data.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had risen \$2.816 billion to \$606.859 billion.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year. For the week ended December 15, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased \$8.349 billion to \$545.048 billion, as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data released Friday.



#### Agencies

New Delhi, Dec 22: The Finance Ministry Friday said that the General Government debt, including both State and Centre, has steeply declined from about 88 per cent in FY 2020-21 to about 81 per cent in 2022-23, and the Centre is on track to achieve its stated fiscal consolidation target. The Finance Ministry was stating its position on the IMF's latest Article IV consultations.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had warned in its re-



Einance Ministry says IME debt warning a worst case scenario

Centre, State debt has declined from about 88% in FY 2020-21 to about 81% in 2022-23



PEAK POWER DEMAND **TO TOUCH 3.5 LAKH MW BY 2030-31** 

ANGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 22: Around 88 gigawatts (GW) of additional thermal capacity is likely to be installed in the country to meet



# April.

#### MSI's second JIM

\$40 billion

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Friday said it has inked a nact with the Haryana government to set up second Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM) in the state. The new institute would come up at Kansala in Rohtak, Haryana and will be operational next year. Spread over five acres, the existing ITI Kansala will be upgraded to a JIM with an investment of 5.8 crore, the auto major said in a statement. The Harvana government has provided the land and building for the JIM, Kansala, while the company will provide equipment, training modules, trained teachers, and will manage this institute for 15 years, it added.

ernment debt could exceed 100 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the medium term. IMF had also cautioned that long-term debt sustainability risks are high due to the significant investment required to meet India's climate change mitigation targets.

The Finance Ministry in a press statement stressed that among the various favourable and unfavourable scenarios given by the IMF. under one extreme possibility, like once-in-a-century Covid-19, it has been stated that the General Government's debt could be "100 per cent of debt to GDP ratio" under adverse shocks by FY2028. "It talks only of a worst-case scenario and is not fait accompli."

Stating its position, the Finance Ministry said that the

port that India's general govgeneral government debt in India is overwhelmingly rupee-denominated, with external borrowings from bilateral and multilateral sources contributing a minimal amount.

Domestically issued debt. FinMin highlighted, was largely in the form of government bonds, is mostly medium or long-term with a weighted average matu-

rity of roughly 12 years for central government debt. Therefore, the rollover risk is low for domestic debt, and the exposure to volatility in exchange rates tends to be on the lower end," the Finance Ministry said.

The Finance Ministry also said that the shocks experienced this century by India were global in nature, such as the global financial crisis, Taper Tantrum, COVID-19, Russia-Ukraine War.

the rising electricity demand, Union Minister RK Singh has said.

The peak electricity demand in India is expected to touch the 3,50,670 MW mark by 2030-31, and the government is taking various measures to meet the increased demand, the power minister said Thursday.

"As per 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) report published in November 2022, the peak electricity demand in the country in 2030-31 is expected to be 3,50,670 MW. We have taken steps to meet the increased demand for power in the country," Singh said.

The minister said 27,180 MW of thermal capacity is under construction, another 12,000 MW has been bid out and 19,000 MW is under clearance. The total anticipated thermal capacity addition by 2031-2032 will be 87,910 MW.



Thus, the total capacity under construction, including thermal, renewable, hydro and nuclear, stands at 1,32,148.5 MW, while the total capacity addition by 2031-32 is likely to be 4,64,124 MW, Singh said in Lok Sabha

Meanwhile, at an event the minister said that investment must take place in the power sector for the Indian economy to grow at 7.5 per cent.

"Investments are required since if the economy is to grow at 7.5 per cent, our power sector needs to grow at 8.5 per cent. Every industry wants to have resources which are slightly in excess of current demand. If the peak demand today is 243 GW, then the contract demand

will be in excess of 340 GW," a power ministry statement quoted Singh as saying. Addressing the employees of

REC, officers and staff of his ministry, Singh said in 2017, the power sector was in doldrums and outstanding dues of gencos were more than ₹1.4 lakh crore. Most discoms were heavily indebted and did not have money even for buying power or for maintaining the systems.

The nation has 161 GW of electricity capacity under construction which will go up to 239 GW and that we will have 100 GW of capacity under construction consistently for the next two decades, for which REC and PFC will have to mobilize funds, he said.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound, and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up \$446 million to \$47.577 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up \$135 million to \$18.323 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF rose \$181 million to \$5.023 billion in the reporting week.

# Sebi plans optional instant settlement

Sebi floats consultation paper, proposes same-day and real-time trade settlement on optional basis

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 22: Capital markets regulator Sebi Friday floated a consultation paper proposing to introduce same-day settlement of trades on stock exchanges and real-time settlement on an optional basis

This is in addition to the existing T+1 settlement cycle in secondary markets for equity cash segment. Sebi, which has trimmed the settlement timelines to as short as one day after transaction, is looking to shorten the same further.

In its consultation paper, Sebi proposed introducing "the facility for clearing and settlement of funds and securities on T+0 and instant settlement cycle on optional basis in addition to the existing T+1 settlement cycle in secondary markets for equity cash segment".

T+0 would mean settlements on the same day and instant settlement would ensure that trades are settled immediately. Sebi, in its effort to keep pace with the changing times and carry out its mandate of development of securities markets and investor protection, shortened the settlement cycle to T+3 from T+5 in 2002 and sub-

sequently to T+2 in 2003. Further in 2021, T+1 settlement was introduced in a phased manner which was fully implemented from January 2023.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought comments from the public till January 12 Sebi said that the instant settlement mechanism would



enable instant receipt of funds and securities, and eliminates the risk of settlement shortages since both funds and securities will be required to be available before placing the order, and strengthen investor protection.

"Providing the option for instant settlement will help establish Indian equities as an asset class with the features of resilience, low cost and time for transaction, superior in all ways to emerging claimants of alternative asset classes," Sebi said. On the other hand, Sebi said

there are potential concerns as the new mechanism could lead to liquidity fragmentation and affect efficient price discovery; increase the cost of trading, as funds and securities need to be made available upfront before placing the orders; and result in divergence in the price of same security in T+0 or instant settlement cycle, and T+1 settlement cycle.

Mitigating the concerns, Sebi suggested that on liquidity fragmentation, there will be participants who can access both T+0 (or instant settlement) and T+1 markets and would bridge price and liquidity gaps between the two segments.

"Divergence, if any, that emerges between the T+0 / instant settlement cycle and T+1 settlement cycle may be bridged by the arbitrageurs thereby allowing for liquidity and effective price discovery in both segments," it added.

## **AI TO THE RESCUE**

# GSI plans AI use in mineral exploration

NEW DELHI: Geological Survey of India (GSI) is planning to install advanced technologies like

drones, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) for more efficient and accurate mineral exploration. The move will also result in saving time and resources and discover hidden mineral deposits, according to a statement. GSI Director General Janardan Prasad said with the use of AI and ML technology in the field of mineral exploration, integration of various datasets using time tested machine learning algorithms are gaining popularity because of their accuracy in delineating potential areas for generation of 4D modelling by adding time component deformation history of geological formations," he said exploration agencies and startups working in the field of exploration to put special focus on critical minerals, potash and concealed deposits.

## India boosts AI in weather forecasts

MUMBAI: India is testing artificial intelligence (AI) to build climate models to improve weather forecasting as torrential rains, floods and



droughts proliferate across the vast country, a top weather official said. Global warming has triggered more intense clashes of weather systems in India in recent years, increasing extreme weather events, which the independent Centre for Science and Environment estimates have killed nearly 3,000 people this year. Weather agencies around the world are focussing on AI, which can bring down cost and improve speed, and which Britain's Met Office says could "revolutionise" weather forecasting, with a recent Google-funded model found to have outperformed conventional methods. Accurate weather forecasting is particularly crucial in India, a country of 1.4 billion people, many impoverished, and the world's second-largest producer of rice, wheat and sugar.





mineralisation, according to a statement by the mines ministry, "Especially AI has assisted the users for which allows reproducing the dynamic evolution of geological structures and reconstructing the past while addressing a workshop hosted by GSI. Mines secretary V L Kantha Rao made a plea to all notified





Centurion, Dec 22: Virat Kohli

has returned to India due to a

family emergency but the senior

batter will be back in time for the

first Test against South Africa

Kohli had travelled to South

Africa as part of the Indian

squad for the two-Test series,

which will begin at SuperSport

India due to a family emergency.

"Virat Kohli has returned to

starting here next week.

Park December 26.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

# India in command



Richa Ghosh (L) and Jemimah Rodrigues talk during their stand; Deepti Sharma hugs Pooja Vastrakar after completing her half century against Australia Women, Friday

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 22: A sturdy 102run unbeaten stand between Deepti Sharma (70 batting, 147b, 9x4) and Pooja Vastrakar (33 batting, 115b, 4x4) restored India Women's command against Australia on the second day of the ongoing one-off Test, stretching the home team's first-innings lead to 157 here Friday.

India reached 376/7 in reply to Australia's 219 with their resolute batting show spruced up by Smriti Mandhana's 74 (106b) 12x4), Jemimah Rodrigues' 73 (121b, 9x4) and a fine 52 (104b, 7x4) from debutant Richa Ghosh.

Deepti and Vastrakar came together after India lost four quick wickets for a mere 14 runs to cede advantage to Australia, as their resistance flattened the visitors who used eight bowling options with only Ashleigh Gardner (4/100) making an impact.

The right-arm off-spinner Gardner, coming off an eightwicket spell in the women's Ashes Test, troubled the Indians the most as she kept nibbling away with crucial wickets while being persistent with probing line and lengths.

But the Indians eventually wrested back control, riding on the splendid partnership between Deepti and Vastrakar, who were a mere five runs away from recording the best eighth-wicket stand for India Women's ever when stumps were drawn.

However, the highlight of the day was youngsters Ghosh and Rodrigues taking apart the Australian bowlers with disdain, putting on 113 runs for the side's second-best partnership for the fourth wicket.

In her maiden outing with the bat in Tests, Ghosh put on a fine show of attack and resilience alike producing strokes on both the sides of the pitch. But Ghosh also had Ellyse Perry to thank who spilled a sitter at mid-off when the Indian batter mistimed one off Gardner having reached 14

However, she became the 14th Indian batter to score a fifty on debut, joining Rodrigues and Shubha Satheesh to have done so in the span of last 10 days or so.

Rodrigues displayed her control and finesse especially with the sweep shot, collecting a majority of her runs (63 per cent) on the leg side.

Notching up a second consecutive fifty in as many Tests, Rodrigues appeared primed for a maiden century too but she had only herself to blame after hitting one straight to Annabel Sutherland at extra cover off Gardner.

With the pitch providing variable bounce, each of the Indian batters who got runs showcased immaculate approach in anticipating the bounce and trusting their defence, which was not the case for a few others.

Kaur (0) lasted for only two balls. Bhatia (1) got out.

(9) brought up their 50-run stand Mandhana when she was run out.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia Women 219; India Women 376/7 (Smriti Mandhana 74, Jemimah Rodrigues 73, Deepti Sharma 70 batting, Richa Ghosh 52; Ashleigh Gardner 4/100). Match to continue.

# after Girona held by Betis in La Liga ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Dec 22: With a late goal after a lackluster performance, Real Madrid found their way to victory and to the top of the Spanish league standings.

Lucas Vazquez scored with a header in stoppage-time and Madrid pulled off a 1-0 win on the road against Alaves to reclaim first place after Girona conceded a late equaliser in their 1-1 draw at Real Betis earlier Thursday.

Madrid and Girona are tied on 45 points but Madrid was ahead on a tie-breaker. Defending champions Barcelona were third, seven points off the lead. The Catalan club edged last-place Almeria 3-2 at home Wednesday.

Madrid got the late win despite playing with 10 men from the 54th minute after central defender Nacho Fernandez was sent off with a straight red card for a hard foul.

Nacho was initially shown a yellow card after stepping on an opponent while going for the ball. but video review called the referee and it was determined the Madrid defender deserved a straight red card.

#### But he will be back before start of the first Test," a BCCI source told PTI Friday. It is understood that Kohli had already taken permission from BCCI brass

about his short leave. 'Virat had already left on Thursday and it was pre decided. Virat didn't take part in the three day intra squad match where India and India A players took part," the source added.

No one in BCCI however could confirm the nature of the emergency. Kohli had

missed out on a Test match during the last away series in South Africa due to a back injury. He will be back in the Rainbow Nation on December 24 and will take part in the pre-

Kohli returns home due to family emergency  $\stackrel{\leftarrow}{}$ 

match training. Meanwhile, Indian batter Ruturaj Gaikwad was ruled out of the two-match series, which is a part of the World Test Championship cycle, after fracturing his finger. In Gaikwad's place, Abhimanyu Easwaran, who had a good intra squad match, has been drafted into the main team.

"Ruturaj Gaikwad has been ruled out of the two-Test series with ring finger fracture," the source added. Gaikwad had injured his finger while trying to take a catch during the second ODI against South Africa earlier this week.

That Gaikwad was ruled out of the first Test was reported by PTI Thursday but it wasn't confirmed if he had sustained a fracture.

# Real back in lead Stalled Nationals will resume

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 22: The wrestling fraternity has largely heaved a sigh of relief that the national camps and competitions will finally begin with the formation of a new federation, and it does not matter that Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh will continue to call the shots.

The country's top wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik, had pushed for a woman president, but Brij Bhushan loyalist Sanjay Singh emerged as the winner in the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) polls Thursday by beating former wrestler Anita Sheoran.

Since Brij Bhushan was asked to step aside and an ad-hoc panel was formed to manage the dayto-day affairs of the federation, national camps and National championships could not be held in 2023.

It affected many wrestlers since medals won and participation certificates in National championships are necessary to apply for jobs. Hundreds of wrestlers suffered due to this as many had one last year to win a medal in the junior category.

"How does it matter who has won? The elections were held



after the Supreme Court intervention. Koi jabardasti nahi huee (No one was forced to do anything). The government was also looking at it," said Jagdish Dhanda, a coach at the famous Chhotu Ram stadium in Rohtak. "The sport had literally

stopped in the last 11 months. It's good that the activities have started immediately after the formation of the new body. Now national camps will be held and competitions will be organised, you won't realise the loss in the last 11 months," Dhanda said.

Similar sentiments were shared by the coaches at Delhi's Chhatrasal Stadium. "A solid

leadership is required in WFI. You have seen how the ad-hoc panel struggled to take decisions. They kept changing their decisions, so it is only good that the same panel has returned to power. You need experience, and they have done a tremendous job in the last 10-12 years," said the coach, who did not wish to be named.

"Thankfully, now nationals will be held. All that the wrestlers need is competition. We are not from any party. We just want the betterment of our sport." The new dispensation has al-

ready announced that the U-15 and U-20 Nationals will be held in Gonda in the last week of December.

# **'ODISHA: A SPORTS HUB'** DREAM MEETING REALITY



formances at Tokyo 2020 prompted the Naveen Patnaik-led government to extend endorsements until 2033.

The tribal belt of Sundargarh, a breeding ground of hockey players, now offers potential to churn out rugby talents, and the Sports Ministry has focused on uilding the requisite infra-



# India captain Harmanpreet

India slipped further and lost the advantage when Yastika Earlier in the day, overnight batters Mandhana and Sneh Rana

for the second wicket before Gardner cleaned up the latter. But there was heartbreak for

SHAMBHU DATTA MISHRA, OP

he former first lady of United States -Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of former US President Franklin D. Roosevelt – once said: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

And Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, whose slogan is "Sports for Youth, Youth for the Future", is an apt ode to the adage. The gritty leader dreamt of transforming Odisha into the sports hub of India, and under his visionary leadership the state is developing a robust sports ecosystem, which includes worldclass sports infrastructure – be it modern facilities, High Performance Centres or launching programmes to promote sports from grassroots level.

If one says that sponsoring Indian hockey teams or hosting the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in 2018 would be the peak for Naveen & Co in turning Odisha into a sports hub, then 2023 saw the state stride even further.

The year 2023 is historic for the Odisha government when Bhubaneswar became the first city to host the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup second time on the trot, with Steel City Rourkela as co-host.

After the spectacular success of the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships and the 2018 Hockey WC, Odisha was complimented with the title of the

'Sports Capital of India'. The state is investing significantly in developing an inclusive and allaccessible sports ecosystem that benefits its sportspersons and promotes a healthy lifestyle right from block to state level.

Kalinga Stadium Sports Complex boasts of one of the best sports hubs in the country for its world-class infrastructures and facilities. And the introduction of Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium Complex in Rourkela added more feathers to Odisha's sports hub dream. The World Cup Village of the complex was developed within record nine months, which received applauds

from around the world. The aim of the stadium is to provide a much-needed boost to hockey infrastructure in the 'Cradle of Indian Hockey', Sundargarh - which has pro-

duced many international players, paving way for future stars who can get access to state-ofthe-art facilities at their doorstep.

The state's efforts were endorsed in 2021 when Odisha was adjudged the 'Best State of the Decade for Promotion of Sports' at the 'Sportstar Aces Awards' a stamp of approval that is not easy to rival.

A scale up of the state's annual sports budget drives home the point. From a modest Rs 280 million in 2010-11, the allocations have gone up to a whooping Rs 12 billion for 2023-24. And it wouldn't be wrong if one says it was hockey that set the ball rolling for Odisha.

In 2018, Naveen announced the agreement with Hockey India to sponsor the men's and women's teams for five years. However, the teams' spectacular per-

structure at the grassroots level. A total of 17 astro turf facilities are being built here, while Odisha also decided to adopt rugby as the next major sport, with sponsorship of the men and women's national teams.

Two new HPCs – gymnastics and hockey - were inaugurated earlier this year at the Kalinga Stadium. The Gymnastics HPC is a joint initiative with Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) India, while the Hockey HPC is being set up in partnership with Tata Steel and Tata Trusts. Also, Odisha recently signed an MoU with AM/NS India to establish Kho Kho HPC.

So far, Odisha has HPCs for shooting, hockey, badminton, weightlifting, athletics, sports science, swimming, football, gymnastics and a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in sports management. Patnaik also announced the strengthening of the partnership with Tata Group and starting of new HPCs in archery and sport climbing.

In November this year, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Odisha government, in the presence of Arsene Wenger, FIFA's Chief of Global Football Development, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up the AIFF-FIFA

Naveen Patnaik felicitates hockey players Amit Rohidas and Deep Grace Ekka for the Asian Games performances

Talent Academy at the Odisha Football Academy in Bhubaneswar.

The objective of the academy is to identify talents, to educate children to get them as good as they can be and provide good level of competition to make great players. The target is to put India on global football map. The year also witnessed the in-

troduction of India's first indoor athletics stadium. Italian firm, Mondo SpA has set up a 10,000 sq metres track in the stadium which is going to be the first-of-its-kind in India.

The stadium can accommodate 120 athletes for full-time coaching. It also has a classroom for studies, medical facilities and a dedicated pantry for inmates.

The track features long jump, triple jump, 100m, 200m tracks, pole vault and shot-put, each with its own specific require-

ments. The facility has two 110m practice tracks, gallery for spectators, press box as well as a

#### broadcast arena. **MAJOR EVENTS HOSTED BY ODISHA IN 2023** The state played host to several

competitions, including Men's Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, Inter-continental Cup football, Inter-State Senior Athletic Championships, National Aquatic Championships, Odisha Masters badminton, National Rugby 15s Championship

(Division 1), Khelo India Women Fencing League & **Ranking Tournament** (Phase 3), Kalinga Super Swimming Series as well as several national and state-level tournaments. The plans for promo-

tion of kho kho got a huge boost when Odisha bagged the hosting rights of Ultimate Kho Kho

INDIA



The year will mostly be remembered for javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena – the Hangzhou Asian Games silver medallist. He had finished a credible fifth - 1.90m short of bronze medal winner's throw – at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest.

Another notable athlete for the state was para shuttler Pramod Bhagat who bagged gold in the men's singles SL3 category to go with bronze medals in the men's doubles SL3-SL4 and mixed doubles SL3-SU5 events at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games.

Both Kishore and Pramod also brought laurels to Odisha with wonderful performances in few other competitions.

The year turned out to be an even better one when Shriyanka Sadangi secured a gold medal for India at the 50m rifle 3 positions team event and a bronze medal at the 10m air rifle team event at the Asian Shooting Championship in South Korea.

The Sambalpur eve narrowly missed another medal as she finished fourth in the 50m rifle 3 positions individual event. However. it didn't stop her from securing a 2024 Paris Olympics quota for India in the category.

Overall, it wouldn't be wrong to say that Odisha is not only turning into a sports hub in terms of infrastructure and modern facilities, but the athletes are slowly, but gradually making a mark at global level. It may take a decade or so, when Odisha will be known for its athletes' prowess in global sporting arenas.

**KISHORE KUMAR JENA WITH HIS ASIAD MEDAL** 

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