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#### SHORT TAKES

#### Three killed, 20 hurt in bus-truck collision

Bhubaneswar: At least three persons were killed and 20 others injured after the bus they were travelling in collided head-on with a truck on Cuttack-Chandbali road Tuesday, police said. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the death of three persons in the accident and announced an ex gratia of ₹3 lakh to the next kin of each deceased. The accident took place on Cuttack Chandbali road near Katarapada around 7:30am in Nischintakoili block of Cuttack district when the bus with 60 passengers on board collided with the goods vehicle, a senior officer said.

#### Parents of 'bore-well baby' identified

Sambalpur: Twenty-two days after her rescue from an abandoned bore-well in a forested area of Sambalpur district, the police Tuesday said the biological parents of the baby girl were identified. The girl's mother is married and the baby is her second child, an officer said adding that the details of the incident are not yet clear as the woman has been hospitalised in a compromised mental state. The baby, who is now named as 'Bijayini' by doctors, was found trapped 13 ft deep in the bore-well at Laripali December 12 last year. The villagers had first heard the cries of the baby from inside the bore-well and informed the authorities leading to her rescue.P5

#### **S** Pandey to return Magsaysay award

New Delhi: Social activist Sandeep Pandev has announced his decision to return the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, bestowed upon him in 2002, as a mark of protest against the 'role' of the US in the Israeli attack in Gaza. Pandey, associated with the Socialist Party (India), has also chosen to return his dual Master of Science degrees earned from US universities. The



UP IN FLAMES: A Japan Airlines plane collided with another plane and burst into flames at Tokyo's Haneda Airport, Tuesday, killing at least five people of the other aircraft

AP/PTI

## **ROW OVER BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA** MHA to truckers-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 2: Buckling down to the pressure of the All India

**AIMTC CHAIRMAN.** ORGANISING COMMITTEE, BAL

**Apex court seeks** details on 'Kavach' PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 2: Hearing a pe-

tition regarding non-implementation of 'Kavach' system in the railways in the aftermath of horrific triple-train crash near Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore district, the Supreme Court Tuesday sought to know from the Centre about the protective measures implemented or proposed to be implemented, including the automatic train protection system 'Kavach', to prevent train accidents. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and KV Viswanathan was hearing the petition which raised the issue of safety measures to prevent train accidents. The bench asked petitioner Vishal Tiwari to hand over a copy of his plea to the office of the Attorney General. It said the Attorney General shall apprise the court about the protective measures which are implemented or proposed to be implemented by the government, including the 'Kavach' scheme. The bench posted the matter for hearing after four weeks. "Is there any kind of exercise undertaken that how much financial implication will be there on the 'Kavach' system in case it is introduced on a pan-

LAXMANANANDA MURDER Why not CBI probe: HC Return to work:

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, Jan 2: The Orissa High Court Tuesday asked the state government to show cause as to why a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) should not be ordered into the sensational murder of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Laxmanananda Swami Saraswati at his Jalespata ashram in Kandhamal in August 2008 that triggered riots in the district killing at least 38 people.



of Orissa High Court for establishment of such permanent benches as per the recommenda-

there.

Senior BJD leader Prasanna Acharya said the people of Western Odisha have been demanding a

High Court for a long time. 'We hope that the Centre will fulfil the hopes and aspirations of scores of people of western

Commission.

tions of Jaswant Singh

permanent bench of the Orissa

Odisha," he said.

and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal Tuesday said the demand for setting up a permanent bench of the Orissa High Court in

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: Union Law

PNN & AGENCIES

**Centre plays down** W Odisha bench plea

12 PAGES |₹5.00

the state's western region has lost its importance after the introduction of e-Court facilities.

E-courts will provide the same facilities to the people, which will be given by a permanent bench of the high court, Meghwal said

Later, the Ministry clarified ity of Virtual Benches under e-

on the sidelines of a function here. that what Meghwal wanted to convey was due to the availabil-

Orissa High Court is no longer

The clarification note also said

that the Union government is yet

to receive a complete proposal from the Odisha government with

the consent of the Chief Justice

Court Project, the need for sepa-

rate permanent benches of the

Magsaysay award, funded primarily by the Rockefeller Foundation, raised concerns for Pandey due to its association with American foundations.

#### **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



Believe me, we never encourage our members to outrage a woman's modesty...offline

| MARKET WATCH    |        |          |   |        |  |
|-----------------|--------|----------|---|--------|--|
| INDEX VARIATION |        |          |   |        |  |
| BOURSES         | SENSEX | 71892.48 | ₽ | 379.46 |  |
|                 | NIFTY  | 21665.80 | ₽ | 76.10  |  |
| CURRENCY        | DOLLAR | 83.40    |   | ₹0.11  |  |
| CURR            | EURO   | 91.71    | ♥ | ₹0.42  |  |
| ION             | GOLD   | ₹63,185  | ₽ | ₹135   |  |
| BULLION         | SILVER | ₹74,182  | ♥ | ₹208   |  |

#### WEATHER

|             | BBSR   | CTC    |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| Max Temp    | 27.0°C | 26.5°€ |
| Min Temp    | 16.0°⊂ | 16.0°( |
| Humidity    | 90%    | 89%    |
| Rainfall    | Nil    | Nil    |
| FORECAST    |        | Mr.    |
| DRY WEATHER | Ĉ      | 8      |
|             |        |        |

India basis," the bench asked. "Everything has co-relation with financial aspect because ultimately the burden will be passed on to the passengers," it observed.

of 'cryptic pregnancy', an 18-year

old girl in the US was left

stunned after she walked into

a hospital with stomach pain.

and then learned she was

having a rare pregnancy, as

As per a report by Metro,

fering from stomach pains, which

she assumed were related to a

virus she had suffered from a year

before. However, doctors at the

hospital told her she was pregnant

and that she was about to become

Laren Dawn Nelson was suf-

AGENCIES

per a report.

a mother.

While hearing a plea filed by advocate Debasis Hota seeking a directive to the state for a CBI investigation into the brutal assassination, Justice Chittaranjan Dash directed the Odisha government to submit a report by March 5 this year. In his plea, Hota had informed

the court that Saraswati along with four of his aides was killed at his ashram in Kandhamal August 23, 2008.

'Swamiji was working against the illegal conversion of innocent and simple minded people by the Christians through force, inducements and fraudulent means. Swamiji was also strongly opposing the cow slaughter, supporting the Orissa Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act 1960. Although the state government had ordered a Crime



#### **HEARING A PLEA FILED BY ADVOCATE DEBASIS** HOTA, THE HC DIRECTED THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO SUBMIT A REPORT BY MARCH 5 THIS YEAR

Branch probe into the incident, it failed to unravel the mystery behind the murder while the masterminds of the heinous act are still at large," Hota said, demanding a CBI probe into the murders.

The murder of the VHP leader and his associates led violent communal clashes in the district. At least 38 persons were killed and hundreds rendered homeless. Police blamed the murders on the Maoists, it was learnt. Two commissions of inquiry

were set up to investigate the

murder. In November 2008, the state government appointed Justice Sarat Chandra Mohapatra as the one-member commission to probe Laxmanananda's killing and the subsequent riots in Kandhamal. In July 2009, the SC Mohapatra Commission had submitted its interim report to

the state government. In 2012, justice Mohapatra passed away, and justice AS Naidu was appointed to head the one-man probe panel. In December 2015, the justice Naidu Commission submitted its report to the state government. As per the provision, the state government is supposed to present the report on the floor of the Assembly along with an action taken report. But little has progressed so far.

Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) which staged agitation in several states for the second day Tuesday protesting 'stringent punishments' under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Centre, following a discussion with AIMTC, appealed to all the agitating truck drivers to return to work.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said the decision to invoke the new hit-and-run cases-related penal provision, which has sparked protests by truckers, will be taken only after consultation with the AIMTC.

"The government wants to point out that these new laws and provisions have not vet come into force. We would also like to point out that the decision to invoke Section 106 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita will be taken only after consultation with the All India Motor Transport Congress,' he said after a meeting with a delegation of the AIMTC.

Bhalla said the government has taken cognisance of the concerns of truckers regard-

#### MANKIT SINGH URGED **TRUCKERS TO CALL OFF** THE AGITATION

ing the provision of 10 years imprisonment and fine and held the detailed discussion with the representatives of the AIMTC over the issue.

According to the new BNS provision, "Whoever causes death of any person by rash and negligent driving of vehicle not amounting to culpable homicide, and escapes without reporting it to a police officer or a magistrate soon after the incident, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description of a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine."

'Ye kanoon abhi tak laagu nahi hai (This law has not been implemented yet) ... Ham ye kanoon laagu nahi hone denge (We will not allow these laws to be implemented)," AIMTC Chairman-organising committee Bal Mankit Singh said.

Singh also asked truckers to call off the agitation.

Washington, Jan 2: In a rare case **'Cryptic** pregnancy' is a condition wherein a person doesn't realise that she is expecting

until a late trimester or as they go into labour I know the nurse looks

at me and says you're pregnant - and you're also in labour. I was in complete shock – I did not know what to think-I started laughing and crying at the same time.'

Before the shocking revelation, Nelson had been living a normal

teenage life. She graduated from high school, attended her senior prom, and celebrated her birthday, unaware of her pregnancy.

Nelson recounted how her friend took her to the hospital when she suspected something was wrong with her health. At the hospital, a nurse suggested she take a pregnancy test as a precaution.

She said, "I took the pregnancy test that the nurse asked me to and I made my friend wait in the waiting room. This nurse came out she has a look of shock on her face, she told my friend to get a wheelchair and told me to sit down. I sat down and I was like, oh, no, what is happening-because I was having these pains every couple of minutes,

which I didn't know at the time that they were contractions.<sup>3</sup>

Later that day, she gave birth to a baby boy. She added, "Next thing I knew, I was pushing and then I had a baby-it was crazy. I heard the cry and I started crying and then I looked over at him and he looked perfect. His name is Silas, and he is the sweetest baby in the whole world, he's perfectly healthy and he is living his best life." She has now embraced motherhood with the support of her family and friends.

Notably, such a pregnancy is called a cryptic pregnancy wherein a person doesn't realise that she is expecting until a late trimester or as they go into labour. Cryptic pregnancies, such as Laren's, are relatively rare.



Fire Station Square, Baramunda, Bhubaneswo

After being in labour, she gave



birth to her baby boy Silas just hours later: Nelson said, "The next thing

Teen with stomach pain finds self in labour





#### **TONI BRAXTON SLAMS MARRIAGE RUMOURS WITH RAPPER BIRDMAN**

Singer-songwriter Toni Braxton has clarified that there are no secrets in her love life. The R&B icon, 56, cleared up rumours on Instagram that surfaced over the weekend that she and her former fiance Birdman were married in a private ceremony.

#### VOICE OF DISNEY'S MAMA COCO **ANA OFELIA PASSES AWAY AT 90**

Mexican actor Ana Ofelia Murquia, who voiced the role of Mama Coco in Disney's two-time Oscar-winning animated feature film Coco, has died at the age of 90. She received the Golden Ariel lifetime achievement award, the highest honour given by the Mexican Academy of Cinematographic Arts and Science.



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#### FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\* ARIES

Good news may bring cheer to you today! A job, a wedding, some profit... it could be personal or professional. Giving your best is almost a habit with you, says Ganesha, and it will pay off today.

#### **TAURUS**

Ganesha predicts that today, you will be successful in money matters. There is, at best, only an outside chance that any stimulating event or thrilling escapade will occur today. In short, the day may be boring. Fret not as the drea ry day may change into an exhilarating evening, feels Ganesha

#### GEMINI

You will long for some privacy today, says Ganesha. You may end up earning a large amount of money, mostly through some private venture. The day will be a greatly profitable one for cashiers, money lenders and those in retail business. Keep working hard to achieve success

#### 

Today, there is a strong possibility that you may face unexpected job changes You are likely to spend lavishly to please family and friends. You may feel we make money to spend on loved ones. Still it would probably be a good idea to count every penny before using it, says Ganesha

#### **I LEO**

Being good to oneself is not vanity. To Ganesha, it seems as if you take this statement to heart, since it looks quite possible that you make your personal care num ber one priority today. On the flip side though, you become aware of the fact that the harder you try the more it seems you have to.

#### **VIRGO**

The time today is ripe to venture into a new business. Projects that have been put-off will finally be completed. Looking into the week ahead, you are most likely to give yourself an energy zap Parties will be all fun and entertainment Your kids will bring home joy and pride and this will brighten the mood even more, says Ganesha.



"Do your duty without expecting the fruit." Remember this important lesson and strive hard to put in extra efforts to finish

# journey as producer

Mumbai: In a recent interview, actress Kriti Sanon shared insights into her journey as a producer, a role she embraced with her production

venture, Blue Butterfly Films. Reflecting on her experience as a producer, the Mimi actress remarked, "As an actor, you're more involved in your character, whereas in Do Patti, I've enjoyed turning it into a scriptgoing through various drafts, music and other aspects of its journey.

This statement highlighted her active involvement in the creative process of shaping a project from its inception.

Emphasising the importance of content, Kriti shared her belief that good content is the key factor contributing to the success of films, whether in theatres or the digital space. She said, "Theatres are back and are not going anywhere. Digitally too a lot of films have done well. The common factor for these projects has been good content. The audience looks for something unique or larger than life.

With her maiden production venture, Do Patti, already wrapped up, Kriti Sanon looks forward to delivering more engaging content to the audience. Additionally, fans can anticipate her presence in upcoming projects like The Crew and an untitled romantic drama alongside Shahid Kapoor, scheduled for a theatrical release in

## Kriti shares Sonu turns the voice for specially-abled

Mumbai: Actor Sonu Sood has become the voice of the speciallyabled, and urged concerned authorities and state governments to reconsider and enhance the basic gratuity and minimum pension for individuals with disabilities. In yet another demonstration of his unwavering commitment to philanthropy, Sonu continued to champion the cause

of the specially challenged. The actor took to social media, and shared a video with

a specially-abled man sitting by the roadside. In the video, he can be seen "Today I am with saving. Dharmendra, who has come from Bihar. I just found out that the government gives Rs 400 to any specially-challenged person in the country. Just imagine how a person can run his expenses in Rs 400. I am urging governments to increase the amount of the financial support under this scheme.<sup>3</sup>

The post was captioned as: "My New Year Resolution 'RIGHTS FOR THE DISABLED' I Humbly request the concerned authorities and state governments to suitably revise and increase the basic gratuity and minimum pension of the disabled, to help them meet their basic needs.. The inherent challenges they face should be prioritised to alleviate fi-

nancial

strain, so



Actor Sonu Sood with a physically challenged man from Bihar at the roadside

they too can lead more fulfilling lives.@cmobiharnitishkumar #pmo #pmoindia #disabled.'

On the film front, he will be next seen in Fateh, which is being co-produced by Zee Studios and his production company, Shakti Sagar Productions.

## Aditi makes relationship with Siddharth official

Mumbai: Actress Aditi Rao Hvdari has shared a lovestruck picture with Siddharth from their New Year getaway, sharing how blessed, happy, and grateful she is with the Rang De Basanti actor.

Aditi and Siddharth have been reportedly in a relationship for the past few years, but they have not made it official They worked together in the Telugu romantic action drama Maha

Samudram. However, on the occasion of the New Year, Aditi dropped a picture with her beau, leaving everyone in awe of the couple. The Murder 3 actress wrote, "Happy blessed, grateful to magic, happiness, love, laughter, unicorns, rainbows, and fairy dust. #happynewyear to you all in 2024."

Fans took to the comment section and wrote, "So, it's official now." One user said, "Perfect ones," while the other said, "You look like magic. Both of you.

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actor was last seen in the Tamil movie Chithha and has Indian 2 and Test in the pipeline. Aditi also appeared in the

Tamil movie Hey Sinamika while she next has Gandhi Talks and *Lioness* in her kitty.

## Ankita rakes up SSR issue again

Mumbai: Actress Ankita Lokhande, who can currently be seen on the reality television show Bigg Boss 17, again spoke about her ex-boyfriend Sushant Singh Rajput. During the recent episode, the actress spoke with Munawar Faruqui, and got teary-eved recalling SSR's death.

Ankita recalled moments after Sushant's death. She said that she had received an image which was heartbreaking. She said, "When I saw him,

I felt everything was over. So many films he watched, and everything was over. There was this one picture of him which was very bad. It looked like he was sleeping. I just kept looking at that picture and thought there was so much in his brain. I knew him very well. He must have had so much in his brain but all was vanished. You are nothing, you're just a body then".

She also shared the reason behind the actor's death as she told Munawar, "He was broken because of something. This shouldn't have happened.' Ankita also revealed

hat following Sushant'

off whatever you undertake to do Worrying about results will only hamper your progress. Go with the flow and let results come to you. You may want to discuss some urgent matters with your close friend today, says Ganesha.

#### **SCORPIO**

Life is the best teacher, they say. And today, you even experience this. You may learn to survive the neck-tight competition in the market. This may invite a lot of envy, but nothing shall bother you. Ganesha reminds you of the adage, 'To err is human, to forgive is divine,' so, it's fine even if you commit some errors.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Today shall be a rather decisive day, speculates Ganesha. Situations that have pushed you into a corner will force you to make rash decisions. But take stock of the situation and assess the long-term consequences of your actions beforehand, advises Ganesha,

#### 

Mark this date on the calen dar as today is going to be one of the most important days of life, the reason being you are going to meet somebody who is will stay with you through out your life. Though it may some time bore you, but your relationships will keep you busy today. Visits to religious places are on the cards for you. Most of the day you will spend time with your friends and family.

#### 

You may rave and rant, but all you'll get from colleagues or juniors are wishy-washy excuses for a job not done. Ganesha advises that you take care to finish your own work before you help others. The stars say that your beloved will smoothen your creased brow.

#### PISCES

You will need broad shoulders to deal with the added responsibilities which will be heaped on your plate today. And while the work will be draining, the satisfaction of a job well done will more than ease your stress.





demise, she blocked a lot of people on social media because they were targeting her. ΙΔΝ



#### 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.

|   |   |   |   | 3 | 5 | 1 |   |   |
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| 6 |   | 8 |   | 5 |   | 1 |   | 1 |

| LUTIC     | )N | S   |   |   |   |    |   |     |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 9 |   |

BREVITY

KOMBUCHA WARS

SUDOKU

SO





downtown

#### **NEW CALENDAR**

Dignitaries, including Orissa High Court acting Chief Justice BR Sarangi, unveil a calendar and diary of Orissa HC Bar Association in Cuttack, Tuesday



**3 KILLED IN CUTTACK BUS-TRUCK COLLISION** 

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: At least three persons were killed and 20 others suffered injuries after the bus in which they were travelling collided head-on with a truck in Cuttack district Tuesday, police said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the death

of three persons in the accident and announced an ex-gratia of ₹3 lakh to the next kin of each deceased.

The accident took place on Cuttack-Chandbali Road near Katarapada around

7:30am in Nischintakoili block when the bus with 60 passengers on board collided with the goods vehicle, a senior officer said.

"Drivers of both the vehicles and a passenger were killed in the accident," Cuttack Collector Narahari Sethy said.

The deceased were identified as Anasuya Barik, 21, Badanka village under Aul police limits and Nalinikanta Gahana, 22, Odigiria village under Rajkanika police limits of Kendrapara and Mohan Lal, the truck driver from Rajasthan, an official said.

Teams of fire brigade stations and police personnel rushed to

the spot and rescued the passengers trapped inside the damaged bus.

The injured passengers were admitted to Nischintakoili hospital, and 11 of them, who were critically-injured, were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, an official said.

Several passengers, who sustained minor injuries, Transport have been discharged Commissioner from Nischintakoili hospital, while three Amitabh Thakur persons are still under blames it on observation, the Collector said. dense fog

"Despite dense fog with low visibility, the bus was running at a high speed. My sister and I were near the driver's seat. My sister was trapped inside the bus and died when she was being shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital," Archana Barik, a passenger, said

Speaking to reporters, Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur said the preliminary investigation revealed that the accident happened due to dense fog.

Transport department officials and the SP are on the spot and conducting an inquiry, he added.



COURTESY CALL: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian with Mission Shakti SHG members from Hinjili Assembly constituency, at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

### Tourism boost for Debrigarh, Khinda that falls within the sanctuary

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bargarh district and the Khinda village, birthplace of legendary freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai, in Sambalpur district have been brought under the Union government's Swadesh Darshan (SD) scheme to enable their development as tourist destinations.

The two sites, popular tourist places in Western Odisha, have been included in the scheme after Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's request in this regard to Union Culture and Tourism Minister G Krishan. An order of the Tourism

Ministry recently revealed that the competent authorities have given their approval to the development of the Debrigarh sanctuary and the Khinda village

under the SD 2.0 scheme. Pradhan, in his letter in December 2023, argued that Veer Surendra Sai, a freedom fighter, had led a revolt against the British Empire in 1857 and was later imprisoned for more than 40 years. "His birthplace, Khinda, is an important destination for history enthusiasts who can learn about his life and struggle for Indian independence," Pradhan's letter read. Nestled between the Hirakud

dam and the reservoir. Debrigarh sanctuary is not only a pictur-

#### **KHINDA VILLAGE DEBRIGARH SANCTUARY**

Khinda village is the birthplace of legendary freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai in Sambalpur location that attracts tourists but is district. Sai had led a revolt also of historical significance. against the British Empire During his rebellion against the in 1857 and was later im- British, Veer Surendra Sai had prisoned for more than 40 made his base at 'Badapathara,' a years. Khinda is an impor- place that falls within the sanctutant destination for history ary. The sanctuary is known for its enthusiasts to learn about the easy sightings of animals, particlife and struggles of Sai to- ularly the Indian Bison, wild boars, wards India's independence. Sambhars and peacocks

esque location that attracts tourists but is also of historical significance as during his

The sanctuary is known for its  $\mathbf{N}^{ ext{estled}}$  between Hirakud dam and the reservoir, Debrigarh easy sightings of animals, particularly the Indian Bison, wild sanctuary is not only a picturesque boars, sambhars and peacocks, Pradhan said.

Pradhan had written that the development of tourism infrastructure and promotion of these destinations can significantly boost the local economy, create job opportunities and help preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the region. Pradhan said that keeping in mind the massive untapped potential for tourism at these two sites, the Tourism minister should initiate action for their inclusion in

the Swadesh Darshan scheme.

### Naveen: Make Odia language conference a grand success -

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday instructed officials of all concerned departments to coordinate with the Odia Language, Literature and

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Culture department to make the 'Biswa Odia Bhasha Sammilani' (World Odia Language Conference), 2024 a 'grand success. First of its kind, the Biswa Odia Bhasha Sammilani (World

Odia Language Conference) will

be organized for three days from

February 3 to 5, 2024. The decision

to host this conference was taken

in a Heritage Cabinet meeting

ference will play a major role in popularizing the Odia language. "In today's ever-changing times and in the age of technology this language conference will attract youth towards the language. The conference will provide a vibrant platform for logical discussion and interoperations on the uniqueness of Odia and its antiquity and future relevance." said an official

chaired by the CM December 19.

concerned departments to work

in coordination with Odia

Language, Literature and Culture

department to make the confer-

ence a grand success as the con-

The CM has directed all the

### **POLITICKLE** by MANJUL



## 2 street crimes rock City on New Year Day

#### DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

rebellion against the British,

Veer Surendra Sai had made his

base at 'Badapathara,' a place

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: Two audacious street crimes on the first day of the New Year has once again raised serious question marks over the law and order situation in the Capital city.

In the first incident, 10 to 12 unidentified armed miscreants barged into the Kalinga Youth Club in Sailashree Vihar area, under Chandrasekharpur police limits, here Monday midnight and assaulted a youth with sharp weapons. The victim, identified as Sangram Singh, who does odd jobs, received serious injuries on his right elbow and arms after being sliced several times with swords and daggers. He was later shifted to a hospital by some of his friends.

Witnesses said no one resisted

the miscreants when Sangram was being attacked as they were heavily armed and came in a large group. They later allegedly ransacked the club premises before leaving, they said.

Chandrasekhar police station IIC, Prakash Chandra Majhi said the attack was the fall out of a long standing dispute between two groups.

He said the attackers were at loggerheads with Sangram Singh and his friends since a long time. Matters became worse over the New Year feast at the club which the rival group wanted to organise.

The police claimed to have identified one of the suspects, Shalu, who had earlier been arrested in another case. However, no arrests have been made so far. In the other incident at



Damana village, two-masked criminals looted a shopkeeper in the wee hours of Tuesday by

The victim, Sibananda Barik, who runs an Omfed booth, said the duo showed up when he stepped out of his house to open his shop in the vicinity, at around 4 am. "They suddenly demanded money from me. When I refused, one of them pulled out a razor and put it on my throat," Barik said adding that the duo then took away ₹6,000 from his pocket. Before escaping, the miscreants tried to slice Barik's throat with the blunt razor. Barik has received minor scratches on his throat in the attack.

threatening him with a razor.

officer An from Chandrasekharpur police station said that an investigation into the case has been launched following the registration of an offence. The attackers are yet to be identified, he said.

## Eat breakfast, dinner early to reduce heart attack risk

**STUDY SUGGESTS EATING THE FIRST MEAL OF THE DAY AT 8AM AND DINNER BY 8PM TO AVOID RISK OF** CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

#### INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Jan 2: Are you one of those people who skip their first meal of the day or eat a late breakfast and dinner? Beware, you may be at risk of heart attack, warns a study

The study suggested eating the first meal of the day at 8am and dinner by 8pm to avoid risk of cardiovascular disease.

Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death in the world according to the Global Burden of Disease study, with 18.6 million annual deaths in 2019, of which around 7.9 are attributable to diet. This means that diet plays a major role in the development and progression of these diseases.

The study by French research institute INRAE - National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment showed that having a first meal later in the day (such as when skipping breakfast) is associated with a higher risk of cardiovascular disease, with a 6 per cent increase in risk per hour delay.

For example, a person who eats for the first time at 9am is 6 per cent more likely to develop cardiovascular disease than



someone who eats at 8am. When it comes to the last meal

of the day, eating late (after 9pm) is associated with a 28 per cent increase in the risk of cerebrovascular disease such as

stroke compared with eating before 8pm, particularly in women. Finally, a longer duration of night-time fasting -- the time between the last meal of the day and the first meal of the following day

-- is associated with a reduced risk of cerebrovascular disease, supporting the idea of eating one's first and last meals earlier in the day.

For the study, published in Nature Communications, the scientists used data from 103,389 participants to study the associations between food intake patterns and cardiovascular disease.

The findings, which need to be replicated in other cohorts and through additional scientific studies with different designs, highlight a potential role for meal timing in preventing cardiovascular disease.

The team suggest that adopting the habit of eating earlier first and last meals with a longer period of night-time fasting could help to prevent the risk of cardiovascular disease.

#### Stern action against landlords soon

LOW

TAX

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: Taking into account the low collection of holding tax, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has decided to initiate stern action against landlords, especially the ones who have rented out premises for com-

mercial purposes by registering those as res-COLLECTION idential property. BMC Commissioner

**OF HOLDING** Vijay Amruta Kulange said those found willfully flouting norms for property valuation to evade

taxes shall be charged with hefty fines

The civic body here Tuesday held a review meeting, chaired by Kulange, to assess the overall progress made in the collection of tax at every ward and zone. Taking note of the drop in the collection, Kulange instructed officials to spread awareness for payment of holding tax on the digital portal (Bhubaneswar.me).

A BMC official said three vehicles will be soon be flagged off to spread awareness on holding tax dues. This apart, social

media campaigns will also be launched in this regard, he added. As per official

records, BMC had set an annual target of ₹115 crores rev-

enue collection in FY 2023-24. However, only 26 per cent of the target has been achieved so far.

The civic body has issued an ultimatum to business establishments to pay up holding tax by January 15, failing which -( their trade licenses will be revoked.





## downtown

## **Anti-drug declaration** must for students now

An anti-drug declaration

at the time of admission

can be taken to invoke a

commitment from the

responsible behavior

rounding locations through their

faculty, NSS volunteers and stu-

dents clubs through regular in-

terventions and activities, the

Institutions may create com-

reviewed the status of Bhadrak Amrit Station

students to have

during studies

letter said.

things.



#### ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: In order to ensure responsible behaviour among students, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has made it mandatory for students to sign an anti-drug declaration form. A notification in this regard was issued by the government, Tuesday,

Henceforth, the students will have to sign the form at the time of taking admission in educational and vocational institutions. After receiving a letter from Centre, Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with **Disability Principal Secretary** Bishnupada Sethi wrote to departments of Higher Education, School and Mass Education and Skill Development and Technical Education.

Higher educational institutions should take action at the institutional level to sensitise the campus and other possible sur-

## CLASSIFIED

#### AFFIDAVIT

I, Sayed Jawaid Hossain, S/o- Late Sayed Iqbal Hossain, resident of Plot No.-141/970/1285, Shaikh Sahi, Jadupur, Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar(M.C), Khorda, Odisha-751019, declare by this affidavit No.- 65AA 108626, dtd. 02.01.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Saved Jawid Hossain for all future purposes.

I Kedar Nath Mallick, aged 44 years, S/o-Dhruba Charan Mallick, resident of Plot No.335, Jharpada,

Sethi said, "Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment has communicated a letter regarding implementation of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) for drug demand reduction in the country. The students and youth are particularly vulnerable to the menace of substance use. More than 3.3 crore youth have participated in the activities organised under NMBA and have spread the message against substance Use." A joint meeting, chaired by

secretaries of Higher Education and Social Justice and Empowerment departments, was held in May last in which action points for higher educational institutions had been decided.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is committed to implementing the NMBA for drug demand reduction in the country. The programme coordinates and monitors all aspects of drug abuse prevention, assessment of the extent of the problem, prevention action, treatment and rehabilitation of users, dissemination of information and public awareness

mon clubs with various activities relating to ragging, non-use Notably, students and youth are of substances and following vulnerable to the menace of subsafety measures among other stance use, making them primary stakeholders for the NMBA. An anti-drug declaration by the So far more than 3.3 crore youth student at the time of admishave participated in the activision can be taken to invoke a ties organised under NMBA and commitment from the students have spread the message against to have responsible behavior substance use.

ECoR GM inspects Bhub Bhadrak rly section

Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Manoj Sharma Tuesday

inspected the Bhubaneswar-Bhadrak Railway Section, reviewing the safety and traf-

the railway section. During the inspection, Sharma spoke with officials about traffic

facility works along with infrastructure and passenger amenity projects at stations

between Bhubaneswar and Bhadrak. He advised the officials to take necessary pre-

completion of infrastructure related projects and facilities. During his inspection at

cautions to ensure safe and smooth train operations and emphasised on timely

Bhadrak station, Sharma took stock of progress on several passenger amenities

fic management facilities and taking stock of the ongoing infrastructure works in

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: Gobinda Gaipai, a 24 year old from Sukinda block of Jajpur district, has dedicated himself to initiate behavioural and social change through 'Nukkad Natak.' With his team of 10, he has traveled to over 150 panchayats of the state to educate the people and raise awareness about drug abuse through street performances.

Gobinda's journey began with a tragedy-the loss of his brother to alcohol abuse. The devastating experience fuelled his determination to prevent others from suffering a similar fate.

Despite facing financial constraints, Gobinda's family sustained themselves through goat farming and agriculture. His educational journey was supported through the Jyoti fel lowship by the Tata Steel



munities.

Foundation (TSF), which he received in 2008 and continued to benefit from until his graduation. During this time, his passion for cultural performances and plays caught attention of TSF, leading to an opportunity for him to create awareness about

### Rooftop solar panels, an initiative by TPCODL

important issues among the com-

The onset of the pandemic in

2020 disrupted Gaipai's plans to

secure a job after completing his

education. However, this set-

back only strengthened his re-

solve to combat alcohol abuse

#### ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: In its commitment to promoting sustainable energy solutions for a more environment-friendly and enduring future, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) has facilitated in-

cent to 50 per cent. Also, it contributes to the reduction of global warming, paving the way for a greener and more sustainable future," he added.

It is to be noted that excess solar energy can be returned to the grid for credits from local utility companies through net metering, ensuring maximum benefits. Rooftop solar systems efficiently utilize available vacant spaces for power generation, minimizing any impact on existing infrastructure.



SAFETY PRIORITY: Women cops take part in a state-level awareness rally being organised by Commissionerate Police as part of Road Safety Week 2024, in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday OP PHOTO

### Social change message through 'Nukkad Natak' and harmful substances. With

bled a team of 10 individuals and embarked on a mission to educate and raise awareness through 'Nukkad Natak' performances Speaking about the initiative,

Gobinda says, "After losing my brother, I felt an immense determination to raise awareness against alcohol and harmful substances. Through 'NukkadNatak.' I strive to reach out to as many souls as possible. If only someone had reached out to my brother, maybe I wouldn't have to mourn.

Gobinda's story is one of resilience, determination, and a deep commitment to empowering change within his community. His work serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for those striving to make a positive dif-

ference in the world.



works, development of parking area, circulating area and landscaping. He also

near Divine Public School, Bhubaneswar, Dist.-Khurda, Odisha-751006. my actual name Kedar Nath Mallick (as per my Aadhaar Card) which has been mentioned as Kedar Nath Malik in my 10th HSC Certificate bearing Roll No.65AD020, declare by this affidavit No.-68AA911223 date-02 Jan 2024, that now onwards Kedar Nath Malik and Kedar Nath Mallick is one and same person belongs to my name.

By virtue an affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Bargarh, I, Gunnam Bhaskar Rao, Son of Late Gunnam Ramchandra Rao, resident of Ambsada (Ramkrushna Nagar), P.O- Barahguda, P.S/Dist.- Bargarh do hereby solemnly declare that the Registered Sale Deed 1956 & ID No.1988 of 1975 dated 01.03.1975 of DSR Bargarh which was purchased by my father Late Gunnam Ramchandra Rao. Gunnam Bhaskar Rao Deponent

EVICTION DRIVE: An excavator deployed by BDA razing down unauthorised constructions in Chandrasekharpur area of Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

stallation of 828 solar panels on rooftops through Net Metering arrangement, collectively generating a capacity of 28,003.684 kilowatt-peak (KWp). Rooftop solar power offers numerous benefits for consumers, making it a smart and responsible choice.

TPCODL CEO Arvind Singh said, "Solar solutions installed on your roof or grounds are perfect for harnessing the sun's energy. They not only reduce your electricity costs but also ema responsible citizen by positively contributing to the environment." He said that rooftop solar systems produce substantial energy during daylight hours, maximizing the use of abundant sunlight.

"By harnessing solar power, customers can significantly reduce their electricity bills, resulting in substantial long-term savings. Generating solar energy for six hours a day can reduce electricity bills by 25 per

Singh further said that customers can tap into conventional grid-based energy during periods when direct sunlight is not available, such as at night, during winter, or during offpeak hours when electricity rates are lower.

## Getting better body among top New Year resolutions

1000

100

100

ncreasingly visual and digital culture has led us to believe that how we look is intrinsic to our self-worth, said researchers as improving body image again tops New Year resolution list.

A YouGov Poll revealed that for the last four years in a row, the top three New Year's resolutions people intended to make were about getting a better body, namely doing more exercise, losing weight and improving diet.

Researchers from the University of Warwick warned about 'lookism' and the toxic resolutions in a social media-fueled body-critical era

"Doing more exercising, losing weight and dieting are common New Year's resolutions which

might be undertaken under the guise of improving one's health, but it is often for beauty," said Professor Heather Widdows, a leading beauty philosopher at the varsity. "We used to think we had to change what's on the inside to be better, we now increasingly judge ourselves and others on looks or how we present ourselves to the world. What we value and what matters to people has dramatically shifted in recent years with the advent of social media.

"Looks matter to us-this shift is radically changing our identity and our sense of self-worth, and we are barely recognising it,' Widdows said.

She believes this shift in our self-worth has given rise to an epidemic of body image anxiety.



"We are starting to see body image anxiety affect people at a younger age and continue as they get older," she said. "Because this is something that is affecting so many of us, it is becoming normalised but it doesn't make it any less harmful.

Moreover, in the case of New Year's resolutions, Widdows is clear that they don't deliver what

they promise. "We think if only we could lose weight, get the right body, then other things in our life would change -- maybe we would be able to get a better job, a better relationship or being happy -- but body change is illusionary and having a 'better' body doesn't deliver these things, and so the well-meaning resolutions,

end up being completely counterproductive," Widdows said.

She coined the phrase "lookism" and set up an #everydaylookism campaign, in a bid to stamp out appearance discrimination -- the most prevalent form of bullying. "It is vital to reduce this pressure to be perfect if we are going to look after our physical and mental health as a society," Widdows said.

"We should be calling out look ism, and helping people to feel less ashamed when their bodies don't measure up. There's lots of work to be done to recognise and address appearance bullying because despite being the most prevalent, it is the one we do least about," she noted.

#### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS FOR

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## state

# **390 die in rail premises mishaps in five years**



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Jan 2: The railway tracks running through the Berhampur railway station has turned into deathtraps for people. Approximately 70 trains pass through the station on a daily basis. A total of 390 persons have lost their lives in accidents related to train tracks and for other reasons in the last five years, officials informed here Tuesday. Most of the deaths have taken place due to negligence and trespassing, officials pointed out. In 2023, 93 lives have been lost due to mishaps on tracks.

**OrissaPOST** 

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 3 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

The Government Railway police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) are in charge of the security of passengers visiting the railway station. Despite the police personnel maintaining a

#### Youth killed, girl critical in road mishap

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Jan 2: A youth was killed after he fell from 20 feet high an overbridge after being hit from the rear by a speeding car at Bhadrak-Charampa locality on National Highway-16 in this district, Tuesday

The deceased was identified as Alok Mohanty, 27, of Palasahi village under Dhamnagar block in the district. A girl of the same village, who was pillion riding with the youth suffered serious injuries during the mishap. She was initially admitted to a local hospital here before being transferred to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after her condition deteriorated.

The mishap occurred when Alok and the girl was travelling to Charampa. Meanwhile, a Kolkata- bound speeding car from Puri hit the bike from rear. The girl fell down from the pil lion on the road and sustained critical injuries while Alok with the bike fell 20 feet below. He died on the spot due to the impact

strict vigil a number of people have died by suicide by throwing themselves in front of trains. Out of the 390 unnatural deaths from 2019 to 2023, a total of 177 persons have perished after being run over by trains. On the other hand, 121 persons have committed suicide on the railway tracks.

The Berhampur GRP station has a jurisdiction of 120km which starts from Chilika in Khurda district and extends upto Ganjam, Sompeta of Andhra Pradesh. Gajapati district and till Gunupur in Rayagada district.

In 2019, 67 death cases have been registered at the GRP station. Out of them 26 either slipped while trying to board trains or were run over on the tracks. An equal number of people also died by suicide on the tracks. In 2020, 55 cases of deaths were

reported while the figure rose to 69 in 2021. In 2022, 106 deaths were registered at the GRP station. Out of them 43 persons died in accidents and 33 died by suicide while the remaining were run over.

In 2023, 93 cases of unnatural deaths were registered at the GRP station. Out of them 64 were related either to accidents or suicides

The Railways through advertisements has continuously urged people not to sit or stand near the door of coaches while travelling. However, people continue to endanger their lives by sitting or standing near the door. Hence the chances of accidents increase, said an official. He added that at most times, vast stretches of tracks remain unmanned. Hence these spots are preferable for those who want to take the drastic step, the offi-

cial added. When contacted, GRP IIC Bikash Kumar Polai said that the mishaps will decline and death toll will decrease only when people become aware of their responsibilities and the dangers involved while trespassing on railway tracks. Polai pointed out that at times many people try to use the tracks as a short-cut to their respective destinations. In the process they fall victims to on rushing trains.



FOLK DANCE: Artistes from Rajasthan performed 'Ghumar' a traditional dance on the second evening of 'Jatara' the district level festival of Sundargarh, Tuesdav

#### **Mystery shrouds** deaths of sheep

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Jan 2: The mysterious deaths of eight sheep at Mahulpada village have sparked concern among the people of the area, sources said Tuesday. It is quite clear to the locals that the sheep were killed by carnivores. Forest department officials are now trying to ascertain whether the sheep were killed by wolves or hyenas.

'We have installed cameras in and around the village where the night attack took place two days back. We are not sure whether the sheep have been killed by a pack of wolves or hyenas. We are examining the teeth mark found on the dead animals. Both hyenas and wolves are found in this forest," district forest officer of Bonai division Lalit Kumar Patra said. He added that Forest staff is patrolling the area on a regular basis to find out the reason behind the death of a large num ber of sheep.

Patra also informed that families which have lost sheep will be given ₹5,000 as compensation for each livestock

Residents of Mahulpada village however are sure that the sheep were killed by hyenas. 'We are sure that it was a pack of hyenas. Five families have lost their domestic pets. We are now keeping a close watch over the situation." informed a personnel, launched a search villager. It is clear however, that the Forest department is not tak-

the DFO asserted.

## Bore-well baby's parents identified

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 2: The district police here have identified the parents of the baby girl 'Bijayini', who was rescued from an abandoned borewell from a jungle near Laripali village under Rengali block of this district, cops said Tuesday. The baby girl was rescued from an abandoned well December 12.

The baby, after her rescue, has been undergoing treatment at VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla. The doctors and staff at the hospital named her 'Bijayini' while celebrating her 21st-day, Monday.

Giving this information here Monday, Sambalpur superintendent of police Mukesh Kumar Bhamoo said Tuesday that the baby is recovering well. "The mother of the baby girl was identified within three days of her rescue and brought to the police station for questioning. The woman

#### Boy drowns in Balasore

Balasore: The body of a three-year-old boy was fished out from a pond near his house in this district Tuesday, a day after he went missing, police informed. The deceased has been identified as Subham. The child went missing while playing with his sister in front of their house in Soro municipality Monday morning, police said. After being informed, policemen, along with fire b



admitted to have given birth to the baby girl. The woman hails from close to the area from where the girl was rescued," Bhamoo said.

Bhamoo however, added that the woman was physically and mentally unstable. "She has been admitted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack for treatment," Bhamoo said. "The probe will continue once the woman recovers and is discharged from hospital," he added.

Person

Despite the information provided by Bhamoo, it came as a surprise to many. Many ques-

for the police to provide information when they had learnt the identity of the mother within three days of the baby's rescue. When, questioned whether the

tioned as to why it took so long

woman will raise the child, the police official said that they will talk to the mother before taking any decision. Police will also try to find out what prompted the mother to throw the baby into the abandoned well. He warned that stringent action will taken if anybody is found involved in the dumping of the baby.

#### SCHEDULE FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF KRISHNA RESIDENCY PRIVATE LIMITED Name Of Corporate Person Date Of Incorporation Of Co KRISHNA RESIDENCY PRIVATE LIMITED tion Of Cornorate Perso 05/02/2009 Authority Under Which Corporate Incorporated /Registered U551010R2009PTC010598 Address Of The Registered Office Of Corpora Vedanta Road Sarbahal, Jharsuguda, Oriss 768201 Liquidation Commencement Date Of Corporate

Person



#### PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Jan 2: The decomposed carcass of an eight-foot long salt water crocodile was found Tuesday in Brahmani river close to the Bhitarkanika National Park in this district, Forest department officials said. The carcass of the croc was found at Panchupali village. It is close to the national park which is home to the endangered salt water crocodiles, Forest officials said.

The Forest staff retrieved the carcass of the reptile from the river and sent it to the veterinary

#### Croc carcass found in Bhitarkanika hospital at Rajnagar for autopsy, said Manas Das, Forest range officer of the national park.

The vast tract of forest and saltwater swamp in the Bhitarkanika Park is home to 1.793 saltwater crocodiles according to the reptile census report of January 2023. The villages on the fringes of the national park are often witness to man-crocodile conflict.

Tuesday's incident was the 33rd case of crocodile death in the park in the past 12 years, Forest officials said. Saltwater crocodiles are cov-

ered under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The forest and environment ministry in collaboration with UNDP launched a crocodile breeding and rearing project at Dangamal in Bhitarkanika National Park, a Ramsar site, in 1975.



#### Trawler seized, 10 fishermen held

Kendrapara: Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary personnel on the wee hours of Tuesday intercepted a fishing trawler and arrested 10 fishermen for unauthorized entry into the prohibited zone. The trawler was allegedly being used to catch fish in the 'No Fishing Zone' within the sanctuary. All the 10 arrested fishermen belong to Balasore, Bhadrak and this district.

They were booked under Sections 27, 29, 31 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. They were later produced before the JMFC court in Rajnagar which remanded them into jail custody after rejecting their bail pleas. Ranger Pradosh Moharana said the 45 quintals of fish, 10 nets and 3 VHF sets were seized from the trawler.

### Annual bird census at Chilika from today LAKE CLOSED FOR TWO DAYS TO FACILITATE THE COUNTING OF WINGED GUESTS



#### PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Jan 2: Asia's largest brackish water lagoon Chilika will remain closed for visitors January 3 and 4 for the annual bird census, officials said here Tuesday. The midwinter survey of birds in the lake will be carried out by the Chilika Wildlife Division January 4, while training will imparted to enumerators on January 3, they informed.

"We have decided to stop the entry of visitors to the lake for these two days to conduct an undisturbed bird census," divisional forest officer Amlan Nayak of Chilika Wildlife Division said. He said boat associations have also been requested not to ferry visitors during this period and these organizations have assured the Forest department of full cooperation for the smooth conduct of the census.

Thousands of winged guests, mostly from Russia and central Asian countries, visit Chilika Lake every winter to escape the biting cold in their homelands and in search of food. They start their homeward

Thousands of birds, mostly from Russia and central Asian countries, visit Chilika Lake every winter to escape the biting cold in their homelands and in search of food. They start their homeward journey before the onset of summer

journey before the onset of summer. Nayak said over 100 people, including ornithologists, wildlife activists and researchers of different organisations, including the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), will participate in the census.

"We will form 21 teams, with five persons in each team headed by an expert, for the bird count. Each team will be provided with instruments such as binoculars," Nayak stated. He said not a single poaching case has been registered in the division this year due to the strict patrolling at the lake.

In last winter's survey, a total of 11,31,929 birds of 184 different species were counted at the 1,100 sq km blue lagoon. These included 10,93,049 feathered guests of 105 various species, and 38,859 of 79 species of resident birds, sources said.

operation and found the boy's body in the pond, an official said. Balasore Sadar (SDPO) Sasanka Sekhar Beura ing the matter lightly. That is said the body has been sent for postwhy it has increased surveilmortem examination, and further lance and patrolling. "From the investigation is underway. Police injury marks we are sure that said that the boy must have slipped it was not the attack of a single and fallen into the pond. They added animal. It was a pack that atthat the girl did not raise an alarm tacked and killed the sheep,' which led to the kid's death.

|                      | Number And The Registration Number Of The<br>Liquidator | goenkamohan@gmail.com<br>9831074332<br>46 B.B. Ganguly Street, 4th floor, 406, Kolkata-<br>700012, West Bengal |
|----------------------|---|--|
| 8.                   | Last Date For Submission Of Claims                      | 30th day from EGM  |
| Th<br>of<br>Th<br>ma | their claims, on or before 27th January 2024, to the    | nall attract penalties.  |
|                      |   | Sd/  |
| Da                   | te : 02.01.2024   | (Mohan Ram Goenka)   |
|                      |   | (monan Kan Oberika   |



#### POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property) [See Rule-8-(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Utkal Grameen Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction o Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act. 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act. calling upon the Borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within **60 days** from the 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 the 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 hereby 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 /<br>Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors  | Description of the Security<br>Interest taken over possession   | Liabilities due on<br>the specified date<br>as per Notice               | Date of Demand<br>Notice /<br>Possession Notice |
|--|---|---|---|
| DABUGAON BRANCH /<br>Borrower: Malla Reddy Bulu Rao, S/o.: Malla Reddy<br>Narasing Rao, At: Nuaguda, PO.: Dabugaon, Dist.:<br>Nabarangpur-764072 / Guarantors: 1) Laxmidhar<br>Panka, S/o.: Sadan Panka, At: Borigam, PO.: Borigam,<br>Dist.: Nabarangpur-764072, 2) Dhanurjaya Mali, S/o.:  | All that Part & Parcel of the immovable<br>property consisting of Mouza: Dabugaon,<br>Tahasil: Dabugaon, Khata No.: 254, Plot No.:<br>880, Area: Ac.0.08, Kissam: Gharabari, in<br>the name of <b>Malla Reddy Bulu Rao</b><br>Kachuru Mali, At: Doporiguda, PO.: Borigam, | expenses thereon  |   |
| DABUGAON BRANCH /<br>Borrower: M/s. Mahaveer Bakery, Prop.: Sri<br>Narendra Nath Jena, S/o.: Late Ramesh Jena, At/PO.:<br>Dabugaon, Dist.: Nabarangpur-764072 / Guarantor:<br>Suresh Kumar Jena, S/o.: Nakula Charan Jena, At:<br>Dhanasara, PO.: Junaani, Dist.: Nabarangpur-764072   | All that Part & Parcel of the immovable<br>property consisting of Mouza: Dangariguda,<br>Tahasil: Dabugaon, Khata No.: 460/697,<br>Plot No.: 836/2402, Area: Ac.0.10, Kissam:<br>Gharabari, in the name of <b>Suresh Kumar</b><br><b>Jena</b>                             | ₹ 3,96,081/-<br>as on<br>28.12.2023<br>+ interest &                     | 30.09.2023<br>/<br>28.12.2023                   |
| RAIGHAR BRANCH/<br>Borrower: M/s. Maa Pendrani Modern Rice Mill,<br>Prop.: Sri Harendra Kumar Mishra, S/o.: Shibraj<br>Mishra, At/PO.: Ganjapara, Dist.: Nabarangpur-764074<br>/ Guarantors: 1) Smt. Rajkumari Mishra,<br>W/o.: Sri Harendra Kumar Mishra, 2) Dharamvir<br>Yadav, S/o.: Maliram Yadav, Both are At: Kodavata,<br>PO.: Raighar, Dist.: Nabarangpur-764074 | Ac.0.70, Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of<br>Sri Harendra Kumar Mishra, 2)<br>All that Part & Parcel of the immovable  | as on<br>29.12.2023<br>+ interest &<br>expenses thereon                 |   |
| property consisting of Mouza: Raighar, Tahasil: Raigh<br>Gharabari, in the name of Smt. Rajkumari Mishra   | nar, Khata No.: 90/630, Plot No.: 356/838/10  | 14/1119, Area: Ac   | 2.0.05, Kissam                                  |
| UMERKOTE BRANCH /<br>Borrower: Shaik Awesh Raza, S/o.: Shaik Nawab, At:<br>Tikra Street, Main Road, PO.: Umerkote, Dist.:<br>Nabarangpur-764073 / Guarantors: 1) Naresh<br>Solanki, S/o.: Santosh Kumar Salanki, At: Kusumguda,<br>PO.: Umerkote, Dist.: Nabarangpur-764073, 2) Imran R  |   | ₹ 6,82,972/-<br>as on<br>29.12.2023<br>+ interest &<br>expenses thereon | 08.06.2023<br>/<br>29.12.2023                   |
| Main Road, PO.: Umerkote, Dist.: Nabatangpur-76407<br>Place: Bhawanipatna, Date: 02.01.2024  |   | ed Officer, Utkal (   |   |

## power post

#### FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

Take Truth for your force; take Truth for your refuge THE MOTHER



## **Begum in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh will go to the polls on January 7. Of the 44 parties reg-istered in the Election Commission, 27 are participating in the elections this time for 300 seats. This may create an impression that it will be a participatory, competitive and contested election. But, with the main Opposition parties, including the biggest Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), boycotting the poll and many of their leaders jailed it will, in all likelihood, be a one-sided affair and the ruling Awami League is all set to be re-elected for a fourth straight parliamentary term. These parties say they have no faith that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hold a free and fair election for which they have demanded the election be held under a neutral caretaker government. The Awami League has rejected the demand out right, calling it unconstitutional since an amendment passed a few years back scrapped the provision of election overseen by a caretaker government. The candidates who have filed their nominations are from the Awami League, its allies or independents.

In such a scenario the BNP has predictably asserted that "democracy is dead in Bangladesh" and the election is going to be "fake."

This is rather a sweeping statement since the reality in Bangladesh is that the BNP has become alienated from a large number of people both due to the ailment of its leader Begum Khaleda Zia, who is serving jail term, and weak organisational strength. At the same time country-wide arrests of Opposition leaders and activists by a coercive police force have lent credence to the charge that Sheikh Hasina has increasingly turned autocratic. There is, however, no denying the fact that Bangladesh under Hasina has achieved, since 2009, a good measure of economic success while being once dubbed one of the world's poorest countries. Now, it is one of the fastest-growing economies in the region, surpassing even its giant neighbour India. Its per capita income has tripled in the last decade and the World Bank estimates that more than 25 million people have been lifted out of poverty in the past two decades. One of the key achievements is the Hasina government's huge infrastructure projects, including the flagship \$2.9bn Padma bridge across the Ganges. The bridge alone is expected to raise GDP by 1.23 per cent. At the same time Bangladesh is still reeling under the impact of intensified cost of living crisis. Inflation was around 9.5 per cent in November, while its foreign exchange reserves have dropped from a record \$48bn in August 2021 to around \$20bn now - not enough for three months of imports. Its foreign debt has also doubled since 2016.

The US has asked the Sheikh Hasina government to make sure the Opposition takes part in the election that alone would legitimise the exercise. But, the government has made it clear that the country's Election Commission is an independent body and the government should not be blamed for the Opposition's boycott of the polls. A group of UN special rapporteurs have also expressed concern over the "weaponisation of the judicial system" to target Opposition activists, journalists, human rights defenders and civil society leaders. The government has categorically denied the charges.

India of course does not see eye to eye with the US assessment of the situation in Bangladesh and it has extended its support to the holding of the elections. This is only natural given the regional political dynamics as also the debatably democratic character displayed by the Indian government. Delhi wants road and river transport access for its seven northeastern states through Bangladesh. India is also concerned about the "chicken's neck," a 20km land corridor that runs between Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan, linking its north-eastern states to the rest of India. Officials in Delhi are afraid it is strategically vulnerable in any potential conflict with India's rival, China. Hasina has been a strong ally of India and helped the latter tackle the insurgency problem in the north-east by reining in militant groups operating along the border after coming to power in 2009. Moreover, India can ill afford to excessively arm twist Bangladesh which could push Dhaka towards China. Beijing is already keen on bringing Bangladesh into its orbit as it vies with India for regional supremacy.

Similar to Hasina's example, India has also been consistently supporting the military dictatorship in neighbouring Myanmar (Burma). That government has lost complete public support and has, in the meanwhile, veered more towards China. In any eventuality if there is a change in Myanmar and somewhere down the line democracy returns to that country. New Delhi's support for the Junta could prove counterproductive to Indian interests in the long run.

## **NO VALUE ADDITION**

factory might appear economically valuable, but if it is polluting so much that it destroys the surrounding ecosystem, it is not adding value at all. This principle should be central to the European Union's policy decisions, as it races to secure access to the 34 raw materials considered "critical" to the EU's renewable-energy, digital, space and defence, and health sectors. The process of extracting critical minerals from raw ore before smelting, refining, or otherwise changing them into usable forms - is highly concentrated within global supply Sophia Pickles chains, and not in Europe. In 2021, China processed 50% of the world's lithium, 56% of its nickel, 80% of its gallium, 60% of its germanium, and 69% of its cobalt. As a result, these supply chains are prone to bottlenecks and highly vulnerable to economic and geopolitical shocks. If a mineral-processing power like China decides to use criti-

**IF YOU POISON** 

**THE LOCAL** 

**PEOPLE IN** 

**ORDER TO** 

**CREATE JOBS** 

**THOSE JOBS** 

CONSIDERED

**'VALUE-ADDED'?** 

**REALLY BE** 

FOR THEM, CAN

cal-mineral supplies as leverage or punishment, the EU will be at a significant disadvantage. In July, China announced it would restrict exports of gallium and germanium, both of which are needed to manufacture semiconductors. That decision had ramifications for national security in Europe, where demand for gallium is expected to grow 17-fold by 2050.

This vulnerability partly explains why the European Commission is committed to getting the Critical Raw Materials Act passed by early 2024. Along with strengthening the EU's own mineral-processing capacity and forging "strategic partnerships" with mineralrich countries, the CRMA is a key component of the EU's strategy for securing the supplies it needs.

To boost the appeal of strategic partnerships - while distancing itself from its extractivist past - the EU has incorporated into the CRMA commitments to "value-addition" in the countries where critical raw minerals will be mined and processed. While we can guess some of what is meant by that - for example, supporting the development of min-



Left unreformed, mineral processing may add some economic value for some countries in some cases, but at great social and environmental cost

eral-processing capacity in countries where it is lacking-neither the CRMA nor any other documentation published so far clearly defines how value-added would be measured.

As a new study by the Heinrich Böll Foundation points out, this leaves citizens of mineral-producing countries, as well as Europeans, unable to make informed decisions about these strategic partnerships. which are, in any case, legally non-binding. As one expert interviewed in the study observes, "unless it is clearly defined, value-added becomes a political slogan that can be wielded. For it to mean anything in practice, it is a concept that needs to be unpacked."

The European Commission has offered some clues as to what such "unpacking" would reveal. During last month's EU Raw Materials Week in Brussels, public statements by Commission representatives suggested that value-addition would be economic in nature. with a focus on creating jobs and generating revenues for local communities. But while jobs and revenues are obviously desirable, this approach fails to account for the vast environmental and social costs of mineral processing.

In Namibia, a major coppersmelting operation in Tsumeb has, in the past, contaminated the local air, soil, and water, to the point that residents showed elevated levels of lead and arsenic. In Chile, lithium extraction has caused severe water shortages, as it consumes 65% of the Atacama Desert region's supply and contaminates freshwater sources. Local communities have barely been consulted, if at all, about these activities - a violation of the principles enshrined in International Labor **Organization Convention 169** and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

If you poison the local people in order to create jobs for them, can those jobs really be considered "value-added"? What about the mineral revenues that were made possible by the destruction of local ecosystems? Does the local economy truly benefit from activities that drain it of vital ecological and social resources?

It should be obvious that shortterm economic gains generated by mineral extraction and processing mean little if they have devastating environmental and health effects (which of course carry longer-term economic costs). That is why the European Commission must incorporate environmental and social considerations into assessments of value-addition linked to the CRMA and similar initiatives.

But that is just the beginning. Even in strictly economic terms, the concept of value-addition demands a more nuanced per-

spective. A recent report cal culated that more than 95% of GDP generated by increased nickel-processing in one of Indonesia's two key nickel-producing regions, Morowali, did not remain there. So, local communities are not only bearing the massive environmental costs of nickel extraction; they are gaining almost nothing from the revenues. None of this should be considered "valueadded" by the EU.

And then there is best practice. Mineral processing, as a sector, is relatively under-scrutinised compared to, say, mining. Experts consider "green" refining - if such a thing can exist - an emerging field, at best. And, so far, advances in mineral processing have been focused mostly on mitigating financial and geopolitical risks for firms, rather than improving social and environmental outcomes.

To be sure, the electric vehicle-maker Tesla claims to have devised an "innovative" lithiumprocessing technique that is "designed to consume less hazardous reagents" than the conventional process and create "usable" byproducts. "You could live right in the middle of the refinery and not suffer any ill effects," Tesla CEO Elon Musk boasts. But the firm has not provided any details publicly. The Heinrich Böll Foundation reached out to Tesla requesting more information, but received no response.

Left unreformed, mineral processing may add some economic value for some countries in some cases, but at great social and environmental cost. Unless the EU looks beyond narrowly economic metrics, its investments in this area will merely perpetuate the wrongs of the current fossil-fuel-based system, damaging human health, destroying ecosystems, and exacerbating the "decarbonization divide." No amount of rhetoric about "adding value" will change that.

The writer is a former member of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

hours wearing a monitor.

After another woman was

convicted of abandoning 35

kittens in the woods, Cicconetti

sentenced her to spend one

night in the woods without

water, food or entertainment.

It was part of a longer sen-

tence that included 14 days in

jail, 15 days under house ar-

rest, a \$3,200 donation to the

Humane Society, and a \$500 do-

nation to the park rangers who

Perhaps my favorite sentence

of Cicconetti's was this: after a

man and a woman, both 19, van-

dalised the statue of a baby

Jesus from a nativity scene, the

judge ordered them to walk

through their town with a don-

key from a petting zoo while

carrying a sign that said, "Sorry

Judge Cicconetti also sen-

tenced them to 45 days in jail,

for the jackass offense.

found the kittens.

## IN JEST THIS 'Stupid' punishments for 'stupid' crimes

The way things are moving, there is hardly any fear of any upset election results. As long as Hasina is there, India has a steady, autocratic and trustworthy ally in her.

#### WISDOM CORNER

If you plan on being anything less than you are capable of being, you will probably be unhappy all the days of your life. ABRAHAM MASLOW

If you're going to do something tonight that you'll be sorry for tomorrow morning, sleep late.

HENNY YOUNGMAN

You are always free to change your mind and choose a different future, or a different past.

RICHARD BACH

#### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1521:** Martin Luther excommunicated by pope. Pope Leo X issued the papal bull Decet Romanum Pontificem, excommunicating Martin Luther, the German priest whose guestioning of certain Roman Catholic practices initiated the Protestant Reformation.
- **1938:** US President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis (later called the March of Dimes) to find a cure for polio, a disease he had been stricken with in 1921.
- 1962: Pope John XXIII excommunicated Fidel Castro, who had transformed Cuba into a communist state; at the time, the Roman Catholic Church opposed communism.
- 1977: Apple was incorporated by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, and it later became one of the most valuable companies in the world, known for innovative computer and electronic products.
- 1990: After undergoing 10 days of psychological warfare-which included U.S. forces blasting rock music at the Vatican embassy, where he had sought refuge-Panamanian military leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to the United States

#### LOI

#### Two men camping

wo young men were out in the woods on a camping trip, when they came upon this great trout brook. They stayed there all day, enjoying the fishing, which was super. At the end of the day, knowing that they would be graduating from college soon, they vowed that they would meet, in twenty years, at the same place and renew the



experience. Twenty years later, they met and travelled to a spot near where they had been years before. They walked into the woods and before long came upon a brook. One of the men said to the other, "This is the place!" The other replied, "No, it's not!" The first man said, "Yes, I do recognize the clover growing on the bank on the other side.' To which the other man replied, "Silly, you can't tell a brook by its clover."



Melvin Durai

PROVIDING **ENTERTAINMENT TO SOCIETY** SHOULD NEVER **BE A JUDGE'S** PRIMARY MOTIVATION,

**OF COURSE** 

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

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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

columns (between 750-1250

#### • ve never committed a crime 100 hours of yoga

Actually it wasn't 100 hours that required me to go before a judge-and I hope I of yoga, but 100 hours of comnever do. But if I ever have to munity service. Yoga would face a judge, I hope it's a judge have been better-it's the perwho doesn't just want to throw fect punishment for inflexible people. (If you love yoga, please I hope it's someone who is don't take offense. Yoga is a creative-someone like pleasure for many people, but Municipal Court Judge Gayle it's not easy for beginners, es-Williams-Byers of South Euclid, pecially 62-year-old beginners.)

> The judge also ordered Aviv to undergo counseling and take anger management classes. Unfortunately, we don't know whether the sentence actually made Aviv a better human being. That's partly because newspapers don't print articles with headlines such as "Man bakes cookies for neighbours' and "Man sings 'Kumbaya' with neighbours.

Prison is certainly a good punishment for serious crimes, but when judges have the ability to be creative in their sentencing, I hope they do so more often. Not only will the wrongdoer learn a lesson, it will benefit society as a whole, giving society some much-needed entertainment.

Providing entertainment to society should never be a judge's primary motivation, of course. It's just a side benefit.

Few judges have provided as much entertainment in their careers as Judge Michael Cicconetti, who also worked in the state of Ohio. Before retiring in 2019, Cicconetti served for 25 years as municipal court judge in the city of Painesville.

"The message I want to send to the defendant is, 'Look, you did something stupid and you're going to pay for it by doing something stupid," Cicconetti told The News-Herald. "Hopefully that clicks. I can't say we didn't have a little fun doing it over the years. We have. I've entertained myself by doing it. But there's always been a point to doing it."

After a young woman was drug and alcohol treatment, convicted of stiffing a taxi driver and 100 hours of yoga. of a \$100 fare after a 30-mile No, he didn't sentence them to yoga. As far as I know, drive. Cicconetti sentenced her to repay the driver and walk Cicconetti never considered the 30-mile distance within 48 yoga a punishment.

Long overdue

me in prison.

Ohio, US.

that I live in.'

About a decade ago, Williams-

Byers sentenced a 62-year-old

man named Edmond Aviv to sit

on a street corner for five hours

with a sign that read: "I AM A

BULLY! I pick on children that

are disabled, and I am intoler-

ant of those that are different

from myself. My actions do not

reflect an appreciation for the

diverse South Euclid community

Aviv was punished for ha-

rassing and insulting his neigh-

bours, who had adopted two

black children with develop-

mental disabilities, according

to a UPI article. Aviv was also

sentenced to 15 days in jail,

seven months on probation, and

#### Sir, This refers to "Dress code a must at Srimandir" (Orissa POST January 2). This step was long overdue as a good number of tourists had taken it for granted to make their entry into the sanctum sanctorum with indecent clothes as if no sanctity needs to be maintained inside the 12th century temple. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) deserves to be praised for banning plastic bags inside the temple which were clogging the drains, besides making the pathways slippery. The SJTA on its part also has to ensure a hassle free darshan which becomes a headache for senior citizens. Their entry into the temple should be well arranged.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

#### On seventh heaven

Sir, Renowned Mysore-based sculptor Arun Yogiraj Shilpi must be on seventh heaven after the authorities chose his Ram Lalla idol for consecration at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Yogirai and his team used a unique Krishna shila (stone) from Bujjegoudanapura village in HD Kote taluk of Mysore district to sculpt the idol. His fame skyrocketed when PM Modi unveiled his 12-foot-tall idol of Adi Shankaracharya in Kedarnath in 2021. Standing tall at Amar Jawan Jyoti near Delhi's India Gate is Yogiraj's 30-foot statue of Subhas Chandra Bose. More power to his elbow!

> NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

#### **Digital initiatives**

Sir, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud is known for promoting digital initiatives at the Supreme Court like live streaming of select court proceedings, digitalisation of records and digital courts. As per a latest report, the SC has disposed of 52,191 cases as of December 15, 2023, the number stood at 39, 800 in the preceding year. The Integrated Case Management Information System software, introduced in 2017 to address relative urgency of different types of cases, seems to have helped in fixing a timeframe for urgent verification and listing of sensitive matters. Linkage of the SC to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) has helped the top court as well as the common man to quickly access judgements. In September, Justice Chandrachud had announced that the SC was 'onboard' the NJDG, another step forward in ensuring judiciary's transparency and accountability. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA





## Over 400 juveniles nabbed since '21 for violent crimes

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 2: More than 400 juveniles were arrested in Delhi, 121 of them for murder, by three districts' and the metro and railway units of police in the last three years, according to the official data.

The data pertained to 2021, 2022, and 2023 till September and was from the south, central, and Shahdara districts, besides

According to the National Crime Record Bureau data, juveniles were found to be involved in 2,436 criminal cases reported in Delhi in

Of the total, 92 cases were related to murder and 154 attempted murder

Eighty-six of them were involved in cases of rape The figures are several times higher in comparison to the other 19 metropolitan cities in India



the metro and railway unit police units

According to the data, the five police units apprehended a total of 417 juveniles – 121 juveniles in murder, 184 in attempt to murder, and 112 in rape cases.

The south district police nabbed 58 juveniles in murder cases, the central 28, and the Shahdara district 23, the data said. When it came to rape cases, the central district nabbed 46 juveniles, Shahdara 36, south district 29, and the railways one,

Water supply to be

hit in parts of Delhi

New Delhi, Jan 2: Water sup-

city will be affected Wednesday

and Thursday due to an inter-

connection work by the DMRC,

Due to the interconnection

work of 1,500 mm diameter South

pressure on Wednesday evening

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said.

ply in several parts of the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

it stated. The number of juveniles nabbed in murder attempt cases was 99 in the south district, 55 in the central district, 36 in the Shahdara district, and four in the metro unit.

The railway unit apprehended 12 minors in murder and attempt to murder cases, it said. On Thursday, a 34-year-old cab driver was stabbed to death allegedly by three people, including a minor, in an instance of road rage in south Delhi's Mehrauli area.

The minor involved in the incident has been apprehended. In November in east Delhi's Welcome colony, a 16year-old boy, apparently drunk, stabbed another teenager more than 55 times, slit his throat, dragged his body through the street, and as he did it, performed a little jig before the CCTV camera.





#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla (HP), Jan 2: Himachal Pradesh, which witnessed massive destruction due to heavy rains during the monsoon season, recorded 45 percent raindeficit in the post-monsoon period from October 1 to December 31, the weather office said Monday.

The state received 45.2mm of rain against the normal rainfall of 82.9mm in the post-monsoon period, a deficit of 45 percent. Hamirpur and Chamba districts received normal rainfall, Una and Bilaspur received excess rainfall while the remaining eight districts of Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi, Kangra, Shimla, Solan and Sirmaur received deficient rainfall. The rain-deficit in the month of December alone was 85 percent as the state received just 5.8 mm rainfall against the normal of 38.1mm. During the period, Gondla in Lahaul and Spiti received the highest snowfall of 12 cm December 1.

The local MeT department has forecast a dry spell in the state till January 7 and warned of the possibility of dense fog in isolated pockets during the next five days in Mandi, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Una, Kangra, Sirmaur and Solan during morning hours.

There was no significant change in the minimum and maximum temperatures and Kukumseri in Lahaul and Spiti was coldest at night, recording a low of minus 8.2 degrees Celsius while Sundernagar was hottest during the day with a high 21.7 degrees Celsius.

## **Delhi-NCR** has become India's narco trade hub



#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 2: The demand for the party drug, "Malana cream" (hashish), continues to thrive in the heart of the national capital, as indicated by a recent exchange between a potential buyer and a seller.

The buyer's inquiry over a WhatsApp call, "Is there 'maal available, brother?" elicited a swift response from the seller, confirming the product's availability upon the payment of Rs 4000 and the booking of a delivery person.

The popularity of "Malana cream" among consumers underscores the persistent challenge faced by the law enforcement agencies in curbing the illegal drug trade.

The exchange between the buyer and seller highlights a concerning trend, revealing that the narcotics trade remains active, with transactions taking place through discreet channels.

The ease with which the con-

**Despite the Delhi Police's** concerted efforts to dismantle inter-state drug rackets for supplying narcotics substances across the city, the roots of the drug trade seem to persist within Delhi itself

versation unfolded raises questions about the effectiveness of

the ongoing law enforcement initiatives to eradicate such activities. While the Delhi Police have reported successful crackdowns on various inter-state drug rackets, the continued availability and demand for substances like "Malana cream" suggest that more comprehensive measures may be required to address the roots of the issue within the city.

Himachal Pradesh's ancient Aryan village of Malana is known the world over as a haven

for those looking for a high in th hills. An oily and aromatic strain of hashish called Malana cream Delhi main line opposite to IGL is considered to be the purest gas station near Twin OHT. form of hashish and is derived Paschim Vihar, Outer Ring Road by the locals from the cannabis and Peeragarhi near U-turn by grown illegally in the surthe Delhi Metro Rail Corporation rounding Parvati Valley. (DMRC), the water supply will not be available or available at low

The international popularity of the drug brings thousands of tourists to the village Recently, the Delhi Police had

arrested three men, including two foreign nationals and a kingpin and seized around 63 kg of fine quality hashish worth more than Rs 30 crore in the international market.

Hashish, sourced from Nepal, has made its way into Delhi, signalling a noteworthy increase in cross-border smuggling and consumption, not limited to Malana cream alone.

A senior police official said that the recent seizure of hashish suggests that the smugglers are mostly using cars after making a special cavity to smug-

gle drugs from Himachal Pradesh or Nepal. According to a recent survey conducted by the anti-narcotics task force (ANTF) of the Delhi Police, Jama Masjid, Madangir, Chhatarpur, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Uttam Nagar, Taimoor Nagar, Nand Nagri and Majnu Ka Tila are among the "64 hotspots" identified by the cops for peddling narcotic substances.



be available on request, they said.

The water supply will be affected in Budella, D block Janakpuri, Sagarpur and adjoining area Delhi Cantt (MES) NDMC area, RK Puram, Moti Bagh Nanakoura, Katwaria Saral, Ber Sarai, Vasant Vihar, Vasant Enclave, Shanti Nikaten,

## Meat shops, religious places to be at least 100m apart, says MCD

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 2: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has decided to reduce the minimum distance condition for opening a meat shop near any religious place to 100 metres from 150 metres, besides watering down other provisions.

The move comes after the civic body drew opposition from meat sellers in the city who feared that the new regulations passed in October would adversely impact nearly 6,000 meat shops under the MCD jurisdiction and may even force many to shut businesses

The MCD, in its last House meeting of 2023 December 28, gave its nod to a revised proposal introduced as a private member bill by AAP councillors Sultana Aabad and Amin Malik that proposed to decrease the minimum permissible distance between a meat shop and a religious place to 100 metres in densely populated areas along with other changes, an official said Monday. According to the revised proposal, the fee charged for the renewal of the licence for a meat shop has been slashed to ₹ 5,000 from ₹ 7,000 proposed earlier, the official said.

"In densely populated areas such as Old Delhi, setting a minimum distance between meat

shops and religious places to 150 metres is practically not feasible. In October last year, the civic body had passed a new licensing policy for meat shops that was aimed at standardising licensing fees across the MCD zones and fixing the minimum distance between a meat shop and any religious place to 150 metres. The revised proposal brings down the fine imposed in case of violation of rules to ₹ 10,000.

In the previous proposal, the fine imposed for rule violation was set as ₹ 20.000 for the first time and ₹ 50,000 for any further rule breaks. Besides, the Corporation has also given its nod to reduce the minimum area requirement for opening a meat shop to 50 sq ft from 60 sq ft set earlier.

Traders in Delhi were also dissatisfied with the increased annual charges. The Delhi Meat Merchants Association had opposed the proposal stating that it would lead to "corruption" and threatened to move to court if the policy was not rolled back.

#### ILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI, DHENKANAL NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION

Notice No.04 Date:2.1.24 No.E-688:Sealed tenders invited from reputed Firm/Company/



AGENCIES Shimla, Jan 2: The Himachal

#### Westend colony, Green Park, Sufdarjung Enclave, SDA, Hauz Khass, Munirka, Kisangarh,

Masjidmoth, part of Mehrauli, IIT, INU, AIIMS, Safderjung Hospital and adjoining areas of Deer Park Reservoir, they added.

## sold on New Year eve

<sup>24</sup> lakh liquor bottles

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 2: Delhi recorded sales of 24 lakh liquor bottles on New Year's Eve, registering a nearly 18 per cent onvear growth from the corresponding date in 2022

According to official Excise department data, 3,99,60,509 (3.99 crore) liquor bottles were sold in December 2022 through a network of 520 shops. In December 2023, 4,97,80,240 (4.97 crore) bottles were sold from 635 vends.

According to the data, 24,00,726 (24 lakh) liquor bottles were sold on New Year's Eve (December 31) -- the highest single-day sales during December 2023.

December 31, 2022, witnessed sales of 20,30,664 (20.30 lakh) bottles -- also the highest single-day sales figure for that month. The second highest sales in December 2023 were recorded on Christmas Eve (December 24) when 19,42,717 (19.42 lakh) bottles were sold. On the same day in 2022, the data showed that 14,69,357 (14.69 lakh) bottles were sold. The data also showed that 17,79,379 (17.79 lakh) liquor bottles were sold on December 30, 2023, against 14,66,353 (14.66 lakh) on the same day in 2022. In 2023, the lowest sales were recorded on December 5 when 12,84,222 (12.84 lakh) bottles were sold against 13,81,531 (13.81 lakh) on the same day in 2022. In 2022, the lowest sales were seen December 4, with

9,03,835 (9.03 lakh) bottles sold. Sales of liquor bottles breached the 10-lakh every day in December 2023.

Pradesh Cabinet, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu, Monday decided to start Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgar Start Up Yojna Phase (II), for setting up solar power projects for those aged between 21 and 45 years, besides achieving the government's 'clean energy' initiatives.

The Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgar Start Up Yojna focuses on the installation of solar plants with capacities ranging from 100 kW to 500 kW, thereby contributing substantially to the state's renewable energy targets. This will not only provide self-

employment opportunities but will also stimulate economic growth amongst the youth in times to come, an official state-

ment said. Under the scheme, the par-



The Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgar Start Up Yojna focuses on the installation of solar plants with capacities ranging from 100 kW to 500 kW, thereby contributing substantially to the state's renewable energy targets

ticipants will receive a monthly income of around ₹ 20,000 for 25 years for a 100 kW to be installed in three bighas, and ₹40,000

and ₹1 lakh per month for the projects with a capacity of 200 kW and 500 kW to be set up in five and 10 bighas, respectively. The beneficiary of the scheme will have to pay just 10 per cent of the amount as security deposit whereas 70 per cent bank loan will be facilitated by the government that will also provide 30 per cent equity.

The Cabinet also approved to start Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar from January 8 across the state during which interaction with beneficiaries of government schemes will be held at clusters of villages till February 12

eeping, Sec Laundry Services under Nirmal Scheme in the District. The details regarding application format, terms and conditions of the tender may be downloaded from District Website i.e., www.dhenkanal.nic.in. The tender will reach the office of the undersigned latest by 23.01.2024, 05.30 PM through speed post/registered post/courier only. The tender will be opened on 24.01.2024 at 10.30 AM in the office of the undersigned in the presence of bidders/ authorized representatives of the bidders. The undersigned is not responsible for any kind of postal delay and reserves all the rights to cancel any or all tender at any stage of selection/finalization process without assigning any reasons thereof. Any typographical error may be exempted.

Sd./- CDM & PHO-cum-OIPR-10059/11/0014/2324 District Mission Director, Dhenkanal

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **ROURKELA IRRIGATION DIVISION, ROURKELA** e-mail Id:seridrkl@gmail.com e-Procurement Notice

BID IDENTIFICATION NO.SERID-RKL-13/2023-24, DT.01.01.2024 No.A-1125: The Superintending Engineer, Rourkela Irrigation Division, Rourkela on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bid in single cover system to be received in online mode from the eligible contractors registered with the State Government, contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class Registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways/CPWD work as detailed below:

|                | t as actalica below.                      | _  |                                       |
|----------------|---|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1.             | Nature of Work                            |    | FLOOD WORKS                           |
| 2.             | Total Number of works                     | :  | 01 (One) No.                          |
| 2.<br>3.       | Bid Identification No.                    | :  | SERID-RKL-13/2023-24 (Online          |
| 4.<br>5.<br>6. | Estimated Cost                            | :  | Rs.26.64 Lakh                         |
| 5.             | Class of Contractor                       | :  | Referred to DTCN                      |
| 6.             | Cost of Tender Paper                      | :  | Referred to DTCN                      |
|                |   |    | (Non-Refundable)                      |
| 7.             | Earnest Money                             | :  | Referred to DTCN (Refund-             |
|                | Deposit                                   |    | able)                                 |
| 8.<br>9.       | Period of Completion                      | :  | Referred to DTCN                      |
| 9.             | Date & Time of avail-                     | ;  | From Dt.05.01.2024 at 10.00 AM        |
|                | ability of Bid docu-                      |    | to dt.16.01.2024 upto 05.00 PM        |
|                | ments in the portal                       |    | 553                                   |
| 10.            | Last Date/Time for re-                    | :  | Dt.16.01.2024 at 05.00 PM             |
|                | ceipt of bids in the portal               |    |                                       |
| 11.            | Date and Time of                          | :  | Dt.17.01.2024 at 11.30 hours          |
|                | Opening of Bids                           |    |                                       |
| 12.            | Last date & time of                       | :  | Dt.12.01.2024 at 5.00 P.M.            |
|                | seeking of clarification                  |    |                                       |
| 13.            | Place of Opening                          | :  | Office of the Superintending          |
|                |   |    | Engineer, Rourkela Irrigation         |
|                |   |    | Division, Rourkela                    |
| 14.            | Name and Address of                       | :  | Superintending Engineer,              |
|                | the Officer Inviting Bid                  |    | Rourkela Irrigation Division,         |
|                |   |    | Rourkela                              |
|                | The bidders have to particit              | ba | te in ONLINE bidding only. As Goo     |
|                |   |    | o force with effective from 01.07.202 |
|                |   |    | en from the Govt. website www         |
| tend           | ersorissa.gov.in.                         |    |                                       |
|                | ne na na manda ini a Tang ta Bang ta Bang |    | d./-Superintending Engineer           |
|                |   | 1  | Rourkela Irrigation Division,         |
| OID            | R-32018/11/0016/2324                      |    | Rourkela                              |

## HP's famed apples victims of freakish weather

*Experts and growers* believe that changes in precipitation patterns like frequent extreme weather events both in summer and winter have even impacted the taste, colour and texture of apples

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Jan 2: Climate change is posing an existential threat to the precarious lives of fruit growers across Himachal Pradesh, the country's fruit bowl ranking second in apple and almond production.

The farmers in the state are experimenting with different crops, growing tactics and technology to cope with warmer winters and unprecedented rain and drought.



Farmers and trade insiders as low as 2.75 lakh tons in 2011 and 3.69 lakh tons in 2018. say that the overall apple pro-

Fluctuations in temperatures from December to February, for example, every year have been preponing flowering in apple trees in spring and altering the timing of key plant physiological events like early bud break

and full bloom period.

Himachal's apple boom is credited to Samuel Evans Stokes (later named Satyanand Stokes), an American missionary who first introduced the high-quality apples in the mid-altitude hills.

From a small orchard in Kotgarh, Stokes promoted apple cultivation in other areas too, especially in upper Shimla.

Since then, the hill state has been synonymous with apples that alone constitute 89 per cent of the state's fruit economy of Rs 5,000 crore.

"We are now fighting for our livelihood as climate change reduces crop yield and increases crop failures," said Deepak Tegta, a prominent grower in Jubbal, state's apple basket in Shimla district.

Octogenarian grower Naresh Daulta of Karsog in Mandi district told IANS that changes in precipitation patterns like fre-

quent extreme weather events both in summer and winter have been impacting the taste, colour and texture of apples. Snow is considered "white manure" for the apple orchards as it not only helps in meeting the minimum chilling requirement but also sustains the required level of moisture in the soil during summer.

The weather fluctuation trend is noticeable in orchards located at an altitude of 1.500 metres. said S.P. Bhardwaj, a former Joint Director at the Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry. The weather impact is not as severe for orchards in ranges located above 2,000 metres, he said.

New low-chilling and early maturing varieties are being introduced in the lower-altitude hills. Ageing orchards too are taking a toll on apple production.

duction in the state has been er-

ratic since 2010. The production

of apples this year is almost half

of the 2010 yield of 8.92 lakh

metric tons. In between 2010 and

2023, except for 7.77 lakh met-

ric tons in 2015, the yield was





## **PHOTO POST**





**P8** 

People make their way near a collapsed building due to an earthquake in Wajima, Ishikawa prefecture, Japan. A series of powerful earthquakes hit western Japan Monday, damaging buildings and vehicles



Artistes perform during the 'National Winter Carnival' in Manali

**OrissaPOST** 

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 3 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR





A staffer at a manufacturing unit displays a model of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, at Faizabad in Ayodhya district

Cadets of National Cadet Corps during a winter training camp at Nagrota, on the outskirts of Jammu



Indian Coast Guard personnel during rehearsals for the upcoming Republic Day parade on a cold morning, in New Delhi



School students during the display of weapons by the Maharashtra police on its raising day in Thane

A stork with its new born chick in her nest in Nagaon district of Assam

PTI PHOTOS









## national



The 2024 Lok Sabha elections are to save democracy and the Constitution. The public has to be cautioned that when there is no democracy and Constitution, then the right to vote will also be taken away AKHILESH YADAY SP PRESIDENT

#### **NEW GUIDELINES**

Hospitals cannot admit critically ill patients in the intensive care unit in case of refusal by them and their relatives, the Union Health Ministry has said in its recent guidelines on ICU admissions





There is a big conspiracy going on. Some BJP leaders had said earlier that they would send me to jail. They have

conveyed their message to the department concerned. I have asked those who have spoken about me to come for discussion. There is a big plot being hatched

D K SHIVAKUMAR KARNATAKA DEPUTY CM

Those who hesitated to go to Ayodhya earlier, those who were hesitant in even taking Ayodhya's name, are now saying that if we get an invitation we will also go

Those who chose slavery...Those who are cowards should not comment on us. There is no need for me to speak more on this issue. Lok Sabha elections will show who is riff-raff SANJAY RAUT SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Plea filed in SC challenges new law

New Delhi: Amid a political row over dropping the Chief Justice of India (CJI) from a panel empowered to choose the Chief Election **Commissioner and Election** Commissioners, an advocate has moved the Supreme Court, seeking quashing of the new law that accords the central government sweeping powers to make appointments to the poll body. The plea filed by advocate Gopal Singh has sought the Apex court's direction to implement an "independent and transparent system of selection, constituting a neutral and independent selection committee for appointment of the Chief **Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners** (CEC and ECs)".

### No final decision on

## Manipur violence: Priyanka slams PM



**New Delhi, Jan 2:** A day after four people were gunned down in Manipur, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Tuesday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the situation there and urged the government to take "concrete steps" for stability and peace by talking to all stakeholders in the northeastern state.

Four villagers were gunned down by unidentified assailants in minority-dominated Lilong Chingjao area in Manipur's Thoubal district."Four people were killed in Manipur, many people are injured, there is curfew in many districts. The people of Manipur have been facing murder, violence and destruction for eight months. When will this trend stop?" Priyanka Gandhi said in her post on X.

A joint delegation of leaders of all the parties from Manipur had come to Delhi and sought time to meet the Prime Minister but till date he has not given time, she claimed. "Neither he (PM Modi) went to Manipur, nor talked about Manipur, nor replied in Parliament, nor took any action. Is this the leadership that



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 2: The BRICS bloc of top emerging economies, including India, Russia and China, has announced induction of five full members into it in an attempt to expand its strategic heft against the backdrop of Western dominance in world affairs.

As Moscow assumed the presidency of BRICS, Russian President Vladimir Putin Monday said the grouping has become a 10-nation body now with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates joining it as new members, adding work on modalities to induct new categories of partner nations would start now.

In August, the top BRICS leaders at the grouping's summit in Johannesburg approved a proposal to admit six countries, including Argentina, into the bloc with effect from January 1. However, Argentina's



Manipur needs, or is the power of advertisements enough to become great!" the Congress general secretary said. "The government should now, without any delay, start taking concrete steps to bring stabil-

ur ity and peace by talking to all stakeholders in Manipur, taking them into confidence," she said. The violence in Manipur he comes days ahead of the Congress' Bharat Nyay Yatra' which is scheduled to start from the state January 14 and conclude in Mumbai in March.



Meitei community in the list of Scheduled Tribes. This order led to rampant ethnic clashes between the tribal Kuki and non-tribal Meitei com-

munities. More than 180 people have been killed and several hundred others injured since ethnic violence first broke out in the state May 3 when a 'Tribal

## CBI files charge sheets in missing students' case

New Delhi: The CBI has filed two separate charge sheets against five accused for "kidnapping with an intention to kill" and other offences in the case of two missing Manipuri students who were feared murdered during ethnic violence in the state, officials said Tuesday. Photos purportedly showing their bodies surfaced September 25, 2023, leading to violent protests, mainly by students. The CBI, however, is yet to find the bodies. The agency filed the charge sheets under IPC Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence), 204 (destruction of evidence) and 364 (kidnapping with an intention to kill) in the interconnected cases before a designated special court in Kamrup. The central probe agency has kept the probe into the alleged murder open as the search for bodies continues.

Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 2:** The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Bihar government to put in the public domain the breakup of the caste survey data to enable those aggrieved to challenge the findings.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta refused to grant any interim relief to the petitioners who have challenged the caste survey and the Patna High Court order upholding the Bihar government's decision to conduct such an exercise.

"There is no question of interim relief as they (the government) have a high court order in their favour. Now that the data has been put in public domain, there are two-three aspects which remain. First is the legal issue–correctness of the High Court judgement and legality of such an exercise," the bench said.

Senior advocate Raju Ramachandaran, appearing for the petitioners, said since the survey data is out, the authorities have started implementing it in the interim and raised the reservation for SCs, STs, Other Backward Classes, Extremely Backward Classes, and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) to a total of 75 per cent from the existing 50 per cent.

The bench said this issue needs to be heard at length. "As far as increasing the reservation is concerned, you have to challenge it before the High Court," the bench told Ramachandaran, who said it has already been contested before the High Court.

Ramachandaran said the issue is important, and since the state government is acting upon the data, the matter be listed next week so that the petitioners can argue for interim relief. "What interim relief? They (the Bihar government) have a High Court judgement in their favour," the bench said.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the Bihar government, said the data, including the break-up, has been put in the public domain and anyone can see it on the designated website. Justice Khanna said, "What I



- According to the data released, the state's total population stood at a little over 13.07 crore, out of which the Extremely Backward Classes (36 per cent) were the largest social segment followed by the Other Backward Classes at 27.13 per cent
- The survey also said the Yadavs, the OBC group to which Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav belongs, were the largest caste in terms of population, accounting for 14.27 per cent of the total

am more worried about is the availability of break-up of data. To what extent the government can withhold the data. You see, the entire break-up of data should be in the public domain so that anyone can challenge the inference drawn from it. Unless it is in the public domain, they can't challenge it."

The BJP, the main opposition party in Bihar, has accused the Nitish Kumar government of irregularities in conducting the caste survey and called the data collected "fake".

The bench then asked Divan to file a report on the caste survey and posted the matter for further hearing on February 5.

October 6, 2023, the top court had questioned the Bihar government as to why it published its caste survey data. It had, however, refused to restrain the state government from making pub-\_ lic further data, and said it may examine if the state has the power to conduct such an exercise

cise.
It had issued a formal notice
on a batch of pleas challenging
the August 1, 2023 order of the
Patna High Court that gave the go-ahead for the caste survey
In Bihar.



ID FOR THE SECOND SECON

#### idol: Temple trust

Ayodhya: The Ram temple trust is yet to take a final decision on which of the three Ram Lalla idols being sculpted over the past months will be installed at the temple here, those associated with the trust said Tuesday. Monday, BJP leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa had congratulated Arun Yogiraj, a sculptor from the state, saying that the idol carved by him has been chosen to be enshrined at the new temple in Ayodhya. But the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which is building the temple, has not made its decision known. The decision will be taken by the trust in consultation with Shankaracharya Vijayendra Saraswati and other seers, trust functionaries said.

#### new President Javier Milei last week announced withdrawing his country from becoming a member of the BRICS.

Tourists take selfies at the Taj Mahal on a cold morning in Agra

#### 'Will penalise states, not MGNREGA workers'

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 2: RuralmanDevelopment Minister GirirajpareSingh Tuesday slammed theAccoCongress for its criticism ofRuramaking Aadhaar mandatory foron Japayments under MGNREGA,14.32and said "we will penalise statesthe Mnot workers" if they are not yetcroredlinked with the Aadhaar-BasedAadhPayment System (ABPS).Als

A day after the ABPS was made mandatory for the rural employment guarantee scheme, Singh said several deadlines were given for linking. He also dismissed former rural development minister Jairam Ramesh's allegations that the Union government is "weaponising technology", especially the

Aadhaar against the poor. The ABPS has been made

mandatory to ensure transparency, the minister said. According to data provided by the Rural Development Ministry, as on January 2 there are around 14.32 crore active workers under the MGNREGS of whom 14.08 crore (98.31 per cent) have been Aadhaar-seeded. Also, 12.54 crore workers (87.54

s per cent of the total) have completed other steps and are currently eligible for Aadhaar-Based Payment System. Asked about the way ahead for those workers under MGNREGA who have still not been linked to ABPS, Singh said, "We will talk to states. If they raise concerns we will see what can be the way forward."

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 2:** Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has written to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, requesting that a team of INDIA bloc leaders are provided an opportunity to meet him and his colleagues to put forward their point of view on VVPATs.

In his letter to Kumar, Ramesh said that on December 20, 2023, INDIA parties' leaders had requested for an appointment with the ECI to "discuss and provide suggestions on the use of VVPATs" based on a resolution passed at meeting of leaders of the bloc held the previous day.

"We have been trying to meet with the ECI to hand over a copy of this resolution and have a discussion but have not been successful so far in doing so," he said."I once again make a request for an opportunity for a 3-4 member team of INDIA party leaders to meet with you and your colleagues and take a few minutes to put forward our point of view on VVPATs," Ramesh said.

PTI PHOTO

VPAT issue: Jairam writes to CEC

In his letter dated December 30, 2023, the Congress general secretary also pointed out that August 9, 2023 a memorandum had been submitted to the ECI on EVM- related concerns of INDIA parties. This was supported with



several requests on August 9, 10, 16, 18 and 23 last year for a meeting of an INDIA parties' delegation with the ECI, he said.

"On August 23, 2023 ECI issued a clarification to our counsel on the memorandum. This clarification was generic in nature and (i) directed us to refer to the standard FAQs on EVMs available on ECI website; (ii) explained the legal backing for EVMs through Section 61A of the Representation of Peoples' Act, 1951; (iii) summarised judgments of High Courts and the Supreme Court on issue of EVMs; (iv) provided a chart of assembly and parliamentary election results since 2004 to show that the political party winning the maximum number of seats changed several times," Ramesh said.

However, there was no meeting or hearing provided to INDIA parties' delegation despite repeated requests, he said. October 2, 2023 a follow-up representation was sent by us through counsel, Ramesh pointed out.

#### PM rolls out new projects in TN

Tiruchirappalli: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday inaugurated a string of projects here and laid foundation stone for new initiatives, in all worth Rs 20,140 crore. The Prime Minister hailed Tamil Nadu for its cultural inspiration and by praising DMDK late leader Vijayakanth rooted for nationalism while Chief Minister M K Stalin championed the social justiceled Dravidian model of governance which, among other goals, is also aimed at taking education to all. Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation, 20 projects related to air and seaports, railway, highway, petroleum and natural gas, atomic energy and higher education in the state from this central Tamil Nadu district. located about 300 km from state capital Chennai.

## Wife's false portrayal of husband as womaniser extreme cruelty: HC

Any successful marriage, the court said in a recent order, is built on mutual respect and faith and, if either is compromised beyond a level, the end of the relationship is inevitable

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 2: Making unsubstantiated allegations of extramarital relationship against a husband and portraying him as a womaniser in public space are acts of extreme cruelty that merit dissolution of marriage,

the Delhi High Court has held. A bench headed by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait, while upholding a family court order granting divorce on the husband's plea of cruelty, said a spouse expects his partner to respect him and "act as a shield of protection" in times of need, and "constant nagging" on other person's character and fidelity

leads to mental agony. Any successful marriage, the court said in a recent order, is built on mutual respect and faith and, if either is compromised beyond a level, the end of the relationship is inevitable."Unfortunately, here is a case where the husband himself is being publicly harassed, humiliated and verbally-attacked



by his wife, who had gone to the extent of levelling allegations of infidelity during his office meetings in front of all his office staff/guests. She even took to harassing the woman workers of his office and left no stone unturned to portray him as a womaniser in the office. This behaviour is but an act of extreme cruelty to the respondent/husband," said the bench, also comprising Justice Neena Bansal Krishna, while dismissing the wife's appeal against the divorce order.

"Casting aspersions of the alleged extramarital relationship with another married lady who was the wife of his friend, would

lead to the inevitable conclusion of cruelty... Such reckless, defamatory, humiliating and unsubstantiated allegations by one spouse, which has the impact of publicly tarnishing the image of the other spouse, is nothing but acts of extreme cruelty," the court said. The court noted that the wife claimed her husband was impotent and compelled him to undergo a potency test which found him fit. Such allegations, it observed, caused mental cruelty to him. The wife also alienated their child from the husband which also amounted to mental cruelty, it added. "Nothing more can be more

painful than experiencing one's own flesh and blood i.e., the child, rejecting him or her. Such wilful alienation of the child by a parent amounts to mental cruelty to the other parent. In the present case as well, the child has not only been totally alienated, but has also been used as a weapon against the father," stated the court.

"All these acts which happened in a span of about six years that they spent together, proved that the respondent was subjected to cruelty and harassment which is sufficient to create mental agony and trauma in his mind to the extent that he at times even thought of committing suicide. The acts of the appellant (wife), as proved, can only be termed as acts of crueltytowards the respondent (husband)," it said.





AGENCIES

Tokyo, Jan 2: A passenger plane

and a Japanese coast guard

aircraft collided on the runway

at Tokyo's Haneda Airport

Tuesday and burst into flames,

with five people on the smaller

All 379 people on Japan Airlines

flight JAL-516 got out safely

before the plane was engulfed

in flames, Transport Minister

Tetsuo Saito confirmed. The

pilot of the coast guard plane

escaped but the five crew

first time one of the Airbus A350,

among the industry's newest

large passenger planes, was se-

verely damaged. It entered com-

flown from Shin Chitose airport

near the city of Sapporo, the

Yoshinori Yanagishima said its

Bombardier Dash-8 plane, which

is based at Haneda, had been

due to head to Niigata to deliver

relief goods to residents affected

by a deadly earthquake in the re-

gion Monday. The turboprop

Dash-8 is widely used on short-

ported to his base that his air-

craft exploded after colliding

with the commercial plane, Vice

The coast guard pilot re-

haul and commuter flights.

The Japan Airlines A350 had

Coast guard spokesperson

mercial service in 2015.

transport minister said.

Tuesday's accident was the

members died, Saito said.

plane killed, officials said.

international



If they remove Trump's name, my name is off too, and I call on Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley and Chris Christie to do the same thing. Their words are cheap. Action speaks louder than words

VIVEK RAMASWAMY I INDIAN-AMERICAN REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

#### **MAJOR BLOW TO IMRAN**

As general elections inch closer in Pakistan, for former premier Imran Khan and the top leadership of his Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party the going is getting tougher as it faces rejection of nomination papers by the Election Commission



A contentious immigration bill backed by the far right is imperfect and needs some fixes but is what the French wanted and is not a victory for the far right

EMMANUEL MACRON FRENCH PRESIDENT

Israeli attacks against Iranian advisers in Syria were a clear violation of the Arab state's sovereignty and territorial integrity as an independent state

and a UN member and an adventurism aimed at challenging peace and security in the region

NASSER KANAANI IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

We might have a slight (Covid-19) surge, but I think more or less, we are seeing the peak of this wave ONG YE KUNG MINISTER

FOR HEALTH OF SINGAPORE

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Sri Lanka to set up Truth Commission

Colombo: Sri Lanka has taken the first step to set up the much-delaved Truth Commission, a major demand for reconciliation post-2009 with the end to the armed conflict with the LTTE in the north and east of the island nation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued the gazette for the Bill that will eventually lead to the establishment of 'The Commission for Truth Unity and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka.'

#### Finland, Sweden set cold records

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Helsinki: Finland and Sweden recorded their coldest temperatures of the winter Tuesday when thermometers plummeted as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius (minus 40 Fahrenheit) as a cold spell grips the Nordic region. Cold and snow disrupted transportation throughout the region, including in Norway maior south was closed due to the weather and ferry lines suspended operations. In neighbouring Finland, this winter's cold record was recorded in the northwestern town of Ylivieska where temperatures fell to minus 37.8 degrees Celsius (minus 36 F) early Tuesday, and forecasters said temperatures would be lower than minus 40 degrees Celsius in parts of the nation through the week.

## HUNDREDS FLEE BURNING PLANE

Five of six-member Coast Guard crew killed

Passenger describes cabin filling with smoke

Commander Yoshio Seguchi

Shigenori Hiraoka, head of the

Transport Ministry Civil

Aviation Bureau, said the colli-

sion occurred when the JAL

plane landed on one of Haneda's

four runways where the coast

guard aircraft was preparing to

take off. Transport safety officials

were analyzing communication

between aviation control offi-

cials and the two aircraft and

planned to interview JAL officials

told reporters.

Local TV video showed a large eruption of fire and smoke from the side of the Japan Airlines plane as it taxied on a runway. The area around the wing then caught fire. Footage an hour later showed the plane fully on fire

Jimmy Lai pleads not guilty in trial REUTERS

Hong Kong, Jan 2: Hong Kong

tycoon and pro-democracy ad-

vocate Jimmy Lai pleaded not

guilty Tuesday in a landmark

trial, where he is accused of en-

dangering China's national se-

curity, as prosecutors laid out

details of what they said was

Japan Airlines plane had 379 passengers and crew on board Jet burst into flames after collision with Coast Guard plane Coast Guard aircraft was due to deliver aid to quake zone

perature inside the cabin started rising. The passenger said she was afraid she might not get off the plane alive.

The transport minister said officials were doing their utmost to prevent any delays in the delivery of relief goods and other operations for the disaster-hit region. Transport officials said the airport's three other runways had reopened.

Haneda is one of the busiest airports in Japan, and many people travel over the New Year holidays. Haneda is the busier of two major airports serving the Japanese capital, with many international and transcontinental flights. It is particularly favoured by business travellers due to its proximity to central parts of the city.

The twin-engine, twin-aisle A350 is used by a number of long-haul international carriers. More than 570 of the aircraft are in operation, according to Airbus.

JAL operates 16 of the A350-900 version aircraft, according to its website. It recently announced details of 13 of the newer A350-1000 variant it plans to bring into service, saying it will become "the airline's new flagship for international service after nearly 20 years". The first of those planes arrived a few weeks ago, slated for the Haneda-New York JFK route



- including calling for sanctions against Hong Kong and Chinese officials - under a China-imposed national security law. "Not guilty," Lai said three times as each charge was read, appearing calm as he sat in a glass dock surrounded by guards and a court filled with family, supporters and foreign diplomats. Lai, 76, the founder of now-shuttered prodemocracy newspaper Apple Daily, is also charged with conspiracy to publish seditious publications. Western democracies, including Britain, the European Union and the United States, are watching closely, with the trial a diplomatic flashpoint and a test for Hong Kong's judicial independence and freedoms under the sweeping national security law China imposed in 2020.

## **Top Hamas official Saleh** Arouri killed in Beirut blast



People gather at the site of the explosion, in what security sources say is an Israeli drone strike, in the Beirut suburb of Dahiveh, Lebanon REUTERS

> plosion inflicted any casualties in the Beirut suburb but videos



r accident averted in B'desi Dhaka: A major accident was averted Tuesday in Bangladesh when a

rying 300 passengers was stopped by the driver just 200 yards a bridge where the hooks that bind railway tracks with s were removed by suspected saboteurs in northern Netr officials said. Railway officials said 28 dog spikes on 14 s vere removed, an incident they believed could be linked to a se rain sabotages ahead of the January 7 general elections, being poycotted by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party ked to a series of

to determine what led to the collision. Hiraoka praised JAL for "taking appropriate procedures" to safely evacuate all passengers and crew members

Another passenger told NHK television that cabin attendants were calm and told everyone to leave their baggage behind, then all lights went off and the tem-

#### **Turkiye detains 33**

Ankara: Turkish authorities have detained 33 people suspected of spying for Israel, Turkiye's state-run news agency reported Tuesday. Authorities were still searching for 13 others believed to have links to Israel's Mossad security service, the Anadolu Agency reported.

Beirut, Jan 2: The TV station of Lebanon's Hezbollah group says top Hamas official Saleh Arouri was killed Tuesday in an explosion in a southern Beirut suburb.

AGENCIES

Arouri, one of the founders of Hamas' military wing, had headed the group's presence in the West Bank. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had threatened to kill him even before the Hamas-Israel war began October 7. Israeli officials declined to comment.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said the blast killed four people and was carried out by an Israeli drone. An explosion shook the Lebanese capital's southern suburbs Tuesday evening causing chaos in the militant Hezbollah group's stronghold, but the nature of the blast was not immediately known. It wasn't clear if the ex-

circulating on social media showed serious damage and fire. The explosion came during more than two months of heavy exchanges of fire between Israeli troops and members of Hezbollah along Lebanon's southern border. Since the fighting began October 8, the fighting has been concentrated a few miles (kilometers) from the border but on several occasions Israel's air force hit Hezbollah targets deeper in Lebanon. Earlier in the day, Hezbollah said its fighters carried out several attacks along the Lebanon-Israel border targeting Israeli military posts.

The Israeli drone struck a Hamas office in Dahiyeh on Tuesday night, leaving a total of six people dead, Lebanon's state news agency reported. Security sources and medics could not immediately identify the other three killed



FUN IN WATER: People participate in the annual New Year Day Polar Bear Dip in Oakville, Ont. Participants plunge into the frigid waters of Lake Ontario each year to raise money for charity

### South Korea's Oppn leader stabbed in neck

Secul: South Korea's tough-speaking liberal opposition leader, Lee Jae-myung, was stabbed in the neck by an unidentified knife-wielding man during a visit Tuesday to the southeastern city of Busan, police said. Lee, 59, the head of the main opposition Democratic Party, was airlifted to a Seoul hospital for surgery after receiving emergency treatment in Busan. Police and emergency officials earlier said he was conscious after the attack and wasn't in critical condition, but his exact status was unknown. The attack happened as Lee walked through a crowd of journalists and others after a tour of the proposed site of a new airport in Busan. The attacker approached Lee, saying he wanted to get his autograph, and then stabbed him in the left side of his neck with a knife, senior Busan police officer Sohn Jae-han said in a televised briefing. Sohn said Democratic Party officials near Lee quickly subdued the attacker before police officers detained him. He said 41 police officers had been deployed to the area for crowd control and traffic management.

#### Rishi Sunak declares success in meeting UK's asylum target

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Jan 2: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Tuesday declared he had met his target to clear the country's "legacy" asylum backlog by the end of 2023 and also bucked the trend across Europe by cutting down arrivals of illegal migrants via small boats by 36 per cent.

The UK Home Office said that 112.000 asylum cases were processed in the past year, which exceeded Sunak's initial target of 92,000 applications pending at the end of 2022.

It claimed that fundamental changes to the decisionmaking process and boosting efficiency resulted in the highest annual number of "substantive" asylum decisions in a year since 2002.

"I am determined to end the burden of illegal migration on the British people. That is why we have taken action to stop the boats, return hotels to their local communities, and deter those wanting to come here illegally from doing so," said Sunak. Sunak sees curbing soaring migration figures, both legal and illegal, an important target for the government as heprepares for a general election this year.

A Biden-Trump rematch could shake American politics

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Laconia, Jan 2: US presidential elections have been rocked in recent years by economic disaster, stunning gaffes, secret video and a pandemic.

But for all the tumult that defined those campaigns, the volatility surrounding this year's presidential contest has few modern parallels, posing profound challenges to the future of American democracy.

Not since the Supreme Court effectively decided the 2000 campaign in favour of Republican George W. Bush has the judiciary been so intertwined with presidential politics.

In the coming weeks, the high court is expected to weigh whether states can ban former President Donald Trump from the ballot for his role in leading the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol.

Meanwhile, a federal appeals court is weighing Trump's argument that he's immune from prosecution. The maneuvers are unfolding as prosecutors from New York to Washington and Atlanta move forward with 91 indictments across four criminal cases involving everything from Trump's role in the insurrection to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election and his hush money paid to a porn actress.

On the Democratic side, President Joe Biden is seeking reelection as the high inflation that defined much of his first term seems to be easing. But that has done little to assuage restless voters or ease widespread concerns in both parties that, at 81, he's simply too old for the job. And at least three

serious candidates who have

launched outsider presidential



bids threaten to scramble the campaign and eat into the support from independent voters who were critical to Biden's success in 2020.

Facing such uncertainty, few expect the traditional rules of politics to apply in 2024. Jim Messina. who managed former President Barack Obama's reelection, said Trump could very well defeat Biden next fall, even if the former president is in prison.

One of the few certainties at this point is that Biden is on track to be the Democratic nominee again, facing only token opposition in this year's primary despite overwhelming concerns within his own party about his physical and mental fitness. And though a few rivals are fighting furiously to stop Trump, he is well positioned to win the GOP nomination for the third consecutive election.

to

become

January 15

when the

Iowa cau-

The strength of **US ADULTS** the GOP oppo-OVERALL (56%) WOULD BE "VERY" OR "SOMEWHAT" DISSATISFIED WITH BIDEN AS THE sition Trump will DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE IN 2024, ACCORDING TO A POLL CONDUCTED LAST MONTH BY more clear E ASSOCIATED PRESS-NORC CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH

A SIMILAR MAJORITY (58%) SAID cuses THEY WOULD BE VERY OR launch the SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED nomination WITH TRUMP AS THE

process. Trump GOP'S PICK holds a command-

ing lead in most national polls, although former UN ambassador Nikki Haley and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis are fighting to stop him. Allies of DeSantis and Haley privately concede that their best chance to

wrestle the nomination from Trump would come in a longshot push for a contested convention in Wisconsin this July. Public polling strongly sug-

gests that voters do not want a rematch between Trump and Biden. Most US adults overall (56 per

cent) would be "very" or "somewhat" dissatisfied with Biden as the Democratic presidential nominee in 2024, according to a poll conducted last month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. A similar majority (58 per cent) said they would be very or somewhat dissatisfied with Trump as the GOP's pick.

While concerns about Biden are centered on his age, Trump has increasingly embraced authoritarian messages that serve as clear warnings of his plans to dismantle democratic norms if he returns to the White House.







## business



It is not clear right now on what the balance or asymmetry of power is between those who scrape the internet and use content that is copyrighted to train their models or deliver a service vis-a-vis who actually created the content. RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR UNION MINISTER

#### **GOVT HIKES WINDFALL TAX ON CRUDE OII**

The government has hiked the windfall tax on crude oil produced in the country and cut the levy to nil on exports of diesel and ATF. The tax, levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty, on domestically produced crude oil has been raised to Rs 2,300 from Rs 1,300 per tonne, according to an official notification.

Not in tie-up talks with

Musk's Starlink: VIL

Speculations were also rife that the government could

sell its 33.1 per cent stake in VIL to Musk to enable

Starlink to forav into the Indian market



**HUL receives GST** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

of five states.

last week.

demand, penalties of

₹447.5cr from 5 states

New Delhi, Jan 2: Leading

FMCG maker Hindustan

Unilever Ltd has received GST

demand and penalties totalling

Rs 447.5 crore from authorities

appealable' and the company

will make an assessment for

that, according to a Monday late

night regulatory filing from

HUL, which owns brands such

as -- Lux, Lifebuoy, Surf Excel,

of five orders passed from dif-

ferent zones of GST officials

over issues such as disal-

lowance of GST credit, salaries

including allowances paid to ex-

pats etc Friday and Saturday

the company on 30th December,

2023 and 31st December, 2023,

respectively and the intimation

is being submitted today i.e. 1st

January, 2024, being the first

working day after receipt of the

tax "on salaries including al-

This includes the demand for

orders," said HUL.

"The orders were received by

The company received a total

Rin, Pond's and Dove.

These 'orders are currently



So far in the industry what we have seen in the last few years is a jump in the exshowroom price SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA

MSI SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER



network maximised the deliveries for the new SUV Elevate to our customers

YUICHI MURATA HCIL DIRECTOR

Gold's appeal as a safe haven investment and a perfect hedge against inflation is likely to continue in 2024 as consumers face high commodity prices and elevated interest rates worldwide thus overheating financial markets SAIYAM MEHRA GJC CHAIRMAN

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Maruti output falls 2.96%

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India Tuesday reported a 2.96 per cent decline in total vehicle production at 1,21,028 units in December 2023. The company had produced 1,24,722 units in December 2022, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing. Total passenger vehicle production last month stood at 1,19,518 units as against 1,24,135 units in December 2022, down 3.72 per cent, it added. Production of light commercial vehicle Super Carry was, however, higher at 1.510 units as compared to 587 units in the year-ago month. Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales) Shashank Srivastava had Monday stated that the company had cut down on production in December to reduce stocks at dealerships ahead of the yearend.

#### **APSEZ's cargo**

## **Red Sea attacks: Oil prices jump on disruption fears**



#### REUTERS

London, Jan 2: Oil prices rose more than 2% in the first session of the New Year, boosted by potential disruption to Middle East supply after the latest attack on a container ship in the Red Sea and by Chinese demand hopes. Brent crude rose \$1.58, or 2%, to \$78.62 a barrel by 1316 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude was up \$1.56, or 2.2%, at

**PV SALES** 

**FLAT IN DEC** 

Entry-level segment

remains a drag

New Delhi, Jan 2: In passenger

vehicles, despite a strong growth

of 15 per cent YoY for utility ve-

hicles (UVs), overall passenger

vehicles (PVs) remained flat in

December Y-o-Y due to slug-

gishness in the entry level seg-

ment, says a report by Motilal

Commercial vehicles volumes

grew 6 per cent Y-o-Y, led by 11.5

per cent Y-o-Y growth in MHCVs.

Tractors declined 18 per cent Y-

continue to grow in the coming

months. CV demand growth is

expected to moderate in 4Q due

"We believe 2W demand should

**Oswal Financial Services.** 

0-Y.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

\$73.21 A Reuters survey of economists and analysts predicted

that Brent crude would average \$82.56 a barrel this year, up slightly from the 2023 average of \$82.17, with weak global growth expected to cap demand. Geopolitical tensions, however, could provide price support. US helicopters Sunday re-

pelled an attack by Iran-backed Houthi forces on a Maersk container vessel in the Red Sea, sinking three Houthi vessels and killing 10 of the militants, fuelling risks of the Israel-Hamas war becoming a wider conflict. Danish shipper Maersk said it

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

fund outflows.

will decide whether to resume sending vessels through the Suez Canal via the Red Sea or redirect them around Africa after the weekend attack on one of its ships, a company spokesperson said.

"The oil price may be affected by the escalation ... in the Red Sea over the weekend and the peak demand season during China's spring festival," said Shanghaibased CMC Markets analyst Leon Li, referring to the Lunar New Year holiday in early February. A wider conflict could close

crucial waterways for oil transportation.

At least four tankers carrying diesel and jet fuel from the Middle East and India to Europe are sailing around Africa to avoid the Red Sea, ship tracking data shows.

In China, investor expectations of fresh economic stimulus measures rose after manufacturing activity shrank for a third month in December, government data showed Sunday.

Any such stimulus for economic growth could boost oil demand and support crude prices.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 2: Telecom operator Vodafone Idea Tuesday said it is not in any discussion with Elon Musk's Starlink for a tie-up and is 'not aware' of the basis of reports that claimed such an alliance and the possibility of a stake purchase.

Vodafone Idea, in a filing to the BSE, asserted that it will comply with Sebi listing regulations and keep the stock exchanges informed of all the price-sensitive information.

Referring to reports about the market being abuzz with talks that Starlink could tie up with Vodafone Idea for a maiden entry into the country's telecom space,

to submit that the company is not in any such discussion with the named party," VIL said.

foray into the Indian market.

stock has surged on expectations of such a partnership being on the anvil, particularly as Musk is slated to visit the country to attend the Vibrant Gujarat Business Summit next week.

However, Tuesday, the VIL stock ended 5.65 per cent lower on the BSE.

VIL said, "We are not aware of the basis of the said news item."

"In this regard, we would like

In fact, speculations were also rife that the government could sell its 33.1 per cent stake in VIL to Musk to enable Starlink to

Over the last few days, the VIL

lowances paid to expats amounting to Rs 372.82 crore and penalty amounting to Rs 39.90 crore from the Joint Commissioner, CGST and Central Excise,

Mumbai East Besides, Deputy Commissioner of Commercial Tax Officer, Bangalore has issued a demand of tax "on the grounds of excess GST credit availed amounting to Rs 8.90 crore and penalty amounting to 89.08 lakh.'

Excise and Taxation Officer, Sonipat, Rohtak, Haryana, has issued a demand order "wherein GST credit amounting to Rs 12.94 crore has been disallowed and a penalty amounting to Rs 1.29 crore has

been imposed.' While Additional Commissioner, Central Tax and Central Excise, Kochi Commissionerate has also disallowed GST credit and turnover adjustment amounting to Rs 8.65 crore and imposed a penalty

amounting to Rs 87.50 lakh. According to HUL, these GST demands and penalties would modest gain of 31.68 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 72.271.94 after a muted beginning on Monday.

have "no material impact on financial, no impact on operation" or other activities of the company due to the intimation

Mumbai, Jan 2: Benchmark 71,892.48 Sensex declined by 379 points 72250 Tuesday due to profit-taking in **-**379.46 bank and IT shares after recent sharp gains and fresh foreign The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 379.46 points or 0.53 per cent to settle at 71,892.48. During the day, it tumbled 658.2 points or 0.91 per cent to a low of 71,613.74. 09:15 16:00 TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS

The broader Nifty declined by 76.10 points or 0.35 per cent to close at 21,665.80. As many as 31 Nifty shares declined while 19 advanced. Among the Sensex firms,

Kotak Mahindra Bank, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Wipro and Hindustan Unilever were the

**BSE Sensex**  $\frac{\mathbf{JAN}}{2024}$  2



**NSE Nifty** 

-76.10 16:00 **TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS** % -3.57 3.09 Eicher M Divis Lab Adani Ports 2.97 M&M -2.48 Sun Pharma 2.77 UltraTech C -2.47 Coal India 2.61 L&T -2.40 2.55 Kotak Mahi -2.32

terday's last hour's sell-off, tak- trade and crude supplies." Vinod

Auto stocks declined on belowexpected volume numbers, while pharma stocks were the standout due to catch-up in the US

economy," Nair added. In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower while Seoul ended in the green. European markets were mostly

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 2.05 per cent to

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 855.80 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

trading in positive territory. Asian, European and US markets were closed Monday for the New Year. USD 78.58 a barrel.

The BSE gauge eked out a



#### volumes up 42%

New Delhi: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) Tuesday said its cargo volumes rose 42 per cent in December 2023 to 35.65 MMT (million metric tonne). According to a APSEZ statement, 10 ports in the APSEZ portfolio delivered their highest-ever cargo volumes, recording new operating milestones. The billionaire Gautam Adani's firm handled 311 MMT of cargo during the nine months of FY24, which is 23 per cent higher year-on-year. Mundra Port alone managed around 5.5 MTEUs in initial nine months, it added. For the quarter ended December, APSEZ handled around 109 MMT of overall cargo, the statement said. APSEZ CEO and whole-time director Karan Adani said, "APSEZ crossed the 300 MMT cargo mark in just 266 days versus its previous best of 329 days in the previous financial year.'

#### Suzuki India's sales grow 24%

.....

Mumbai: Two-wheeler maker Suzuki Motorcycle India Tuesday said its vehicle sales increased 24 per cent year-onyear to 79,483 units in December. Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd (SMIPL), a subsidiary of Suzuki Motor Corporation, had sold 63,912 vehicles in December 2022, as per a company statement. "The company closed December 2023 with total sales of 79,483 units, recording 24 per cent yearon-year growth," Suzuki Motorcycle India said in the statement. Of the total twowheeler sales last month, the domestic sales volume stood at 69,025 units, while the remaining 10,458 units were retailed in the overseas markets, it stated.

to the high base effect. Tractor wholesales remained weak, but



we are seeing greenshoots in retail growth as we highlighted in our channel check note," the report said.

The report said that it believes that the UVs will continue to see sustained growth, while entry-level PVs will see a decline, denting overall PV growth.

"We believe 2W domestic wholesales will continue to grow, aided by the ongoing marriage season and a gradual recovery in rural markets," the report said

Auto stocks index is among the top losers with Eicher Motors down more than 3 per cent, Ashok Levland down more than 3 per cent, M&M down more than 2 per cent, TVS Motors down more than 2 per cent.

Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finserv and Titan were among the winners.

major laggards.

"The market extended yes-

ing negative cues from Asian peers due to weak Chinese manufacturing data and mounting tensions in the Red Sea, which has the potential to disrupt global

Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said. jumped 11,399.52 points or 18.73

"Ahead of the impending results season, investors are adopting a profit booking strategy.

The Nifty went up by 10.50 points or 0.05 per cent to 21,741.90. In 2023, the BSE benchmark

per cent, and the Nifty climbed

3,626.1 points or 20 per cent.

of tax payable. "These orders are currently appealable & we will make an assessment to exercise our right to appeal," said HUL.

### RBI issues draft norms for dividend declaration by banks **CENTRAL BANK PROPOSES BANKS WITH LESS THAN 6 PC NET NPAS TO DECLARE DIVIDENDS**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 2: The Reserve Bank Tuesday proposed allowing banks having net non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio of less than 6 per cent to declare dividends.

As per the prevailing norms last updated in 2005, banks need to have a NNPA ratio of up to 7 per cent to become eligible for declaration of dividends. "The net NPA ratio, for the fi-

nancial year for which the dividend is proposed, shall be less than six per cent," the Reserve Bank said in the draft guidelines on dividend declaration. The guidelines have been re-

viewed in the light of implementation of Basel III standards,

the revision of the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework, and the introduction of differentiated banks, the RBI said.

The central bank has proposed that the new guidelines should come into effect from FY25 onwards

The draft lays down directions need to be followed by banks' boards while considering proposals of dividend payouts, which include consideration on divergence in classification and provisioning for NPAs as well.

A commercial bank should have a minimum total capital adequacy of 11.5 per cent to be eligible for declaring dividend, while the same for a small finance bank and paytment banks has been set at 15 per cent, and



9 per cent for local area banks and regional rural banks, the draft circular said.

In what can be seen as a relaxation from the existing norms, the Reserve Bank has proposed increasing the upper ceiling on dividend payout ratio -- which is the ratio between the amount of the dividend payable in a year and the net profit -- to 50 per cent if the net NPA is zero from the earlier ceiling of 40 per cent.

The draft also made it clear that the Reserve Bank shall not entertain any request for 'adhoc dispensation on declaration of dividend'.

In the case of foreign banks, the RBI has proposed that they may remit net profit or surplus (net of tax) of a quarter or a vear earned in from Indian operations without the central bank's prior approval.

However, in the event of excess remittance, the head office of that foreign bank should immediately 'make good the shortfall', the draft added. The public can respond to the draft circular with suggestions by January 31, the RBI said.

## Consumer discretionary staring at moderating growth: Report BOTH RETAIL AND DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS CONTINUE TO GRAPPLE WITH ELEVATED INVENTORY LEVELS

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 2: Despite a promising start to the festive season, most sectors, excluding jewellery and travel, seem to have hit the snooze button, as per a report released by HDFC Securities.

Several factors contribute to this, including the normalisation of ticket sizes and purchase frequencies, weak footfalls (on a per sq ft basis), and a trend towards downtrading.

With a few exceptions, same store sales growth (SSSG), especially for apparel and footwear, has ranged from -5 per cent to 2 per cent.

Both retail and distribution channels continue to grapple with elevated inventory levels. This has led to an early commencement of End of Season Sales (EoSS) by 2-3 weeks and higher discount levels in the system. Consequently, margins are likely to be weak, the report said. 'Our interaction with key



in apparel, innerwear, and footwear. Sales densities were weak, with SSSG ranging from -5 per cent to +2 per cent by the third week of December," the

report said.

In terms of sub-categories, Indian ethnic wear performance was good courtesy the festive/wedding season; however, menswear and women's western wear, winter wear and innerwear continue to struggle, it

Given the gold price tailwind (up 13 per cent YoY till December 20, 2023), most jewellery companies continue to do well in terms of growth. However, ticket sizes have inched down for the industry. Grammage (per store basis) continues to decline. Most companies have been aggressive in expanding YoY; hence growth rates are expected to be in the high-teens to mid-20 per cent, the report said.

Most discretionary categories, excluding jewellery and travel, are staring at moderating growth, negative-to-flat SSSGs, and potential contraction in margins.

"Hence, we suspect the earn--(ings downgrade cycle to continue," the report said.





stakeholders/companies sug-

gested that although the initial

response in the festive season

was healthy, demand took a beat-

ing from mid-November onwards





added.

#### **OrissaPOST** WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 3 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

## **ROHIT'S MEN LOOK TO SALVAGE PRIDE BY RESTORING PARITY IN TEST SERIES** Time to raise the bar bowler Avesh Khan. Rohit's

#### AGENCIES

Cape Town, Jan 2: Rohit Sharma, the leader, will need to channelise the champion tactician that resides in him as India look to restore parity against South Africa and remain consequential in the World Championship points table when the second Test starts here Wednesday. India are sixth in the nine-team table with 14 points (38.89 PCT) and a defeat will dent their standing further.

However, India's history at Cape Town doesn't augur to well for them. India have played six Tests against the hosts here losing four and two games ending in draws. Even though the law of average does ultimately catch up the entire playing XI will have to play out of their skins to restore parity in the series.

India lost the first Test at Centurion in little less than three days. More than the loss it is the manner in which they played, must have been giving sleepless nights to the 'Hitman'. If India are to make a match out of the Test here then batters like Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal and

#### **INDIA AT CAPE TOWN**

| January 1993 | Game drawn                          |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| January 1997 | South Africa beat India by 282 runs |
| January 2007 | South Africa won by 5 wickets       |
| January 2011 | Game drawn                          |
| January 2018 | India <b>lost by 72 runs</b>        |
| January 2022 | South Africa won by 7 wickets       |

Shreyas Iyer will have to rise against the perils of the short ball and play long knocks. Sadly, this factor was missing in the first Test

India will certainly be buoyed by the return of Ravindra Jadeia, but it is the pace bowling unit as a whole that have to come good. It was clear in the first Test that both Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj lacked support from the likes of Shardul Thakur and Prasidh

Krishna. Experts like Sunil Gavaskar predicted Tuesday

be replaced by

Kumar. But

then, the lat-

ter is as much

enced as

Krishna in

the Test for-

mat. Then there

is hit-the-deck

Mukesh

inexperi-

that Krishna will

innings and Virat Kohli in the second essay, none of the Indian batters could cope with the extra bounce and lateral movement at Centurion. Meanwhile about all the talks

work will be doubly cut out as

a single mistake by choosing

the wrong bowler can easily

spell India's doom in the series.

Save KL Rahul in the first

on Krishna, the Indian skipper said he is not ready to lose faith in the fast bowler. "We had brief chat with management as to what we want from this game from bowlers. We haven't exactly finalised

our playing XI even though all our players are fit and available. We will sit down and de cide

later in the day," Rohit said when asked about potential changes and whether Mukesh Kumar has a chance to play.

"Having said that I know we have a little bit of inexperience in bowling and when that happens, you got to show trust in them. That can happen with any team. Post last match, I said about Krishna playing his first game. We all get nervous when you are playing your first game. But I still believe that he's got good ability to succeed at this level and especially in this format. So it's just about showing faith and trust in everyone and getting the job done from them," added the skipper.

> **INTENT WRIT** LARGE: Virat Kohli watches the ball avidly while batting at the nets Tuesday during India's training session

## Rakesh shines on day $1^{4}$



Rakesh Kumar Patra performs on the rings at the Gymnastics Centre in Kalinga Stadium

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: The opening day of the Senior Artistic Gymnastics National Championships saw some enthralling performances at the Gymnastics Centre at the Kalinga Stadium here. Odisha's Rakesh Kumar Patra starred in all-around display as he finished on top, while Railways clinched the gold medal with 293.00 points on Day 1. Services registered 292.10 points to bag the silver, while hosts Odisha settled for bronze with 290.40 points.

Siddhartha Das, Director, Sports & Youth Services, Odisha government graced the opening ceremony as the chief guest. Also in attendance were Aviiit Paul, secretary, Odisha Olympic

Nadal at his fluent best

Association and officials of AM/NS India.

Local hero Rakesh recorded 75.05 points to finish on top in the all-around event. He recorded 12.15 points on floor Exercises, 11.35 on pommel horse, 14.15 on rings, 12.75 on the vault, 12.20 on parallel bars and 12.45 on horizontal bars.

Rakesh was very happy with his overall performance on the opening day. "I'm extremely happy to have finished on top in the all-around event. This feat makes it even sweeter as I achieved it at my home, in front of my people, and at the place where I train. I'm thankful for the support I've been receiving from the Odisha AM/NS India **Gymnastics High Performance** Centre, the government of Odisha, the Odisha Gymnastics

Association, and the Gymnastics Federation of India. I'm now looking forward to giving my best in the individual competition on the final day of the championship," Rakesh said.

Railway's Siddharth Verma cumulated 74.75 points to finish second, recording 11.30 on floor exercises, 12.90 on pommel horse, 12.30 on rings, 13.55 on vault, 12.75 on parallel bars and 11.95 on horizontal bars.

Gaurav Kumar from Services finished third with 74.65 points. He recorded 12.40 points on floor exercise, 11.45 on pommel horse, 12.55 on rings, 12.45 on vault, 13.25 on parallel bars and 12.55 on horizontal bars.

Olympians Dipa Karmakar and Pranati Nayak will be in action on the second day of the national championships 2024.

Men's hockey team

to tour South Africa

New Delhi, Jan 2: The Indian

men's hockey team will take part

in a four-nation tournament fea-

turing France, the Netherlands

and hosts South Africa from

January 14 as part of the side's

preparations for the Paris

Olympics. Ahead of the tour-

nament, a 39-member core group

will train at the national coach-

ing camp, beginning Wednesday

at the Sports Authority of India

campus in Bangalore, Hockey

India (HI) said in a media re-

Three players from Odisha

have a found a place among the

core probables. They are Amit

Rohidas, Neelam Sanjeep Xess

and Dipsan Tirkey. Following

the 11-day camp, India, who have

already qualified for the Paris

Games, will head to Cape Town.

The test event in South Africa,

lease here.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

### SHORT TAKES

#### **Odisha Sub-jr eves** register facile win

Bhubaneswar: Eves of Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre thrashed Anantpur Sports Academy in a match of the 2nd Khelo India Sub-junior Hockey League in New Delhi Tuesday. The game was thoroughly dominated by the Odisha eves. Sania Sayeed (26th and 27th minutes), Pragya Patel (28th and 44th) got two goals each for the Naval Tata team while skipper Doly Bhoi (third) and Sheetal Yaday (18th) scored one goal apiece. Players of the Anantpur Sports Academy rarely had a look at the opposition goal.

#### Hermoso testifies in sexual assault case

Madrid: Spanish player Jenni Hermoso, kissed on the lips by

**KIIT, OGP triumph** 

Players vie for the ball in the game between OGP Club and Ardor Football Academy, Tuesday OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: KIIT/KISS trounced Rising Student Club 7-1 in a match of the Odisha

players. However, once they got the equaliser in added on time of the first half through skipper Ankita Naik, there was no stopping them.

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brisbane, Jan 2: Rafael Nadal showed no signs of rust from his year off the tour, winning his match over former World No 3. Dominic Thiem 7-5, 6-1 at the Brisbane International tennis tournament here Tuesday. The 22-time major winner hadn't played a singles match at the elite level since a second-round exit at the Australian Open last January.

However, Nadal showed he is in good touch. The 37-year-old Nadal made just six unforced errors and dropped only three points on his serve in the first set. He won eight of the last nine games to clinch victory in just 89 minutes.

Now, ranked No. 672 and playing on a wild card here after a long rehabilitation from a hip injury Nadal said the last 12 months had been among the toughest of his professional career.



Rafa Nadal grimaces as he plays a forehand during his match against Dominic Thiem at Brisbane. Tuesday

#### which ends January 28, will pro-INJURY SCARE FOR DJOKOVIC

OP PHOTO

the soccer president at the Women's World Cup final appeared in court on Tuesday to testify in the sexual assault case against the former official. Hermoso was at the Madrid court to give her version of the kiss by Luis Rubiales following Spain's victory over England in the final at Sydney in August. The incident sparked outrage across the soccer world and ignited one of the worst crises in the history of the sport in Spain. It also led to a boycott of the national team by the World Cup-winning players, and to the eventual resignation of Rubiales despite his denial of wrongdoing and his allegation that the kiss was consensual.

Women's Football League played at the Unit-I ground here Tuesday. After an entertaining first half during which both the sides shared a goal each, the KIIT/KISS players ran away with the game in the second session. They scored six goals as the Rising Student players simply found the pace to difficult to handle.

It was Rising Student club who took the lead when Gangamuni Mundari scored in the 25th minute of the match. In the first half there was lack of understanding between the KIIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

shot out for 148 in 32.4 overs.

None of the Indian batters,

who had put up a strong fight in

the second ODI here at the

Wankhede Stadium, could make

a dent in the opposition's march

to a 10th consecutive win in away

bilateral games. For Australia,

it is their ninth series win against

India and fifth in the opponent's

the powerplay when Megan

Schutt (2/23) cleaned up Yastika

Bhatia (6) and then Smriti

Mandhana (29) played one

straight down the throat of Kim

Garth at deep extra-cover. India's

India were rocked twice in

In the second session, Kuni Munda (49th) gave the winners the lead. Then Kunti Bhumia (54th, 61st, 65th) scored three goals to register a hat-trick. Simarani Dehury (73rd and 77th) completed the rout with a brace. In the second match played

on the day, OGP Club defeated Ardor Football Academy 3-0. The winners led 1-0 at the interval with Sheela Singh finding the mark in the 19th minute of the game. In the second half Sonali Sabar (47th) and Sunita Swain (81st) added to the tally.

"Today is honestly an emotional and important day for me," Nadal said in a post-match TV interview. "It was a very positive level (for) the first day. I am happy with the way I played," the Spaniard added.

In the opening match of the day on the covered Pat Rafter Arena, No. 51-ranked Yannick Hanfmann of Germany beat fifth-seeded Sebastian Korda 7-5, 6-4 in a first-round contest. In the women's draw, 2020

Perth: World No. 1 Novak Djokovic overcame a right wrist issue to defeat the Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka 6-1, 6-7 (3-7), 6-1 to send Serbia through to the United Cup mixed team quarterfinals. Djokovic was bothered with a wrist problem during his practice session Tuesday morning, but said he would play. However, the wrist problem returned to haunt him during the game and led to his losing the second set. However, after a medical timeout he came back strongly to win the match.

Australian Open winner Sofia Kenin was shocked by No. 113ranked Arina Rodionova 5-7, 6-7 (5-7) in the second round. Kenin was constantly under

pressure on her serve despite having chances in both sets against Rodionova, a 34-year-old Australian who has never been ranked in the top 100.

vide a good exposure ahead of India's Pro League campaign opener at Odisha in February. India are scheduled to take on Australia, the Netherlands, Spain and Ireland in double-header games in the Pro League.

"I believe the players are returning fresh from a good break with their families for the holiday season. Our core group is quite solid with experienced players and so we expect to do well in the upcoming season," men's hockey team chief coach Craig Fulton said.

## Australia eves outclass India OZ WIN 9TH SUCCESSIVE BILATERAL SERIES AGAINST INDIA

#### **Rooney sacked**

Birmingham: England great Wayne Rooney was fired Tuesday as the manager of the second-tier club Birmingham City after 15 games. Rooney earned only a couple of wins since his controversial appointment in October. Birmingham was sixth in the Championship when he started and have fallen to 20th. "Birmingham City has today parted company with manager Wayne Rooney and first team coach Carl Robinson," the club said in a statement.

#### Gauff starts well

Auckland: US Open champion Coco Gauff started her 2024 season and her defense of the Auckland Tennis Classic title Tuesday with a rusty-at-times 6-4. 6-2 win over American compatriot Claire Liu. Gauff used her powerful forehand well but took time to find her range, over-hitting at times in the first set. After being broken in the first set a couple of times. Gauff increased the tempo in the second set to win the match easily.

Mumbai, Jan 2: India produced an abject batting display after a poor show with the ball to suffer a 190-run loss, their third heaviest defeat, in the third and final ODI as a rampant Australia completed a 3-0 series whitewash here Tuesday. Having conceded the highest total ever of 338 for the loss of seven wickets recorded by any opposition against them, India's frailties with the bat came to the fore as they were

Phoebe Litchfield acknowledges the applause after her century at the Wankhede Stadium, Tuesday PTI PHOTO

plight deepened when skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (3) was dismissed by Georgia Wareham (3/21). Richa Ghosh (19) played on to her wickets and the writing was clear on the wall. Earlier, Phoebe Litchfield (119,

125b, 16x4, 1x6) continued her rich vein of form with a magnificent century. She and Alyssa Healy (82, 82b, 4x4, 3x6) put on a record 189-run stand for the first wicket to put India on the back-foot.

Despite good bowling by

Shreyanka Patil (3/57), the visitors made merry on a placid wicket that proved to be a batting haven. Having possibly missed out on making tons in each of the first two ODIs with scores of 78 and 63, Litchfield showcased her rich arsenal of strokes all around the park to flatten India.

Brief scores: Australia 338/7 (Phoebe Litchfield 119, Alyssa Healy 82, Shreyanka Patil 3/57) beat India 148 all out in 32.4 overs (Georgia Wareham 3/21) by 190 runs.

#### Warner seeks return of his 'Baggy Greens'

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Jan 2: Australian opener David Warner made an emotional plea Tuesday on social media for the return of his 'Baggy Greens' after the backpack containing the cherished possession was stolen in transit ahead of his swansong Test here.

As a 'last resort' the 37-yearold took to Instagram so that he can walk out wearing the Baggy Green - the iconic cap worn by Australian Test cricketers - in his final Test at his hometown.

"Unfortunately, this is my last resort to do this. A couple of days ago, someone has taken my backpack out of my extra luggage," Warner said in a video post on his Instagram.

"Inside this backpack was my 'Baggy Greens'. That's sentimental to me. It's something that I would love to have back, in my hands, walking out there, coming this week. If it's the backpack that you really wanted, I have a spare one here. You won't get into trouble. Please reach out to Creed Australia or myself via my social media and I'm happy to give this to you if you return my 'Baggy Greens'," Warner said.

### **Defending champs Odisha** held by Chennai Quick Guns

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 2: Chennai Quick Guns played out another exciting 30-30 draw against defending champions Odisha Juggernauts in the Ultimate Kho Kho tournament here Tuesday. The earlier meeting between the two teams had also resulted in a tie.

Odisha Juggernauts' decision to attack, after winning the toss, backfired with Chennai Quick Guns, current table-toppers, managing three dream run points

in Turn 1. Laxman Gawas, from the first batch, dodged the Odisha Juggernauts attackers long enough to garner two dream run points. Then, star all-rounder Ramji Kashyap stayed unconquered, earning his 13th dream run point of the season.

Things went from bad to worse for Odisha after their first batch was dismissed without much time spent on the mat. Then Nikhil B single-handedly dragged the Odisha outfit back into the match. He earned his team three dream run points. The match, as it headed



Tense action during the game between Odisha and Chennai PHOTO TWITTER

into the second innings, was evenly poised with the Chennai Quick Guns leading 15-13.

The match tilted firmly in Odisha's favour in Turn 3 as their attackers sent the first two Chennai Quick Guns batches back, with almost three-and-a-half seconds left on the clock. Ramii. then, managed his customary dream run point, leaving his team's attackers with the task of making up a 13-point gap in the final turn.

That quest started well enough with Chennai managing to send back the Odisha outfits first batch with enough time on the clock. However, Rohan Singade frustrated the Chennai Quick Guns attackers, earning a vital bonus point for his team.

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