

# **ED officers attacked** during raid in Bengal

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Jan 5: Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers were attacked by the loyalists of a TMC leader during a raid in West Bengal, triggering a political showdown with Opposition baying for the imposition of President's Rule and Governor CV Ananda Bose signalling his intent to explore constitutional options and take appropriate action.

The BJP has characterised the incident at Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district as a direct assault on the federal structure, leading to an urgent call from the Congress for the imposition of President's Rule.

The ruling TMC, however, re jected the charges and accused the central agency officials of inciting locals. The incident occurred when ED officers executed a raid on the residence of TMC leader Sheikh Sajahan, where they faced attacks from his supporters, resulting in substantial damage to the officers and their vehicles. At least two officers suffered serious injuries.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



New Delhi, Jan 5: Indian Navy's elite marine commandos (MARCOs) Friday rescued 21 crew members including 15 Indians from a bulk carrier in the North Arabian Sea and sanitised it in a swift operation while responding to attempted hijacking of the Liberian-flagged vessel by around five-six armed personnel.

The Navy deployed a warship, maritime patrol aircraft, helicopters and P-8I and long-range aircraft and Predator MQ9B drones following the incident involving MV Lila Norfolk.

"All 21 crew including 15 Indians onboard the vessel were safely evacuated from the citadel," Indian Navy's spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said. "Sanitisation by MARCOs

commandos has confirmed the absence of the hijackers. The attempt of hijacking by the pirates was probably abandoned with the forceful warning by Indian Navy's maritime patrol aircraft of interception by naval warship," he said. Madhwal said Indian ship INS Chennai is in the vicinity of MV Lila Norfolk and it is rendering support to restore the power generation and

Spiders may be



MV Lila Norfolk, a cargo ship, which was hijacked near Somalia's coast in the Arabian Sea

Nottingham, Jan 5: Spiders have evolved

creative strategies to allow them to thrive

in habitats across the globe. The one

**Navy rescues 15 Indians** 

propulsion in the vessel besides assisting her commence voyage to next port of call. Earlier in the day, the Navy diverted INS Chennai from her

anti-piracy patrol and it intercepted the hijacked vessel at 3:15 pm. The vessel was kept under continuous surveillance using maritime patrol aircraft P-8I and Predator MQ9B drones.

"The Indian Navy's marine commandos present onboard the mission deployed warship. boarded the merchant vessel and have carried out the sanitisation operation," Madhwal said.

MV Lila Norfolk sent a message on the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations portal indicating that five to six unknown armed personnel boarded

the vessel Thursday evening. Earlier, the Navy said the overall situation is being 'closely monitored' in coordination with other maritime agencies in the region. The hijacking incident comes amid growing concerns over Houthi militants stepping up attacks on merchant vessels in the Red Sea amid the Israel-Hamas conflict.

РТІ РНОТО

Death goof-up leaves hosp in eye of storm

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar; Jan 5: Tension prevailed at Hi-tech Medical College and Hospital here Friday after authorities announced that Dillip Samantaray, who was declared dead December 30, is still alive.

Dillip's wife had died by suicide four days ago after coming to know of her husband's 'death'. Ahalya Samantaray, mother of Dillip, couldn't hold back her tears after she learnt that her

son is still alive. "The authorities refused to show us the body as we demanded to see December 30. As we made attempts to reach near the body, the authorities thwarted us from going closer," she said. Locals staged an agitation on the hospital premises Friday.

Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh said an ACP rank officer will investigate the matter.

"So far. we have not received any case of medical negligence. Action will be taken if negligence is found. The four persons were critically injured and they were identified by the contractor," he added.

Hospital CEO Smita Padhi said, "The four persons who were

Asia but over the last decade has established itself in the US, following its cousin, the golden silk spider Trichonephila clavipes, which arrived around 160 years ago.

But its behaviour suggests it may be more worried about us than the other way around. The Joro spider has a tendency to play dead. This ploy is known as thanatosis among scientists. It is a response to threats used by many creatures in the animal world,

The kin of Jvoti Ranian Mallik injured in the incident were

staffers of an outsourcing agency, not regular employees of the hospital. After the blast, a staffer of the agency identified them, on the basis of which, we maintained the records. The kin of the victims also identified them.'

Dillip along with Simanchal Biswal, Sritam Sahoo and Jyoti Ranjan Mallik were repairing the AC compressor kept on the roof of the hospital December 29 evening when the compressor went off suddenly.

On the other hand, Mallik's family members, who were hopeful of his recovery, are now demanding his body. But hospital authorities have handed over his body to the family of Dillip and it has been cremated. Doctors said the confusion was because the men's faces were beyond recognition due to the blast.

including other arachnids such as scorpions. What is unusual about the Joro spider though, is just how long it keeps up the act. Joro spiders lay motionless for more than an hour.

People are also almost certainly more dangerous to spiders than the other way around. This is because our food production systems rely on insecticides that are lethal to spiders and are probably contributing to their widescale decline.

more scared of you than you wanted a selfie, but are of them he was entertaining only big fish

facility

# Odisha's Development: Modi Government's Commitment



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### BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY JANUARY 6 | 2024

### SHORT TAKES

### **New Maldivian Prez to visit China**

Beijing: The new Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu will visit China for the first time Monday for talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, it was announced here Friday, with a senior official saying the meeting between the two top leaders will provide "strategic guidance" for the bilateral relations to reach a new height. Muizzu and First Lady Sajidha Mohamed will visit China from January 8 to 12 at the invitation of President Xi, **Chinese Foreign Ministry** spokesperson Hua Chunying announced Friday. Muizzu, who is seen as a pro-China politician, took oath as the eighth President of the Maldives after defeating the India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held in September. President Xi will host a welcome ceremony and a welcome banquet for President Muizzu.

## Japan guake toll spikes to 94

Tokyo: The death toll has risen to 94, with the number of people unaccounted for reaching nearly 250 in the central Japanese prefecture of Ishikawa earlier this week after a series of earthquakes of up to 7.6 magnitude struck the prefecture and its vicinity, raising concerns of escalating damages as rescue and search efforts intensify.

# 'Iraq prepares to close down Tensions in Korean Peninsula US-led coalition's mission'

REUTERS

Baghdad, Jan 5: The Iraqi government is forming a committee to prepare the closing down of the US-led international coalition's mission in the country, Prime Minister Mohammed

Shia al-Sudani's office said Friday. Sudani's statement came a day after a US strike killed a militia leader in Baghdad, prompting anger among Iran-aligned groups which demanded the government end the presence of the coalition in Iraq.

"Government is setting the date for the start of the bilateral committee to put arrangements to end the presence of the international coalition forces in Iraq permanently," a statement from the prime minister's office said. The committee would include representatives of the military coalition, a government official said. The US military launched

Thursday's strike in retaliation against recent attacks on US personnel, the Pentagon said. The United States has 900 troops

in Syria and 2,500 in Iraq on a mission it says aims to advise and assist local forces trying to prevent a resurgence of Islamic State, which in 2014 seized large parts of both countries before being defeated. Iran-aligned militia groups in

Iraq and Syria oppose Israel's campaign in the Gaza Strip and hold the U.S. partly responsible. Sudani has limited control over some Iran-backed factions, whose support he needed to win power a year ago and who now

form a powerful bloc in his governing coalition. "We stress our firm position in ending the existence of the international coalition after the justifications for its existence have ended," Sudani was quoted as saying in the statement.

# 5 killed as passenger train catches fire in B'desh

Dhaka: Five people were killed in Bangladesh after a passenger train caught fire Friday, with police suspecting an arson attack during unrest ahead of national elections boycotted by the opposition. Fire service officer Rakjibul Hasan said at least four coaches caught fire on the Benapole Express, arriving in the capital Dhaka from the western city of Jessore. "We have recovered five bodies," police commander Khandaker Al Moin told reporters. Witnesses said the train caught fire at Gopibagh, in an old part of Dhaka near the megacity's main rail terminal. An unnamed rescuer told private broadcaster Somoy TV that hundreds had rushed to pull people out of the burning train. "We rescued many. But the fire spread quickly," he said. Somoy TV said some Indian citizens were also traveling on the train. "We suspect the fire incident was an act of sabotage," police chief Anwar Hossain told AFP, without giving more details

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Jan 5: The rival Koreas fired artillery rounds into the sea as part of provocative drills along their disputed sea boundary Friday, in violation of the fragile 2018 inter-Korean military agreement.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said North Korea fired 200 rounds in the waters north of their western sea boundary Friday morning. It was North Korea's first front-line maritime firing exercise in about a year.

Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung Joon told a televised briefing that the North's artillery firing was "an act of provocation that threatens peace and heightens tensions on the Korean Peninsula." Lee said South Korea suffered no damage.

In a tit-for-tat step, South Korea had its troops on two border islands fire artillery rounds south of the sea boundary later Friday. but North Korea's military didn't immediately respond. South Korea's Defense Ministry said the military will maintain a firm readiness to strongly punish any provocations by North Korea.

North Korea's state media haven't made any comments. Ahead of the South Korean drills, authorities blared broadcasts via street loudspeakers and sent text messages to residents on the five major border islands, asking them to evacuate to safe places.

They worried North Korea could conduct a new round of



d to escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula

firing training in response but lifted the evacuation order a few hours later as they detected no suspicious activities by the North's military, according to local officials.

The Koreas' poorly marked western sea boundary witnessed bloody naval clashes in 1999, 2002 and 2009. The North's alleged torpedoing of a South Korean warship killed 46 South

The 2018 agreement requires the two Koreas to halt live-fire exercises and aerial surveillance in buffer and no-fly zones that they established along their border. But the deal is in danger of collapsing after both Koreas took steps to breach the accord amid bickering over the North's first successful military spy satellite

and its warlike rhetoric ahead of South Korea's parliamentary ons in April and the US Presidential election in November

launch in November: South Korea resumed front-line aerial surveillance in protest at the North's satellite launch. North Korea responded that it would deploy powerful weapons at the border and won't abide by the 2018 deal any longer. South Korea later accused North Korea of restoring front-line guard posts that it had dismantled under the 2018 deal. South Korea has previously accused North Korea of having already breached the deal nu-

merous times with firing drills at the buffer zones, including one as recently as December 2022 off the Korean Peninsula's east coast.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un fired off fierce, derisive rhetoric against South Korea in a key ruling-party meeting at the end of December. He said South Korea must not be considered as a partner for reconciliation or unification, and ordered the military to use all available means — including nuclear weapons to conquer South Korea in the event of a conflict.

Earlier Friday, North Korea's state media said Kim ordered authorities to increase production of mobile launch vehicles for missiles during a visit to a munitions factory. Kim said the role of the factory producing transport erector launchers, or TELs, is "very important" in bolstering North Korea's national defense because of a looming military showdown with its rivals.



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INAUGURATION by SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

6TH JANUARY 2024, 7:30 PM

I&PR-19004/13/0026/2324



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BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY JANUARY 6 | 2024

# **Srimandir Heritage Corridor** opening to be live-streamed

ensure devotees don't face park-

Srimandir.

and CCTV arrangements.

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Jan 5: The inauguration ceremony of the ambitious Srimandir Heritage Corridor Project in the Holy City here January 17 will be live-streamed, a high-level delegation, led by Chief Secretary PK Jena, said Friday.

In a meeting after reviewing the progress of various development works being carried out here, the Chief Secretary asked the officials to complete all the works by January 11.

"As programmes for the mega event is scheduled to begin January 12, development works should complete by January 11. By January 14, the police administration will take control of the project to ensure safety and security," Jena said.

As lakhs of devotees from across the state are expected to donate fistful of rice and betel nuts as well as throng Srimandir to have a darshan of the Trinity after the inauguration ceremony, the delegation reviewed arrange ments for the same.

The police administration has been asked to ensure devotees have a hassle-free darshan of the sibling deities and take back pleasant memories from Puri.

Apart from the safety and security of devotees, Puri Police will



cluding Jagannath Ballav Parking Centre and Sri Setu.

ing and traffic issues. After drop-Mission Shakti and Odia ping devotees at Jagannath Ballay, Language, Literature and Culture vehicles will have to head straight departments' Commissionerto Samang, where a dedicated Cum-Secretary Sujata R parking facility has been cre-Karthikeyan, Development Commissioner Anu Garg, ated. Route charts will be put up Panchayati Raj and Drinking at strategic locations of the Pilgrim City to help devotes nav-Water department Principal Secretary Sushil Kumar Lohani, igate through the city lanes. At least 120 temporary toilets have Finance department Principal been put in place for devotees' con-Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev, venience. Special arrangements, Works department Principal including resting sheds, will be Secretary Vir Vikram Yadav, in place from Samang to Rural Development and Information and Public Relations At least 20 mutts near (I&PR) departments' Principal Srimandir will be provided with Secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh, 2-kv DG sets. The meeting also dis-I&PR department Director Saroj Kumar Samal, SJTA chief adcussed at length deployment of ministrator Ranjan Kumar Das. adequate health teams, lighting Puri Collector Samarth Verma Earlier in the day, the delegaand SP Kanwar Vishal Singh tion reviewed the progress of were among the senior officials various development works, inpresent during the review meet.



Come January 17, a new chapter will be added to the history of the 12th century shrine in Puri when the ambitious Srimandir Heritage Corridor Project (Parikrama Prakalpa) will be flagged off after a three-day-long yajna. With five days left for the

bers, includes a two-metre hard-

The deities' ceremonial pro-

cession will be conducted in the

10-metre 'Antar (inner)

Pradakshina' - pedestrian-only

path - all year round. The gen-

eral public can also use it for

scape area abutting the wall.

unveiling of the historic project, Orissa POST takes a sneak peek into the various aspects of the mega transformational initiative...

ABOUT PARIKRAMA PRAKALPA

# Lord Jagannath

is the presiding deity in every Odia household and revered by millions of Hindus across India and abroad. Thousands of devotees throng Puri every day for a darshan of the holy Trinity at Srimandir and visit the pristine beaches

The foundation for 75-metre corridor aound Srimandir was laid by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in 2021 with a view to providing expansive and unobstructed corridors around the Meghanada wall. It will give an opportunity to devotees and pilgrims to have visual connect with the temple, Neelchakra and the shrine peripheries. The project is nearing completion in record time. It will also serve as a venue for providing amenities to pilgrims and strengthening the safety and security of the temple as well as devotees.

The project abutting Meghanada



wall is divided into nine zones on the western, northern and southern sides of the shrine.

The seven-metre green buffer zone adjacent to Meghanada wall includes a five-metre terraced landscape. The remaining section, accessible by staff mem'parikrama' (clockwise circumambulation).

A 14-metre landscape zone consists of gardens of local varieties of shrubs and trees important in Jagannath Culture. Trees line up the eight-metre outer circumambulation path. It also boasts of a 10-metre public convenience zone comprising drinking water fountains, restrooms, and information-cum-donation kiosks. The project has a queue management facility that can handle 6,000 people, along with security checking facility. Side by side, mutts and temples within the 75-metre corridor are being redeveloped in the Kalingan style in general and specific 'matha' traditions.

The project is part of the state government's Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture Scheme that aims to develop Puri as a worldclass heritage city.

DSPL-514



ନବୀନ ଓଡ଼ିଶ



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Venue: Convention Centre, Lokaseva Bhawan

6th January 2024, 5.00 PM

OIPR-05001/13/0019/2324

# downtown

# Pilgrimage train flagged off



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 5: A special train, the 'Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana', to Ujjain and Omkareswar was flagged off virtually Friday from Balasore by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. A total of 970 senior citizens from Balasore, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur and Keonjhar districts are travelling in the train. They are

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SATURDAY | JANUARY 6 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

being accompanied by 30 escort officers.

This is the sixth year of the 'Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana' train. The scheme was launched in 2016-17 by the Odisha government to enable the poor and deprived senior citizens of Odisha visit the places of pilgrimage. So far, 24 such trips have been organised in collaboration with IRCTC under this programme benefiting more

than 23,669 senior citizens in the age group of 60 to 75 years. In the current financial year, 10 such trips have been planned.

The Chief Minister in his message urged the pilgrims to seek blessings for their families, friends and people of Odisha. 'The 'Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana' is a testament to our values and commitment to providing a fulfilling and dignified life to our senior citizens, said Patnaik. Expenses for travel, accommodation, food, healthcare and other activities will be borne by the state government under this programme.

Tourism Minister Aswini Kumar Patra, OTDC chairman Dr Lenin Mohanty, District Collector of Balasore, Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde, BNTYY advisor Durga Prasad Samantaray and Additional Secretary Balamukunda Bhuyan were present during the flagging off ceremony.



YOUTHFUL ENERGY: Nabin Odisha and 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian interacts with students during the district level Nua-O programme organised at Baliyatra Ground in Cuttack, Friday

# CLASSIFIED

# AFFIDAVIT

This is to inform you all that by virtue of the adoption deed No-41132206228 dt 19.05.2022 executed before S.R.O., Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, the name of the adopted son changed from Suvendu Padhi to Suvendu Acharya and Smt. Sujata Acharya and Janardan Acharya became the adoptive mother and father respectively.

### LOST

I, Hanuman Khedaria, Director of Pluto Plaza Pvt Ltd publicily declared that one original Lease Deed bearing No. - 1865 Having Stamp Paper No. -014794, pertains to Pluto Plaza Pvt Ltd, Khata No. -3/1 of Mauza – Rourkela Town, Unit No. -4, Tehsil – Rourkela, Dist. –

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# **SDGs emphasise importance** of equitable devpt: Naveen

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 'District SDG Indicator Framework Odisha,' to ensure that the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals is properly monitored and supported by standardised data

#### ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 5: "Together, we can. Together, we will," said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as he launched the 'District SDG Indicator Framework Odisha and the 'SDG Odisha' website Friday. This initiative has been launched for localisation of 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)' and better monitoring for achievement of inclusive and equitable development objectives at the district level. Patnaik also released department-wise ready reckoners, convergence matrices and mastering metadata in the 'Odisha SDG Indicator Framework 2.0'.

It should be stated that the SDG has 17 goals and 169 targets that need to be achieved by 2030 for developing a perfectly equitable society in Odisha. The district framework will ensure that the achievement of these goals is properly monitored and supported by standardised data. In all these exercises, the concerned departments will work in a unified manner.

Patnaik said: "SDGs emphasise



The Odisha CM pointed out that initiatives like Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, MAMATA, Mission Shakti, KALIA, Odisha Millets Mission, LaccMI, Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme for PVTGs and BASUDHA directly address the challenges highlighted by the SDGs. He further said that these programmes have paved the way for enhancing the quality of life for every citizen. "Odisha champions numerous

Speaking on the occasion, such programmes that echo a

tainability, Odisha's transformative journey is intricately woven with a narrative that transcends geographical and societal diversities. "Therefore it becomes highly imperative that we monitor our progress in a precise and challenging manner," Patnaik pointed out.

Patnaik stated that Odisha's SDG journey takes centre-stage with the launch of a dedicated website. The SDG-Odisha website will help pave the way for convergent efforts for all. leading to

# **Training programme** to boost income of Bhitarkanika locals

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. Jan 5: The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) launched Friday in Bhitarkanika, the fourth training programme under the 'Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme'.

The programme was organised for local community members, boat owners and Forest department officials of Bhitarkanika National Park. Among others present in the programme were Sagnik Chowdhury, Regional Director (East), Ministry of Tourism, M Ramesh, scientist 'E', MoEF&CC, Md Sabir Hussain, Nodal officer and Head, IITTM, Bhubaneswar, Sudarshan Gopinath Jadhav, IFS, DFO, Mangrove Forest Division, Rajnagar and other officials from the Forest department.

Under this initiative, two training programmes of 15 days each will be conducted. They are Alternative Livelihood programme (ALP) and Paryatan Navik Certificate (PNC). With the help of Odisha State Wetlands Authority (OSWA) and Mangrove Forest Division, Rajnagar a total of 60 participants (30 for each course) were identified from the local communities in and around Bhitarkanika who will be provided with training and subsequently they will be certified as

# State has 3.32cr voters



the number increased after the

addition of 12,97,954 more names

Additionally, 7,16,807 people

According to the final elec-

toral rolls, the state witnessed a

substantial rise in women voters

from 1.60 crore until October 27,

2023, to 1.63 crore, while the gen-

der ratio improved to 972 as com-

Furthermore, 4,70,798 more

young voters were added to the

electoral rolls. Out of the total

electoroate 7.54 lakh (2.27%) are

young voters, 4.57 lakh (1.38%)

persons with disabilities (PwDs),

and 6.85 lakh (2.06%) senior cit-

were deleted, and 4,22,638 names

were modified, he said.

pared to 961 in 2023.

izens, the CEO said.

to the list.

#### PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 5: Odisha now has 3.32 crore voters, with the addition of 12.98 lakh more people since October last year, as per the final electoral rolls published Friday by Odisha's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

The voters' list was published ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

While releasing the final voter list, CEO Nikunja Bihari Dhal said the total number of voters now stands at 3,32,36,360, comprising 1,68,50,949 males, 1,63,82,031 females, and 3,380 transgender individuals.

The state had 3,26,55,213 voters until October last year, and

**PAY ARREARS TO DIST JUDGES: SC** 

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has directed all the state governments to pay

Market area at around 4 P.M. on 28.12.2023. During photocopy one of the page might gone missing from original Lease Deed but after our lots of tried we could not trace out. Any person/s will get such documents may contact on – 6370002559 to return the same, if any person/s with ulterior motive & malafied intention misutilised such documents then original owner of the documents shall not be held responsible & such person/s shall be liable for criminal as well as civil action.

My self Sandeep Barik, S/o- Somanath Barik, Village/P.O.- Inchudi, P.S-Khantapada Thana, Balasore, 756021, declare that on dated 25.12.2023, I have lost my Previous owner original ROR (Khata No-808/446) & original RSD No- 8263 in favour of KHAGESH BARIK in Inchudi market area. Anybody found, kindly contact this number 7980463109.

the importance of inclusive and equitable development. In line with these goals, the policies of our governance have been directed towards creating a level playing field for all sections of society and bringing parity for every individual in opportunity for growth.

sustainable future for all. The principles of our 5T Initiative reinforce our commitment to 'Leave No One Behind'," Patnaik said. Highlighting the state's journey in achieving these goals, Patnaik said that mirroring the principles of inclusivity, prosperity and environmental sus-

a brighter and sustainable future for our State, he added. Patnaik also thanked the Planning & Convergence department, UN agencies and all other partners for the initiative. Kartik Pandian, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman, was present at the programme.

nature guides.

This is part of the ongoing effort of enhancing livelihood opportunities for local communities through harnessing the naturebased tourism potential of the Ramsar sites across the country. In the first phase five priority Ramsar sites have been identified.

arrears to the judges in district judiciaries as per the recommendations of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC) by February 29, 2024. A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud also asked the High Courts to set up a committee comprising two High Court judges, Law secretary of the state government and registrar general of HC to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of SNJPC. The apex court also directed that the committees shall submit their reports on disbursal of arrears through the High Court's registrar general by April 7. Earlier in 2022, the Supreme Court had directed that the revision of pay structure as recommended by SNJPC shall be implemented with effect from January 1, 2016.

### BMC sanctions ₹145cr for pucca roads

Bhubaneswar: In a bid to ensure smooth connectivity, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) issued Friday 46 work orders for transforming kutcha roads to pucca in Ekamra constituency. The total projected cost for concretising 75 kilometres is approximately Rs 145 crore, a BMC official informed here. BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said the implementation of the project will be taken up with the assistance of local corporators

who will work with BMC officials. It should be stated here that earlier the BMC had issued 37 work orders for upgrading 152 kutcha roads. It had spent Rs 115 crore to transform 38 kilometres into pucca roads. The decision to issue the new orders were taken in a meeting attended by Minister for Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ashok Chandra Panda, BMC Deputy Mayor Manjulata Kanhar and additional commissioner Suvendu Sahoo amongst others.

### **₹26.5cr to tackle waterlogging**

Bhubaneswar: In a bid to resolve waterlogging issues in Khandagiri area during rains, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Friday sanctioned Rs 26.5 crore for construction of a drainage channel. As per the proposal, a 1,270-metre long drain will be constructed for which seven work orders have been issued. Areas including Khandagiri Plaza, Shreekshetra Vihar, Chidanand Vihar, Kharavel Complex and Kolathia used to be flooded during rainy season. The situation gets worse due to the absence of embankments of the drain, resulting in inundation of the surrounding areas. So, the civic body decided to build the embankment from Khandagiri Plaza to Cosmopolis Dn Oxy Park, said the BMC sources.

# 'Jharkhand CM victim of conspiracy against tribals'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 5: Not ruling out the possibility of Kalpana Soren taking over as Jharkhand's Chief Minister from her husband Hemant Soren under changed circumstances, Odisha JMM chief and Sibu Soren's daughter Anjali Soren said Friday that there is a conspiracy against her brother.

Anjali, who is currently in the Capital city, claimed that her brother Hemant is a victim of a conspiracy against tribals.

'The British have left India. but the tribals continue to suffer. In every field, tribals face atrocities. The Jharkhand CM is also facing the same atrocity. The BJP and other parties will not get tribal properties if there is a tribal CM. This is a conspiracy," Anjali said. Asked if Kalpana should take charge as CM from her husband, Anjali said, "We do



not have any such motive at the moment. However, I do not rule out this possibility.

Despite Hemant rejecting the possibility of his wife taking charge under changed circumstances, the people of Rairangpur sub-division in Mayurbhanj district are happy as another daughter of the soil has made it to the

Odisha JMM chief and Sibu Soren's daughter Anjali Soren, who is currently in the Capital city, claimed that her brother Hemant is a victim of a conspiracy against tribals

national news headlines after

Droupadi Murmu became the

SK Mohapatra wrote on X,

Kalpana hails from Tentala

village of Bahalda block under

Rairangpur sub-division of

"We will be happy and we con-

gratulate Kalpana as she is our

President of India.

daughter of Odisha.<sup>3</sup>

the eldest daughter of a retired defence personnel. She completed her schooling from Kendriya Vidyalaya in Baripada, the district headquarters town of Mayurbhanj. Kalpana obtained her BTech

Mayurbhanj district. She is

degree from an institute in the Odisha capital and then an MBA degree, as informed by her uncle Jagannath Murmu.

The marriage of Hemant and Kalpana was solemnised according to Santhal rituals at Baripada February 7, 2006.

Kalpana's father, Ampa Murmu, resides in Murgabadi area of Baripada town.

Sujata Murmu, a former Mayurbhanj zilla parishad president, said if Kalpana becomes the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, it will further boost the morale of tribal girls and women in that state as well as in Odisha.

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BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY JANUARY 6 | 2024

#### One dead, 20 injured **Vocational edu on wane in Jajpur** 3 SOG personnel injured in IED blast as pick-up overturns Sundargarh: One person died and

None of the 12 vocational schools in the district are properly using the funds allotted by the HE dept for development and modernisation

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Jan 5: Vocational education and training is on the verge of extinction in this district. Due to lack of infrastructure and teachers, more and more youths are turning their backs to vocational education, sources informed here Friday.

There are 12 vocational schools in this district. However, none of them are properly using the funds allotted by the Higher Education department for development and modernisation.

Vocational education is an alternative system and differs from the courses followed in regular colleges. Vocational education, also called career and technical education (CTE), prepares youngsters for jobs in a technical manner and helps them earn their livelihoods.

There are a number of staterun Government Vocational Higher Secondary Schools (GVHSS) to train youngsters in Odisha. These schools impart knowledge associated with various vocations to students, teach them various crafts and technical skills. Such schools have become popular as they give handson training to the students.

In this district however, the scenario is quite the opposite.



Attraction to pursue vocational courses is waning rapidly. The

institutes at Sahaspur Higher Secondary School in Balichandrapur and the BS Higher Secondary School at Sayeedpur are two cases in this point.

Recently, the Higher Education department had sanctioned ₹4,50,000 towards development of Sahaspur vocational school. However, no one has any knowledge about how the funds have been spent.

Principal Dillip Kumar Samal feigned ignorance when asked about the utilization of funds. He shifted responsibility to another person. It should also be added that the school currently has 40 students. However, there is only

teacher to cater to their needs. A similar situation exists at the Sayeedpur school which has nine students. Not a single resource person has been appointed to attract more students to the school. These are two primary examples how the vocational education system is functioning in

this district. This apart, the Higher

Education department has sanctioned ₹2.25 lakh each for Kharasrota School in Singhpur, PK Vidyalaya on Baitarani Road and Indira Gandhi Women's College at Jajpur Road. The department has also sanctioned ₹4.5 lakh for the vocational school at Baba Bhairabananda HS School at Chandikhole.

Sources however, alleged that funds are often not used properly and that is one of the main reasons for the decline in the number of vocational students. The lack of teachers is another reason for the waning number of students, they added. When contacted, assistant dis-

trict education officer Rajesh Kumar Swain said that he has no knowledge about the sanctioning of funds to these vocational schools. He however, said he will follow up on the matter by talking to the presidents of the respective schools

### PNN & AGECIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 5: Three jawans of the elite Special Operation Group (SOG) Friday suffered injuries in an IED blast plated by suspected Maoists at Batepanga forest on the border of Boudh and Kandhamal districts, a police officer said.

The incident took place when an SOG team was conducting a combing operation following a

**BJP'S 'CHINTAN BAITHAK' ENDS** 

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Jan 5: The two-day 'Chintan Baithak' of state BJP here, which coincided with the five-day-long 'Chintan Shivir' of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), concluded here Friday. The meeting specially focused on preparation for the upcoming general elections this year.

The meeting saw the participation of national general secretary BL Santosh, regional observer Sunil Bansal, state co-observer BPS Tomar, state president Manmohan Samal, other senior party leaders and leaders from different morchas.

The media cell of the party informed that a detailed road map for the upcoming general election was prepared. State unit president Samal expressing his confidence said, 'This time BJP will form government at the Centre and the state also.

tip-off regarding movement of Maoists in the area.

"All the three jawans have suffered minor injuries and they have become part of the operation after first aid," IG Operations, Dev Dutta Singh, told PTI

Boudh Superintendent of Police (SP) Raj Prasad said that the operation has been intensified as it is suspected that the Red rebels were present in the forest.

POST NEWS NETWORK

a tribal warden.

Rayagada, Jan 5: Yet another

bandh was observed in

Rayagada district on the call

of a tribal outfit 'Zilla Adivasi

Mahasangha' Friday demand-

ing CBI probe into the death of

The bandh was called in

protest of police inaction and

failure to nab those responsible

for the death of 'Maa Gruha'

Notably, Majhi's partially

charred body was found in the

'Maa Gruha' located on the prem-

ises of Chandrapur hospital

December 21. She was allegedly

set ablaze by unknown miscre-

ants and an FIR was filed at the

Chandrapur police station by

warden Laxmi Majhi.

Immediately after the incident, more reinforcements have been rushed to the area to flush out the Maoists from the region,

had an encounter with the Maoists in the forest under Boudh district. Two SOG Jawans were also injured in Kandhamal district when the Maoists triggered a land mine explosion during the search operation.

## warden's Tribal body observes Rayagada bandh again DEATH

her father December 22 alleging murder. The tribal outfit which had

earlier called for a 12-hour bandh however ended the strike before time at 2:30pm. During the bandh, barricades were put up by the tribal body at FCI Chowk, Kapilas Chowk, Majhighariani Temple Chowk and Siriguda on the national highway passing through Rayagada town.

All the shops and market complexes were shut down and bus movement was completely halted during the bandh. Various political parties like the BJP and the Congress supported the bandh call and participated in the protest. The tribal outfit also took

out a mega bike rally in which thousands of tribals participated under the leadership of Zilla Adivasi Mahasangh president Appalswami Kadraka, general secretary Jagannath Mandangi and assistant secretary Manjula Miniaka.

N	IARKE	T WAT	CH	
IN	DEX		VAR	ATION
BOURSES	SENSEX	72026.15		178.58
	NIFTY	21710.80		52.20
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	83.2225	₽	₹0.10
CURR	EURO	90.91	₽	₹0.41
NOI	GOLD	₹62,985		₹345
BULLION	SILVER	₹73,137		₹801

20 others sustained injury after a

pick-up van carrying a Sankirtan

police station limits in Sundargarh

deceased was identified as Subal

reports, a Sankirtan Mandali team

was on its way to Talapatia village

in neighbouring Jharsuguda district

in the ill fated pick-up van when the

informed, Bhasma police reached

Patel, 60, a resident of Kenapali

village in this district. As per

accident occurred. On being

the spot, rescued the injured

. Mangaspur CHC for treatment.

persons and took them to

Mandali team overturned at

Gulatha village under Bhasma

district, Friday afternoon. The

## WEATHER

BBSR	СТС
28.2°C	27.5°⊂
15.0°⊂	15.0°⊂
85%	81%
Nil	Nil
Ż	B
	15.0°⊂ 85%



police sources said. Last month, the security forces

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# power post

### FOCUS ECONOMY

Spirituality is indeed the master key of the Indian mind; the sense of the infinitive is native to it. SRI AUROBINDO



# Suspenseful Build-up

**7** ord coming in is that the Centre is gearing up to unleash a seismic shake-up across key Delhi government departments, promising a dramatic remix of the administration. Insiders hint at a game-changing overhaul involving crucial appointments within the Delhi government and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), among other power hubs.

The suspenseful build-up, supposedly orchestrated to sync with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appearance at the 3rd National Conference of Chief Secretaries (CS) adds an extra layer of intrigue to the impending reshuffle. Rumour has it that the reshuffle will feature strategic relocation and elevation of several IAS officers within the AGMUT or central cadre. Insiders are branding this exercise as potentially the last blockbuster move before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Apparently, it is a direct response to the retirement spree among top-tier IAS officers in the AGMUT cadre.

Sources have indicated to DKB that the reshuffle's shockwaves will spill out of Delhi's borders and are poised to rip through the union territories of Puducherry and Chandigarh. Notably, the latter has been cruising without an Advisor to the Administrator since the departure of 1988-batch IAS officer Dharampal in late October.

The reshuffle will also tackle the imminent retirement of Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar and J&K Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, both from the same batch and cadre. While Kumar dodged a bullet with a six-month extension following a legal showdown in the Supreme Court, the J&K handover saw 1989-batch AGMUT cadre IAS officer Atal Dulloo step into the limelight.

But it is the enigma surrounding Chandigarh Advisor's post, currently held by 2000-batch Haryana cadre IAS officer Nitin Yadav, that will undoubtedly add a dash of unpredictability to the remix.



#### Telangana: Women SHOs initiative loses momentum

The acclaimed initiative by the Telangana police department to appoint women as station house officers (SHOs), within the Hyderabad police commissionerate limits appears to have run out of steam, as several of them have been reassigned to different responsibilities.

Initially, five women were designated as SHOs in various police stations at the launch of the programme in early 2023. However, by the end of the year, only two stations are currently led by female officers. At the time of the launch of the initiative, CV Anand, the former Commissioner of Police in Hyderabad, appointed the first woman as SHO. Madhulatha made history as the first woman SHO when she assumed charge of the Lalaguda police station on International Women's Day in 2022, in the presence of Commissioner Anand.

By March of the same year, the count of women SHOs had increased to five. Yet, a booklet distributed during the Hyderabad City Police's annual news conference still listed all five as SHOs, even though three had been transferred

Where did these trailblazing women go? Lakshmi Madhavi, stationed at the Bollarum police station, was later moved to the Central Crime Station (CCS). Madhavi Latha, the SHO of Langar House, was reassigned as a security officer at the Secretariat, while Chitti Burra, the former SHO of Afazalgunj, saw a transfer to the task force of the city police. A senior police officer says that numerous rural police stations are now headed by women. However, he attributed the transfer of the women SHOs to factors such as political pressure, track record, or requests stemming from work-related pressures.

### Central police forces get new leadership

Just last week, this column pointed out the growing concern among babus about the delays in announcing top appointments in key central police organisations. The Centre seems to have heeded these concerns and made significant changes in the final days of 2023. Nina Singh, an IPS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed as the fullfledged director general of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Notably, she is the first woman IPS to attain the DG rank in Rajasthan. Similarly, Anish Dayal Singh has been appointed as Director General of the CRPF, and Rahul Rasgotra, currently the Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) is the new Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force. Additionally, Vivek Srivastava, who many observers consider a "hardcore" IB officer has been named the DG of Fire Service, Civil Defence & Home Guards until June 2025, aligning with the date of his superannuation. Though delayed, these appointments signal a strategic reshaping of leadership within these vital security forces. These officers bring a wealth of experience, indicating a focus on strengthening and adapting these forces to meet evolving national security demands.

# **CHINA'S DOWNTURN**

egy, opening new facilities in a

third country, while maintain-

ing their Chinese operations.

30% of the world's total manu-

facturing value-added- about

the share of Germany, Japan,

and the US combined - China

still offers firms a massive cost

advantage. Add to that huge ex-

cess capacity, and China's man-

ufacturing sector will continue

to thrive. In fact, the only thing

America's decoupling effort will

ultimately achieve is to spur

China to accelerate the devel-

opment of its own overseas man-

ufacturing capabilities, much

as Japan has done since the 1980s.

favourable demographic trends

on long-term growth is simi-

larly overstated. Yes, China's

population is aging and shrink-

ing rapidly. But as AI enables the

automation of a growing num-

ber of tasks, productivity will

increase, and demand for human

labour will fall. Together with

improved education, this should

more than compensate for the

contraction of the labour force

- possibly even creating the op-

So, what explains China's

posite problem: too few jobs.

slow recovery from the COVID-

19 pandemic? The answer lies in

The likely impact of un-

The reason is simple: with

hina's economic performance over the last year has been disappointing – so much so that some observers argue that growth has already peaked, and that it is all downhill from here. But it is far too soon to write off China's economic resilience.

As 2023 began, the lifting of draconian "zero-COVID" restrictions fueled a kind of domestic euphoria, reflected in soaring consumption. But the picture soon darkened, with the second quarter bringing declining exports, stagnating retail sales, shrinking corporate profits, local-government spending cuts, and a weakening housing sector. Chinese business confidence plummeted, and foreign businesses were spooked. In November, China recorded its first-ever quarterly deficit in foreign direct investment.

By Yao Yang

**IF CHINA HAS** 

THE US, IT IS

**EXCESSIVE** 

**COUNTRY'S** 

SECTOR

ANYTHING FROM

**FINANCIALIZATION** 

**CAN DESTROY A** 

MANUFACTURING

LEARNED

THAT

Even so, China's economy will probably grow by at least 5% this year - a respectable rate, by international standards. More important, China's economy still has a lot of fuel in the tank: a record-high savings rate means that it still has plenty of cheap finance for investment and innovation.

Already, China is investing heavily in the technologies such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, and artificial intelligence - that will shape the global economy in the coming decades. China is also rapidly developing its capacity in emerging technologies like fusion nuclear, quantum computing, quantum communication, and photonic semiconductors. We know that this strategy works: other successful economies, such as Japan in the 1970s and 1980s, have proved as much.

But China does face growth headwinds. Geopolitical tensions - in particular, the United States-led effort to "decouple" from China economically - are discouraging FDI and spurring companies to diversify their production away from China. But rather than leaving China



A key imbalance that China's government is attempting to reduce lies in the real-estate sector, which is simply too large, accounting for about a quarter of all fixed investment between 2013 and 2021

altogether, many foreign firms government policy. Over the last several years, are adopting a "China+1" strat-

> the central government has been working to tackle imbalances that threaten China's longrun growth prospects - beginning with massive debts held by state-owned enterprises, private companies (such as real-estate developers), and local governments. If China has learned anything from the US, it is that excessive financialization can destrov a country's manufacturing sector. That is why the Chinese authorities are committed to deleveraging.

> Local governments are a top priority on this front. Since 2010, China has pursued two major rounds of fiscal and monetary expansion, each of which led to a surge in the commercial debts of local governments. After the first round, in 2014-18, the central government allowed local governments to issue long-term bonds worth CN¥8 trillion (\$1.1 trillion), so that they could repay their commercial debts – a kind of debt-swap program. But local governments were again forced to borrow heavily during the COVID-19 pandemic, accumulating yet more debt that the authorities are still working to address.

Another priority for the cen-

tral government is unwinding the excessive commercialization of some sectors. Consider the tutoring industry: families pay private education companies for after-school classes, in the hope of giving their children an advantage over their peers. But these companies charge high prices, which parents struggle to pay, and provide little benefit to students, who are already working hard in school. So, in 2021 - with the private tutoring industry having ballooned to \$120 billion – the authorities banned for-profit after school tutoring in core subjects.

The third key imbalance that China's government is attempting to reduce lies in the real-estate sector, which is simply too large, accounting for about a quarter of all fixed in vestment between 2013 and 2021. With some major property developers now struggling to service their debts, stabilizing the sector has become a top priority for policymakers.

None of these imbalances poses an imminent threat to Chinese growth. But reducing them will bolster China's longterm economic health. That is why China's government is taking bold action, despite the shortterm costs. For example, housing sales have plummeted by about 40% since mid-2021, owing largely to government efforts to rein in the sector.

The good news is that the government has set growth as its main goal for this year and has rolled out new expansionary monetary and fiscal policies. Notably, with the monetary authorities encouraging banks to resume lending to real-estate developers, it is hoped that the housing sector will return to normal this year.

The writer is Liberal Arts Chair Professor at the China Center for Economic Research and the National School of Development at Peking University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM INDO-RUSSIAN TIES

Issues India needs to address in 2024

'he External Affairs tially accrued from EAM's in- ingthe delivery of several defence supplies and instead becomes Minister S Jaishankar teractions with several leaders, equipments from Russia. made a vear-end visit to officials and a cross-section of

There are quite a few logisti cal and transactional issues currently in the India-Russia military trade that may or may not get resolved quite soon. Besides these, Russia's defence industrial complex faces a few challenges at the moment. Moscow needs to focus on manufacturing and supplying defence products to the Russian army. Some Russian companies have offered alternative formats of cooperation in the global arms market. This gave a clear message to Russia's overseas clients, including India, that Russian defence companies would not be able to meet the needs of overseas requirements due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The second challenge for the Russian defence industries stems from sanctions imposed by the West on Russia following the war. Third, the setbacks and stalemate in the war put a question mark on Russian military capability, as many observers believe that the Russian army is struggling with sub-standard defence material. Indian military experts are suggesting that it is high time India ends its dependence on Russian military

self-reliant or finds alternative suppliers The declining Russian mili-

tary power as well as trade fore-

grounds India's need to align

with the strategy being con-

ceived by US leadership, as is

evident from the utterances of

one of the candidates mentioned

above. His rating in the opinion

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### WISDOM CORNER

One individual may die for an idea, but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself in a thousand lives.

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

- Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends? ABRAHAM LINCOLN
- It is in your hands, to make a better world for all who live in it. NELSON MANDELA

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1759:** George Washington, the future first president of the United States, married Martha Dandridge in Virginia.
- **1878:** American poet, historian, and folklorist Carl Sandburg, whose Abraham Lincoln: The War Years won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1940, was born.

### **LO**

# The amazing flying dog

woman is out looking for a pet, A and so she's trying the local pet shops. She walks into a small pet shop and explains her need to the attendant. He thinks for a moment and then says, "I've got just the thing for you madam. I'll just get him.' With that, he disappears into the back of the shop, and returns a few seconds later with a cute little puppy. "This dog is a special dog," he tells her. "It is able to fly," he explains, and with that throws the dog into the air. It immediately begins to float gracefully around the shop. "There is one problem with him,



Whenever you say 'my', he'll eat whatever vou've mentioned. Watch. "My apple!" The lady watches in astonishment as the dog zooms over to the shop attendant and furiously devours an apple he has produced from his pocket.

"He's cute, and so unusual. I'll take him," she says, and a few minutes later she is on her way back home with dog to show her husband. "Darling, look what a clever pet I bought today!" she exclaims when she gets back home. "He can fly!" The husband peers at the dog, and then remarks, "Fly eh? Ha! My foot!"



WHILE WASHINGTON WANTS INDIA TO **DISENGAGE FROM RUSSIA, IT CONTINUES TO** PATRONISE **PAKISTAN AND OFFERS TO MAKE-UP** WITH CHINA

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

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

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send in their valuable comments, opinion

101

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

Russia to enhance ties. He had extensive discussions with his counterpart Sergey Lavrov and other stakeholders in India-Russia bilateralism that has been strongly continuing since 1971. In addition to the usual trade and diplomatic exchanges, it would be interesting to decipher the strategic line the EAM would have taken for the New Year.

Jaishankar in his visit met Russian President Vladimir Putin, held discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Industries, and with his counterpart Sergey Lavrov. His interactions centred on bolstering the Special and Privileged Partnership. As usual, the exchanges covered multiple sectors such as trade and economics, energy, defence, connectivity, cultural and people-to-people. Global and regional developments also featured in their discussions. President Putin invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Russia in 2024. Putin said to EAM, "We will be glad to see our friend Mr. Prime Minister Modi in Russia". From the available accounts

of the visit, not much substan-

agencies. A plenty of shibboleths and usual hyperboles was on display. Even the tangled issue of India buying military gear after the US sanctions following the Ukrainian war was not resolved. On the contrary, the indication got reconfirmed that India's traditional dependence on Russia for military supplies is steadily declining. There were tight-lipped statements both from EAM and Russians about the prospect of military trade be tween the two countries

Notably, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov said that Russia was 'respectful' of New Delhi's need to 'diversify' military procurement and sources for other technical requirements. It seems the decoupling between New Delhi and Moscow on military ties is sinking in faster in Russia than in India.

Perhaps it is in order that New Delhi reviews its military trade policy with Russia. Objective observers have long contended that India has been at a loss in more than one way in its defence relations with the Soviet Union/Russia. Speaking of the present, India is awaitpolls has apparently increased after he outlined his foreign policy. There is a concern in Indian circles that while Washington wants India to disengage from Russia. it continues to patronise Pakistan and offers to make-up with China. This is where Indian diplomacy has to weigh in. New Delhi needs to drive home the strategic point that Russia is not the USA's main adversary; it is China. which is a threat not only to the US but to many other countries, and if we recall catastrophic Covid, then to the entire world.

This could perhaps be one significant writing on the wall that New Delhi should be cognizant of from the EAM's last week's five-day visit to Russia. INFA The writer is Secretary

General. Association for Democratic Socialism

### Change to ballot system

Sir, Looking at the manner in which the Election Commission (EC) has been acting in such a partisan manner in favour of the ruling dispensation in the past ten years, one really wonders whether the request of the opposition INDIA Bloc that there should be a 100% match of VVPAT slips and the EVMs would be accepted by the EC. Considering the thin margins with which many ruling party members have been declared winners in the just concluded Assembly elections in MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, much against the expectations of the people and exit poll predictions, one doubts the veracity of the election results in these states. In the other two states of Mizoram and Telangana, where the anti-BJP sentiments and anti-incumbency factor were so high, the results were to the expectations of the people, as any different result would have confirmed the doubt that the EVMs are being tampered with in favour of the saffron party, as alleged by the opposition parties. While the most advanced countries like the US, UK, Japan, and Germany depend only on the ballot system, being aware of the fact that the EVMs can be easily tampered with, it is high time we switched over to the time-tested ballot system to allay any doubt about the fairness of the Election Commission.

Tharcius S Fernando, CHENNAI

### Testing time in Test cricket

Sir, Many ups and downs from both sides were witnessed at the Capetown Test, and the first crackdown came when South Africa, batting first, was bundled out for 55, and in reply, Team India, in a breakdown, lost six wickets for no score, creating yet another record of sorts. And finally, SA lost the second test match by seven wickets in less than two days, and the Test series ended at 1-1. Earlier, the T20 series was also drawn 1-1, while SA had lost the ODI series 1-2. In all, in this particular Test match, 464 runs were scored in 108 overs, with 33 wickets falling in the short est Test ever. Both Bumrah and Siraj achieved a sixwicket haul, and Andrien Makram is the only century maker. The result of the Test series has baffled many. Is it the overdose of T20 cricket that is gradually killing the longest format of the game? It's time for the experts to ponder over the issue.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI





# Modern update to Rajasthan's traditional 'tankas'

TRADITIONAL 'TANKAS' ARE EARTHEN RAINWATER STORAGE TANKS CONSTRUCTED BY THE PEOPLE OF BARMER DISTRICT AND OTHER PARTS OF WESTERN RAJASTHAN TO COLLECT WATER RECEIVED DURING SHOWERS BETWEEN JULY AND SEPTEMBER

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Barmer (Rajasthan), Jan 5: The Centre has adopted western Rajasthan's traditional rainwater harvesting system 'tankas' by constructing a large number of such storage tanks with reinforced concrete cement near PMAY houses to battle water scarcity in the arid region.

"However, the water stored in the traditional 'tankas' gradually becomes contaminated due to its earthen structure and does not last for the entire year.

"So, the Centre has adopted the method under MGNREGA (Rural) scheme but instead of earthen tankas, is constructing water storage spaces made of reinforced concrete cement to provide uncontaminated water to the people for a longer period of

**J&K** power plant

to supply electricity

to Raj for 40 years

New Delhi, Jan 5: Ratle Hydro

**Electric Power Corporation** 

Limited (RHPCL), a joint ven-

ture company of NHPC Limited

and Jammu and Kashmir State

Corporation, has entered into

a Power Purchase Agreement

(PPA) for supplying electric-

ity to Rajasthan Urja Vikas

and IT Services Limited, the

Union Power Ministry said

The 850 MW Ratle

Hydroelectric Project in J&K's

Kishtwar will provide power to

Rajasthan for a period of 40

years from the Commercial

Operation Date (COD) of the

project and as per power allo-

cation to be notified by the

The PPA was signed in

Jaipur on Wednesday in the

presence of senior officers of

RHPCL & Rajasthan Urja Vikas

and IT Services Limited.

Union Ministry of Power.

Development

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Power

Thursday.

time," Barmer Collector Arun Purohit told PTI. A total of 1,84,766 such tanks have been constructed since 2016, with 41,580 built in the current 2023-24 fiscal, he said. Each tank, measuring 13.5 ft by 13.5 ft, has the capacity to store 35.000 litres of water and is con-

structed at a cost of Rs 3 lakh, Purohit said. The district has 2,971 villages, locally called 'dhannis', and re-

spective gram panchayats are the implementing agencies. He said other measures are also being adopted to ensure

water supply to far-flung villages in the district that shares a 228km-long international border with Pakistan. These include the supply of water from the Indira Gandhi Canal and the Narmada Project along with the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme.

'We are targeting to reach out to 4.25 lakh households under the JJM scheme. Of these, we have already covered 1.25 lakh households," the collector said.

After the JJM scheme is completely implemented, every household will have tap connection and surface water will be available to all households in the district, he said.

Head of Kurla village, Devaram Choudhury, said water scarcity is a major problem in the region and sources are few and far-flung.

He said the issue has been raised by people over the years and local representatives had urged the authorities to provide each household with permanent storage spaces.

"The construction of 'tankas' under MGNREGA has benefited us. We can now consume potable drinking water throughout the year," Choudhury said.

Thirty-six-year-old Dhammi Devi of the village said women have particularly benefited from these structures as they no longer have to walk around 4-5 km daily to fetch water from sources.

"Earlier, we used to spend five to six hours daily collecting water, which was still not enough. It was an arduous task and we used to get tired. Now, we can utilise that time for other work," she added.

# Five lakh lamps to glow Jan 22 in Jaipur



Corporation here has started its preparations Special illumination

The Municipal Greater

(decoration) will be done at temples, major government buildings and intersections For this, an appeal will also be made to trade bodies and

illuminate the markets

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE social organisations to

Jaipur, Jan 5: Diwali-like decorations will be held in Jaipur on the auspicious occasion of Ramlala's Pran Pratistha Mahotsav January 22 in the Ram temple of Ayodhya. On this day, more than 5 lakh lamps will be lit at major intersections, government buildings and temples across the city.

The Municipal Greater Corporation here has started its preparations. Special illumination (decoration) will be done at temples, major government buildings and intersections. For this, an appeal will also be made to trade bodies and social organisations to illuminate the markets. Municipal Greater Corporation Mayor Dr. Soumya Gurjar Monday held a meeting with the officials of all the committees of the corporation and the officials and decided the outline for the preparations. For this, he gave instructions to start a special cleaning campaign from January 2. It will start

F. No. N-2206/89/2022-N

Government of India

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** 

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

Room No.517, 5th Floor, Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi 11000

Appointment of Director, National Institutes

Applications are invited for the post of Director of 05 National Institutes

(Autonomous Bodies) under the administrative control of the Department

of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry

of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, Post is to be

filled up on deputation / contract basis and carries pay as per Pay Leve

13 (Rs.123100-215900) of Pay Matrix for deputation and consolidated remuneration of Rs.1.75.000/- per month for contract basis.

Department https://depwd.gov.in and on the website of the respective

Institutes. The last date for receipt of applications would be 45 days from

the date of publishing of the advertisement in employment news

Detailed advertisement is available on the website of the

from the Statue Circle. The Mayor said that first of all, the statues of great men installed at major intersections of Jaipur and their surroundings will be cleaned and beautified. After this, a special cleaning campaign will be started in major religious places and their surrounding areas

from January 3. The Mayor said that for the special cleanliness campaign in the entire Jaipur city, cooperation will be sought from all the trade unions, social organisations and religious leaders of the city. Along with this, an appeal will be made to trade bodies and social organisations to decorate their respective institutions and public places with special lighting January 22. Along with this, Rangoli will be made and lamps will be lit at all the major intersections January 22 Sunderkand recitations will also be organised at some places in the city.

Sd./- (Vineet Singhal), Director

CBC 38117/11/0050/2324

# 2023 ended on a high pollution note: CSE

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 5: Delhi-NCR recorded the longest spell of 'very poor' or worse air quality and the maximum number of smog episodes in November and December 2023 in the last six years, according to a new analysis.

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), an independent think-tank that analysed pollution data for Delhi-NCR, said the gradual long-term improvement in annual PM2.5 levels since 2015-17 halted in 2023.

This occurred despite cleanerthan-usual summer and monsoon seasons and significantly reduced intrusion of smoke from farm fires in northern states. However, this winter witnessed unusually low surface wind speeds, trapping high levels of local pollution. Due to the impact of unusual winter levels, the overall annual levels have plateaued and worsened, reversing the gains of the long-term downward trend, the CSE said. Despite a decrease in stubble burning contributing to

### DELHI AIR EMERGENCY

Delhi had been experiencing a consistent decline in its annual PM2.5 levels since 2015-17, with 2020 being the only outlier due to pandemic lockdowns

owever, this downward trend halted in 2023. Delhi's PM2.5 annual average for 2023 (as of December 29) stood at 100.9 micrograms per cubic metre, marking a 2 per cent increase against 2022 and 6 per cent higher than the remarkably clean 2020

DECEMBER WERE MUCH MORE POLLUTED IN 2023 (12-34 PER CENT) COMPARED TO THE SAME MONTHS IN 2022, THE REPORT SAID

Delhi's pollution this year, coupled with increased rainfall in November and milder winter conditions, the annual level should have improved. Instead, adverse meteorological conditions, specifically lower wind speeds, exacerbated the situation due to persistently high local pollution, it added. Delhi had been experiencing a consistent decline in its

on ensuring the safety of women

of proactive measures, Rathore

outlined the campaign's multi-

erators, tourist guides, to ele-

phant mahouts and camel safari

Emphasizing the importance

tourists.

operators.

annual PM2.5 levels since 2015-17, with 2020 being the only outlier due to pandemic lockdowns.

However, this downward trend halted in 2023. Delhi's PM2.5 annual average for 2023 (as of December 29) stood at 100.9 micrograms per cubic metre, marking a 2 per cent increase against 2022 and 6 per cent higher than the remarkably clean 2020.

#### The average annual PM2.5 concentrations were 115.8 microgrammes per cubic metre in 2018, 109.2 in 2019, 95.1 in 2020, 106.2 in 2021, 98.6 in 2022, and 100.9 in 2023, according to the data.

In 2023, the summer months (March to June) were significantly less polluted (14-36 per cent) than in 2022. Conversely, the winter months of January, November and December were much more polluted in 2023 (12-34 per cent) compared to the same months in 2022. the CSE said. It said the maximum number of smog episodes occurred in November-December 2023, surpassing the last six years' corresponding periods.

A smog episode is defined as at least three or more consecutive days with air quality in the 'severe' category. "Delhi typically experiences two smog episodes in November and December. In 2023, by December 24, there were three episodes, and December 30, Delhi was witnessing its third continuous day of 'severe' air quality, marking the city's fourth smog episode," the CSE said.

# State has to ensure PWDs aren't harassed with transfers: HC

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India	BOI 🖈	ZONAL O Star He		AUCTION SALE OF VEHICLE
Branch Name	Name of the Bo	orrower	Vehicle Details	Reserve Price / Bid increment Amount
IIT ARGUL BRANCH	Mrs. Manorama	Routray	MARUTI SUZUKI WAGON R VXI Regd. No.: OD-02-AM-3634 Year of Manufacturing: 2017	₹3,17,675/- / ₹5,000/-

# Raj tourism gears up to ensure safety for tourists

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Jan 5: Rajasthan Tourism called an online meeting which focused on sensitizing



n 2023, the summer months (March to June) were significantly less polluted (14-36 per cent) than in 2022

CONVERSELY, THE WINTER MONTHS OF JANUARY, NOVEMBER AND

and fostering collaboration among stakeholders to craft comprehensive strategies aimed at ensuring a secure environment for tourists exploring the landscapes of Rajasthan.

Gayatri Rathore, Principal Secretary Tourism, Government of Rajasthan shared insights into the imminent launch of a campaign by the Tourism

Department. This initiative aims to propagate awareness regarding appropriate conduct towards travelers, with a specific focus

Delhi Police sets up committee

to study new criminal laws

faceted approach. Central to this initiative is the plan to conduct sensitization workshops tailored for various stakeholders and service providers. These include integral members of the tourism ecosystem, ranging from autotaxi drivers, souvenir shop op-

New Delhi, Jan 5: The Delhi High Court has overturned the transfer of an or-

thopaedically handicapped railway employee to Chhattisgarh, saying that the state must ensure persons with disabilities (PWDs) are not subjected to unnecessary harassment by being transferred to locations unsuitable for their working conditions.

Justice Chandra Dhari Singh pointed out the legal provisions for equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, stating that office memorandums mandate transfers and job postings in a manner that allows employees to choose their preferred location, with possible exemptions from rotational transfers.

The petitioner, an employee of IRCON International Ltd, cited his knee-length prosthetic, requiring regular maintenance in Delhi, and his need for medical supervision in the city.

The court noted that the petitioner's transfer to another state would hinder access to necessary healthcare, especially given his special medical condition.

The court stressed the need for sensitivity and empathy towards individuals with disabilities, ensuring that constitutional values are protected.

Citing Section 20 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, the court stressed the government's obligation to provide reasonable accommodation and a conducive environment.

The court set aside the transfer orders, stating that the respondent disregarded the petitioner's special needs and violated Article 14 of the Constitution. The orders transferring the petitioner to the Chhattisgarh Rail Project were consequently annulled.



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Parking Yard Address: M/s. City Investigation & Detective, Santoshi Maa Mandir Backside, Patrapada, Bhubaneswa Terms and Conditions: Interested bidders can inspect the vehicle after obtaining prior appointmen rom the Concerned Authority at the parking yard as mentioned above. The bidders are informed to be present at the venue positively. The successful bidder has to deposit 25% of bid amount as upfron amount and the balance amount within **7 days from the date of auction**, failing which the money deposited by the successful bidder would be forfeited. The cost of transfer of ownership and statutor dues/all misc. charges, if any is to be borne by the successful purchaser. Vehicle will be auctioned of **(AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS'' basis.** However the Bank reserves the right to accept/reject cancel the auction sale process of the vehicle at its own discretion at any point of time. Auction will be done through offline mode. For further information regarding inspection & Details of the Vehicle contact at Ph. No.: BOI- 9776687307, 8337911737, Parking Yard- 8908502936. Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 06.01.2024 Zonal Manager, Bank of India



	Total	09 (Nine)			
8.	Jr. Limb Maker cum PO Technician Gr. III			Direct Recruitment	UR
7.	Lower Division Clerk	01 (One)	Pay matrix level-2	Direct Recruitment	ST
6.	Staff Car Driver		Pay matrix level-2	Direct	UR
5.	Jr. Caliper Maker cum PO Technician Gr. III	01 (One)	Pay matrix level-2	Direct Recruitment	EWS
4.	Physiotherapist	01 (One)	Pay matrix level-6	Direct Recruitment	EWS
3.	Occupational Therapist	02 (Two)	Pay matrix level-6	Direct Recruitment	UR-01 OBC-01
2.	Demonstrator (OT)	01 (One)	Pay matrix level-6	Direct Recruitment	UR
1.	Administrative Officer	01 (One)	Pay matrix level-7	Basis	UR

For detailed advertisement, educational qualifications, experience etc., visit www.iphnewdelhi.in. The last date for receiving the applications online will be 21 days from the date of publishing the advertisement in Employment Newspaper.

cbc 38103/12/0012/2324

(Dr. Jitendra Sharma) Director

new criminal laws and prepare study material for its personnel, officials said in a statement. The three laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam and Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita -- have been cleared by

New Delhi, Jan 5: The Delhi

Police has set up a 14-member

committee to study the three

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

President Draupadi Murmu and are likely to be notified later this month. The panel will be headed by

Special Commissioner of Police Chhaya Sharma and comprises Deputy Commissioner of Police Joy Tirkey, Additional DCP Uma Shankar, Assistant Commissioner of Police Hari Singh. Inspectors Rajiv Kumar. Rajeev Bhardwaj, Naresh Malik, Devender Singh, Arun Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Anil Berwal and Sanjeev Kumar and two sub-inspectors Somveer and Rajni Kant.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Sharma, will have to prepare course material for the investigating officers of the force for practical understanding and study of new provisions and changes in the pro-



The three laws --Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam & Bharativa Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita -- have been cleared by President

Draupadi Murmu and

later this month

cedures, an official said.

are likely to be notified

Headquarters said the committee may rope in lawyers and retired police personnel to finetune the course material to ensure that it is in sync with the iudicial process

The co-opted members will also be useful later in conducting classes for Delhi Police personnel and train them in practical applications of BNS. BSA and BNSS, the order said. According to officials, the Delhi Police has appointed retired ACPs Rajender Singh and Ram Singh and criminal lawyers Raunak Singh and Akhand Pratap Singh as the co-



An order dated January 2 from the Delhi Police opt members.

# **PHOTO POST**



**OrissaPOST** 

SATURDAY | JANUARY 6 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

Inspectors work near the wreckage after the collision between two trains in Cicalengka, West Java, Indonesia. The trains collided on Indonesia's main island of Java Friday, causing several carriages to buckle and overturn, officials said



P4

Women perform 'Kulvi Naati' dance during the Manali Winter Carnival in Manali



Students visit the 13th State-Level Philatelic Exhibition 'KARNAPEX 2024: A festival of stamps', organised by the Karnataka Postal Circle in Bangalore



Security personnel perform during the 144th Foundation Day celebrations of Jharkhand Armed Police in Ranchi







Palestinian children wait to collect drinking water amid shortages, as the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip



ITBP band members after the rehearsal for the Republic Day celebration during a cold morning in New Delhi



- Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala speaks during a protest march organised by the farmers under the banner of 'Karshaka Congress' outside State Secretariat, in Thiruvananthapuram

Deer inside their enclosure at a zoo on a cold morning in Bikaner





# national



Millets can be grown even in places where rainfall and soil fertility is low. Millets are very helpful for good health. Hence, the state government is continuously organising millet fairs SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

### **RAJASTHAN CM KEEPS 8 MINISTRIES**

Newly appointed Rajasthan ministers were Friday allocated portfolios, with Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma keeping eight departments, including home and excise. Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari was allocated finance, tourism, art and culture, public works department and women and child development



uote

First of January, we launched PSLV XPoSat. The satellite is doing very well. All its instruments are now slowly switched on and working. We will get to know about the results soon

S SOMANATH ISRO CHIEF

Five years back the Modi government decided to sell off three units of SAIL: the Alloys Steel Plant at Durgapur, the

Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant at Bhadravati and the Salem Steel Plant. Now it appears that the privatisation has been called off. It is a victory no doubt for the workers who agitated against the sale and for parties like the Indian National Congress that had stoutly opposed the ill-thought move

JAIRAM RAMESH CONGRESS LEADER

In 2023, Assam saw a record investment proposal of over Rs 11,000 crore with proposed generation of more than 10,000 jobs due to our path-breaking customised incentive policy HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

## Babri litigant Ansari invited

Ayodhya: Iqbal Ansari, a litigant in the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case, Friday, received an invitation for the consecration ceremony at the upcoming Ram temple in Ayodhya and said he will attend the grand event."This is Ayodhya nagari, it is a city of religion, deities of Hindu and Muslim communities are present here. There is brotherhood and unity among the Hindus and Muslims of Ayodhya and there is no unease. Whether it is a temple, a mosque or a gurdwara, there is no discrimination. There is a feeling of harmony for those coming to Ayodhya," he said soon after receiving the invitation.

# MHA orders CBI probe into supply of 'substandard' medicines in Delhi hosps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 5: The Union Home ministry has ordered a CBI inquiry into the alleged supply of 'substandard' medicines in Delhi government hospitals and whether the drugs were also distributed through mohalla clinics, sources said Friday.

The CBI probe was ordered following a recommendation by Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena on the matter in December last year. Saxena said the drugs allegedly "failed quality standard tests" and had the "potential of endangering lives" in hospitals run by the Delhi government.

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj welcomed the inquiry and demanded the immediate suspension of the health department secretary."I had given directions for carrying out an audit of medicines immediately

after assuming office in March last year but the (Delhi government) health secretary did not follow the directions. I welcome the CBI inquiry into the matter, but why is the Centre shielding the official? He should be immediately suspended,' Bharadwaj said.

The Delhi government's Directorate of Vigilance had written to the home ministry requesting the probe."It also needs to be investigated whether the same drugs which have been procured by the Central Procurement Agency (CPA) are also being distributed to the patients through the 'Mohalla cording to officials.



Clinics' or not," the communication read.

The letter said any action for supplying 'Not of Standard Quality' drugs should not be confined to the CPA and there is need to investigate the entire supply chain -- the role of the suppliers who procured from manufacturers and provided supply to the end users, that is, hospitals (patients).

"Besides, there is a need to lift the corporate veil to understand the gravity and motives of supplying 'Not of Standard Quality' drugs," read the Directorate of Vigilance letter. The drugs that were found to be of "substandard quality" included critical life-saving antibiotics used for the treatment of lung and urinary tract infections such as Cephalexin, ac-

Foundation stone of Patanjali

Gurukulam to be laid today

The list also included a steroid, Dexamethasone, used for curing life-threatening inflammation in the lungs and joints and swelling in the body, anti-epilepsy and anti-anxiety psychiatric drug Levetiracetam and antihypertension drug Amlodepin, the officials said.

"In this context, it is not out of place to mention that the matter of 'Mohalla Clinics' was already entrusted to the CBI and a Preliminary Enquiry (PE) was also registered...," the communication read. According to a vigilance department report submitted to the lieutenant governor, of the 43 samples of drugs sent to government laboratories, three failed the test and 12 reports were pending. Further, out of another 43 samples sent to private laboratories, five failed.

Drugs such as Amlodipine, Levetiracetam and Pantoprazole failed the test in both government and private laboratories. Cephalexin and Dexamethasone failed the test in private laboratories.

Later at a press conference, Bharadwaj said out of the "43 samples" collected from three hospitals, only five of them were declared "not of standard quality". He said in the official report, the terms "NSQ" or "not of standard quality" has been used many times, and in it, it is "nowhere mentioned that the drugs are fake, imitation, poison, spurious". "You cannot write it officially like that as it wasn't so." he said.

No.47

# AAP nominates Maliwal for RS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 5: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Friday nominated Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal as its Rajya Sabha MP and renominated Sanjay Singh and ND Gupta for the second term in the Upper House of Parliament.

The nominations were announced by the party's political affairs committee (PAC), chaired by AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. "DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal has been nominated for the first time. The PAC has decided to continue with Sanjay Singh and ND Gupta for their respective second term as Rajya Sabha members," the party said.



The committee decided to endorse two existing members for re-nomination, whereas Sushil Kumar Gupta expressed his intent to redirect his focus towards the electoral politics of Haryana, it said. Sushil Kumar Gupta's tenure as a member of the Rajya Sabha will end later this month.

"He has conveyed his aspiration to actively engage in the vibrant electoral landscape of Haryana, and we respect his decision to pursue this path," a senior AAP leader said.

**OFFICE ORDER** 

tender became first time single tender.

OIPR-25148/11/0025/2324

# ED conducts raids; ₹5cr cash seized



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Jan 5: Foreignmade rifles, about 300 cartridges, Rs 5 crore in cash and more than 100 liquor bottles have been recovered during searches conducted by the Enforcement Directorate against former INLD MLA Dilbag Singh and his associates, official sources said Friday.

The central agency had launched raids against Singh and Congress MLA from Sonipat Surender Panwar Thursday as part of a money laundering case linked to alleged illegal mining in Haryana's Yamunanagar district and some other regions. Singh is a former Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) MLA from Yamunanagar.

About Rs 5 crore cash, "illegal" foreign-made rifles, around 300 cartridges and bullets, more than 100 liquor bottles, 4-5 kilograms of gold biscuits and jewellery, and documents pertaining to assets in India and abroad have been recovered from the premises linked to Singh and his associates the sources said

Around 20 locations of the two politicians and linked entities in Yamunanagar, Sonipat, Mohali, Faridabad, Chandigarh and Karnal were covered during the raids conducted under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The money laundering case stems from several FIRs registered by Haryana police to probe alleged illegal mining of boulders, gravel and sand that took place in the past in Yamunanagar and nearby districts even after the lease expiry period and a ban imposed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The central agency is also probing alleged fraud in the 'e-Ravana' scheme, an online portal that was introduced by the Haryana government in 2020 to simplify collection of royalties and taxes and to prevent tax evasion in mining areas. The activities were being run by a syndicate allegedly linked to the two politicians, ED sources claimed.



### Terrorist killed

Srinagar: A Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, who was involved in the abduction and killing of Army officer Lieutenant Ummer Fayaz in 2017, was Friday killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district, police said. Acting on specific information about presence of a terrorist in Chotigam village of the south Kashmir district, a cordon and search operation was launched in the early hours by security forces, a police spokesman said.

#### AGENCIES

Haridwar (Uttarakhand): The foundation stone of Patanjali Gurukulam, touted to be the country's largest educational institution when completed, will be laid on January 6, yoga guru Ramdev said Thursday.

The institution will come up in Haridwar in Uttarakhand on a land previously owned by Swami Darshananand Gurukul Mahavidyalaya. The seven-storeyed main block of the institution, to be built at an esti-

mated cost of Rs 250 crore, will have the capacity to provide boarding facilities to 1,500 children, Ramdev said. A separate Acharyakulam block can accommodate 5,000 day-boarding students. he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav are likely to attend the foundation laving ceremony, to be held on the 29th foundation day of Patanjali Yogpeeth.

# ED raids company linked to Pawar's kin

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 5: The Enforcement Directorate Friday searched the premises of a company owned by MLA Rohit Pawar, the grand nephew of Rajya Sabha MP Sharad Pawar, and its linked entities as part of a probe into the alleged Maharashtra State **Cooperative Bank** 

scam, official sources said.

At least six locations in Baramati, Pune, Pimpri and Aurangabad were searched, they said.

The office of Baramati Agro in Baramati town was also covered. Rohit Pawar (38) is a firsttime MLA from the Karjat-Jamkhed seat in Maharashtra and is the owner and CEO of Baramati Agro.

He belongs to the Sharad Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Rohit Pawar is the nephew of Baramati MP Supriya Sule and Ajit Pawar - the state's deputy chief minister and Baramati MLA.

The Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank money laundering case stems from an August 2019 FIR of the Mumbai Police's

### Economic Offences Wing.

The Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar Group), reacting to the raids, said Rohit Pawar's just concluded 'Yuva Sangharsh Yatra' has "hit a nerve" and made the BJP insecure. The MLA, currently abroad on a family vacation, had undertaken a foot march from Pune to Nagpur late last

year to highlight the issues faced by youngsters in Maharashtra. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe against his firm pertains to allegations of

and deposit of earnest funds of a company that bid for the purchase of a Maharashtra-based ailing cooperative sugar factory, the sources said.

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya demanded an expeditious probe into the acquisition of a cooperative sugar factory by Baramati Agro. The former MP said in a post on X, "We requested the ED to investigate the acquisition of Kannad cooperative sugar factory by Rohit Pawar's Baramati Agro at a very much under-valued price of Rs 50 crore through manipulated auction of Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank.'

# Gyanvapi: Court to rule today on ASI report

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi (UP), Jan 5: A Varanasi court is likely to give a ruling Saturday on making the sealed ASI survey report on the Gyanvapi mosque complex public and providing copies of it to the Hindu and Muslim sides.

The court of District Judge A K Vishvesh Friday said since the order on the issue has not been typed out yet, it will be given Saturday, said Madan Mohan Yadav, the lawyer for the Hindu side. The counsels of both Hindu and Muslim sides as well as that of the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) were present in court.

The ASI Wednesday urged the court not to make its report public for at least four more weeks. The judge could not take up the matter Thursday as he was busy at an event, his office said, adding that the matter was then posted for Friday.

Following a July 21 order of the district court, the ASI carried out a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi premises, located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple here, to determine whether the mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple.

The survey was ordered by the court after the petitioners claimed the 17th-century mosque was constructed over a pre-existing temple. Wednesday, Yadav said the ASI requested the court for four more weeks before the sealed survey report is opened.



04.	Period of Completion	L.	4 (Four Months)
05.	Class of Contractor	:	'C' Class or equivalent
06.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	From 11.00 AM of dt.10.01.2024 to 5.00 PM of 22.01.2024
07.	Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal		5.00 PM of 22.01.2024
08.	Date & Time of opening of Bids	:	At 11.00 AM of 24.01.2024
09.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:	Engineer Member, Sambalpur Development Authority, SMC & SDA Office Building, Durgapali, Dist Sambalpur-768006
Furt			website www.tendersodisha.gov.in ngineer Member, SDA, Sambalpur

OIPR-13240/11/0012/2324

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRIL.), KANDHAMAL DIVISION.PHULBANI

Email Id: eeagrilkandhamal@gmail.com Govt. of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. : E.E (A)- KANDHAMAL DIVISION-08/2023-24

No.L-203:The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Kandhamal Division Phulbani, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in Single cover system for the works in ONLINE MODE only Estimated cost: Rs.8,31,600/-

- 2. Bid Cost : Rs.4000/Mentioned in Column-04 3. Period of completion : Mentioned against work. (Column-06) 4. No. of works (Tender) :1
- 5. Class of Contractor :C & D Mentioned in Column 05
- 6. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: Dt.08.01.2024 at 10.00 AM upto 5.30 PM of Dt.17.01.2024
- Last date /Time for receipt of bids in the portal :17.01.2024 upto 5.30 PM.
- Date of submission of original documents: Dt.08.01.2024 at 10.30 AM to Dt.18.01.2024 upto 05.30 PM. (working days only)

9. Date & time of opening of online bids :19.01.2024 at 11.00 AM onwards.

10.Name and address of the officer inviting bid :The Executive Enginee (Agril.), Kandhamal Division, Phulbani, Odisha.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http:/ tendersodisha.gov.in.

A. All the volumes/documents shall be uploaded in the portal by the Procurement Officer Administrator and published by Procuremen Officer Publisher (Officer Inviting Tender)

B. The Tender documents published by the Tender Inviting Office (Procurement Officer Publisher) in the website "http://tendersodisha. gov.in." will appear in the Latest.

C. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE Bidding only. Furthe details can be seen from the website "http://tendersodisha.gov.in". Any addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website

Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.) OIPR-01468/11/0012/2324 Kandhamal Division. Phulbani

### Malkangiri Municipality. Further details can be seen from the Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.ii Sd./- Executive Officer, Malkangiri Municipality 0/PR-13125/11/0024/2324

No.	O-2114:-		
1.	Name of the Work	:	Road Work
2.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs.5.46 Lakhs to 18.49 Lakhs
3.	Period of Completion	:	01 (One) Calendar Month
4.	Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	From 10.01.2024 to 17.01.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
5.	Last Date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	17.01.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
6.	Name & Address of the OIT	:	Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Angul

Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Angul OIPR-25096/11/0025/2324

### **QUOTATION CALL NOTICE** No.123/Dated 04.01.2024

No.MM-390:Sealed quotations in plain paper/letter pad are invited from the intending registered firms/suppliers having valid GST and PAN in the name of the firms for supply of the following items to the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division. 01. Uniform (Khaki) Cloth

- 02. Shoes and Socks
- 03. Blue and green barret cap.
- 04. Web Belt
- 05. O.F. & Star for Forester.
- 06. Arm Batch
- 07. OF&FD Cap badge for Fr 85 FG
- 08. OF & Star & Odisha Forest Arm Badge for Fr & FG
- 09. Winter Jacket.
- 10. Rain Coat
- 11. Lathi (Forester & Forest Guard).

12. Blanket.

The quotation should reach the undersigned by 19th Jan, 2024 05 PM positively and the same will be opened on 20th Jan, 2024 at 04PM in the Division Office, Athmallik for selection by the purchase committee in the presence of the quotationers or their authorized representatives. The quotation received in ncomplete shape without enclosing the sample item or after the scheduled date and time are liable to be rejected. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer Athmallik Division OIPR-08125/11/0018/2324





"diversion" of funds



# **DWAYNE WANTS TO ACT IN FILMS** THAT DEAL WITH STRUGGLE. PAIN

Actor Dwayne Johnson is ready to take on more challenging and serious roles in his acting career. The former WWE star, who has been mostly known for his action-packed and comedic films, said he wants to act in movies that deal with struggle and pain.

# **DAVID TENNANT TO HOST BAFTA AWARDS**

Actor David Tennant is set to host the BAFTA Film Awards for the first time. The actor, who is best known for playing lead in TV series Doctor Who, will oversee proceedings during the UK's biggest night for film February 18, at the Royal Festival Hall in London, reports Variety.



# FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\* A new acquaintance will

make you feel happy today. You must remember that things don't have to be expressed explicitly; a word or a song from deep within can make a bigger impact. Ganesha says today is the right time to do something which will be more rewarding in the long-term

### TAURUS

ARIES

This day, your heart is likely to rule your head. You will be driven by your moods feelings and sentiments. Most of the decisions will be based on your emotions, instead of your reason and experience. Ganesha urges you not to allow your emotionality to enter your professional activities

### GEMINI

You will meet someone special who is here to stay for good, predicts Ganesha. Your kind and considerate nature will benefit others. You need to understand that it's okay to spend a little on comforts and entertainment. Be ready for a busy, yet cheerful, day ahead.

# CANCER

Sometimes acting a little eccentric and adopting an approach that you will usually not helps you redefine your style, says Ganesha. Go ahead and do that today! Although you will be open to adapt and bring in some revolutionary changes, you will make sure to follow a proper pattern.

### **.EO**

Forget the weather. Today, the only thing shining bright are your chances of spending some quality time with your near and dear ones. Going along these lines, Ganesha wonders how long has it been since you last did the same. So, make the most of this lucky day

# **VIRGO**

A mixture of the desirable and undesirable is on the cards today. Sentimental people will tend to think of you as a little immature. However, your sense of humour will be as robust as ever and you will never fall short of jokes. Ganesha advises you to pursue spiritually enriching activities in order to properly chanlise your abilities.

# **Sonam believes** in slow fashion

Mumbai: Actress Sonam Kapoor, known for her immaculate sense of style and sartorial choices, recently

shared why she prefers slow fashion. The Aisha actress said in a statement, "I make sure to wear and do things that have no negative impact on anyone. I strive to make responsible choices. I have always believed in slow fashion, buying classic, beautiful pieces, and reusing vintage clothes. I don't support fast fashion, as it is wasteful and harmful to the environment. However, I understand its necessity for those who can't afford luxury vintage fashion.

She added, "I am a strong supporter of second-hand websites, despite them not being part of our culture. Indian culture embraces local tailors and artisans, which is a form of slow fashion not readily available in the West. We need a combination of both: making tailoring clothes accessible in the West and accepting the mentality of wearing someone else's clothes.

She said, "As actors, we have an impact, and people like to follow what we do. I hope people turn to vintage and adopt it as a lifestyle choice. It is imperative because our wasteful ways are hurting the environment and the planet."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Sonam was recently

seen in

the film

Blind.

AGENCIES

### Kangana's Mumbai: -turn Actress Kangana Ranaut who once called Vikrant Massey a 'cockroach' has heaped praises on him and called

him 'beyond amazing' for his film 12th Fail. Sharing a poster of 12th Fail, Kangana wrote, "What a terrific film. Coming from Hindi medium myself belonging to a rural village and being a general caste student for entry tests without reservations in my school years, I was weeping throughout the film, ufff never cried so much in a flight, my co-passengers were stealing concerned glances t me, I am embarrassed." In her next story, she added. "Vidhu sir has won mv heart all over again, Vikrant Massey is beyond amazing!! In his coming

vears

he might just fill the void Irfan Khan saab left behind...salutations to your talent dear one." Vikrant is yet to re-

spond to the post. In 2021, Kangana had called Vikrant a 'cockroach' after he playfully called his friend, Himachali actor Yami Gautam 'Radhe Maa' in one of the pictures from her wed ding with Aditya Dhar. Reacting to this, fellow Himachali. Kangana was annoyed at him and had called Vikrant names on Instagram, which grabbed everyone's attention. AGENCIES



# State-level drama festival: Day 3

Members of Expressions (Bhubaneswar) staged the Odia play Shuka Shari Katha Friday, on the third evening of the festival organised by Manana Natya Sanstha at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar. Written by eminent playwright Kartika Chandra Rath, the drama was designed and directed by Debananda Nayak. The play's plot was centred around Odisha's dying performing art form 'Bagha Nacha'. Among the artistes, Joseph, Lucky, Sarita, Surya and Rabi performed on stage. The five-day event is being organised to commemorate Manana's 45th Foundation Day.

# Ananya hopes to 'complete herself'

Mumbai: Ananya Panday is riding high on

Kho Gaye

Kahan. The

actress, who

played the

young woman

navigating love

and life in the dig-

ital age, has gar-

nered significant

Instagram post

sharing pic-

tion

tures from

Year vaca-

London,

in cluded

Ananva

New

in

re-

flective

note on

the les-

sons

praise. In her recent

her

of

а

Hum

role

Ahana,

for 2024 Sharing the pictures the success Ananya wrote, "Happpy of her latest film, new year!!!!'

she learned from Ahana,

shaping her resolutions

She continued: "I know I'm slightly late but like Ahana said at the end of Kho Gaye Hum Kahan - it was time for a reboot and a couple of resolutions. Every year we try to change ourselves but this year I hope you can be completely yourself.'

Previously, a picture circulated on Reddit, showcasing the actress enjoying a vacation in London with beau Aditya Roy Kapur.

The image captured the couple at an ice skating rink. Ananya was seen in a black trench coat paired with wide-legged pants and a high-neck sweater, while Aditya chose jeans, a black puffer jacket, and a grey beanie. Both donned blue

ice skates and stood on the

rink, creating a buzz on

AGENCIES

social media.

**LIBRA** 

The whole point of being a  $(\square)$ Libran is that you always have the tendency to be two separate things put together on a pair of scales that somehow balance. Ganesha feels that today, you'll bring to the scales the stability of being your own master and servant. It's a fine balance to maintain.

### **SCORPIO**

Your stars indicate splurging of money today. And this time, you do it for your near and dear ones. After all, what is money without friends and family? You may even go out of your way to make them happy by entertaining them with outings and celebrations.

## **SAGITTARIUS**

Staying away from home, for a long business trip may be painful. But, when you strike great deals, it's worth it. Besides good returns from business. Ganesha also has many other surprises in store for you. Be hopeful!

# **CAPRICORN**

You love the people around you unconditionally and such emotions will be more visible now than ever. Today, you will want to keep yourself surrounded with your loved ones, make them happy and have a good time, says Ganesha. Your honesty and sincerity will give depth to your existing relationships.

# AOUARIUS

If you're stuck indoors today, make the most of it. There's always carrom checkers, chess and partying! Shake yourself a bit, and you'll come up with creative wavs to spend a leisurely day. You'll find that either way, life is wonderful, says Ganesha.

### PISCES

In spite of the hardships that you will encounter on your way, your high spirits, enthusiasm and innate confidence will overcome all obstacles. And no matter how troubled the day starts, it ought to end on a cheerful note, says Ganesha.



# **CALVIN AND HOBBES**







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# SUDOKU

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

1		9						4
					4		8	
							7	
	8	7			9	2	T Í	
2			С. 	1		8	5	
6		1		2				
		2	3	4	1			7
		6			8			
			7			3		

# SOLUTIONS 0 CROSSWORD DEC C L L P S C B 8 7 1 5 9 3 6 4 2 5 1 4 7 9 2 6

9	6	4	2	1	5	7	8	
4	2	7	6	8	3	1	9	/k
8	9	3	5	4	7	2	6	5
6	5	9	7	2	8	3	1	
2	3	8	1	6	9	5	4	
		1					7	
1	7	6	3	9	4	8	5	+
		2						

SUDOKU





# business



It is heartening to witness the housing cycle taking shape with each passing guarter. Consumer's desire to own a quality home early in their life journey and upgrade their lifestyle, continues to strengthen ABHISHEK LODHA MD & CEO, MACROTECH DEVELOPERS

### **MOBIKWIK REFILES IPO**

Unicorn fintech firm One MobiKwik Systems Ltd has filed its preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise up to ₹700 crore through an initial public offering. This is the second attempt by the Gurugram-based firm for the public issue following its first attempt in July 2021



**Brookfield** 

We look forward to

expanding and

enhancing our existing

India, which enables a

**Through strategic** 

connectivity and

across the region

BROOKFIELD

ARPIT AGRAWAL | MD, HEAD OF

INFRASTRUCTURE (INDIA AND ME),

the optionally converted deben-

tures (OCDs) issued by Vodafone

Idea and will be entitled to receive

future payments related to ex-

isting ATC India receivables.

Proceeds from the transaction are

expected to be used to repay

American Tower's existing in-

DIT houses Brookfield's tele-

This will be Brookfield's third

com tower businesses in India

through Summit Digitel and

acquisition in the Indian

telecommunications space.

According to Brookfield's re-

debtedness," ATC said.

Crest Digitel.

telecom tower portfolio in

broader array of solutions for

our customers and partners.

we remain deeply committed

acquisitions like ATC India,

transforming the telecom

infrastructure landscape

to empowering digital

# uote

The year 2023 has been an impressive year in terms of growth. A 31 per cent growth over the previous year exhibits consumer confidence

JYOTI MALHOTRA MD, VOLVO CAR

This project with Everrenew Energy serves the promising commercial and industrial (C&I) segment of the Indian market, which will be important in driving our national targets over time GIRISH TANTI

VICE CHAIRMAN, SUZLON GROUP



RAHUL GUPTA VC AND MD. GUJARAT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# SHORT TAKES

## India okays energy MoU with Guyana

New Delhi: India approved signing a 5-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Guyana to cooperate in the hydrocarbon sector as the South Asian nation looks to diversify its oil import sources. The proposed agreement will cover areas such as sourcing of crude oil from the South American nation, participation of Indian companies in its exploration and production sector and cooperation in crude oil refining, a government statement said. India, the world's third-largest crude consumer and importer, and Guyana have been in discussion about a potential bilateral oil agreement for more than two years.

### **GAIL signs deal to** import Vitol's LNG

New Delhi: India's biggest gas firm GAIL Friday said it has signed a deal to buy about 1

# **GDP to grow by 7.3%**

# India is likely to project higher economic growth for the 2023-24 fiscal year ending in March

GDP growth estimated

compared to 7.2% YoY

at 7.3% in current fiscal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 5: The Indian economy is estimated to grow by 7.3 per cent in the 2023-24 fiscal against 7.2 per cent a year ago, mainly due to good show by mining and quarrying, manufacturing and certain segments of services sectors.

As per the first advance estimates of national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) Friday, the manufacturing sector output is estimated to grow to 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal compared to 1.3 per cent in 2022-23.

Similarly, mining sector growth is estimated at 8.1 per cent in the current fiscal against 4.1 per cent in 2022-23.

Financial services, real estate and professional services are estimated to record a growth of 8.9 per cent this fiscal compared to 7.1 per cent in FY23.

"Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in the year 2023-24 is estimated to attain a level of ₹171.79 lakh crore, as against the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2022-23 of ₹160.06 lakh crore, released on 31st May 2023," an NSO statement said.



According to the statement, the growth in real GDP during 2023-24 is estimated at 7.3 per cent compared to 7.2 per cent in 2022-23. The NSO estimates are higher than the 7 per cent GDP growth projection of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the current fiscal. The central bank revised its own growth forecast

last month from an earlier estimate of 6.5% It also said that nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in the year 2023-24 is estimated at ₹296.58 lakh crore against the provisional estimate of GDP

REUTERS

for the year 2022-23 of ₹272.41 lakh crore.

Real GDP to attain a level

of ₹171.79L-cr against

₹160.06L-cr YoY

The growth in nominal GDP during 2023-24 is estimated at 8.9 per cent compared to 16.1 per cent in 2022-23

The size of the economy, as per the current estimates, is slated to be at ₹296.58 lakh crore or \$3.57 trillion (@ ₹83/\$) during 2023-24

The agriculture sector is projected to see a growth of 1.8 per cent this fiscal, lower than the four per cent expansion recorded in the previous financial year. Trade, hotel, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting segment is estimated to grow at 6.3 per cent, down from 14 per cent in 2022-23 The construction sector is likely to grow at 10.7 per cent year-on-year from 10 per cent in

the current fiscal. Similarly, public administration, defence and other services growth is estimated to grow by 7.7 per cent this fiscal against 7.2 per cent in FY23.

The growth in gross value added (GVA) at basic prices is pegged at 6.9 per cent this fiscal, down from 7 per cent in 2022-23. The economy grew faster than

expected 7.6% year-on-year in the September quarter, after growing 7.8% in the previous quarter, prompting many private economists to upwardly revise their yearly estimates.

Among others, S&P Global Ratings expects India will remain the fastest-growing major economy for the next three years, setting to become the world's third-largest economy by 2030. S&P expects India, currently the world's fifth-largest economy to grow at 6.4% this fiscal and estimates growth will pick up to 7% by fiscal 2027.

# **MEGA TOWER DEAL** Brookfield to buy **ATC India business**

After two acquisitions in the Indian telecommunications space, the Canadian firm is set to buy Indian business of American Tower Corporation for \$2bn enterprise value

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 5: Canadian firm Brookfield is all set to acquire the Indian business of American Tower Corporation, in a mega \$2.5 billion deal that includes \$2 billion enterprise value on ATC India alongside a 'ticking fee' accruing from October 1, 2023.

The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and expected to close in the second half of 2024.

"Data Infrastructure Trust (DIT), an Infrastructure Investment Trust sponsored by an affiliate of Brookfield Asset Management, today announced the signing of an agreement with ATC to acquire 100 per cent of the equity interests in American Tower's operations in India (ATC India), for an enterprise value of ₹16,500 crore (\$2 billion) which is subject to preclosing terms as per the securities purchase agreement," a re-

lease by DIT said. ATC India has a portfolio of approximately 78,000 sites across India.

A release by ATC said total cash proceeds to American Tower at closing, subject to certain preclosing terms, would potentially represent up to approximately ₹21,000 crore or \$2.5 billion at current exchange rates.

"Total cash proceeds include an enterprise value on ATC India operations of approximately \$2 billion, plus a ticking fee that accrues from October 1, 2023, to the date of closing," the release said spelling out financial details of the transaction.

Proceeds associated with the enterprise value assume the repayment of existing intercompany debt and the repayment, or assumption, of the existing India term loan, by DIT.

"Furthermore, and considered within the total potential

cash proceeds above. American

Tower will retain the full eco-

nomic benefit associated with

lease, in 2022 it had acquired a portfolio of 5,000 indoor business solution sites and small cell sites, which advances the rollout of 5G and enables telecom operators to extend their coverage capacity in difficult-toaccess and dense areas.

Brookfield also has a portfolio of nearly 1,75,000 towers that were acquired in 2020 from **Reliance Industrial Investments** and Holdings Ltd.

# **Indices extend gains** for second session

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 5: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher for a second straight day Friday, following gains in IT, tech and capital goods shares amid fresh foreign capital inflows. After slipping briefly during

the late afternoon trade, the 30share BSE Sensex made a quick recovery and jumped 178.58 points or 0.25 per cent to settle at 72,026.15. During the day, it soared 308.91 points or 0.42 per cent to 72,156.48. The Nifty climbed 52.20 points or 0.24 per cent to 21,710.80.

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark declined 214.11 points or 0.29 per cent, and the Nifty dipped 20.6 points or 0.09 per cent.

Among the Sensex firms

# India probes DHL, FedEx, UPS New Delhi, Jan 5: India's antitrust body is investigating do-

mestic units of global delivery companies, such as Germany's DHL, US-based United Parcel Service (UPS) and FedEx, for alleged collusion on discounts and tariffs, documents seen by Reuters showed.

It is the latest such scrutiny for the logistics industry, some dating back to 2015, when France levied fines amounting to \$735 million on 20 companies, including FedEx and DHL, for secretly colluding to increase prices.

In recent weeks, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has begun reviewing



GLOBAL LOGISTICS GIANTS FACE ANTITRUST HEAT IN INDIA

DHL, FEDEX, UPS ARE TARGETS OF PRICE-FIXING SUSPICIONS

hundreds of thousands of emails as it investigates the fees companies charged for airport services, according to government documents and three sources.

Its inquiry began in October 2022 after the Federation of Indian Publishers complained that DHL, FedEx, UPS and Dubai's Aramex, along with some domestic firms, were deciding charges together and controlling customer discounts.

Such actions, if proved, violate Indian antitrust laws.

The publisher said company executives exchanged commercially sensitive information regarding volumes, charges and discounts on courier and storage services offered at airports, before deciding on rates, the documents stated

They "appear to be sharing commercially sensitive information amongst themselves ... for taking joint or collective decision to arrive at tariffs". the CCI said in an early assessment that

**ANTITRUST PRACTICES** 

led to the broader inquiry.

million tonne per annum of LNG from Dutch energy trader Vitol for 10 years starting 2026. "Under this deal, Vitol will deliver liquefied natural gas (LNG) from its global LNG portfolio to GAIL in India on a pan-India basis," the company said in a statement. LNG is natural gas, extracted from below surface, that has been cooled down to liquid form for ease and safety of nonpressurized storage or transport.

### **Tata to roll out** over 5 EVs soon

New Delhi: Tata Passenger Electric Mobility plans to bring in more than five products in the next 18 months on its first advanced pure electric vehicle architecture 'acti.Ev'. The company Friday said the 'Punch.Ev', the electric version of its compact SUV Punch, will be the first product based on its first pure EV architecture, acti.Ev. The acti.Ev platform will underpin future products from the Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM) portfolio and spawn a variety of products with multiple body styles and sizes, the company said in a statement.

### Toyota hikes rates

New Delhi: Toyota Kirloskar Motor Friday said it has increased prices of its vehicles ranging from 0.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent on select models and variants with effect from January 1, 2024. This increase was necessitated to partially offset the rising input costs, Tovota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) said in a statement. The overall price adjustment has been moderated taking into account a minimum impact on customers, it added.

Larsen & Toubro, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Hindustan Unilever, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and Wipro were the major gainers. Nestle India, Asian Paints, JSW Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank and HDFC Bank were among the losers.

The rupee appreciated 9 paise to close at 83.15 against the US dollar Friday.

On Thursday, the BSE benchmark rose 490.97 points or 0.69 per cent to settle at 71,847.57, and the Nifty surged 141.25 points or 0.66 per cent to 21,658.60.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets Friday as they bought shares worth ₹1,696.86 crore.

# POSITIVE DEMAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 5: The services sector growth in India rose to a three-month high in December supported by favourable economic conditions and positive demand trends, a monthly survey said Friday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from 56.9 in November to 59 in December, highlighting a sharp increase in output that was the most pronounced since September. In Purchasing Managers'

#### Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

The survey is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies.

"India's services sector ended the year on a high note, with an uptick in business activity, led by a three-month high new orders index," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

The rise in total new business was supported by continued Middle East and South America during December.

Dec services PMI hits 3-month high

"Demand buoyancy spurred sales, subsequently fuelling business activity. Job creation extended into a 19th successive month, while business optimism strengthened," the survey said.

Going ahead, services firms in India expect the strong demand momentum to carry forward to 2024 on advertising and better customer relationships.

On the prices front, cost pressures receded further, reaching their lowest in nearly three-and-

a-half years. Still, there was a quicker and solid upturn in selling charges

Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index increased from 57.4 to 58.5, signalling a sharp rate of expansion that was the strongest since September.

Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors according to official GDP data.

# Adani reclaims Asia's richest man spot

After a roller-coaster ride on the wealth rankings last year, Gautam Adani is back to being Asia's wealthiest person days after SC said no new probes were needed into Hindenburg Research's allegations against the tycoon's conglomerate

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 5: According to Bloomberg Billionaire's Index (BBI), Gautam Adani, Chairperson of the Adani Group of companies has overtaken Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, to become India's and Asia's richest man once again.

While Adani has seen his worth climb into the top 12 on the world rankings, Ambani is just one rung below at 13. Both have moved up spots since last year

Earlier in Dec, the billionaire had climbed to the 15th spot, reaching within close distance of Ambani who was then at 14. **Net Worth** 

With a net worth of \$97.6 billion, the Adani Group founder is now

the world's 12th richest person and the richest Indian and Asian on the list.

He has gained \$7.67 billion from the last list position and amassed \$13.3 billion year-to-date (YTD). Earlier last year, Adani saw his net worth slide many spots amid the Hindenberg allegations.

In January 2023, Hindenburg Research, a New York-based short seller, accused the Adani Group of prolonged stock ma-100 nipulation and accounting irregularities. These claims were refuted by the Adani Group. After these allegations, declines in the stock prices of Adani Group companies resulted in a staggering decrease of almost 60 percent in Adani's fortune, plummeting by up to \$69 billion.

### Source of Wealth

rankings

Ahmedabad's Adani Group, led by Gautam Adani, stands as a key infrastructure conglomerate in India. It owns the nation's largest private port and has a prominent role in global coal trading. Adani Enterprises, the flagship company within the group, disclosed revenues amounting to \$17 billion for the fiscal

Adani toppled Mukesh Ambani Ato regain his perch in wealth

With net worth of \$97.6bn,

world's 12th

ichest person

Ambani Astands at

13th spot globally with

total wealth o

\$97bn

Adani now

year concluding March 31, 2023. Gautam Adani's wealth pri-

growth of international sales.

Service providers noted higher

demand from clients based in

Australia, Canada, Europe, the

marily stems from his ownership in six publicly traded companies affiliated with the Adani Group, the conglomerate he established.

As per the BBI, Adani's companies and stakes (via promoter group and through the Adani family trust) include the publicly traded companies -- Adani Enterprises (73 percent); Adani Green Energy (56 percent); Adani Ports (66 percent); Adani Power (70 percent); Adani Transmission (68 percent); Adani Energy Solutions (73 percent), and Adani Total Gas (37 percent).

#### Other Indians in Top50

RIL's Ambani is now India and Asia's second richest man at the 13th spot with a wealth of \$97 billion. He has gained \$764 million since the last change and added \$665 million to his wealth YTD.

Rounding up the other Indians in the BBI Top 50 are Shapoor Mistry with \$34.6 billion at 38, and Shiv Nadar with \$33 billion at the 45th spot.

# Forex kitty jumps to \$623.2 billion

Mumbai: India's forex reserves jumped by \$2.759 billion to \$623.2 billion in the week ended December 29, the Reserve Bank said Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had increased by \$4.471 billion to \$620.441 billion. In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.



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# **OrissaPOST** SATURDAY | JANUARY 6 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR



# **Rahul opens up on turnaround**

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cape Town, Jan 5: India didn't have "extra fire" in the lost opening Test against South Africa but a "mental shift" turned things around, said KL Rahul after the visitors won the second game to level the two-match rubber here.

India had lost the opening Test by an innings and 32 runs in Centurion but the team regrouped to secure a seven-wicket win against South Africa within two days to record a memorable draw here Thursday.

"I think we weren't really 100 per cent during our last match in terms of batting or bowling. We were prepared, but that extra edge or extra fire was missing, credit to South Africa as well, that they didn't allow us to reach to that confidence," the 31-year-old told 'Star Sports'.

Rahul lauded the team for recovering quickly from the setback. "There was a little bit of change of the planning and attitude only. I mean we can't say that we weren't ready during the last Test match. We were ready but there are situations where the opposition really blasts you out of the Test match or we are not used to it," Rahul said.

"Since last 4-5 years, we've been a team that's really competed and we have won series outside of India, so we weren't ready for it and it was a huge hit for us. But it speaks volumes of how much we enjoy playing Test cricket and how much we value playing for our country and how much Test victories outside of India mean to us," he added. India faced criticism for being

COETZEE

ill-prepared after they were bowled out for 245 and 131 in the two innings in the first Test, while allowing South Africa to score 408 in their first essay. "It was just a mental shift dur-

ing the turnaround time of one day. We were more ready this time and we were ready for a fight. We wanted to get this win and just do our job really well." Rahul, who scored a memorable hundred in the first Test, admitted that they were not at their best in Centurion. "They bowled us out very cheaply in both the innings. So, we were really happy that we could bounce off so well.' **Oz lead Test chart** 

Despite a seven-wicket win at Cape Town to draw their twomatch series in South Africa, India were toppled from the top spot in ICC Test rankings by Australia Friday. Australia's impressive effort to take an unassailable 2-0 lead over Pakistan at home in the on-going three-match series has helped them move up in the rankings.

"Australia's impressive run at home against Pakistan helped them take the crown of the No.1 Test team once again, having last held the spot briefly following their WTC Final victory,' the ICC stated in a release.

In the previous update, India had more points in their kitty despite being tied with Australia at 118 rating points each. But the drawn series in South Africa meant India were leapfrogged by Australia. "It's the latest feat in a vear full of them for Australia, alongside their ICC World Test Championship Final victory and their ICC Men's Cricket World Cup triumph," the ICC stated further.

India, however, are placed at the top of the World Test Championship points table following their win at Newlands with 54.16 percentage points from four Tests that include two wins, one loss and a draw. South Africa are placed second followed by New Zealand at third and Australia at fourth with 50 percentage points each in the WTC table.

# Titas, openers decimate Oz<sup>4</sup> PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, Jan 5: Titas Sadhu's career-best 4/17, Deepti Sharma's 2/24 and Shreyanka Patil 2/19 helped India Women bundle Australia out for a mere 141 before openers Shafali Varma (64 n o, 44b, 6x4, 3x6) and Smriti Mandhana (54, 52b, 7x4, 1x6) made the chase a mere formality guiding the hosts to a comprehensive 9-wicket win in the opening game of the three-match T20I series here Friday.

Chasing 142, the left-right combination of Mandhana and Varma didn't allow the Australian bowlers to settle. Senior campaigner Mandhana played the role of an anhor, while Varma was the enforcer in their 137-run stand, which was broken in the 16th over by Georgia Wareham and courtesy a stunning catch in the boundary line by Tahlia McGrath. India completed the chase in 17.4 overs. Earlier, Titas rocked Australia

with a three-wicket opening burst, while Phoebe Litchfield (49, 32b, 4x4, 3x6) and Ellyse Perry (37, 30b, 2x4, 2x6) led the fightback for the visitors with a 79-run stand for the fifth wicket. However, Australia, who lost wickets in clusters on either side of the fifth wicket stand, were bowled out in 19.2 overs.

Titas returned 3-0-8-3 in her first spell in the powerplay, accounting for Beth Mooney (17), McGrath (0) and Ashleigh Gardner (0). The 19-year-old right-arm pacer then returned for her final over — 18th of the innings — and found further success dismissing Annabel Sutherland (12) for her fourth scalp of the night.

Having topped the batting chart in the ODIs, the left-handed



**Titas Sadhu** 

Litchfield carried her form into

the shortest format but fell short

of a fifty. While Litchfield pro-

vided the fireworks, the sea-

soned Perry played second fid-

dle to perfection. Perry was one

of the two dismissals for Deepti,

To their credit, India showed

tremendous application and im-

provement in their fielding to

stop plenty of runs by putting

But there was a dropped catch

of Litchfield when she was on 27.

It came in the 12th over when

Litchfield got a leading edge

while attempting a reverse sweep

off Deepti, which should have

sion between two fielders -

Renuka Singh Thakur and

Jemimah Rodrigues — saw the

ball dropping between them

when either of them could have

taken a simple grab. Litchfield

But an embarrassing confu-

who showed great control.

their bodies on the line.

been a simple catch.

Smriti Mandhana & Shafali Varma

eventually fell in the 15th over off Amanjot Kaur (1/23), caught by skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who took four catches in all.

Titas provided India with the first breakthrough in the fourth over when she had Mooney. Renuka then got rid of Alyssa Healy (8). Titas troubled McGrath as an outside edge fell short of Deepti at the first slip, but a thick outside edge carried all the way down to the deep third, where Pooja Vastrakar took a fine catch.

Titas rocked Australia again when she had Gardner (0) hitting one back at her meekly for a return catch, reducing the visitors to 33/4 after the powerplay. BRIEF SCORES: Australia

Women 141 (Phoebe Litchfield 49, Ellyse Perry 37; Titas Sadhu 4/17, Deepti Sharma 2/24, Shreyanka Patil 2/19) lost to India Women 145/1 (Shafali Varma 64 n o, Smriti Mandhana 54) by 9 wickets.

RANJI TROPHY

Mitesh, Atit lift



### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ireland June 5 in New York.

Date



After facing Pakistan, India will stay back in New York to take on the co-host nation June 12. and then they will travel to Florida to play against Canada in their final group assignment June 15.

: Date

URE OF

THE 2024 EDITION OF MEN'S WORLD T20, CO-HOSTED BY WEST INDIES AND THE USA, WILL BE THE LARGEST EVER IN THE HISTORY OF THE COMPETITION AS IT FEATURES 20 TEAMS DIVIDED IN FOUR GROUPS. THE **PREVIOUS EDITION IN 2022 HAD 16 TEAMS** 

THE GROUPS: A: India, Pakistan, Ireland, Canada, USA; B: England, Australia, Namibia, Scotland, Oman; C: New Zealand, West Indies, Afghanistan, Uganda, Papua New Guinea; Group D: South Africa, Sri Lanka Bangladesh, Netherlands, Nepal.

The tournament will kick off June 1, while the semifinals are slated for June 26 in Guyana and June 27 in Trinidad. Barbados will host the final, June 29

England are the title holders, having beaten Pakistan in 2022 edition The group stage matches will be played June 1-18, while the Super 8 games are scheduled for June 19-24

The top two teams from each group will enter the Super 8, where the teams will be clubbed into two groups of four each. The top two teams in each Super 8 group will advance to the semifinals

WORLD CUP

Match-up





Bhubaneswar. Jan 5: Odisha bowlers were all over Baroda before Mitesh Patel (94 batting, 121b, 12x4, 1x6) and Atit Sheth (56 batting, 75b, 6x4) salvaged the innings with an unbroken 112run stand for the seventh wicket in their Elite Group D encounter of the Ranji Trophy in Vadodara, Friday. Baroda were 322/6 at stumps on the opening day of the teams' Ranji Trophy season opener. Odisha have five different wickettakers, while Baroda skipper Vishnu Solanki (18) was run out. Odisha's decision to bowl first after winning the toss paid dividends as seasoned Survakant Pradhan (1/75) removed opener Kinit Patel (4) in the second over. However, Jyotsnil Singh (73, 143b, 9x4, 1x6), the other opener, and Shashwat Rawat (17) stitched 62 runs for the second wicket. The duo was looking good until pacer Rajesh Mohanty (1/56) broke the stand getting rid of Shashwat. Few overs later, a lack in communication led to skipper Vishnu's run out as Baroda were reduced to 87/3. Abhimanyusingh Rajput (9) was the next man to be dismissed off Debabrata Pradhan (1/48). Baroda lost half of their side when left-arm spinner Jayant Behera (1/88) got the crucial scalp of Jyotsnil leaving the hosts in deep trouble at 130/5. However, Ninad Rathva (48, 78b, 6x4) and Mitesh steadied the ship with an 80-run partnership for the sixth wicket. Govind Poddar (1/50) got the breakthrough of Ninad and it was Odisha's last joy on the day. Then it was all Mitesh-Atit show till the stumps. The pair didn't allow Odisha bowlers to dominate and played to their strengths. They guided the team past 300 before holding their nerves to remain unperturbed until umpires call off the day's play.



# but Aussies in control

New Delhi, Jan 5: The riveting cricketing rivalry between India and Pakistan will reach planet's biggest show city New York June 9 when the arch-rivals go against each other there in a Group A match of the ICC T20 World Cup 2024.

The schedule for the showpiece was revealed Friday, and India are clubbed with Pakistan, Ireland, Canada and co-hosts USA in Group A for the league stage games. India will open their World Cup campaign with a match against

Match-up

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sydney, Jan 5: Fast bowler Aamir Jamal took 6/69 to help Pakistan take a slender first-innings lead over Australia Friday before the home team bowlers regained the advantage in the third Test

The Australians took seven wickets in the session before stumps on Day 3 to leave Pakistan facing the prospect of losing yet another Test match Down Under.

Jamal was instrumental in Australia losing their last four first-innings wickets for 10 runs to be all out for 299, trailing Pakistan by 14 runs. It was the first time since December 2020 Australia had been behind in a home Test match ahead of the second innings.

But then, the Australian bowlers took over. Josh Hazlewood snared four wickets (4/9) and Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon and Travis Head took one each as Pakistan slumped to 68/7 at stumps, an overall lead of 82. Pakistan's last Test match win in Australia was in 1995, at the SCG

After almost an early domination by the batters, the afternoon belonged to the bowling attacks. Aamir bagged his second six-wicket haul in just three Tests. His 18 wickets are the most for any rookie Pakistan bowler in a three-Test series.

Aamir has also been a star at the crease. Batting at No.9 in the first innings he made 82 to frustrate the Australians on Day 1. He'll be batting Saturday as Pakistan tries to set a decent target for Australia and avoid a series sweep

Meanwhile, Australia opener

1	
- 2	ARTIN

osh Hazlewood



Aamer Jamal

David Warner, who was dismissed for 34 in the first innings in his final Test, revealed that his lost "baggy green" Test caps had been recovered.

Warner's couple of baggy green caps went missing in transit between Melbourne and Sydney this week and Warner thought they'd been stolen from his luggage. Ahead of Friday's play, Warner took to social media

to say the caps had been located. "It's a load off my shoulders going into the last couple of days," Warner said on Instagram. "Any cricketer knows how special their cap is and I'll cherish this for the rest of my life. I'm

very grateful to all those involved in locating it.' Brief scores: Pakistan 313 & 68/7 (Saim Ayub 33, Babar Azam 23; Josh Hazlewood 4/9); Australia 299 (Mitchell Marsh 54, Alex

Carey 38; Aamer Jamal 6/69).

June 1	USA vs CAN	Dallas	June 9	IND vs PAK	New York	June 16	SRI vs NED	St Lucia
June 2	WIN vs PNG	Guyana	June 9	OMN vs SCO	Antigua	June 17	NZL vs PNG	Trinidad
June 2	NAM vs OMN	Barbados	June 10	RSA vs BAN	New York	June 17	WIN vs AFG	St Lucia
June 3	SRI vs RSA	New York	June 11	PAK vs CAN	New York	June 19	A2 vs D1	Antigua
June 3	AFG vs UGA	Guyana	June 11	SRI vs NEP	Florida	June 19	B1 vs C2	St Lucia
June 4	ENG vs SCO	Barbados	June 11	AUS vs NAM	Antigua	June 20	C1 vs A1	Barbados
June 4	NED vs NEP	Dallas	June 12	USA vs IND	New York	June 20	B2 vs D2	Antigua
June 5	IND vs IRE	New York	June 12	WIN vs NZL	Trinidad	June 21	B1 vs D1	St Lucia
June 5	PNG vs UGA	Guyana	June 13	ENG vs OMN	Antigua	June 21	A2 vs C2	Barbados
June 5	AUS vs OMN	Barbados	June 13	BAN vs NED	St Vincent	June 22	A1 vs D2	Antigua
June 6	USA vs PAK	Dallas	June 13	AFG vs PNG	Trinidad	June 22	C1 vs B2	St Vincent
June 6	NAM vs SCO	Barbados	June 14 June 14	USA vs IRE RSA vs NEP	Florida St Vincent	June 23	A2 vs B1	Barbados
June 7	CAN vs IRE	New York	June 14	NZL VS UGA	Trinidad	June 23	C2 vs D1	Antigua
June 7	NZL vs AFG	Guyana	June 14	IND vs CAN	Florida	June 24	B2 vs A1	St Lucia
June 7	SRI vs BAN	Dallas	June 15	NAM vs ENG	Antigua	June 24	C1 vs D2	St Vincent
June 8	NED vs RSA	New York	June 15	AUS vs SCO	St Lucia	June 26	Semifinal 1	Guyana
June 8	AUS vs ENG	Barbados	June 16	PAK vs IRE	Florida	June 27	Semifinal 2	Trinidad
June 8	WIN vs UGA	Guyana	June 16	BAN vs NEP	St Vincent	June 29	Final	Barbados

Match-up

dia (IND), Pakistan (PAK), Australia (AUS), England (ENG), New Zealand (NZL), South Africa (RSA), West Indies (WIN), Sri Lanka (SRI), Bangladesh (BAN), Afghanistan (AFG). Ireland (IRE), The Netherlands (NED), Scotland (SCO), Nepal (NEP), The USA (USA), Namibia (NAM), Papua New Guinea (PNG), Oman (OMN)

# AFC P

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Jan 5: Indumathi Kathiresan's goal from the penalty spot in the 66th minute secured a 1-0 win for Odisha FC - their third consecutive victory - against Sethu FC in the Indian Women's League (IWL) at the Bhubaneshwar Football

The victory not only fetched Odisha FC three points but also took them to the top of the IWL table with nine points from three matches with a perfect defensive record of zero goals conceded so far.

inside the penalty box by Sonali Chemate for the Odisha attack to break the stout Sethu FC de-

throughout the match, but it

Academy Stadium, Friday.

It took 65 minutes and a foul

fensive wall. The hosts put on a stellar performance and dominated ball possession in the midfield



was the lack of quality in the final third that kept the scores level in the first half.

Pyari Xaxa squandered an early opportunity to give the hosts the lead as her header just

fizzled past the post. Sethu FC's defence breathed a sigh of relief as Indumathi hit the post from close range in the 27th minute. The home team started the second half with a lot of zest

and intensity. S Lynda Kom wasted a wonderful opportunity to score her first goal of the season in the 49th minute as she put the ball over the post from close range.

All the pressure finally paid off as Pyari trickled past the Sethu FC defence with her quick feet and was fouled from behind by Chemate inside the box. The referee was quick to point to the spot and Indumathi made no mistake comfortably putting the ball in the bottom left corner to give Odisha the lead.

Sethu FC seemed desperate for a goal in the final stages, but it was the lack of quality in the final third that led them down. Sethu FC faced their first de-

feat of the season, which now puts them in third place with four points from three matches. Odisha FC now sit comfortably at the top of the table with three wins out of three matches.

BRIEF SCORES: Baroda 322/6 (Mitesh Patel 94 batting, Jyotsnil Singh 73, Atit Sheth 56, Ninad Rathva 48; Debabrata Pradhan 1/48, Govind Poddar 1/50) vs – Odisha. Match to continue.

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Match to continue.



