





ପ୍ରତିଟି ଓଡ଼ିଆଙ୍କ ମଉଡ଼ମଣି ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ମହିମାରୁ ଆରୟ ହୋଇଛି <mark>'ଶ୍ରୀମନ୍ଦିର ପରିକ୍ରମା ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ</mark>'

ବିଶ୍ୱଐତିହ୍ୟ ସହରରେ ରୂପାନ୍ତରିତ ହେଉଛି ଶ୍ରୀକ୍ଷେତ୍ର ଶାନ୍ତିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପରିକ୍ରମା କରିପାରିବେ ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାଳୁ

ଆଉକିଛି ଦିନର ଅପେକ୍ଷା ଐତିହାସିକ <mark>ଶ୍ରୀମନ୍ଦିର ପରିକ୍ରମା ପ୍ରକଳ୍</mark>ପର ହେବ ଲୋକାର୍ପଣ ୧୭ ଜାନୁଆରୀ ୨୦୨୪



eisure



BRUNO MARS' RELATIONSHIP WITH JESSICA CABAN ON THE ROCKS

Singer-songwriter Bruno Mars' long-term relationship is reportedly on the rocks. The 38-year-old singer has been dating model Jessica Caban for 13 years. The 41year-old is said to have spent Christmas and New Years away from Bruno, amid the reports about their shaky relationship, reports Mirror.co.uk.

GOMEZ RETURNS TO INSTAGRAM A DAY AFTER ANNOUNCING BREAK

Selena Gomez is back on social media. One day after the singer and actress announced plans to take a break from social media 'for a while', she posted on Instagram to promote a collaborative cooking video with chef Gordon Ramsay.



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES

Today, you need to access every bit of your mental agility. Quick and spontaneous decisions are the need of the hour. But a word of caution from Ganesha: take advice, as these decisions could have long-term implications, especially if they involve money

TAURUS

Nostalgia will paint your workplace a bright energetic red today, says

Ganesha. All the problems that life throws at you will be deflected by your tough exterior and efficient capabilities. Medals and trophies beckon as you taste success and emerge a winner

GEMINI

Emotions, not acidity, will be the cause of your uneasiness. Something important is going on in your life and you are nervous. It can be related to a matter concerning law, ethics, prejudice, education, or social customs. You are, however, like ly to win admiration from all quarters for your fine taste in arts, says Ganesha

CANCER

Ganesha predicts an excellent and exceptional day for you at work. You are likely to need all your business acumen while negotiating deals. Your leadership skills are likely to come to the fore during the final stage of a deadline, be it about com nleting an order or launching new products and marketing them, says Ganesha

Mumbai: Amitabh Bachchan's

grandson Agastya Nanda re-

cently made his Hindi film

industry debut with the tit-

ular character in Zoya

Akhtar's period coming-

of-age film The Archies on

Netflix India. However, in

a recent interview, the

voung actor revealed no

one knew how he used to

debut movie

look before he signed his

ting a break with The Archies.

'I've gone to another office

where the security guard

was like, 'Idhar aa, idhar

aa (come here).' He said,

'Naam likh. package de-

livery time bata. (Write

down your name and the

delivery time of package).

I said I've not come here to

deliver the package, I've

come here to meet the di-

rector. Then he said,

'Nahi nahi, jhooth

mat bol (No, don't

lie).' This hap-

pens quite a

Agastya recalled a hilarious in-

cident when he was actively meeting

filmmakers to explore opportunities before get-

Today may not be the best time to mess with you, considering the aura of invincibility that you possess. Be it a game, a competition, or an argument, you will have the edge over others in every sphere, says Ganesha, Also, you may come across people with whom you will have personal differences, and those who will try to change your fortunes.

VIRGO

Ganesha feels that today may be an important turning point in your life. You will look to secure the money much required for your bright future. Relationship matters will top your priorities during the afternoon today

Today is an important day



It's always fun to play negative roles: Farnaz

Mumbai: Actress Farnaz Shetty, who is recently seen in the web series Video Cam Scam has opened up on her character in the show, and shared how it's always fun to play negative roles as they have so many layers and shades to it. crime The thriller Video Cam

Scam is based on real-life events about cybercrime and sextortion. While Farnaz did not relate to her character Sweety, it added to the fun of playing her on screen. The actress, known for ier work in Balika 'adhu, said: "Why I chose to do this was because I honestly felt that this character is owhere

Amitabh's

taken to be a

delivery boy

close to me. When I heard about this subject, I was like 'aisa bhi kuch hota hai?' No one in my circle of friends, never ever happened to talk on this subject. So. for me, it was really new.

"I never knew that something like sextortion also happens and people are victimised so brutally. And in my real life, I definitely cannot be a scammer. But on screen, if I get a chance like this, it's fun to do. It's always fun to play negative roles because they have so many layers and shades to it. So for that reason I felt that this is something I want to do and it just grabbed my attention,"

she shared. The series is streaming on Epic On IANS

lot," he said in the in-

terview. grandson was maker at their office. He went in and waited inside for 45 minutes before he overheard two people dis

cussing Agastya isn't here. He had to then flag his presence. Agastya attrib uted his lack of recognition, despite being Amitabh Bachchan's maternal grandson. to growing up away from the imelight in Delhi with his father, a businessman. AGENCIES

He also revealed another instance where he had an appointment with a film-

Mumbai: Kangana Ranaut has been very actively trying to save the marriage of her friend Ankita Lokhande. But netizens are now interested in Kangana's love ife as she is spotted with a mystery man n Mumbai.

In pictures shared by phographer Yogen Shah, Kangana as seen holding a mystery man's hand Friday evening. The Tejas actress wore a blue maxi dress, while her companion looked dapper in an all-black ensemble. Eyebrows were raised as soon as the pictures surfaced on the internet. Many wondered if she was hinting at a romance

While Kangana's fans wondered who the mystery man was, with a little digging it was found out that he is Loic Chapoix, a well

Dia talks about an actor's insecurities

Mumbai: Actress Dia Mirza has spoken about her career and if she dislikes anything about the acting profession. Speaking with a film magazine, Dia also responded to question about her insecurities as an actor. When asked if she would want to change any part of her professional journey, Dia replied, "The fact is that I came into cinema completely untrained and unprepared. I learned verything on the job. While that has its own merits, I do recognise the invaluable contribution a good, solid education in acting makes to helping an individual define their creative voice and choices. Most of my choices in the first eight to ten years of my career were made out of fear. I was ill-equipped to find my voice or the authenticity that now defines all my choices.'

Dia was asked what is the one thing she dislikes about the profession of acting, she replied she doesn't enjoy 'the fake news we have to contend with'. Talking about her insecurities as an actor, Dia said, "Oh yes. Absolutely! Especially when I was younger. The fear of losing out, the fear of rejection, the fear of ageism, and the loss of opportunity in an ageist industry." Fans saw Dia recently in Dhak Dhak, which also stars Ratna Pathak Shah, Sanjana

Sanghi and Fatima Sana Shaikh. AGENCIES

Alia Bhatt, Kiara

Kangana sparks dating rumours

media handle. Loic is the Creative Art Director at Dessange India, a renowned French salon, which has multiple branches across India. Loic has worked with the likes of Deepika Padukone,



his work with them on his Instagram handle, it was noticed that he did not have a single picture with

Kangana on his social media profile.

Despite the buzz, Kangana has chosen to remain silent

will extend their best possible cooperation to you. Your chances of winning in cut-throat competitions are very bright today, predicts Ganesha.

SCORPIO

There is nothing more enchanting and alluring to you than some passionate time with your love interest. The only problem that Ganesha sees here is that there may be too many love interests Your chosen partner, though, may get to see a different side of you in the evening The Scorpio in you can make anyone fall on their knees, begging for your love.

SAGITTARIUS

Unnecessary expenditure might clog your bill today, feels Ganesha. Organising and detailing will be a time-sink as you will spend hapless hours trying to discipline things. The vibrant evening will be a contrast to your hectic day as you kick back and relax while socialising

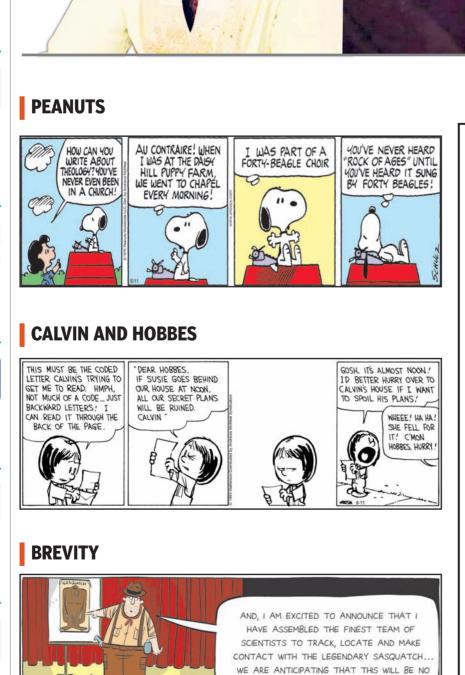
Your grand orchestration may not come to fruition. and even your best-laid plans may go awry, says Ganesha. Squabbles with people over petty issues will add to your growing vexation; keep calm and you'll handle all of it just fine.

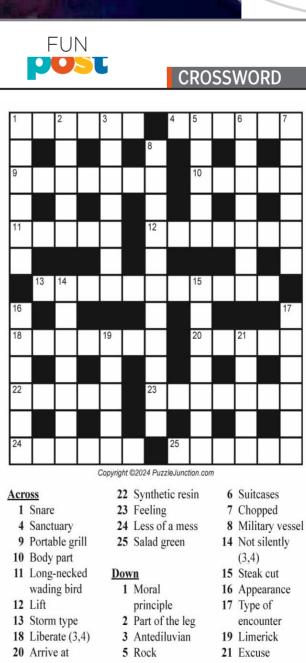
Finally, you've decided to clean up the mess! And you will do a fine job, whether it's your workspace, your bills, your finances, or even your closet. And now that you're inspired, you might as well sort out your mental clutter too chuckles Ganesha.

PISCES

Financially, you have bright prospects awaiting you today. You will be able to dea with the mind-numbing financial jugglery required to take stock of your monetary matters with precision. You might be dealing with people who secretly have an axe to grind against you, cautions Ganesha.

.....





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

known hairstylist in the tinsel town. Going by his fans. social AGENCIES

which is only adding to the curiosity of the

SUDOKU

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

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SOLUTIONS SPOILEDPAPER

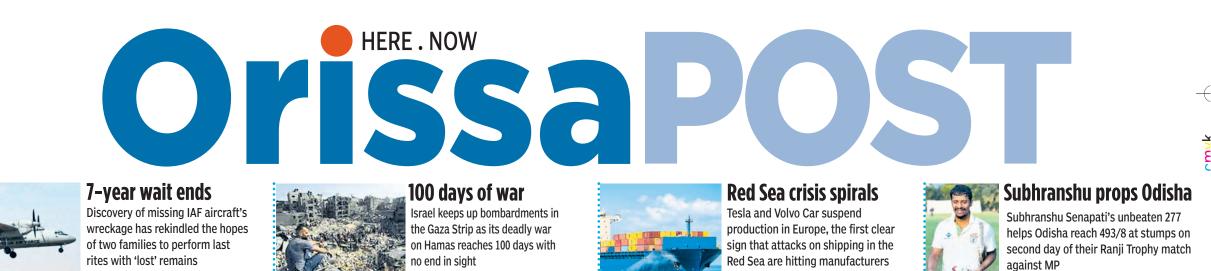
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SMALL FEET.





INTERNATIONAL | P8

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY JANUARY 14 | 2024

SPORTS | BACK PAGE



GET, SET, CLICK: Girls take selfie during the state-level Annual Flower Show at Ekamra Kanan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

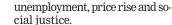
STATE | P3

Rahul-led 'Nyay Yatra' begins today

AGENCIES

Imphal, Jan 13: The Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will begin from violencehit Manipur Sunday, in what is being seen as the party's bid to set the narrative in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls and put the spotlight on issues such as

www.orissapost.com



The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will travel through 100 Lok Sabha segments in 15 states and the party believes it will prove to be as 'transformative' as Gandhi's earlier cross-country march.

The Congress has said that it is taking out the Bharat Jodo

Nyay Yatra as the government did not give it a chance to raise people's issues in Parliament and the initiative is aimed at reestablishing the principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity enshrined in the Constitution. Though the Congress has stressed that this is not an electoral yatra, it comes

at a crucial juncture as the party seeks to revive its fortunes after a poor showing in the last round of assembly elections.

With the BJP focusing on the January 22 Ram temple consecration ceremony, the Congress wants to put the spotlight on bread-and-butter issues through this yatra.

Kharge to lead INDIA

BUSINESS P9

JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar's name proposed for Convener

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 13: A consensus emerged on the name of Congress president Mallikariun Kharge to be chairperson of the Opposition bloc INDIA, while JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar's name was proposed for convener's post, pending approval of parties absent at the alliance meeting Saturday, according to sources.

Leaders of the INDIA bloc met virtually and discussed various aspects of the alliance like seat-sharing and preparations for the Lok Sabha elections, due in April-May. The sources said leaders of the Trinamool Congress, the Uddhav Thackerayled Shiv Sena and the Samajwadi Party did not attend the meeting.

person and convener having an upper hand in the race for the leaders of various parties mainthe INDIA bloc would be decided only after the elections.

vision.²



Many see the alliance chairperson and convener having an upper hand in the race for the prime ministerial candidate, but leaders of various parties maintained that the PM candidate of the INDIA bloc would be decided only after the elections

"AICC President Shri

Mallikarjun Kharge is not just Karnataka's pride, he is the country's pride, and one of the most experienced leaders we have right now. Today, he has been named Chairperson of INDIA bloc, which shows dependability and trust in his leadership and vision. My best wishes to him, and I know that he will steer INDIA bloc with immense commitment and dedication, like he has led Congress Party,' Shivakumar said.

NCP president Sharad Pawar who attended the meeting told reporters that Nitish Kumar's

name was suggested for the post of convener, but the JD(U) leader was of the view that a team of party chiefs should be formed and that there is no need to appoint a convenor.

Sources said the alliance leaders would be meeting physically soon later in the month to chalk out further plans.

In the evening, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also met Kharge at his residence, where Rahul Gandhi was also present. AAP leader Raghav Chadha also attended the talks which related to seat-sharing between the two parties, the sources said.

Kharge later said in a post on X that the leaders of the INDIA Coordination Committee met online and had a fruitful discussion on the alliance.

"Everyone is happy that the seat-sharing talks are progressing in a positive way. We also discussed about joint programmes in the coming days by INDIA Parties. I, along with Rahul Gandhi ji invited all INDIA Parties to join 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' at their convenience and use the opportunity to raise the social, political and economic issues plaguing common people of this country," the Congress chief said.

PATANJALI

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

We are from the

PURI TURNS FORTRESS Pilgrim City will be under 5-layer security blanket for mega event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

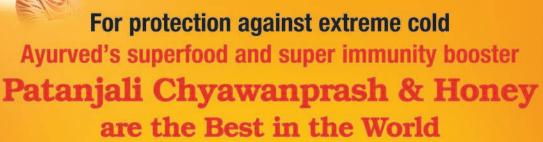
Puri, Jan 13: Anticipating a huge turnout of around five lakh devotees, five-layer security arrangements have been put in place in Puri, akin to measures taken during the annual Rath Yatra, for the inauguration of the temple heritage corridor project January 17, officials said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is scheduled to inaugurate the Shree Mandira Parikrama Project (SMPP) or heritage corridor project, a periphery redevelopment project of the renowned Jagannath temple here. However, rituals for the mega event have already begun from Friday evening.

of lifeguards will be stationed at the designated bathing points along the beach. Police help desks will be opened at various locations on the Bhubaneswar-Puri highway, and police escorts will be provided to distinguished invitees during their visit to the temple, an official said.

More than 44 platoons of police, with one platoon comprising 30 personnel, have been deployed to provide security, maintain law and order and manage traffic in the town from January 12 to 16. the IG said, adding 45 police officers will supervise the arrangements.





Many see the alliance chair-

prime ministerial candidate, but tained that the PM candidate of

In a post on X, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka DK Shivakumar said Saturday evening that Kharge "has been named Chairperson of INDIA bloc, which shows dependability and trust in his leadership and

vou like this for safety reasons

WEATHER

	• •	
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	27.7°C	26.0°(
Min Temp	15.5℃	14.0°(
Humidity	58%	679
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
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Croc numbers up

KENDRAPARA: Crocodile population witnessed a rise in Bhitarkanika National Park under Rainagar forest division in Kendrapara district, as per a census which concluded Saturday. With additional 18 crocodiles, the reptile population in the park rose to 1,811 this year.

Jagannath Temple Shree Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Ranjan Kumar Das said a large number of dignitaries, including ministers, political leaders and 'sants' are likely to attend the event.

Expecting a heavy rush to the temple town, a strict vigil is being kept across the coastal town, at the 12th century shrine and the beach area, officials said. According to a senior police officer, the temple and the town will be under a fivelayer security blanket for the mega event. Rath Yatra-like security arrangements have been made in Puri, he said.

IG (central range) Ashish Singh and Puri Superintendent of Police Kanwar Vishal Singh Friday briefed police officers about their duties and responsibilities. A large number of security personnel will be deployed in and around the temple, while special security coverage will be provided to the VVIPs.

Indian Coast Guard and Marine Police will guard the sea front while hundreds

Security personnel have been deployed inside the temple to ensure smooth 'darshan' while an adequate number of personnel will also be deployed at the four gates of the temple, he said.

Singh said that 135 CCTVs with facereading technology have been installed around the corridor and a control room has been set up and immediate action will be taken if any suspicious activity is detected. The IG said security will be further tightened with the deployment of an additional 20 platoons of personnel and additional officers January 17. Besides, some restrictions will be im-

posed on movement of traffic on that day, he said.

Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh said vehicle parking arrangements will be made at Samang, Malatipatpur Bus Stand, Jail Road Multi-level Parking Complex, Yatrika, and Jagannath Ballav parking lots.

The ₹800-crore project will ensure expansive, unobstructed corridors around the Meghanada Pacheri of the temple and will provide the devotees excellent visual connection with the 12th century shrine.

2,000-yr-old lost cities mapped in Amazon

SETTLEMENTS WERE OCCUPIED BY THE UPANO PEOPLE BETWEEN AROUND 500 BC AND 300 TO 600 AD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Jan 13: Archaeologists have uncovered a cluster of lost cities in the Amazon rainforest that was home to at least 10,000 farmers around 2.000 years ago.

A series of earthen mounds and buried roads in Ecuador was first noticed more than two decades ago by archaeologist Stéphen Rostain. But at the time, "I wasn't sure how it all fit together," said Rostain, one of the researchers who reported on the finding Thursday in the journal Science.

Recent mapping by laser-sensor technology revealed those sites to be part of a dense network of settlements and connecting roadways, tucked into the forested foothills of the Andes, that lasted about 1,000 years.



"It was a lost valley of cities," said Rostain, who directs investigations at France's National Centre for Scientific Research. "It's incredible." The settlements were occupied by

the Upano people between around 500 BC and 300 to 600 AD — a period roughly contemporaneous with the Roman Empire in Europe, the researchers found.

Residential and ceremonial buildings erected on more than 6,000 earthen

mounds were surrounded by agricultural fields with drainage canals. The largest roads were 33 feet (10 metres) wide and stretched for 6 to 12 miles (10 to 20 km).

While it's difficult to estimate populations, the site was home to at least 10,000 inhabitants — and perhaps as many as 15,000 or 30,000 at its peak, said archaeologist Antoine Dorison, a study co-author at the same French institute. That's comparable to the estimated population of Roman-era London, then Britain's largest city.

"This shows a very dense occupation and an extremely complicated society," said University of Florida archaeologist Michael Heckenberger, who was not involved in the study. "For the region, it's really in a class of its own in terms of how early it is."

to increase strength, agility and eradicate all diseases.

PATANJALI

योजने हमें, हुड़ता के 100 से अधिक नामदेते पर इत प्रविध्य स्वय होनी का जमाना उसका स्वामाविक गुण ई

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downtown

Pandian continues Sambalpur visit

Projects worth ₹*326 crore have been taken up since* the 5T Chairman's last visit to the district in July, 2023

college students. He asked the

students to utilise the platform of-

fered by the platform to show-

case their talent and achieve over-

all personality development in

addition to academic excellence.

personalities of the district. like

IAS PK Mishra, Pandian urged

the students to work hard with

self-confidence to achieve success

in life. He motivated them to

dream big and work hard to-

Giving example of prominent



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: On the second day of his visit to Sambalpur Saturday, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian reviewed progress of various developmental projects while also interacting with students and the general public.

Pandian participated in the Nua-O programme at Mandalia Ground, where he interacted with

327 transformed schools inaugurated

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday inaugurated 327 transformed schools spread across six districts of Odisha. The transformed schools are provided with smart classrooms, computers and laboratories with latest equipment, and above all an ideal environment for students for learning. As many as 35 schools in Malkangiri, 76 in Balasore, 28 in Gajapati, 63 in Dhenkanal, 45 in Keonjhar and 80 in Cuttack have been transformed under 5T (transformational) Initiative of Odisha government. Official sources said a total 1,794 schools across the state will be covered in the 4th phase

CLASSIFIED

of the transformation programme

AFFIDAVIT

I, Akshyaya Kumar Pradhan, S/o-Durga Charan Pradhan, At-Kathakhunta, P.O. Kokalaba, Via-Narasinghpur, Dist.-Cuttack, PIN-754032 I was Service in Defence and Retired. My Service document has mentioned Nivedita Pradhan and her Date of Birth is 18.11.1974. But her original Date of

wards achieving their goals. Later, the 5T Chairman visited the Maa Samaleswari Temple and reviewed progress of the SAMLEI project, which is being implemented in two phases with a total cost of ₹292 crore, and is set to be inaugurated January 27.

Moreover, he reviewed the progress of construction of 4 **Instream Storage Structures** (ISS) on the Bheden river in Budharaja, Kirasasan, Saida and Gochhara in Kuchinda being built at a total cost of ₹210 crore. Among other projects, he reviewed Mega PWS projects in 7 blocks being built with a total cost of ₹802 crore, 16 road projects being built at a cost of ₹131 crore and 16 bridge projects being built at a cost of ₹90 crore.

Work on many of the major projects was taken up after the previous visit of the 5T Chairman to Sambalpur in July, 2023, when he had attended grievance meetings and took feedback from the public," said an official.

Discoms launch My Odisha, India's Pride

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: To celebrate the rich and diverse culture of the state, Odisha discoms, a joint venture of Tata Power and the Odisha government, is organising the 'My Odisha, India's Pride' contest, which has received over 400 entries from young people in form of paintings, sketches, poems, essays, and short stories.

'The contest is a unique initiative to celebrate and promote the rich and diverse beauty of Odisha, inviting children to express their pride and love for their culture through various artistic mediums," said a TP official.

The contest is open till January 14. Entries will be selected by a panel of judges and winners will be announced in a ceremony organised to recognise their artistic contributions. The winning entries will also be distributed through the company's social media platforms, informed the

official Participants can directly upload their entries on the 'My Odisha. India's Pride' contest portal in categorised folders with name, age, phone number as file name.

Alternatively, they may email their entries to photocontest.tpodisha@tatapower.com.

Vaishnaw flags off MEMU train



30 districts of Odisha. My observation is that people are very simple and satisfied with small achievements. However, the world is changing fast and we should move with that speed. So, we need to expand our vision accordingly," he said.

Odisha can become a developed state if the poor or the middle-class change their mindset, he said

Responding to queries on the education system in Odisha. he said. "The state has recorded a

BJP workers block highway over corporator's arrest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Workers ects in the state, Vaishnaw said of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJD) route survey work has been comstaged a demonstration and pleted and it will be extended blocked the National Highway-16 up to Digha in West Bengal very at Satsang Vihar in Bhubaneswar soon. A new railway flyover at Saturday protesting the arrest of a party corporator. Khatapada in Balasore district

Following the protest, vehicular movement was disrupted on the highway causing inconvenience

BHEL to set up ₹15,000cr thermal plant in Jharsuguda

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 13: Integrated ever I meet people. I urge them lignite and coal mining and to send children to schools.' power generation company NLC He said that it is not only the India Ltd has awarded over responsibility of the state gov-₹15,000 crore engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) ernment but also of every individual to make efforts towards contract to Bharat Heavy reducing the school dropout rate.

Shakt

Electricals Limited (BHEL) for 2,400 MW pit head green field thermal power project in Odisha, the two companies said. NLC India said the 2,400 MW (3x800 MW) power project will

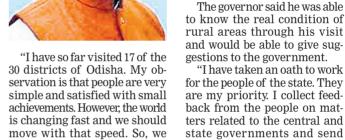
come up at Jharsuguda district based on Ultra Super Critical Technology.

The Navratna company said that the entire power of 2,400 MW is tied up with the states of Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Kerala and Puducherry.



EPC contract scope includes engineering, manufacturing, supply, erection and commissioning of equipment such as boilers, turbines, generators, balance of plants and others, the company said.

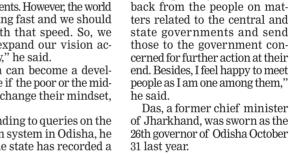
"For the thermal project, the coal linkage is available from 20 million tonne per annum (MTPA) Talabira II & III OCP mines of NLCIL which is already operational from 2020 in Jharsuguda and Sambalpur districts of Odisha," the



arrived at the spot, Aparupa heckled with a Woman ASI. Anjana Baral, said a police officer from

Mancheswar police station. A video that has made rounds in social media displayed that both Aparupa and Anjana in a brawl, where the latter is seen getting irked to Aparupa filming the incident with mobile phone. The Mancheswar police

ooked Aparupa under Sections company said.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: Guests, including Mission Shakti Minister Basanti Hembram, commissioner-cum-secretary Sujata R Karthikeyan and state Chief

Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, unveil 'Mission Shaki: Seeds of Change' on the 2nd day of Krushi Odisha-2024 at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Broaden vision for state's further growth: Governor **GOVERNOR SAID THAT** 49 per cent school dropout rate which is alarming. So, when-

INSTEAD OF GETTING SATISFIED WITH SMALL ACHIEVEMENTS, **PEOPLE SHOULD CHANGE THEIR** MINDSET AND EXPAND **THEIR VISION**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Governor Raghubar Das Saturday urged people to broaden their vision for further development of the state.

In his first interaction with journalists after assuming charge as the governor, Das said Odisha is not poor as it is blessed with natural resources and has the poа tential to become developed state.

a year, it is more than 450 km in

the national network in a year

Speaking of the railway proj-

the Jaleswar-Chandaneswar rail

now," the minister said.

Birth is 24.06.1972 and name is Nibedita Pradhan, her Aadhaar No. is-xxxxxx2991

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Sonepur, dated 12.01.24, I, Shibanee Urma, W/o-Himanshu Barik, Village-Luhurapali, P.O. Rengali, P.S.- Dunguripali, Dist.- Subarnapur, Odisha declare that I have changed my surname from Shibanee Barik to Shibanee Urma. Henceforth, I shall be known as Shibanee Urma for all purposes.

LOST

I, Sujay Kumar Giri, father late Gourishankar Giri, At-Aruha, P.O.-Salikotha, Jaleswar, Balasore, declare that Khata No. 173/82, Dalil No.- 1815 named on Managobinda Biswal, Mouza - Dharastak, Nayabazar, Jaleswar. The Dalil was missing on dt.08.01.2024 while I travel from Navabazar to Station Bazar. So if anyone found kindly contact to Advocate Bimal Sen, Mob. No.-7978375542.

During his two-day visit, the Railway Minister

inaugurates the 18km stretch of Gopinathpur

Nilgiri-Balasore railway line

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The MEMU train between Gopinathpur Nilgiri to Balasore Balasore, Jan 13: Railway in South Eastern (SE) Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. division will operate thrice in a during his two-day visit to state, day, railway official said. Flagging off the train at Saturday inaugurated the 18 km

Gopinathpur Nilgiri railway station, Vaishnaw said, "While the average expansion of railway track was earlier only 25 to 30 km

ger specials will run on a daily basis between Gopinathpur Nilgiri-Balasore from January 14. The trains will have total eight coaches - two motor coaches and six trailer coaches

will also be commissioned.

An official of SE Railway said,

ree pairs of MEMU passen-

In separate functions the minister laid the foundation stone for a subwav at Betanoti railwav station for providing passenger amenities and inaugurated a booking counter there.

Vaishnaw was accompanied by Balasore MP & ex-minister Pratap Sarangi.

to commuters. A large number of vehicles including ambulances. trucks, buses, and cars moving towards Cuttack as well as Khurda were stranded on the NH for over an hour as the saffron workers blocked the highway.

The protesters holding party flags and banners raised slogans in protest against the arrest of BJP corporator of Ward No. 29 Aparupa Narayan Rout alias Jeevan by the police.

Being informed, when a PCR van by Mancheswar police station

341, 332 294 and a host of others under IPC provisions before producing him in a local court Friday. The court sent him to Jharpada Jail rejecting his bail application.

Reportedly, Aparupa along with his supporters Thursday night allegedly attempted to disrupt construction work done by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) near Hi-Tech Hospital square. The BJP corporator was also alleged to have abused construction engineers and workers.

project is linked from Hirakud Reservoir and the power generated will be evacuated through ISTS and STU Network," the company informed. "The first unit of the project

"The water required for the

is scheduled for commissioning during the financial year 2028 29", the company said, adding that being a pit head thermal project, the variable cost will be competitive and NLC India, will be generating and providing lowcost power to its beneficiaries.

protested against the accused for assaulting his mother during

a fight over a petty issue in Jagatsinghpur district in

Similarly, a person under the

influence of alcohol killed his

five-year-old son as the child con-

tinued to ask him about the where-

abouts of his mother who had

left home following a family dis-

pute in Rourkela on June 9, 2023.

cases of filicide, where parents

tragically take the lives of their

own children. calls for a multi-

factorial approach. This com-

plex issue is often linked to men-

tal illness, substance abuse,

family turmoil, poverty, and a his-

"The alarming increase in

Marital strife, abject poverty behind rising filicide cases

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

stretch of Gopinathpur Nilgiri-

Balasore passenger railway line

and flagged off a newly intro-

duced MEMU train.

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: The tragic murder of a four-year-old child by his mother, who was the CEO of a Bengaluru-based startup company, has shaken the whole nation. However, this is not an isolated incident as similar cases have been reported in other parts of the country.

Odisha has also witnessed several such brutal incidents of filicide -- the deliberate act of a person killing their own child -- targeting innocent minors in the recent past.

A close scrutiny of some of these incidents that occurred in the state last year has revealed that a dysfunctional family, illiteracy, poverty, substance abuse and sudden provocation were

the major causes behind the bru-

tal acts. Experts also opine that as the child is considered an extended or intimate part of the self, the parents -- especially the mothers -- kill their children before committing suicide due to family discord or extremely abusive partners. In October last year, a woman

was arrested by Odisha Police on charges of killing her four-yearold daughter and burying the body in a nearby forest in Gutingia village under Sarangarh police limits of

Kandhamal district. "The accused Padmini Dandia along with the deceased baby girl was residing with her elderly parents after her husband left following a marital discord between



the couple a few years back. She was under severe mental pressure due to marital discord and abject poverty," said Badhulika Biswal, Inspector in-charge of Sarangarh police station

"One day, she decided to end

her life after killing her child and left home October 14. However, she killed her daughter but could not muster the courage to commit suicide.'

Biswal said she was completely traumatised by the incident and had even stopped eating. She almost became speechless, barely speaking anything following the incident.

In many cases, the children are often treated as an instrument of retaliation by either of the parents in a deliberate attempt to cause the partner to suffer.

The separation or estrangements of parents are considered to be the biggest causes for fatal family violence against the children.

In another similar incident, police arrested a 25-year-old youth identified as K Ganesh Patra of Adheigaon village in Ganjam district, in November last year for killing his wife and two-year-old daughter using a venomous snake. A 58-year-old man stabbed his

tory of violence," said Amrit Pattojoshi, Professor and Senior Consultant Psychiatrist. son to death when the latter

July 2023.

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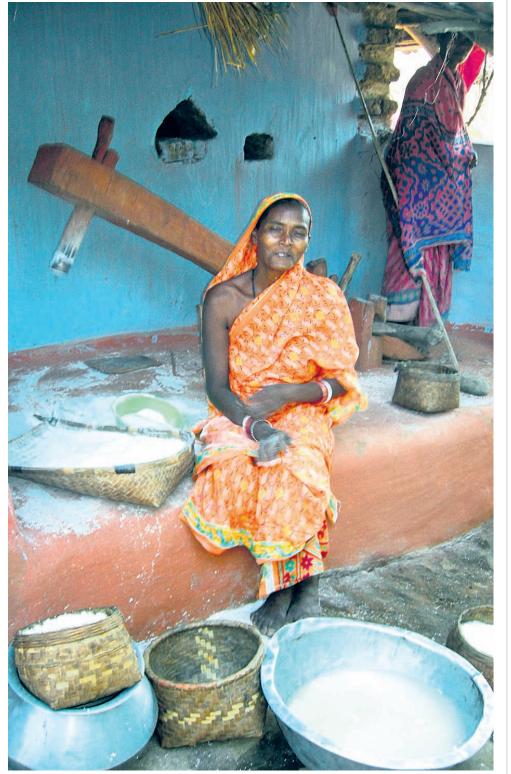






OrissaPOST SUNDAY | JANUARY 14 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

state



FESTIVE FERVOUR: With the Makar festival around the corner, women use a 'dhinki' (husk lever) to prepare rice flour to be used as batter in making of pancakes, at a village in Keonjhar district, Saturday OP PHOTO

Dileswar receives Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar'23

Bhawanipatna Odia writer **Dileswar Rana** was Friday awarded the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Yuva

Puraskar-2023 award for his book of short stories Senrra'. Rana was honoured with an engraved copper plaque and ₹50,000 cash reward in the prize giving ceremony organised at Rabindra Sadan The President of Sahitya Akademi, Madhav Kaushik, presided over the ceremony while Secretary K Sreenivasa Rao, Vice-President Kumud Sharma and renowned Bengali poet Subodh Sarkar were also present in the ceremony. Born to Braja Rana and Bidusuta Rana, Dileswar belongs to Dhanramal village under Narla block in Kalahandi district. He has written many poems, plays, songs, dramas and has also created telefilms for Doordarshan.

Vaishnaw lays foundation stone for 4G mobile tower

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Bisweshwar Tudu laid the foundation stone of the 4G Saturation project site at Mamtapal village in Mayurbhanj district, Skipper Limited, one of the world's leading manufacturers of power transmission and distribution structures and a prominent manufacturer of telecom and rail-

way structures, informed Saturday. The ministers were followed by senior officials of the government along with

BSNL and Skipper personnel. In December 2022 the contract was awarded by BSNL to Skipper Limited for supply and erection of ground based telecom towers. Infrastructure as a Service Provider (IaaSP) for supply, installation of infrastructure items and subsequent O&M for five years

POTTANGI ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Paraja voters hold key as hunt on for a fresh face

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Jan 13: Party workers and voters under the Pottangi Assembly segment in Koraput district have started searching for a new face as all three mainstream parties are eyeing to garner the votes of Paraja tribal community to wrest the seat.

The Pottangi Assembly constituency, reserved for the candidates of Scheduled Tribes (ST), comprises Nandapur, Semiliguda, and Pottangi blocks as well as four panchayats of Koraput block. With the elections approaching, secret parleys have begun in various parties for tickets and party leaders have started drawing strategies to win the polls.

Former BJD leader Javaram Pangi, who had won from this seat in 2000 and 2004 elections. had considerable influence in this Assembly segment for some vears.

However, Congress candidate Rama Chandra Kadam won from this seat in 2009 following the delimitation of boundaries of the constituency. Later, BJD's Prafulla Kumar Pangi won from this seat in 2014 and Pitam Padhi in 2019.

Notably, this Assembly seat was once the citadel of Congress party. However, the grand old party lost to BJD here in 2014 and 2019 elections. This has concerned the congress leaders and workers here. They are putting in extra efforts to win this year from this seat with the hope that fielding a new face would help the party get a huge margin. Speculations are rife that for-

mer MLA Kadam may again



Once the citadel of Congress, the seat saw the grand old party lose to BJD in 2014 and 2019 polls

get the ticket this time. However, he is not the lone hopeful as Gobind Khara, the deputy organiser of Congress Sevadal is also aspiring for ticket from this seat.

Similarly, former block chairperson and Koraput MP's nominee Shukra Khara, sarpanch Pitambar Krisani of Rajput panchayat of Semiliguda block and another leader Samba Pangi who is yet to join the party are also aspiring for tickets.

Meanwhile, incumbent MLA Pitam Padhi is the frontrunner for the BJD party ticket. He is followed by former MLA Prafulla Kumar Pangi, BJD's Zilla Parishad (ZP) member Laichan Khara (younger brother of Congress aspirant Shukra Khara), retired teacher Biswanath Khara, former Nandapur block chairperson Lakshmi Hantal, former ZP member Prabhat Gurumai from Nandapur block as well as Chaitanya Nandibali, who contested as an independent in 2019 elections, are hoping for tickets from the ruling party.

Chaitanya Hantal is the lone aspirant for the BJP party ticket

LOVEBIRDS FOUND HANGING FROM TREE

Koraput, Jan 13: In a tragic incident, the bodies of a young unmarried couple were found hanging from a tree near Jodipai village under Chanabad panchayat and Dasmantapur police limits in Koraput district Saturday morning.

The deceased were identified as Mahendra Hikka and Jubanti Muska, both residents of Jodipai village who were reportedly in love with each other. Sources said the couple wanted to get married. However, their fami-lies were reportedly against their relationship.

while names of other aspirants

are yet to crop up. The segment

has voters from general category,

Scheduled Castes (SC) and

Scheduled Tribes (ST) com-

munities. Members of Dora

and some other tribes had boycotted the elections in the past

protesting their non-inclusion

in the list of ST communities.

Padhi had assured them tribal

status but their demands are

The constituency has major-

ity of voters from Paraja, Kondh,

Gadba, Rana, Mali and Dulia

tribes. However, with Paraja

tribals being the majority among

voters, all the parties have set

Party workers said that the

voters of Paraja community

will play a decisive role in the

polls. All the three parties have started preparing blueprints

to grab the votes of Paraja com-

The Kotia panchayat, which

comes under this constituency,

is in the eye of the storm for

owing to border disputes with

neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

However, no party is showing

any interest or sincerity in re-

solving the disputes, as all are

harping on the government de-

velopmental programmes or wel-

fare schemes to grab the votes.

have to confront the poll boycott

call of Dora community voters

as the issue may again crop up

in 2024 elections like the pre-

Notably, Pitam Padhi who

left the Congress party and

joined BJD won from this con-

stituency in 2019 by defeating his

nearest Congress rival Rama

Chandra Kadam by 51,244 votes.

vious polls.

However, the aspirants will

munity members.

their eyes on the community.

yet to be fulfilled.

After being elected as MLA,

Villagers found them hanging from a tamarind tree with the help of the girl's stole at a mango orchard near the village Saturday morning and lodged a complaint at Dasmantapur police station in this regard. On being informed, Dasmantapur police reached the spot, recovered the two bodies and launched a probe into the deaths, which is underway.

Fire breaks out in school kitchen; students unhurt

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Jan 13: Students of Manakarpur Primary School in this coastal district had a providential escape Saturday when a fire broke out in the kitchen room of the school due to leakage of a gas cylinder.

Thanks to the presence of mind of a cook and a helper, engaged in the mid-day meal of the school, a major fire mishap was averted and not a single student was hurt in the incident.

About 45 students, studying from Class I to Class V, were present in the school when the fire broke out following a leakage in the gas cylinder. The cook and the helper alerted the teachers who rushed to the class rooms and managed to evacuate the students to a safer place. The fire brigade personnel later rushed to the spot and managed to douse the blaze.

SAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SAI INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL The Journey to success begins at SAI STUDENTS QUALIFIED NEET 2023

POST NEWS NETWORK



extendable to five more years in the uncovered villages of India under 4G Saturation projects.

The total contract value awarded to Skipper under these projects was approximately ₹2,570 crore to be executed under capex and opex model over five years. The works were to be executed in the states of Rajasthan (₹1,350 crore) and Odisha (₹1,220 crore) and included development of approximately 3,350 tower location sites.

STATE RANK #1 STATE RANK #2





JEE ADVANCED 2023

STATE RANK #2

AMRUTANSHU MOHANTY



STATE RANK #3



STATE RANK #4



STATE RANK #5

CBSE XII BOARD 2023 STATE RANK #1





Above 85%

61%



Above 60%











CBSE XII BOARD

OVERALL RESULTS



Horse Riding

Above 95%



Above 90%

45%



Olympic sized Football & Athletics track

Eastern India's largest school based Indoor Stadium



2 Odia families waiting for bodies to perform last rites

CHARANA MOHARANA FROM GANJAM AND PURNA **CHANDRA SENAPATI FROM JAJPUR WERE** AMONG THE 29 PERSONNEL **ABOARD THE MISSING IAF** AN-32 AIRCRAFT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur/Jajpur, Jan 13: Though more than seven years have passed since the disappearance of Charana Moharana and Purna Chandra Senapti, two of the 29 persons aboard the Indian Air Force's AN-32 transport aircraft that went missing over Bay of Bengal in July 2016, their families still await the bodies to perform the last rites.

For all these years, both the families did not perform the last rites hoping that the bodies would be found one day. Both the families believe that bodies are required for performing last rites.

Their hopes have increased after the wreckage of the aircraft that went missing July 22, 2016 was found at a depth of around 3,400 metre in Bay of



Bengal off the Chennai coast recently. Charana Moharana (27) hailed from Sukunda village in Ganjam district and worked as a fitter in the Naval Armament Depot at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

Purna Chandra Senapati of Rangaranga village in Jajpur district worked as a technician in the same depot. A couple of days after the plane went missing, two officers of the Naval Armament Depot in Visakhapatnam had officially informed the parents of both Charana and Purna about their disappearance.

"We have not performed his last rites as his body was not found," said Sasmita Moharana, Charana's sister. "As the debris of the missing aircraft was found off the Chennai coast, we hope the body of my son will also be found near the seabed," said Sudam Moharana, Charana's 75-year-old father, who is suffering from cancer.

"Even though the government declared his death and paid compensation, I could not believe it as his body was not found," said Charana's 65vear-old mother.

"Now, there's a chance to get his body," said Ashok, one of his cousins.

Purna Chandra Senapati's younger brother Pratap Chandra of Rangaranga village in Jajpur district said, "We have not performed the 11th day rituals according to Hindu beliefs. We strongly believe he is alive."

"Though the government declared him dead, we do not accept it. We hope, he will return one day," he added. The debris of the missing aircraft was found on the seabed approximately 310 km from the Chennai coast. The National Institute of Ocean Technology, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, located the debris.

Despite extensive search and rescue operations involving aircraft and ships, the missing personnel and aircraft debris could not be located until now. The aircraft, with registration K-2743, disappeared during an operational mission from Chennai to Port Blair.

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FOCUS POLITICS

There is nothing mind can do that cannot be better done in the mind's immobility and thoughtfree stillness **SRI AUROBINDO**



The Ayodhya Chapter

he temple inauguration in Ayodhya closes a chapter in our history that many youngsters will not know about, but the rest of us have lived through. It concerns the BJP, the reasons for its rise after four decades of stagnation and the man who elevated and energised it.

In the last general election before it merged into the umbrella opposition Janata Party, the Jana Sangh under Vajpayee, contesting in an alliance with a couple of other parties, won 22 seats. In the four preceding general elections it had won only 3, 4, 14 and 35 seats and never had a national vote share of more than 9 per cent.

In its official history, the party describes the last state Assembly elections it contested on its own: 'In the 1972 Assembly Elections (for various states across India), Jana Sangh went to poll largely on its own. It fielded 1233 candidates and won 104 seats with an overall 8 per cent of the votes. In almost all the states it suffered losses... For the first time since its founding, Jana Sangh could not improve upon its earlier performance.

The party had plateaued and this became clear when it again contested the 1984 general elections on its own, winning 7 per cent of the

vote and only two Lok Sabha seats. When Advani took charge of the party in 1986, he had never been a participant in electoral politics. His entry into politics came after time spent as a journalist in the RSS magazine, where he wrote film reviews.

As a politician, Advani had always been a nominated member, whether in the Delhi Council or in the Rajya Sabha. He had no experience of political mass mobilisation and, going by his autobiography (My Country, My Life, published in 2008) he does not appear to know how it worked.

The Ayodhya issue had actually been launched by the non-political groups inside the RSS, led by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. At a meeting in UP in 1983, Rajendra Singh, who would later become RSS chief, demanded that the Babri Masjid be opened to Hindu devotees. In September 1984, the VHP began a campaign against the mosque. This received sufficient public response for the group to claim in 1986 that they would forcibly break the locks open. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi succumbed to the pressure and his government told the courts there would be no law and order problem if this happened. The locks were thus opened and Hindus allowed into the mosque.

But the VHP did not stop with being given access to worship at the site: its goal was the

razing of the mosque. In February 1989, at the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad, the VHP said it would lay the foundation stone for the temple in November. This would involve the making of bricks across the country and being carried in processions through towns and villages to Ayodhya in November

Till this time, Advani writes in his autobiography, a few members of the BJP like Vijayaraje Scindia and Vinay Katiyar had participated in the Ayodhya movement in their individual capacity. It was not an issue in mainstream politics. In June, at the BJP's national executive meeting in Himachal Pradesh, Advani threw the party behind the issue. The BJP resolution demanded that the site 'should be handed over to the Hindus' and 'the mosque built at some other suitable place'.

Elections came a few months later, in November 1989. The BJP's manifesto now made its first reference to Ayodhya: 'By not allowing the rebuilding of the Ram Janma Mandir in Avodhya, on the lines of Somnath Mandir built by the government of India in 1948, it has allowed tensions to rise, and gravely strained social harmony.' It was a violation of the BJP's own constitution, which on its first page and opening articles pledged it would bear true faith and allegiance to the principle of secularism.

A few days before voting, the VHP brought all its processions from across

Aakar Patel

Some 3.400 Indians were killed in the violence followed by the demolition of the mosque and the polarisation brought the BJP to the doorstep of power

POWER OF LOST CAUSE n January 6, 2021, in Washington, DC, US President Donald

Trump, the loser of the 2020 election, famously addressed a gathering of followers who then joined the mob that attacked the US Capitol. While rambling and incoherent, Trump's speech nonetheless made a few things clear: leftists had conspired to steal the election by fraud, and the mobs summoned to Washington on his behalf would need to "stand strong." The implication was that violence might be necessary, because "you'll never take back your country with weakness.

Trump then made Vice President Mike Pence the target of collective scorn for refusing to send the Electoral College process back to the states. If "weak Republicans" would not step up and participate in overturning the results, Trump vowed, "we will... never ever forget." For the next 4-5 hours, in the most recorded event in American history, the world watched as a new"Lost Cause"was born in violence and spectacular lies.

There have been numerous Lost Causes in modern history, usually following defeats in war, where the vanquished glorify their loss as a source of pride and shared animosity toward the victors. Three big Lost Causes have plagued world and American history. Following their bloody defeat in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, the French exhibited an intergenerational cultural need to avenge the loss. Then, following Germany's defeat in World War I, the Nazis gained traction by blaming Jews and leftists, who were depicted as "poisons" in the blood of the body politic. And then, of course, there was the American South after the Civil War, when the narrative of the Confederate Lost Cause yielded a potent brew of twisted history and white supremacist ideology.

Lost Cause narratives sometimes have been powerful enough to build or destroy political regimes, shape national



We are a long way from knowing how much staying power the Trumpian Lost Cause will have, regardless of whether he survives his criminal charges and the election campaign

and ethnic identities, and fill landscapes with monuments. They work primarily as powerful new founding myths, always advancing a politics of grievance that turns into retribution, and sometimes victory. Immediately after the military surrender in 1865, forms of the Confederate Lost Cause took root in a Southern society marked by physical destruction, the psychological trauma of defeat, resistance to the victors' policy of Reconstruction, racial violence, and – with time carefully constructed sentimentalism.

Specifically, the Confederate Lost Cause claimed that Southern soldiers had shown unfailing valor, and that the South hadn't really lost, but merely succumbed to superior numbers and resources. Southern white women allegedly supported the cause to the bitter end and helped preserve the 'truthful" memory; the Confederacy's enslaved black population supposedly remained loyal to their owners; and, finally, the Confederates had never really fought for slavery, but rather for "home," national sovereignty, and states' rights.

To be sustained as public propaganda, Lost Causes need a pure narrative with clearly identified villains and heroes. Sometimes, they are havens of sick souls; other times, they are the means to power for a disciplined political movement.Trump's Lost Cause, now newly virulent as he campaigns for a second term despite multiple indictments, draws on a menu of grievances among the disaffected, energizing those who believe that a 'diversity"-obsessed multicultural America has veered out of control, especially in relation to immigration at the Mexican border.

Some are also staunch believers in conspiracy theories about "fraud" allegedly committed in the 2020 election, as well as other dark notions of leftist machinations in American universities, on school boards, and in the Democratic Party. Unlike the Confederate Lost Cause, the Trump version is a kind of gangster cult, full of loyalty rituals to a single man and his plans to fashion an authoritarian US government that will use executive power to achieve his followers' preferences.

Trump's Lost Cause also has its martyrs, including the hundreds of convicted insurrectionists - known in the movement, and by Republican politicians such as Elise Stefanik. as "hostages" –now in prison. Above all, it peddles a model of politics and society according to which facts and evidence are irrelevant. At Trump rallies, constitutionalism is for losers. history is little more than a useful weapon, and American civics is mere entertainment, deployed for attendees eager to indulge

their hatred of liberalism, rep resentative democracy, and – in many cases - of non-white America. The Trump Lost Cause is thus a platform, one that the Republican Party has adopted to convert these stories, lies, and entertainments into votes. Win or lose, it will not die.

Many writers are trying to help us navigate these fraught times. In Tim O'Brien's new novel, America Fantastica, a ragtag collection of misfits and down-and-outs embark on a series of lawless escapades, including bank robberies and various other forms of larceny. The reader gets a glimpse of a society where lying is utterly ubiquitous, and where a "mythomania" has swept the country, led by a "monster" of a "POTUS."

At least in the Confederate Lost Cause, white Southerners truly had to endure colossal mourning: nearly 300,000 people lay in graves across their landscape, and much of their society lay in ruins. Trumpian mourning seems rooted in socialmedia-driven nostalgia for an ideal past that almost no one experienced. The movement's supporters long for a vanished racial order, for a world of secure social identities preserved from unknown but hated elites, and for communities that have not been drained of cohesion by the internet, the pandemic, and economic displacement. They need their story to be great again.

Lost Causes can turn lies into common coin and forge deep and lasting myths. We are a long way from knowing how much staying power the Trumpian Lost Cause will have, regardless of whether he survives his criminal charges and the election campaign. What we do know is that we have already witnessed its formative years.

The writer is Sterling Professor of History at Yale University and author of the Pulitzer prize-winning Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom(Simon & Schuster, 2018).

SPECTRUM WORK CULTURE

David W Blight

LOST CAUSE

NARRATIVES

SOMETIMES

HAVE BEEN

POWERFUL

ENOUGH TO

BUILD OR

DESTROY

REGIMES

POLITICAL



lexibility at the workplace engaged, they spend more time als are more productive in the guidelines to ensure

India to Ayodhya and laid the foundation stone next to the mosque.

Powered by its divisive, anti-Muslim demand, Advani's BJP won 85 seats, four times as many as the Jana Sangh in the last election it contested alone and more than forty times as many as Vajpayee had delivered in his reformed and renamed party. Advani had become the most successful political leader from the RSS and had found the recipe for electoral success.

He began to invest more in the issue that had brought the dividend. The Congress lost its majority in the election, and a coalition led by VP Singh took power with support from Advani, though for only a short period. Three months after the election, in February 1990, the VHP resumed its mobilisation against the mosque and said it would continue the process of what it called kar seva from October.

The political escalation, according to Advani, happened by accident. Advani writes in his autobiography that in June he was to visit London, and just before he left he was interviewed by the editor of the RSS journal Panchajanya who asked him what would happen if the government failed to resolve the Ayodhya matter. Advani told him that the BJP supported the decision to begin kar seva on 30 October, and if it was stopped there would be a mass movement led by the BJP.

'Frankly, I had forgotten about this interview,' Advani writes, when his wife telephoned him and asked, 'What have you said? The papers here have reported it with blaring headlines: "On Ayodhya, Advani threatens the biggest mass movement in the history of independent India". Advani adds: 'The die had been cast.'

What happened with his Rath Yatra has been documented. Some 3.400 Indians were killed in the violence and the polarisation brought the BJP to the doorstep of power.

As the temple is inaugurated, unfortunately for Advani but unsurprisingly for the rest of us, the architect of the party's rise may be present but incapable to claim credit for his achievement.

WISDOM CORNER

- Do not be proud of wealth, people, relations and friends, or youth. ADI SHANKARA All these are snatched by time in the blink of an eve.
- To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already three BERTRAND RUSSELL parts dead.
- The best, most beautiful, and most perfect way that we have of expressing a sweet concord of mind to each other is by music JONATHAN EDWARDS

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1526: The Treaty of Madrid was signed by the Habsburg emperor Charles V (Charles I of Spain) and his prisoner Francis I, king of France, who had been captured during the Battle of Pavia in February 1525 and held prisoner until the conclusion of the treaty, when he was allowed to return to France.

1784: The Continental Congress ratified the Peace of Paris (1783) with Great Britain, which recognized the independence of the United States.

1954: Baseball player Joe DiMaggio and actress Marilyn Monroe married at City Hall in San Francisco.



Debabrata Dash

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ORGANISATIONS TO FIND THE RIGHT APPROACH TO FLEXIBILITY FOR MAXIMIZING PRODUCTIVITY

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

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

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

can have a positive impact on productivity. When employees have the flexibility to manage their work in a way that suits their individual needs and preferences, it can lead to increased job satisfaction, engagement and overall performance. Flexible work helps attract top talent, but it also makes employees more productive. In the Gartner 2021 Digital Worker Experience Survey, 43 per cent of respondents said that flexible working hours helped them achieve more productivity and 30 per cent of those surveyed said that less or no time commuting allowed them to be more productive. Allowing employees to work flexible schedules can help retain valuable resources. Without a doubt, flexibility is one of the most important perks workers want from their employers. In fact, a Flexiobs global survey found that 80 per cent of respondents said they'd be more loyal to their employer if they provided flexible working arrangements, and 52 per cent said they'd already tried to negotiate flexible work with their current employer. When the workforce is

on the quality of their work output and less time looking for new opportunities. According to Gallup study, flexible work also drives employee engagement. Engaged employees are more enthusiastic, energetic and have better physical health. And, as decades of Gallup research shows. when employees are engaged, their performance soars. In addition, highly engaged workplaces claim numerous benefits like 40 per cent fewer quality defects, 41 per cent lower absenteeism and 21 per cent higher profitability. Flexible work arrangements, such as remote work or flexible hours, allow employees to better balance their job and personal responsibilities. Improved work-life balance can result in reduced stress and burnout, leading to higher levels of focus and productivity during work hours

Allowing employees to set their work hours according to their peak productivity times can lead to more efficient and focused work. Such types of arrangements are more prevalent in Project Based Roles across different sectors. Some individu-

morning, while others perform better later in the day. Flexibility accommodates these individual differences. Remote work or flexible scheduling can significantly reduce commuting time for employees. This time saved can be redirected toward work-related tasks or personal activities, contributing to increased productivity and overall well-being. Flexibility allows employees to adapt their work schedules to personal needs, such as family commitments or health-related issues. Flexible work options can contribute to a more inclusive workplace by accommodating diverse needs and preferences. Flexible work arrangements can provide employees with opportunities to engage in continuous learning and professional development. While flexible work schedules offer numerous benefits, they also come with their set of challenges which include communication issues, team collaboration, managing different time zones, security & data protection and performance monitoring. Implementing flexible work arrangements involves es-

fairness, and the smooth functioning of the organization. The specific policies can vary based on the nature of the business, industry, and the preferences of the organization. Some common policies associated with flexible work arrangements include flexible work hours in which the core working hours during which all employees are expected to be available is defined. The range of flexibility in start and end times. allowing employees to customize their daily schedules, is specified. Many employers are going for compressed workweeks under which employees can arrange their work hours by working longer hours on fewer days and taking off for the rest of the days in a week. It's important for organisations to find the right approach for flexibility to maximize productivity. Communication, trust, and clear performance expectations are key components of successfully integrating flexibility into the workplace while maintaining high levels of productivity.

The writer is a senior human resource professional. Views are personal.

India's transformation

Sir, In 2024, India stands at the forefront of a transformative infrastructure revolution, rising above global conflicts and economic uncertainties. Despite challenges like the Israel-Palestine and Russia-Ukraine wars, escalating trade barriers, and US banking instability, India's robust economy has earned recognition as the world's fastest-growing, endorsed by the UN for the entire year. While struggling with rising inflation, the Reserve Bank of India projects relief with a 4.6% inflation rate in the first three quarters of 2024-2025. India is on the verge of becoming the world's largest economy, dispelling concerns about slow-paced growth and inadequate infrastructure. Landmark infrastructure projects. including the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link and high-speed railways in Rajasthan, are set to redefine India's development landscape by 2024. Simultaneously, the nation gears up to lead in artificial intelligence. Anticipating this, the launch of "Bharat GPT" signals India's commitment to AI dominance. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi pushes for the completion of all infrastructure projects by January 2024, India embarks on an unparalleled era of growth and influence, solidifying its position as the world's most powerful nation.

Preetiyukta Mohakud, BHUBANESWAR

A land of holidays

tablishing clear policies and

Sir, A typical school essay on 'A festival of India' starts with 'India is a land of festivals'. To this, I am tempted to add 'and holidays'. Indeed, the annual calendar is regularly punctuated with holidays-central, state, and local. A plethora of holidays has made us a lethargic nation. We raise our evebrows when the calendar shows a month bereft of holidays, that is to say, when all the days of the month (excluding Sundays, of course) are working days, when we have to work and are not free to idle away our time by 'celebrating.' To this long list of holidays, January 22 is a strong contender for a national holiday. The reason being the consecration of Ram Temple at Ayodhya. The impending religious function has generated so much hype that it is almost certain that, in some states at least, normal work is going to be compromised. A nation that is 'overburdened' with holidays can ill afford to add yet another holiday to the long list of existing ones, espe-cially if the holiday has religious overtones

Avinash Godboley, DEWAS (MP)

Parikrama Prakalpa SUNDAY | JANUARY 14 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

Orissa

dour of the

green

buffer

PARIKRAMA SCHEDULE

January 14: Ankura Pujana, Yajna Adhibasa, Mandala

Sthapana, Dhwaja Sthapana and Torana Sthapanadi (10:00am to 8:00pm)

January 15:

Akhanda Deepa Sthapana, Panchakarma, Barana of Brahmanas by Acharya and Mandala Pujana (7:30am to 1:00pm)

Veda-parayana at four outer gates of Srimandir and Nama-sankirtan on inner Pradikshina Path (7:30am to 6:00pm)

Vaishnavagni Sanskara, Havan, Aarti, Pushpanjali, Pradikshina (3:00pm to 6:00pm)

January 16:

Surya Puja, Dharitri Puja, Gow Puja, Shalaprabesha, Panchakarma, Mandala Puja, Havan, Aarti, Puspaniali and Pradakshina (07:30am to 6:00pm) Veda-parayana at four outer gates of Srimandir, and Nama-sankirtan on inner Pradakshina Path (07:30am to 6:00pm)

January 17:

Surya Puja, Dharitri Puja, Gow Puja, Panchakarma, Vastu Shodhana, Adhibasa and Havan (7:30am to 1:00pm)

Veda-parayana at four outer gates of Srimandir and Nama-sankirtan on inner Pradakshina Path (7:30am to 6:00pm)

Prakalpa Lokarpana- Unveiling of plaque by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik (1:15pm to 1:30pm)

Yajna Poornahuti, Aarti and Pushpanjali by Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb (1:30pm to 2:00pm)

Nama-sankirtan procession on inner Pradkshina Path (2:00pm to 2:30pm) Felicitation ceremony (2:30pm to 3:00pm)



Parikrama Prakalpa has been completed with the grace of Lord Jagannath as khondalite stone sculptures at various places in the project area are speaking the glory of Kalingan style of

he much awaited Srimandir

architecture. With just four days left for the public dedication of the project, one thing which captivates devotees and enhances the beauty of the Heritage Corridor is the green buffer zone, an island corridor extending up to 19-metres within the total buffer zone area of 55 metres, abutting Meghanada Wall.

Most significantly, altogether 120 species of big and small plants, which are associated with the rituals of Srimandir deities and have connection with Jagannath Culture, have been planted in the green corridor. Basil, which is the most important part of the day-to-day rituals of Lord Jagannath, has been planted on the 5 metre space of the green buffer. Rituals at the 12th century shrine are considered incomplete without the use of Basil leaves that are close to the heart of Lord Jagannath. The Lord adorns the aromatic plant's flowers and leaves on His chest and head. Mahaprasad cannot be offered to the deities without Basil leaves. The Lord is adorned with garlands made of Basil and other flowers on neck and hands. Therefore. Basil

place in the Parikrama Prakalpa. Apart from Basil plants, some other beautiful flower plants with sweet fragrances are amplifying the splen-

has small as well as big plants like Asian Bullet Wood (Boula Koli), several varieties of Champak, burflower (Kadamba), Indian cork, Coral Jasmine,

Neem Blackboard tree

> Rajahmundrv in Andhra Pradesh, others were procured from

Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chhatisgarh and Maharashtra. More than 150 gardeners and

workers have been engaged for the maintenance of the plants and trees The buffer zone consists of 10 metre wide Antah Pradakshina Marga (inner corridor), followed by 14-metre wide plantation zone culminating at the 8-metre wide Bahya Pradakshina Marga (outer corridor). Devotees perambulating in the inner and outer corridors will be charmed by the sweet fragrance and the besetting beauty of the flowers planted in the green buffer zone. Though the area near

00000000000

Lions Gate of Srimandir has been kept

open for the festivals and ceremonies, moveable planter boxes have been placed for

plantation of decorative plants. These planter boxes can easily be shifted during Ratha Jatra and other festivals of the Srimandir, said sources.

Flowery treat

Meanwhile, the Parikrama Prakalpa and all the four gates of the shrine have been bedecked with garlands and numerous varieties of flowers much to the delight of the visitors. This is in conformity with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's thrust on creation of a beautiful and spiritual ambience for the devotees. Steps are being taken under the direct supervision of 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian to make the Parikrama Marga

attractive



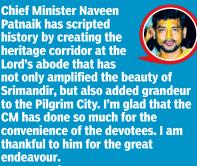
SACRIFICE DULY HONOU ARPANA RATHS ROLL AHEAD

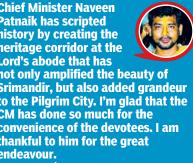
ad it not for the whole-hearted Chairman Kartik Pandian towards the vately owned. The government compensated

have been rehabilitated at Jagannath Ballav

support and cooperation of the fulfillment of Chief Minister Naveen them by providing alternative land adja-Lresidents of Puri, the historic Patnaik's vision, 62 Rath Bhoi servitor cent to Jagannath Ballav and monetary comrimandir Parikrama Prakalpa would families who were displaced for the proj-pensation as per members in each family. While land admeasuring 20ftX27ft was offered to each major (above 18 years) member of the families, Rs 3.07 lakh was provided to them towards construction of new houses on the land. Adequate monetary compensation

was ex-





A total of 37

ect and Jagannath Ballav parking area,

premises.

decimals

land

acres and 984

020000000000

(Chhatiana),

Tree Jasmine.

While most of

plants have been

brought from

Green

zone. These flower plants include Orange Jasmine, Jasmine, Henna, Gardenia, Red Alder, Green Alder, Pentas, Syzygium, Ixora, Rhoeo,



not have been successfully executed. In fact, the locals joined hands with the government and sacrificed their ancestral places of dwelling for providing the requisite land for the developmental project that has now transformed the Puri into a world-class heritage city.

The government too did not disappoint the displaced population and extended ample compensation for their sacrifice by providing alternative land for building new houses for every member of their family, footed cost of their houses and construction cost for new dwellings.

In line with the commensurate compensation policy prepared $5\bar{\mathrm{T}}$ bv

across

four Mouzas were acquired for the construction of Sri Setu and Jagannath Ballav parking. Out of that, while 4 acres were government land, the remaining 34 acres were pri

tended for their vacated dwellings. Moreover, the project affected families were allowed to stay in the houses constructed for the purpose of a museum on the Jagannath Ballav premises. While many of them have now shifted to their newly constructed houses, some houses are on the verge of completion, while many families still continue to live in the camp houses. The supreme sacrifice of the Bhoi servitors in the historic transformation of Sri Kshetra will be remembered forever.

Services performed by Rath Bhoi servitors

The details of the services performed by shudra Rath Bhoi servitors find mention in service list no. 97 of the Srimandir RoR. They perform the Saree Bandha ceremony on Akshaya Tritiya. At least two Rath Bhois perform

11

KIRTI DAITAPATI SERVITOR Puri will witness huge inflow of devotees and tourists after the

inauguration of the Heritage Corridor Project for which crucial infra like world-class railway station and **Srijagannath International Airport** are set into motion. This will foster unprecedented economic growth in the Pilgrim City. The sacrifices made by Puri residents will be remembered for eternity.

BADRI MISHRA | LYRICIST & WRITER

the ceremony on each of the divine Trinity's chariots. While 29 each Rath Bhoi servitors are attched to Taladhwaja and Nandighosh chariots, their numbers stand at 25 for Darpadalan chariot. They also perform various other services associated with the construction and dismantling of the chariots. Moreover, they are also engaged in the construction of temporry platforms with cocunut leaves roofings, manning the ropes and breaks of the chariots, hanging applique cloths (Chanduia) over Dolabedis during Dola Purnima and pulling out submerged boats - Nanda and Bhadra - at Narendra pond during 'Chapa' ceremony (water sports of the deities).



PHOTO POST





P6

Islamist group Hamas, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip



A camel performs during the 3-day camel festival in Bikaner

OrissaPOST

SUNDAY | JANUARY 14 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR



Naval officers during the decommissioning ceremony of the Indian Navy's ships 'Cheetah', 'Guldar' and 'Kumbhir', at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands





Mourners react during the funeral of Palestinians killed in an Israeli strike, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinian Gary Leffler, of West Des Moines, drives his tractor during an event for Republican presidential candidate and former US President Donald Trump in Urbandale, Iowa

A man flies a kite during the international kite festival 'Patang Utsav' organised by DDA as part of 'Makar Sankranti' celebrations at Baansera in New Delhi

A worker decorates the premises of Lord Ram and Hanuman Temple ahead of the consecration ceremony of Ayodhya's Ram Temple, in Bhopal



Army personnel march during the Central Command Invetiture Ceremony in Lucknow



Roadside vendors hold vegetables during a protest against local authorities over their eviction from the footpath in Bangalore REUTERS/PTI PHOTOS













DELHI SHIVERS

Delhi Saturday recorded its lowest minimum temperature of the season at 3.6 degrees Celsius and thick fog blanketed several parts of the city, the India Meteorological **Department said**



uote

EX-MODEL'S BODY FOUND IN CANAL

Every worker of the Indian Youth Congress will have to fight fearlessly against the injustice happening across the country

RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

Farmers children should get into the business of selling farm produce and try food processing

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR VICE PRESIDENT



SHORT TAKES

ED arrests two

Raipur: The Enforcement Directorate has arrested two more persons in connection with its money laundering investigation into the Mahadev online betting and gaming app case, officials said Saturday. Nitin Tibrewal, a resident of Kolkata, and Raipur-based Amit Agrawal were taken into custody under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and produced before a special court in Raipur Friday, ED lawyer Saurabh Pandey said The court sent them to ED custody till January 17, he said.

Flight returns to Guwahati

Guwahati/Mumbai: A Guwahati-bound IndiGo flight from Mumbai, which was diverted to Dhaka in Bangladesh due to bad weather. landed at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordolo International Airport here Saturday, officials said. The flight, scheduled to arrive here on Friday night, landed at 11.10 am. they said. It had departed from Dhaka at 10.54 am (Bangladesh time). The

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Jan 13: Eleven davs after she was shot dead in a Gurugram hotel, the body of exmodel Divya Pahuja was recovered from a canal in Haryana's Fatehabad district Saturday, police said.

The body was recovered based on information provided by accused Balraj Gill (28), who along with another person, had disposed of the body. He was arrested from an airport in Kolkata Thursday, po lice officials said.

Police said the body was identified through a tattoo on Divya's back, which could be seen in one of her old pictures. January 2. Pahuja was taken to Hotel City Point by five people and shot in the head inside room number 111 because she had allegedly been extorting money from the hotel owner, Abhijeet Singh (56), by blackmailing him with his "ob-

said earlier. Assistant Gurugram Commissioner of Police (Crime) Varun Kumar Dahiya said Pahuja's body was recovered from the subsidiary canal of the Bhakra canal



in Fatehabad's Tohana. It will be sent for a post-mortem examination, he said. CCTV footage from Hotel City

Point showed the accused, including Singh, purportedly dragging Pahuja's body wrapped in a white sheet through the lobby. They later fled the hotel in a car with the body in the boot.

According to police, Singh handed over the car with the body to Gill around a kilometre from the hotel. The car was later found abandoned at a bus stand in scene pictures", police had Punjab's Patiala. Police launched an extensive operation to find Pahuja's body after disclosures made by Gill following his arrest,

they said. He disposed of the body with another accused, Ravi Banga at the

OLICE SAID THE BODY WAS **IDENTIFIED THROUGH A** TATTOO ON DIVYA'S BACK, WHICH COULD BE SEEN IN ONE OF HER OLD PICTURES

OLICE HAD EARLIER ARRESTED FOUR PEOPLE -- ABHIJEET, HEMRAJ, **OMPRAKASH AND MEGHA -- IN CONNECTION** WITH THE CASE

behest of Abhijeet, they said. Police had earlier arrested four people -- Abhijeet, Hemraj, Omprakash and Megha -- in connection with the case

ACP Dahiya said Banga was yet to be arrested. Later speaking to reporters in Gurugram, he said Gill is being brought back to Gurugram on transit remand. ACP Dahiya said Abhijeet took help of Megha for disposing of the weapon and some material evidence of the case.

Megha was arrested January 8, he said, adding that Abhijeet procured the weapon, used in the crime, from Parvesh who was arrested Friday. During his questioning, Parvesh said he had supplied three more weapons to Abhijeet sometime back as he was fond of keeping weapons, said police.

A case for keeping an illegal weapon had been registered against Abhijeet in 2021, the ACP said. Following the questioning of Abhijeet and Parvesh, the special investigation team of the Haryana police Saturday recovered the weapons which were provided by Parvesh

Two illegal weapons and 40 live cartridges have been recovered, Dahiya said. One weapon from Parvesh and two live cartridges have also been recovered, he said, adding that six teams have been formed to recover the body.

Divya was in jail for over seven years for conspiring a "fake encounter" of her partner gangster Sandeep Gandoli in Mumbai with Gurugram police and rival gang leader Virendra Kumar alias Binder Gujjar on February 6, 2016.

At the time of Gandoli's killing, Gujjar was in prison but had hatched the plan with the help of his brother Manoj and roped in Divya. Mumbai Police registered an FIR against five police personnel. Divva, her mother and others. The Bombay High Court granted bail to Divya in June, 2023.

India lodges strong protest with UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: India has registered a strong protest with the UK over the visit to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) by its High Commissioner to Islamabad along with another British official.

The ministry of external

affairs said such "infringe-

ment" of India's sovereignty

and territorial integrity is

"unacceptable". "India has

taken a serious note of the

"Foreign Secretary has lodged a strong protest with the British High Commissioner in India on this infringement," the MEA said. "The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are, have been and shall always remain an integral part of India," it said in a statement.

highly objectionable visit of the British High Commissioner

in Islamabad, along with a UK

Foreign Office official, to

Pakistan occupied Kashmir on

January 10," it said.

	OCUREMENT o. MC(CMC)CTC_EI ID: 2024 ORUL	L_No. 10/2023-24
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Start	End	Opening
13.00 P.M. on Dt.12.01.2024	5.00 P.M. on Dt.30.01.2024	11.00 A.M. on Dt.02.02.2024
Tender details can be tendersorissa.gov.i	n. Executive	urement portal: www. Engineer, City DivI PR-13031/11/0104/2324

Chief Manager, UCO Bank, Bajrakbat	2023 ii
Road Branch, Cuttack	Applicant
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M/s Baba Baidyanath Bhandar & othe To	ers Defendant[s]
 M/s Baba Baidyanath Bhandar, Pro At/P.O.: Holding No.: 564/G, Ward Pithapur, Dist.: Cuttack - 753001. Mrs. Rojalini Behera, W/o: Krushna 134, Ward No.: 29, Holding No.: 219/A Square, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN - 753003 	No.: 19, Tarachandpatna Chandra Behera, Plot No. A, Malgodown, P.O.: College 3.
SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION	
AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SH	
Take notice that the applicant has in 2023 in the court of the Debts of Recc recovery of Rs. 30,48,752.50 only toget interest, costs and other reliefs. The ab- are therefore, directed to appear befor- through an Advocate or duly authorized defense to show cause within 30 days f or on <u>27/03/2024</u> at 10.30 a.m. as to with not be granted.	overy Tribunal, Cuttack for ther with current and future ove mentioned defendants e this tribunal in person o d agent, in support of thei from the date of publication
Take notice that in case of default, th and determined in their absence.	he application will be hear
Given under my hand and seal of th	is Tribunal on this 09th day
of January 2024.	Sd/- (Nikhila Ranian Pati

Sd/- (Nikhila Ranjan Pati) Registrar

GOLD



Villagers take part in a community fishing event at a lake as part of Magh Bihu celebrations, near Tezpur in Sonitpur district, Saturday

ED summons Kejriwal Jan 18

IndiGo flight 5319 had to be diverted to Dhaka due to bad weather in Guwahati and "initially Kolkata and Bhubaneswar were considered for landing", an airline spokesperson said.

Over 15 firecracker stalls gutted

Jamshedpur (Jharkhand):

Over 15 firecracker stalls, a dozen motorcycles and a pickup van were gutted in a blaze in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district Saturday, police said. The incident took place near a busy 'haat' (weekly market) set up in Kerukocha village in Chakulia block for the upcoming Tusu festival commencing Monday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: After he failed to appear before the Enforcement Directorate, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been summoned for the fourth time in less than three months by the agency for questioning January 18 in the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case, official sources said Saturday.

The 55-year-old Aam Aadmi Party convenor had refused to depose before the ED for the third time January 3, citing Rajya Sabha polls and Republic Day preparations. He had also questioned the motive behind the ED's actions, citing legal "objections" to the summons and accusing the agency of assuming the role of "judge, jury and executioner". By issuing the fresh notice, the



ED has again rejected Kejriwal's contention that the summonses issued to him were "not in consonance with the law" and hence should be withdrawn. AAP alleged Saturday that the BJP is "misusing" the ED to stop Keiriwal from campaigning for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls as it raised the issue of the timing of the summons, noting that Keiriwal is scheduled to visit Goa from January 18 to interact with party leaders and volunteers. When asked if Kejriwal would appear before the ED this time, AAP leader and Delhi minister Gopal Rai said they are consulting legal advisors and would act accordingly."It's beyond comprehension ... Delhi CM's Goa tour on January 18-20 in view of Lok Sabha polls was announced yesterday and now there is news about the ED notice. The agency was sitting quietly and as soon as the

it sent the notice," he said. The Delhi BJP alleged that Kejriwal was acting like a "fugitive" and his party was giving "political colour" to ED's probe into a case in which two AAP leadersformer deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh-were in jail with different courts rejecting their bail applications multiple times.

chief minister's tour was announced,

Guests to get Ram temple soil as 'gift'

THE SOIL OF RAM JANMABHOOMI WILL BE PACKED IN SMALL BOXES AND GIFTED TO THE GUESTS ATTENDING THE 'PRAN PRATISHTHA' CEREMONY ALONG WITH 'MOTICHOOR LADDOOS' MADE OF 'DESI GHEE' AS PRASAD, **ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Jan 13: All the guests coming to the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple January 22 will be given 'Ramraj', the soil extracted during the temple's foundation laying, as a 'gift', the Uttar



Pradesh government said Saturday. A member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be presented with a 15metre-long picture of the Ram temple packed in a jute bag.

The soil of Ram Janmabhoomi will be packed in small boxes and gifted to the guests attending the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony along with 'motichoor laddoos' made of 'desi ghee' as prasad, according to an official statement.

The trust member said more than 11,000 guests from across the country have been invited for the consecration ceremony January 22 and they will be given "memorable gifts" such as 'Ramraj'.

It is a matter of good fortune to have this soil in any house. They will be able to use this "sacred gift" in their home gardens or pots, he said. Invitees who will not be able to attend the ceremony due to some reason will be given the Ramraj whenever they visit the temple in Ayodhya, the member said.

Meanwhile, Avodhva Divisional Commissioner Gaurav Dayal said arrangements have been made to seat 7,500 people in the temple premises for the ceremony. Special guests coming to Ayodhya will be given a code and their seating arrangements will be made based on this code, he said.

Dayal also said the priest of Varanasi will conduct the 'Pran Pratishtha' programme. He will be accompanied by four trustees and four priests.



The Sale by public Auction of ornaments pledged with the Bank in the following Gold Loan Accounts, details of which are given under will be held at the **Concerned Branch Premises** on **30.01.2024 at** 3.00 P.M. The interested parties have to contact the Concerned Branch Manager For the Reserve Price of each Account. The interested parties for purchase of Gold ornaments may contact the Concerned Branch Manager for ascertaining the details of Gold ornaments put to sale & for terms & conditions of sale or the details of the ornaments. Parties interested in purchase of the Gold ornaments may participate in the auction

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

Note: This Notice is also deemed to be 15 days Final Reminder Cum Auction Notice to Borrowers.

SI. No.	Name & Address of Borrowers / Gold Loan A/c. No.	Balance as on 12.01.2024 (exclusive of U.A.I. and other charges) plus future interest w.e.f. 12.01.2024	Net Weight (in Grams)	Gross Weight (in Grams
	BERHAMPUR BRANCH (1670), MONSOON MOTORS, BERHAMPUR, DIST.: GANJAM			
1.	Kalu Charan Sahu, At: Singipur, Berhampur, Ganjam- 761014 / 60422772233	₹34,657/-	9.44	10.54
2.	Kalu Charan Sahu, At: Singipur, Berhampur, Ganjam- 761014 / 60422959335	₹1,07,415/-	29.50	34.40
3.	Kalu Charan Sahu, At: Singipur, Berhampur, Ganjam- 761014 / 60428075860	₹47,151/-	13.30	15.40
4.	Kalu Charan Sahu, At: Singipur, Berhampur, Ganjam- 761014 / 60422842384	₹1,27,611/-	35.14	39.14
	SAMBALPUR BRANCH (1824), SHIVLOK CO GOLBAZAR, SAMBALPUR, ODISH			EAR
1.	Anita Singh, At: Sahu Colony, Taxi Stand, Sadar, Sambalpur- 768001 / 60423801050	₹51,432/-	14.80	15.00
	BYASANAGAR BRANCH (2035), RA NEAR IDFC FIRST BANK, JAJPUR ROAD			'92
1.	Padmini Panda, At: Mundamal, Jajpur Road, Vyasanagar, Jajpur - 755019 / 60420673051	₹24,386/-	6.50	8.82
	SONEPUR BRANCH (2181), NEAR HOTEL K PH. NO.: 70		NEPUR-76	7017,
1.	Jogindra Sahu, S/o: Minaketan Sahu, At: Pandakital, Sonepur / 60424769670	₹74,060/-	19.20	24.00

1. It is " as is where is" condition.

- 2. The Successful bidder shall pay the entire bid amount by the next working day after the auction date and take delivery of the ornaments at his/her absolute risk and Responsibility and the said bidder shall not have any recourse to our Bank for any reason whatsoever
- 3. The Bank reserves its right to put to auction all or any of the ornaments pledged in the account as considered necessary or stop auction at any time without any prior notice and at its absolute discretion
- The Bank has absolute discretion to either reject or accept any bid without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
- The Bank has right to adjourn/postpone the auction sale at any stage to any future date at the convenience of the Bank and no person shall be entitled to claim any prior notice or right therefore.
- If the successful bidder does not clear the bid amount and/or does anything which may give rise to a necessity of adjourning/holding Fresh auction sale, he/she shall be liable to indemnify the Bank to the extent of loss, If any caused on account of his/her lapses which may come in the way of completing the auction.
- The Bank does not guarantee the weight or purity of the Jewellery/coins, either of its gold contents or otherwise and Auction purchaser shall ensure to check the weight or purity of the jewellery/coins by himself/herself by its own and post Auction no claim in this reference will be entertained by Bank.
- The intending purchaser shall make an earnest money deposit of 25% of Reserve Price (to be computed as per the balance outstanding).
- If the successful bidder fails to pay the amount, the earnest money will be forfeited and the jewe may be resold.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 14.01.2024

Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra









international



We may be small but this doesn't give them (India) the license to bully us MOHAMED MUIZZU PRESIDENT, MALDIVES

ARDERN FINALLY GETS HITCHED

After almost five years of engagement and a postponement due to the coronavirus pandemic, former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern married longtime partner Clarke Gayford in a private ceremony Saturday



uote

belong to democracy. But I know, including from personal experience of recent months, that

Arguments

arguments can wear people down and stoke uncertainty. We must improve this year

OLAF SCHOLZ CHANCELLOR, GERMANY

We are verv concerned that authorities in Sri Lanka are adopting a heavily security-based response to the country's drugs problem, instead of

public health policies grounded in human rights VOLKER TURK HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR

HUMAN RIGHTS, UN

I am only going to support a bill that works. As currently drafted, this (Rwanda) bill does not work

SUELLA BRAVERMAN UK MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

112th anniversary

Johannesburg: South Africa's ruling African National Congress party will celebrate Saturday the 112th anniversary of its establishment ahead of national elections, expected to be the toughest since it came to power in 1994. Thousands of party members and supporters are expected to convene in Mbombela Stadium in the Mpumalanga province where President Cyril Ramaphosa, also the head of ANC, will deliver his annual address and outline the party's program for the year. The ANC is the party of South Africa's first democraticallyelected president and antiapartheid leader Nelson Mandela. It was at the forefront of the country's liberation struggle against racial segregation and the white minority government.

Relief for Trump

Salem: Oregon's Supreme Court Friday kept former

Taiwan voters rebuff China

RULING-PARTY CANDIDATE EMERGES VICTORIOUS IN TAIWAN'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DESPITE CHINESE PRESSURE TO SPURN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LAI CHING-TE, WHO HAS PLEDGED TO STAND UP TO BEIJING

AGENCIES

Taipei, Jan 13: Ruling-party candidate Lai Ching-te emerged victorious in Taiwan's presidential election Saturday and his opponents conceded, a result that will chart the trajectory of the self-ruled democracy's relations with China over the next four years.

At stake is the peace and stability of the island, 160 kilometres (100 miles) off the coast of China, that Beijing claims as its own and to be retaken by force if necessary.

Domestic issues such as the sluggish economy and expensive housing also featured prominently in the campaign.

China had called the poll a choice between war and peace. Beijing strongly opposes Lai, the current vice president and a member of the governing Democratic Progressive Party or

DPP. Lai and incumbent President Tsai Ing-wen reject China's sovereignty claims over Taiwan, a former Japanese colony that split from the mainland amid civil war in 1949. They have, however, offered to speak with Beijing, which has repeatedly refused to hold talks and called

them separatists Beijing was believed to favour the candidate from the more China-friendly Nationalist party, also known as Kuomintang, or KMT. Its candidate, Hou Yu-ih, also promised to restart talks with China while bolstering national defense. He promised not to move toward unifying the two Taiwan with the weapons needed

DEADLY OVERNIGHT STRIKE

Russia attacks Ukraine

with 40 missiles, drones



Taiwan's new president-elect, Lai Ching-te, is likely to face his toughest task yet when he takes office in May and has to deal with the ire of China which has repeatedly denounced him as a dangerous separatist and claims Taiwan as its territory

sides of the Taiwan Strait if elected.

A third candidate in the race, Ko Wen-je of the smaller Taiwan People's Party, or TPP, had drawn the support particularly of young people wanting an alternative to the KMT and DPP, Taiwan's traditional opposing parties, which have largely taken turns governing since the 1990s. Ko also stated he wanted to speak with Beijing, and that his bottom line would

be that Taiwan needs to remain democratic and free. The United States, which is bound by its laws to provide

to defend itself, pledged support for whichever government emerges, reinforced by the Biden administration's plans to send an unofficial delegation made up of former senior officials to the island shortly after the election.

mestic issues such as the dearth of affordable housing and stagnating wages have dominated

TO FACE CHINA'S IRE

Lai, repeatedly said during the campaign that he wanted to keep the status quo with China, which claims Taiwan as its own, and offered to talk to Beijing.

We've written a new page for Taiwan's history of democracy. I am determined to safeguard Taiwan from threats and intimidation from China

LAI CHING-TE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE,

"We don't want to become enemies with China. We can become friends," Lai, widely known by his English name William, told a Taiwanese television station in July.

But in Beijing's view, Lai, 64, is a separatist and "troublemaker through and through" for comments he first made in 2017 as premier about being a "worker" for Taiwan's formal independence - a red line for Beijing.

The next year he told parliament he was a "practical worker for Taiwan independence", causing one Chinese newspaper, the widely read Global Times, to call for China to issue an international arrest warrant for Lai and prosecute him under China's 2005 Anti-Secession Law

Lai maintains he simply meant Taiwan is already an independent country. On the campaign trail he stuck by President Tsai Ing-wen's line that the Republic of China - Taiwan's formal name - and the People's Republic of China are "not subordinate to each other"

Under Taiwan's constitution the Republic of China is a sovereign state, a view shared by all Taiwan's main political parties. The Republic of China govern-

intense airstrikes in Gaza be-

fore expanding the operation

into a ground offensive. It says its

goal is to crush Hamas and win

the release of the more than 100

hostages still held by the group.

The offensive has wrought un-

precedented destruction upon

Gaza. But more than three

months later, Hamas remains

largely intact and hostages re-

main in captivity. The Israeli

military says the war will stretch

on throughout 2024

ment fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to Mao Zedong's communists, who set up the People's Republic.

What worries Beijing is the idea that Lai could try to change the status quo by declaring the establishment of a Republic of Taiwan, which Lai has said he will not do.

"I think China hates him, really hates him," said Wu Xinbo, an international relations professor at Shanghai's Fudan University. "It is because if he is elected as the leader of Taiwan, he may come to advance his goal of Taiwan independence, which will provoke a crisis across the Taiwan Strait.'

Still, while China has announced sanctions on several senior Taiwanese officials, including Lai's running-mate Hsiao Bi-khim, Taiwan's former de facto ambassador to the United States, it has not done so for Lai, perhaps indicating Beijing does not want to totally shut the door to one day having talks with him.

Beside the China tensions, domestic issues dominated the campaign, particularly an economy that was estimated to have grown just 1.4 per cent last year. That partly reflects inevitable cycles in demand for computer chips and other exports from the high-tech, heavily trade-dependent manufacturing base, and a slowing of the Chinese economy.

But longer-term challenges such as unaffordable housing and wage stagnation topped voters' concerns.

Mauritius grants break to officials for Ram **Mandir inauguration**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Port Louis, Jan 13: In a significant move, the Mauritian government has decided to grant a one-off special leave for two hours to public servants of the Hindu faith to attend prayers marking the landmark inauguration of Ram Temple in Ayodhya January 22.

The Pran Pratishtha at the Ram temple will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders. The ceremony will be telecast live.

Cabinet has agreed to the grant of a one-off special leave of two hours Monday 22 January 2024 from 1400 hours to public officers of Hindu faith, subject to exigencies of service, in the context of the inauguration of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir in India, which is a landmark event as it symbolises the return of Lord Ram in Ayodhya, the Mauritian Cabinet led by Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth said in a state-

ment Friday. Hinduism is the largest religion in Mauritius, with Hindus representing approximately 48.5 per cent of the population in 2011.

Mauritius is the only country in Africa where Hinduism is the most practised religion. In terms of percentage, the nation ranks third globally in the prevalence of Hinduism, following Nepal and India

Hinduism came to Mauritius when Indians were brought as indentured labour to colonial French and later in much larger numbers to British plantations in Mauritius and neighbouring islands of the Indian Ocean.

100 days of Israel-Hamas conflict

Israel's relentless attack on Gaza has completely transformed the region with the conflict showing no signs of end

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, Jan 13: Sunday marks 100 days that Israel and Hamas have been at war.



by Israel and Egypt following Hamas' takeover in 2007. Today, the territory is unrecognizable.

Experts say the Israeli bombing is among the most intense in modern history. Gaza health authorities say the death toll already has eclipsed 23,000 people, roughly 1% of the Palestinian territory's population. Thousands more remain missing or badly wounded. Over 80% of the population has been displaced, and tens of thousands of people are now crammed into sprawling tent camps on small slivers of space in southern Gaza that also come under Israeli fire.

the campaign.

Beside the China tensions, do-

the state's primary ballot, declining to wade into the legal chaos over whether he's discualified to be president until the US Supreme Court rules on a similar case out of Colorado. Oregon was one of several states where liberal aroups sued to remove Trump from the ballot under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, a Civil War-era provision that prohibits those who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office. Only one of those lawsuits has been successful so far – in Colorado, which last month ruled that Trump's role in the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol disgualified him from the presidency.

air attack were recorded," the air force said, adding it destroyed eight missiles.

pushes for more air defence.

Kyiv, Jan 13: Russia launched dozens of attacks over Ukraine

overnight, the Ukrainian air

force said Saturday, as Kyiv

"A total of 40 means of enemy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ukraine's air force said Russia attacked with a wide range of weapons including cruise, ballistic, and anti-aircraft missiles as well as drones

"More than 20 devices" failed to reach their targets due to "active measures by means of electronic warfare," it added.

'Either they fell in the fields, they were detonated in the air. or they were affected by means of radio-electronic warfare of

our defence forces," he said on television.

> A missile attack in the northeastern Sumv region wounded one civilian and damaged 26 buildings, Ukraine's prosecutor general said.

"There is damage" in the northern region of Chernigiv, its governor Vyacheslav Chaus said, adding authorities were "not disclosing the places yet".

The war already is the longest and deadliest between Israel and the Palestinians since Israel's establishment in 1948. and the fighting shows no signs of ending.

Israel declared war in response to Hamas' unprecedented crossborder attack October 7 in which the Islamic militant group killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 250 others hostage. It was the deadliest attack in Israel's history and the deadliest for Jews since the Holocaust. Israel responded with weeks of



The scale of likely damage or destruction across Gaza is remarkable

JAMON VAN DEN HOEK MAPPING EXPERT, **OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY**

Here are five takeaways from

the first 100 days of a conflict that has upended the region. GAZA WILL NEVER BE THE SAME Conditions before October 7 were already difficult in Gaza after a stifling blockade imposed

The human cost is equally mind-boggling. The United Nations estimates that about onequarter of Gaza's population is starving. Just 15 of Gaza's 36 hospitals are partially operational, according to the UN, leaving the medical system close to collapse. Children have missed months of school and have no prospects for returning to their studies.

CONFLICT

Did Biden just get lured into war with Houthis? ANOTHER

US CARRIES OUT NEW STRIKE IN YEMEN, HOUTHIS VOW RESPONSE

Bus mishap kills 12

Kathmandu: At least 12 people, including two Indians, were killed and 23 others injured after a passenger bus plunged into the Rapti river in Nepal's Lumbini province, according to a media report Saturday. The accident happened late night Friday when the bus heading to Kathmandu from Nepalgunj veered off the Rapti bridge in Bhgalubang and plunged into the river along the East-West Highway, The Kathmandu Post reported.

Pak shuts border

Islamabad: Pakistan effectively closed a key northwestern border crossing with Afghanistan to truck drivers Saturday Afghanistan's ruling Taliban said. Noor Mohammad Hanif, director of Information and Culture department in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province said that officials at the Torkham began asking for passports and visas from Afghan drivers.

REUTERS

Washington, Jan 13: US President Joe Biden's blistering strikes on Yemen followed weeks of warnings to the Houthis to stop attacking Red Sea shipping - or else.

Yet the Houthis continued firing drones and missiles, seemingly goading the United States to follow through on its threats. That has raised a question for some experts: Did the Houthis want a war with America? And if so, why?

Gerald Feierstein, a former US ambassador to Yemen, is among those who think the United States has given the Houthis exactly what they wanted: a fight.

"Absolutely they have been trying to provoke US retaliation." Feierstein told Reuters. 'They've been confident that they could withstand whatever we were going to do. They have seen they win popular support."

The Houthis, who have controlled most of Yemen for nearly a decade, said five fighters had been killed in a total of 73 air

strikes. They vowed to retaliate and continue their attacks on shipping, which they say are intended to support Palestinians against Israel, a popular cause in Yemen.

The US military said late Fridav it had launched another

strike targeting a radar site. After the initial US and British strikes, drone footage on the Houthis' al-Masirah TV showed hundreds of thousands of people in Sanaa chanting slogans denouncing Israel and the United States. Crowds gathered in other Yemeni cities as well.

Experts say much of the Houthi confidence comes from having resisted years of attacks from Saudi Arabia. But a USled campaign against the group could be very different.

US Lieutenant General Douglas Sims, the director of the Joint Staff, told reporters Thursday that the strikes hit 28 locations with more than 150 munitions. Reviewing the damage, he said he hoped the Houthis would not invite that kind of destruction. "My guess is if you were operating a ballistic missile

launcher last night, you certainly didn't want the strike. But, no, I would hope they didn't want us to strike," Sims said.

MOUNTAIN FIGHTERS

Abdul Malik al-Houthi, the enigmatic leader of Yemen's Houthi fighters, traces his lineage to the Prophet Mohammad. In pre-recorded speeches and sermons, he asserts that his movement is under siege because of its religion

Al-Houthi established a rep-

utation as a fierce battlefield commander before emerging as head of the Houthi movement. mountain fighters who have been battling a Saudi-led military coalition since 2015 in a conflict that has killed tens of thousands. devastated Yemen's economy and left millions hungry.

Under the direction of al-Houthi, who is in his 40s, the group has acquired tens of thousands of fighters and a huge arsenal of armed drones and ballistic missiles, largely supplied by Iran.

Following the strikes, Sims and other US officials acknowledged that the Houthis would probably make good on their threats to retaliate.

On Friday, the Houthis fired an anti-ship ballistic missile into the Red Sea, the Pentagon said.

A US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said far from being deterred, the Houthis might see the likely low death toll among their fighters in the strikes as a success for the group, even if their capabilities have been degraded.

"Someone's definition of success really depends on their perspective," the official said.

MORE STRIKES?

Michael Mulroy, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Middle East under the Trump administration, said the Pentagon should prepare for additional military action.

"The US should start planning to increase our response to further attacks in the Red Sea or Syria and Iraq," he said. "And Iran's IRGC should be

included in those targets," he added, using an acronym for Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Iran champions the Houthis as part of its regional "axis of resistance" - a collection of Iranbacked groups that includes Palestinian militant group Hamas and militia in Iraq and Syria.

The United States accuses Iran of enabling the Houthi Red Sea attacks, providing the military capabilities and intelligence to carry them out.

The Houthis deny being puppets of Tehran and say they are fighting a corrupt system and regional aggression.

PROTESTS BREAK OUT

Tens of thousands of Yemenis gathered in several cities Friday to hear their leaders condemn US and British strikes on their country in response to attacks by \rightarrow Houthi militants on Red Sea shipping.

"Your strikes on Yemen are terrorism," said Mohammed Ali Al-Houthi, a member of the Houthi Supreme Political Council,referring to the United States. "The United States is the Devil."









business



There is no proposal as of now to remove export restrictions on wheat, rice and sugar. And India will not import wheat and sugar PIYUSH GOYAL UNION MINISTER

CITIGROUP TO CUT 20K JOBS

Global banking major Citigroup will reduce 10 per cent of its workforce, or about 20,000 employees, in the next two years in a major corporate overhaul. About 20,000 employees will be let go over the "medium term", Citigroup said after presenting fourth-quarter earnings





As we expand our footprint with Origins by Mahindra-Phase-II, the integrated cities and industrial

clusters vertical of Mahindra Lifespaces continue to accelerate business efficiency and improve go to market with plug and play infrastructure

AMIT KUMAR SINHA MD AND CEO, MAHINDRA LIFESPACE DEVELOPERS

It is our honour to be a part of the state and India's growth journey. These investments are in line with our promise to consistently deliver value for our stakeholders through sustained expansion in earnings

RS JALAN TEXTILES DIRECTOR, GHCL



AFFAIRS SECRETARY

RESULTS CORNER

D-Mart Q3 net profit rises 17%

New Delhi: Avenue Supermarts Ltd, which owns and operates retail chain D-Mart, Saturday, reported a 17 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹690.41 crore for the third quarter ended December 31. The company had posted a net profit of ₹589.64 crore in the October-December quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Avenue Supermarts. Its revenue from operations grew 17.31 per cent to ₹13,572.47 crore during the quarter under review against ₹11,569.05 crore in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal. Avenue Supermarts' total expenses rose 17.31 per cent to ₹12,656.46 crore in the third quarter of this fiscal.

Tesla, Volvo halt output India flags US visa delay for businesses The situation around the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, world's most important shipping route connecting the

Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean, has escalated due to recent attacks by Yemen-based Houthi militants

REUTERS

Berlin, Jan 13: Automakers Tesla and Geely-owned Volvo Car said they were suspending some production in Europe due to a shortage of components, the first clear sign that attacks on shipping in the Red Sea are hitting manufacturers in the region.

The United States and Britain launched a series of strikes on Yemen Thursday, aimed at the Iran-backed Houthi militia whose attacks on international shipping have disrupted one of the world's most important shipping routes.

Container shipping rates jumped further this week as concerns grew that vessels carrying everything from clothes to phones and car batteries will have to avoid the Suez Canal, the fastest route between Asia and Europe. for longer than expected.

The biggest supply chain upheaval since the Covid-19 pandemic risks derailing the global economic recovery, while higher freight and oil prices could reignite inflation. The canal accounts for about 12% of global container traffic.

Late Thursday, Tesla told Reuters it will suspend most car production at its factory near Berlin from January 29 to



Due to the unstability, the shippers are taking consignments through the Cape of Good Hope, resulting in delays of

almost 14 days and also higher freight and insurance costs

February 11, citing a lack of components after many ships were re-routed around the southern tip of Africa.

"The armed conflicts in the Red Sea and the associated shifts in transport routes between Europe and Asia via the Cape of Good Hope are having an impact on production in Gruenheide," a Tesla statement said. "The considerably longer transportation times are creating a gap in supply chains."

It did not say what components were delayed arriving at the factory, where it assembles

Airtel, Jio may withdraw

electric vehicles for sale in Europe.

Volvo Car, which is majorityowned by China's Geely, said it will pause output at its plant in Ghent in Belgium for three days next week due to a delayed delivery of gearboxes.

Some tanker operators have ceased traversing the Red Sea following the US and British air strikes on Yemen's Houthis, as regional conflict stemming from Israel's war in Gaza widens.

Adding to the logistical headaches hampering trade, low water levels due to drought have reduced crossings of the Panama Canal, another key maritime trade route.

FALL-OUT

Shipping giants such as Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd have been sending their vessels on the longer, more expensive journeys around Africa.

Last Friday, Maersk said it expects the re-routing, which adds about 10 days and around \$1 million in extra fuel to a jour-

COMM MIN CALLS MEET

New Delhi: The commerce ministry has called a high-level inter-ministerial meeting on January 17 to discuss the way forward on the trade front in the wake of ongoing problems in the Red Sea, a senior official said Saturday. Senior officials from five ministries -- external affairs, defence, shipping and finance (department of financial services) and commerce -- will participate in the deliberations. The commerce ministry has also set up an internal strategic group, comprising additional secretaries of the ministry, to discuss global issues impacting the country's trade on a daily basis and prepare a strategy so that India's response can be quick and decisive. "We are watching the situation very closely. There is some cost implication for our exports, but since there are inventories for almost a month only, if it escalates for long then it will be a major problem. We are worried," the official added.

ney from Asia to Northern Europe, to last for the foreseeable future.

Both companies Friday welcomed moves to improve security for shipping in the region, but did not say if Thursday's strikes would make a difference.

Many companies, including Geely, China's second-largest automaker by sales, Swedish home furnishing company IKEA and British clothes retailer Next (NXT.L), have warned of potential delays to deliveries of goods. US retailers Target and Tractor

Supply are also facing delays.

Target faces some delays on items from India and Pakistan, which are big apparel suppliers, though most imported merchandise comes across the Pacific and is not affected, a source said

INDIA-US BILATERAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES. CONTINUED TO RISE AND LIKELY SURPASSED \$200BN **IN 2023 DESPITE A CHALLENGING GLOBAL TRADE ENVIRONMENT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: India has raised its concerns at the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) meeting over problems being faced by domestic businesses in getting timely visas for the US and sought to fast-track the visa-issuing process for traders and investors, an official has said.

The issue came up for discussion during the 14th TPF meeting here Friday. It was cochaired by the US Trade **Representative Katherine Tai** and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

During the TPF meeting, the two ministers noted that the movement of professional and skilled workers, students, investors and business visitors between the countries contributes immensely to enhancing bilateral economic and technological partnership.

"Minister Goyal highlighted challenges being faced by business visitors from India due to visa processing time periods and requested the US to augment processing," a joint statement has said.

The government official said that India has also asked the US to make it a permanent process for Indian H1B visa holders in America to renew those visas in the US itself so that they do not have to come to India for that.

At present, in the US, this state-side facility for this is a pilot programme. State-side facility means the person staving with an H1B visa can get it re-



newed in the US only

"Now, we are asking to make it permanent, and we are asking to extend this facility not only to the original visa holder but to his/her family also so that the family does not need to come back to India for renewal of visas," the official added.

Further, India has requested the US to consider India as an 'approved treaty country' for E1 and E2 visas, which are for traders and investors.

RESTORE GSP STATUS

India has also requested the US to restore its status under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program which was scrapped by the former Donald Trump administration in 2019.

'Commerce Minister Goyal reiterated India's interest in restoration of its beneficiary status under the Generalized System of Preferences program. Ambassador Tai noted that this could be considered, as warranted, in relation to the eligibility criteria determined by the US Congress," a joint statement issued on Friday night after the meeting said.

India was the largest beneficiary of the GSP status in 2017. with \$5.7 billion worth of goods being exported duty-free to the US. About 1,900 products such as engineering goods, chemicals and textiles were allowed to enter the US without an duty being levied on them

No import curbs on \neg certain IT items like desktop computers

unlimited 5G data plan

TCPL to buy Capital Foods, Organic India **COMPANIES JOINTLY**

Ajmera Realty Q3 sales bookings up

New Delhi: Ajmera Realty and Infra India Ltd's sales bookings nearly doubled to ₹253 crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal on better housing demand. Its sales bookings stood at ₹128 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing earlier this week. The Mumbai based company sold 1.03.573 square feet of carpet area during October-December this fiscal against 63,595 square feet in the corresponding period of the previous year. During April-Decemberthis fiscal, sales bookings grew 5 per cent to ₹730 crore from ₹694 crore in the year-ago period.

Anand Rathi Q3 profit rises 34%

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New Delhi: Anand Rathi Wealth, part of Mumbaibased financial services group Anand Rathi, Friday reported a 34 per cent surge in profit after tax at ₹58 crore for the three months ended December 2023. In comparison, the company had posted a profit after tax of ₹43.2 crore in the same quarter of the preceding fiscal, Anand Rathi Wealth said in a regulatory filing. Total revenue rose 34 per cent to ₹187.3 crore in the October-December guarte of the current fiscal (FY24) from ₹140.2 crore in the quarter ended December 31, 2022. For the nine months ended December 31, 2023, the company's revenue grew 35 per cent to ₹555 crore and profit after tax climbed 34 per cent to ₹169 crore on a year-on-year basis.

The telecom operators are likely to charge up to 10% more

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 13: Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel are likely to discontinue their unlimited 5G data plans for premium customers soon, media reports said Saturday.

As per the analysts, the companies will likely charge at least 5-10 per cent more for 5G services compared to 4G, starting from the second half of 2024, as per reports. This move is aimed at increasing monetisation and boosting revenue growth.

The two telecom operators are also expected to raise mobile tariffs by at least 20 per cent in the September quarter of 2024 to improve their ROI (return on capital employed) of 5G infrastructure investments and customer acquisition costs, according to industry experts.



The other two telecom players Vodafone-Idea and governmentowned BSNL are yet to introduce 5G services in the country. Meanwhile, Bharti Airtel in partnership with Ericsson has successfully tested Ericsson's pre-commercial Reduced Capability (RedCap) software on the Airtel 5G network.

Carried out in collaboration with chip-maker Qualcomm using its 5G RedCap test module, the testing on the 5G TDD network represents the first implementation and validation of RedCap in India.

VALUED AT ₹7K-CR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) on Friday announced acquisitions of Capital Foods, which owns popular Ching's Secret brand, and Fab India-backed Organic India for a combined enterprise value of ₹7,000 crore.

The Tata Group arm TCPL will acquire 100 per cent equity shares of Capital Foods, which owns brands like Ching's Secret and Smith & Jones, at an enterprise valuation of ₹5,100 crore.

TCPL will also acquire Organic India, which operates in the health and wellness category, at an enterprise value of ₹1,900 crore.

The move will help TCPL, which is transforming itself into a full-fledged fast-moving consumer goods company (FMCG), to expand its portfolio into the packed food segment.



TCPL has entered into a Share Purchase Agreement and Shareholders' Agreement with the existing promoters and shareholders of Capital Foods for the acquisition of 75 per cent equity shareholding of the company from its various shareholders, in an all-cash deal.

The balance 25 per cent will be acquired within 3 years, it said.

The acquisition is in line with the Company's strategic intent of entering into new adjacent high growth/ attractive margin categories in the food and beverage space," said TCPL. Fab India-owned Organic Food

bolster the Tata Group arm in the fast growing and highly competitive market. TCPL - which owns iconic brands such as Tata Tea, Tetley and Tata Salt - had revenue in FY23 of ₹13.783 crore

The latest buyouts will

is in the business of manufacturing and sale of organic products, including tea, infusions, herbal supplements and packaged foods.

The acquisition is in line with the Company's strategic intent of entering into new adjacent high growth/ attractive margin categories in the food and beverage space The acquisition will enable the creation of a health and wellness platform," it said.

This is also an all-cash deal and is expected to be completed within three months, said TCPL.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Jan 13: India has secured the 2nd spot in Asia last year for the most Internet

Exchange Points (IXPs) per country, a new report revealed Saturday.

Society Pulse Country Report, this marks a significant milestone in India's commitment to adopting advanced technologies and addressing the challenges of a connected world.

An IXP is a physical and usually neutral location where different networks meet to ex-



INTERNET EXCHANGE POINTS IS A PHYSICAL AND USUALLY NEUTRAL LOCATION DIFFERENT NETWORKS MEET TO EXCHANGE LOCAL TRAFFIC

According to the Internet



change local traffic. "In an era where streaming,

digital education, and the global work-from-home economy heavily rely on IXPs, their

In an era where streaming, digital education, and the global work-from-home economy heavily rely on IXPs, their importance cannot be overstated in the context of India, given its growing number of Internet users MICHUKI MWANGI | FORMER CTO,

importance cannot be overstated in the context of India, given its growing number of Internet users," said Michuki Mwangi, the Internet Society's

KENYA INTERNET EXCHANGE POINT

Distinguished Technologist, and former CTO of Kenya Internet Exchange Point.

"While India is one of the leaders in Asia, it needs to expand on this good work and deploy more IXPs, encourage the remaining 85 per cent of networks to peer with these, and establish more local data centres, for it to increase the speed and affordability of its Internet services," he added. IXPs have a significant impact on improving the digital capabilities of public serv-

ices, which is crucial for countries like India. It promotes local content development and

provides incentives for local Internet service hosting.

'With an Internet penetration of approximately 67 per cent in a country of 1.3 billion, the number of people who are still digitally disconnected is huge," said Saadia Azim, COO of Bangla Sahayata Kendra, a digital public services platform in West Bengal.

'This gap contributes to a widening digital divide, where those left behind -- which are mostly those in rural areas -miss out on technological advancements, affecting various aspects of human development," she added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: The government has clarified that there are no import restrictions on certain IT hardware products such as desktop computers.

In a circular to customs authorities and industry, the commerce ministry arm Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has said only the import of laptops, tablets, all-in-one personal computers, ultra small form factor computers and servers is restricted and imports of these goods are allowed against a valid import authorisation.

"The given import restriction does not apply to any other goods such as desktop computers, etc, under the tariff head 8471," it said.

In international trade parlance, every product is categorised under an HSN (Harmonised System of Nomenclature) code, or tariff heads. It helps in systematic classification of goods across the globe.

HS Code 8471 includes products related to automatic data processing machines and units. It includes a mouse, printers, scanners, and CD drives

In August 2023, the government imposed restrictions on certain IT hardware goods and later after domestic and foreign firms flagged their concerns, in October last year, it tweaked curbs on imports of laptops and computers and allowed importers to bring in shipments of these hardwares from overseas on a mere 'authorisation' upon detailing quantity and value.

The new "import management system" is aimed at monitoring shipments of laptops, tablets and computers into the \rightarrow country without hurting market supply or creating a cumbersome licensing regime.

The importers are allowed to apply for multiple authorisa-would be valid up to September 30.2024.













India eves lose to USA in Paris 2024 Qualifiers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Jan 13: A profligate Indian team squandered chances galore to lose 0-1 to lower-ranked United States of America in their opening match of the FIH Women's Olympic Qualifier here Saturday.

The World No.6 India dominated the possession and created numerous scoring chances, including as many as seven penalty corners, but failed to breach the American defence

USA, ranked 24th in the world, scored the solitary goal of the match through Abigail Tamer in the 16th minute of the Pool B match. The defeat would make India's road to Paris tougher as it will be up against stronger teams in next matches.

There was hardly anything to separate the two sides in the first quarter which witnessed a keenly-contested battle. Both teams managed a few circle penetration but goals eluded the two sides.

The Indians, however, were guilty of not using both the flanks unlike USA who build their attacks from both corners. India's woes from penalty corners remained unchanged as they wasted as many as six set pieces.

The Americans sounded the board in the 11th minute through skipper Amanda Golini but the goal was disallowed for obstruction, much to the relief of the packed stadium.

The Indians, however, got a rude shock just after restart as USA took the lead a minute into the second quarter through Tamer, who was also assisted by some poor defending by the home team inside their D.

Tamer's goal eventually turned out to be winner. India will next play New Zealand Sunday, while USA will be up against Italy.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Jan 13: A series win over Afghanistan is still not counted among the grandstand cricketing feats, but a clutch of players will be eager to achieve that here Sunday in the second T20I as it can transform them into contenders from sidekicks. India had won the first game at Mohali by six wickets to take a 1-0 lead.

It is then imperative for Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel to produce a defining effort against the Afghans to keep themselves within the selectors' sight as the move to find a perfect squad for the T20 World Cup has gathered steam.

That India will not play another T20I series ahead of the marquee event in June increases the gravitas around their performance against Afghanistan.

Jitesh has all the reasons to place himself among the frontrunners as the wicketkeeper batter has overtaken Ishan Kishan in the pecking order since replacing the latter from

the fourth T20I against Australia at Raipur last year. The Maharashtra man has struck a couple of useful 30s down the order, but he would not have missed the need for a bigger knock to cement his claim. In the often-fickle selection landscape of Indian cricket, Jitesh, at 30, would know very well that only constant performances can help him save that frontrunner

status Tilak Varma offers a very similar case. The left-hander had made an excellent start to his T20I career last year, making 39. 51 and 49 not out against the

HARSHIT ALSO SHINES IN RANJI TROPHY TIE

Odisha in control vs MP

MATCHDAY **INDIA vs AFGHANISTAN** 2nd T20 International

Time: 7 pm Telecast: Sports18 Network

INDIA EYE

SERIES WIN

Stream: Jio Cinema West Indies in an away threematch series.

But since then, Varma has tapered off. The next 13 innings have produced only one more fifty, against a below par Bangladesh in the Asian Games, with three 20-plus scores and one 30-plus knock dominating the rest of the outings. Those numbers are certainly

not enough for the 21-year-old to land inside the larger scheme of things, and the effort to turn him into a part-time off-spinner too seemed to be having a feeble life. However, it remains to be seen whether Varma can retain his place in the side as star bats-

man Virat Kohli is available for

After missing out on the 50the thick of things in both red and white ball formats. The leftarm spinner was included in the India squad Friday for the first two Tests against England, and he dished out a fine spell at the PCA Stadium Thursday night as well - 4-0-23-2

So, the Gujarat man will be eager to weave on the pattern and contribute to a series triumph here. Sundar too has earned a recall but has not set the stage ablaze so far on his return. He will also eve a change in the

second match

The hope in the hearts of Jitesh and Varma might just have received a fillip as the Indore pitch often gives plenty of assistance to batsmen, as they can expect a fruitful outing here.

But it mandates Axar and Sundar to be at their absolute crafty best. The former had shown how to tame unhelpful conditions through that admirable spell at Mohali.

However, it will be immature to take this Afghan side for granted. They have the wherewithal to hurt India on their day. If they can fire in unison, it will not be far-fetched to expect cracker of a contest.

AFC Asian Cup: India go^{\neg} down fighting against Öz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Al Rayyan (Qatar), Jan 13: India kept former champions Australia at bay till the 50th minute before eventually losing their AFC Asian Cup football tournament opening group match 0-2 in a gritty performance here Saturday. India play Uzbekistan January 18 in their second group match

Jackson Irvine (50th minute) and Jordan Bros (73rd) scored for Australia to take home full three points from the match at the Ahmad bin Ali Stadium. India however, did better than their 0-4 loss to Australia in a group match in the 2011 Asian Cup.

The Indians would not be too disappointed by the margin of loss. Perhaps, they would be happy to have conceded just two goals, which may prove beneficial later on. The top two teams from each group, along with four best third-placed sides from across six groups, progress to the knockout round of 16. A knockout-round berth will be a huge achievement for India.

For almost the whole first 45 minutes, the Indians sat really deep with all the 11 players, including captain Sunil Chhetri, defending in their own half as the rampaging Australians did



India, though, got one golden chance to stun the mighty Australians in the 16th minute but Chhetri missed it. Nikhil Poojary worked on the right flank and sent a beautiful cross and Chhetri sneaked out of three defenders to head the ball towards the Australian goal but it went wide.

After having overwhelming share of ball possession in the first session, the Australians were not to be denied too long as they took the lead in the 50th minute through an Irvine strike.

Considering the valiant vigil in the first half, it was a soft goal conceded by the Indians. Sandhu came out of line to connect to a high cross from the right. He had a hand on the ball but could neither get hold of it nor was he able to palm it away farther. The ball fell to Irvine whose leftfooted shot went past the crowded Indian defence to bulge the net. Trailing by a goal, the Indians

had to change their defensive strategy and open up a bit, which, however, created chances for the Australians who made it 2-0. Substitute Riley McGree outpaced Lalengmawia Ralte on the right side and he sent a cross for Bros to fire in Australia's second goal



Satwik-Chirag enters Malyasia Open final

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Diu, Jan 13: The Beach Games 2024, the first multisports beach games in India, organised at the pristine blue flag certified Ghoghla Beach in Diu concluded with Madhya Pradesh emerging overall champions.

MP topped the medal tally with 18 medals, including 7 gold. Maharashtra, on the other hand

Subhranshu special puts MP emerge overall champions

FIRST EVER BEACH GAMES IN DIU



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 13: Asian Games gold medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Saturday beat World Champion Korean pair of Seo Seung Jae and Kang Min Hyukdished in straight games to advance to the Malaysia Open Super 1000 men's doubles final

Satwik and Chirag thus stood just one step away from their second Super 1000 title, having won the first one at the Indonesian Open in June last year.

It was the same Korean pair which the Indians had defeated in the semifinals last June. Overall, Satwik and Chirag now have a 3-1 head-to-head record against World No.3 Seo



batter completed his double century guiding Odisha to 493/8 at stumps on Day 2.

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:

Subhranshu Senapati was ex-

cellent throughout the Ranji

Trophy Elite Group D encounter

against Madhya Pradesh (MP) in

Indore as the stylish right-handed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Subhranshu (277 batting, 483b 19x4, 11x6) carried on his batting with the same vein he left on the opening day. And just like the previous day, he was running out of partners losing two wickets for 51 runs.

Odisha, who resumed the day on 208/6, were reduced to 259/8. However, Harshit Rathod (60 batting, 161b, 11x4, 1x6) joined Subhranshu at the middle and the duo forged an unbroken 234run partnership for the ninth wicket

Overnight batter Subhranshu and the new man Suryakant Pradhan (26) tried to steady Odisha innings with a 45-run stand for the seventh wicket before the latter got out. Sunil Roul (1) too departed shortly to put Odisha in backfoot. However, it was the last laugh of the day for MP.



From there on, it was all Subhranshu-Harshit show. The Subhranshu tried to up the ante a bit, but with Harshit providing solid support at the other end, he calmed his nerves and played accordingly. Subhranshu, though, played at an impressive strikerate of over 70 in the 234-run partnership.

The scenario right now suggests that the match is heading towards a draw, but with both the players are heading towards their personal milestones, it would be interesting to see their approach on the third day.

bagged 14 medals including 3 gold, while Tamil Nadu. Uttarkhand and hosts Dadra, Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu secured 12 medals each. Assam won eight medals, which includes five gold.

In a thrilling turn of events, Lakshadweep secured the gold in Beach Soccer, marking a historic achievement for the pristine island territory. They edged past Maharashtra 5-4 in the final. Sporting excellence took cen-

tre stage from January 4-11, as 1404 athletes, all under the age of 21, from 28 states and Union Territories, supported by 205 match officials, participated in a diverse range of disciplines. From the strategic showdowns

in Tug of War to the breath-taking feats of Sea Swimming, the martial artistry of Pencak Silat, the acrobatic displays of Mallakhamb, the fast-paced ac-

Madan also went back rela-

Players in action during a Beach Volleyball match; (inset) Lakshadweep Beach Soccer team receive the champions' trophy

tion of Beach Volleyball, the strategic battles of Beach Kabaddi, and the electrifying kicks and goals of Beach Soccer, each sport brought its unique energy to the event.

The debut of Beach Boxing added an extra layer of excitement, captivating both participants and spectators and marking a historic moment in the nation's athletic journey.

India is geographically gifted with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. 12 of the beaches in India have Blue Flag certification given to cleanest beaches promoting sustainable tourism.

However, many of the country's beaches aren't as explored as they should be. Hence the successful hosting of Diu Beach Games comes as heartening news.

in their first tournament of the season.

The Indian duo, ranked second in the world, scripted a remarkable comeback after being down and out in the second game, saving six game points during an eight-point burst to waltz their way to a 21-18, 22-20 win over their Korean opponents in a thrilling semifinal clash.

and Kang. Satwik and Chirag have been the most successful Indian players in the circuit last year, having won the Asian Games gold, titles in Asian Championship, Indonesian Super 1000, Korea Super 500 and Swiss Open Super 300. They also reached the fi-

nals of China Masters Super 750

in November last year.



Sidhu 17th shooter to bag Oly berth GUJARAT GIANT

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, Jan 13: Gujarat Giants claimed the Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 title with a 31-26 victory over Chennai Quick Guns at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here, Saturday. Hosts Odisha Juggernauts, on the other hand, finished their campaign on a high as they defeated Telugu Yoddhas 32-26 in the third-place playoff earlier in the evening.

Despite battling bouts of inconsistency during the league phase, Giants were superb on the day as they closed off the contest in the first innings itself. Quick Guns, who were favourites coming into the match, will rue their failure to get going from the onset.

Giants took home a purse of Rs 1 crore while Quick Guns received Rs 50 lakhs and Juggernauts received Rs 30 lakhs.



Giants made a superb start tively early. While Shinde held to the match, sending back Quick Guns' prime batch of Ramji on for longer, he was unable to Kashyap, Madan and Vijay secure a dream run point for his team. Their second batch Shinde in no time. They embraced the strategy of targetdid manage a dream run point, ing Ramji early and that proved but with the score at 14-1, it was to be a masterstroke as the lat-Giants who held the advantage ter failed to last a minute. going into Turn 2.

They then consolidated that advantage with a superb defensive display. The first Giants defensive batch of Suyash Gargate, Shubham Thorat and Deepak Madhav delivered five dream run points, lasting five minutes and six seconds on the mat. With only three members of the next batch staying unconquered, Giants held a huge 12-point lead going into the second innings.

Quick Guns managed to secure three bonus points in Turn 3 but it was too little too late. With a 19-point deficit to make up in the final turn, they needed a miracle. That miracle almost came. Quick Guns made a terrific start to Turn 4, sending back the first Giants batch in just a minute and 17 seconds before dispatching the next batch quickly. But Sanket Kadam stayed unbeaten and secured the trophy for his team.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, Jan 13: India's Vijayveer Sidhu clinched a 17th Paris Games quota place for the country while winning a silver medal in the men's 25m rapid-fire event at the Asia Olympic Qualifiers here Saturday.

The 21-year-old team bronzemedallist at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year, joins senior country-mate Anish Bhanwala in securing a Paris berth in the 25m rapid fire. Anish had bagged the Olympic quota with a bronze medal in the Asian Championship in Changwon, Korea, last year.

Vijayveer did not have to wait for a medal to secure a quota place. He earned it by qualifying for the final in fourth place with a score of 577. Four out of the six finalists Saturday were eligible for quota places and the young-

IAN

ster, who hails from Chandigarh, did it in style by shooting 28 in the elimination round to clinch silver behind Kazakhstan's Nikita Chiryukin, who shot 32 for the gold medal.

Rapid-fire pistol is traditionally a strong event for India as Vijay Kumar had bagged a silver at the 2012 London Olympic Games. Before the 2020 Olympics, Anish had looked a strong contender to book a Tokyo berth but

had missed out during the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi in 2021. If both Vijayveer and Anish get the opportunity to represent the

country at the Paris Olympics, it will be the first such instance in the rapid-fire shooting.

India are leading the charts with 12 gold, 10 silver and eight bronze medals, followed by China with seven gold. Sift, Ashi shine

Asian Games gold medallist Sift Kaur Samra, Ashi Chouksey made it a silver-bronze finish for India in the women's 50m rifle 3P individual final. Three Indians Indians - Sift, Ashi and Olympian Anjum Moudgil – had earlier en- ২ tered the final with Ashi shooting 588 to qualify in fourth place, while Anjum and Sift shot 586 each to take the sixth and seventh qualifying spots. China's Miao Wannu was top of the pile with -589 in qualification.

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