

8 KILLED IN SEPARATE ACCIDENTS IN STATE

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: Eight persons were killed in separate road accidents in Ganjam, Balasore and Angul districts, police said Friday. In the first incident, five persons, including two

employees of the electricity department, were killed following a head-on collision between a scooter and a motorcycle in Sorada in Ganjam district, late Thursday night.

Police said that three persons including two outsourcing employees of the electricity department were returning to Sorada on their scooter after finishing some maintenance work at Kesharipatna village. Meanwhile, three daily wagers coming from the opposite direction hit their scooter head-on midway. The locals rescued the injured persons and rushed them to the Community Health Centre at Sorada where doctors declared three brought dead.

Two others succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment at the Sorada hospital. The other injured labourer, rescued in a critical condition, was shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, police said.

In another incident, two persons were killed and another was injured as their motorcycle collided with a truck in Balasore district, late Thursday night. The three youths belonging to Basta area had gone for a picnic to Digha and were returning home when their motorcycle rammed into the rear end of a stationary truck. Locals spotted the trio in a pool of blood and informed the police who rushed them to a hospital where the doctors declared two of them dead and sent the critically injured to the district headquarters hospital in Balasore.

In the third incident, an ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) died on the spot on National Highway-55 after a truck hit her while she was crossing the road at Angul Friday morning.

BILKIS CASE CONVICTS SC denies more time to surrender

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 19 Eleven convicts in the case of gangrape of Bilkis Bano and the murder of seven of her family members during the 2002 riots in Gujarat will have to surrender January 21 as the Supreme Court Friday dismissed their plea seeking an extension of time to surrender.

Observing that the reasons cited by the convicts have no merits, a bench of justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan refused to grant them relaxation. The convicts had moved the apex court Thursday seeking more time to surrender. The top court had January 8 annulled the remission the Gujarat government granted to the 11 convicts in the high-profile case while slamming the state for being 'complicit' with an accused and abusing its discretion. It ordered the convicts, who were released prematurely on Independence Day in 2022, to go back to jail within two weeks. "We have heard appiar acument and

"We have heard senior counsel and counsel for the applicants and the counsel for the non-applicants also. The reasons cited by applicants to seek postponement of surrender and report back to jail have no merit inasmuch as those reasons in no way prevent them from complying with our directions. Hence the miscellaneous applications are dismissed," the bench said.

The reasons seeking extension of the deadline to surrender included failing health, impending surgery, son's marriage and harvesting ripe crops.

The first five convicts who had sought relief are Govind Nai, Pradeep Mordhiya, Bipin Chandra Joshi, Ramesh Chandana and Mitesh Bhatt.

Later, the remaining convicts also moved a similar plea.

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ASSEMBLY BUDGET SESSION FROM FEB 5

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: The Budget Session of the Odisha Assembly will begin February 5, a notification said Friday.

The session, which will continue till February 13, will have five working days. It will begin with the address of Governor Raghubar Das, an official of the Parliamentary Affairs Department said.

Finance Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha will present the vote-on-account or interim budget for the first four months of 2024-25 fiscal February 8. The appropriation bill for the vote-on-account will be tabled February 9.

Orphanage horror

SOURCE: X

Minor girls stripped, hung upside down and forced to inhale smoke in MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

FIRST LOOK: The full image of Ram Lalla idol became public Friday as anticipation built up for the consecration ceremony at the Ayodhya temple

January 22. The 51-inch idol, carved by Mysore-based sculptor Arun Yogiraj,

has been placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple

Indore, Jan 19: Minor girls at an Indore orphanage narrated tales of abuse and alleged horrifying ways of punishment, including branding with hot tongs, hanging upside down and forcing to inhale smoke from burning red chillies, prompting the local administration to seal the facility and the police to file an FIR against five women.

As the shocking tales, recounted by the inmates before a Child Welfare Committee (CWC), surfaced an FIR was registered against the five women associated with the facility for allegedly illtreating children in the name of punishment, a police official said Friday. HEADMASTER HELD FOR RAPING 2 MINOR GIRLS

KENDRAPARA: A 45-year-old headmaster of a private school in Kendrapara district was arrested Friday for allegedly raping two minor girls, police said. The accused allegedly sexually assaulted the two girl students January 16 in the school. Both the 13-year-old girls are students of class 7, police said. The incident came to light when the girls refused to go to school, prompting their parents to inquire about the reason for their decision. After being pressured by their parents, both girls confided in them about the sequence of sexual torture inflicted upon them by the accused teacher, police added.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The facility, described by officials as an orphanage, was sealed by the local administration. However, the NGO running the children's facility said it was a hostel and not an orphanage, and filed a habeas corpus petition in the Madhya Pradesh High Court challenging the administration's action of keeping the children, who were moved out of the shelter, allegedly under illegal detention.

A habeas corpus plea is filed before a court to ascertain whether a person has been detained legally. The NGO also denied all allegations mentioned in the FIR filed on the basis of a complaint by the local CWC. The administration sealed the facility, 'Vatsalyapuram', located in Vijayanagar area January 12 for illegal operation and shifted the inmates, girls aged between four and 14 years, to the state-run Child Protection Home and another institution, the official said.

The girl inmates told the CWC that they were tortured in the name of punishment on the premises, he said. In the FIR lodged on the night of January 17, it was mentioned a four-year-old girl was beaten up for wearing dirty clothes, locked in the bathroom for several hours and not given food for two days. It was also alleged in the FIR that children were hung upside down and forced to inhale smoke from red chillies kept on a hot pan below.

Two children were branded with hot tongs at the hands of a minor girl and one girl was taken to a furnace after being stripped in front of other kids and warned of being burnt, the official said, citing the document.



World's richest family owns 700 cars, 8 jets



AGENCIES

Dubai, Jan 19: The world's richest family owns a ₹4,078 crore presidential palace (three times the size of Pentagon), eight private jets and a popular football club, according to a report by GQ. UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, also known as MBZ,

heads the family and has hilds, brothers and 11 sisters. The Emirati royal also has nine children and 18 grandchildren. The family owns about six per cent of the world's oil reserves and the Manchester City football club besides holding stakes in several companies -- from Rihanna's Fenty to Elon Musk's Space X.

MBX s Space A. MBZ's younger brother Sheikh Hamad bin Hamdan al Nahyan has a collection of over 700 cars including the world's largest SUV along with five Bugatti Veyrons, a Lamborghini Reventon, a Mercedes-Benz CLK GTR, a Ferrari 599XX and a McLaren MC12. The family resides in the Qasr Al-Watan presidential palace in Abu Dhabi, the biggest out of the several such palaces it owns in the UAE. Spread across nearly 94 acres, the largedomed palace houses a chandelier made of 350,000 crystals and several prized artefacts.

MBZ's brother Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan heads the family's chief investment company whose value has gone up by almost 28,000 per cent over five years. The firm, presently valued at \$235 billion, owns agriculture, energy, entertainment and maritime businesses and employs tens of thousands of people.

Apart from the UAE, the family also owns luxury properties across the world including in Paris and London. The family's former head was nicknamed the 'landlord of London' for the vast array of properties owned by him in UK's most posh neighbourhoods.







SHARON OSBOURNE RULES OUT THE X FACTOR RETURN

Sharon Osbourne has said TV show The X Factor did damage to people's lives as she confirmed she's not interested in a return. The former judge said things must change if the programme was ever to return, admitting she wouldn't want to have 'responsibility' again as it is not fair to be laughing at people.

SALMA HAYEK SETS **INSTAGRAM ON FIRE**

Actress Salma Hayek sent fans wild after sharing a carousel of unearthed nude photographs on her social media. The Frida actress left little to the imagination as she uploaded the throwback snaps on her Instagram account, sharing the saucy collection with her 27.7 million followers on the platform.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

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You may cause some heartbreaks today, so be careful! Apart from this, Ganesha says, your love life is stable and you are ready to make a commitment to your loved one. If you are married, your rela tionship will become more intense and attachment will strengthen.

TAURUS

Unless you mind your moods and manners today. you are likely to hurt, and lose, a lot of friends, fears Ganesha. Your thoughts and feelings will be unduly unsteady and unpredictable. It may not always be possible to maintain your calm to stay in control. A change of scene could be the right way to deal with the situation.

GEMINI

You will be able to divide your attention between personal and professional life. Workplace will become pretty exciting during the afternoon. By evening, you will get plenty of opportunities to shower your affection on your loved ones, savs Ganesha

In all likelihood, today, you are likely to strike a balance between your professional and personal life, predicts Ganesha. The work will be interesting and stimulating while your time with family will be peaceful and soothing

LEO

You will be in the mood to play the role of a guide today. The day will be filled with fun and frolic. There will be many occasions to have a good time, through out the day. You will experience some mental stress, however, it is likely to be short-lived, says Ganesha

VIRGO

Ganesha foresees a strong probability that you will keep your feet firmly planted on the ground in the face of adversity. The afternoon sun may bring some good returns or much awaited results for you. Love and affection will bring tranguillity in your family life. There is a distinct possibility of new relationships developing later in the day, says Ganesha

LIBRA Ganesha forecasts mostly superficial and thin-skinned issues as the likely cause of vour unease and nervousness today. Matters relating to government rules and

POST-NATIONAL AWARD HONOUR Kriti on feeling pressured

Mumbai: At the trailer launch event for Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya, Kriti Sanon shared insights into her feelings of pressure following her National Award win. The actress, set to make a comeback on the big screen with the film, expressed gratitude for the recognition but dismissed any added pressure, particularly in collaborating again with Maddock Films after her National Award-winning performance in Mimi.

Addressing the media, Kriti stated that she is not pressurised. "I feel every film is very different," she said. She emphasised her appreciation for the diverse challenges Maddock Films presents, expressing enjoyment in the process with the production house. While acknowledging the honour of the National Award, Kriti mentioned that she believes there's still a long journey ahead in her career.

For context, Kriti received the Best Actress award at the 69th National Film Awards for her performance in Mimi, a 2021 film that revolves around a young dancer who becomes a surrogate to fund her aspirations.

On the other hand. Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uliha Jiya features Kriti as a robot and Shahid Kapoor as a robotic expert. Produced by Jio Studios and Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films, the romance drama, written and directed by Amit Joshi and Aradhana Sah, is scheduled to hit theaters February 9.

images, despite achieving box office success with his recent film Animal. Expressing his views on the monotony of traditional hero roles, Bobby believes that the established star image can be confining for actors In an interview with Man's World India, the Badal actor highlighted the challenges faced by stars who may feel restricted in experimenting due to audience expectations and market pressures, leading to a sense of insecurity

Bobby also revealed that he often advises his brother, Sunny Deol, to venture into diverse projects. However, Sunny, according to Bobby acknowledges the challenge of breaking away from his strong star image. Reflecting on his own journey, Bobby

expresses gratitude for the opportunity to break away from the tra-

Curtains come down on Mukteswar Dance Festival

Bhubaneswar : The threeday Mukteswar Dance Festival, organised by the Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department in association with Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi, at the magnificent Mukteswar Temple here ended Friday with spellbinding performances of Odissi by renowned dancers of national and international repute.

The first programme of the evening was a chorus in honour of Lord Shiva eulogising his glory, presented by eminent music director Matru Prasad Das and his group (Bhubaneswar). Then renowned Odissi dancer Jagyandatta Pradhan from Bhubaneswar presented Abhinaya Karna. A duet by Swarnamayee The dance was scripted by Srinivas Ghatuari, while its music was composed by Guru Ramahari Das. Guru Dhaneswar Swain

composed the rhythm of the dance, choreographed by Guru Bichitrananda Swain. In the duet, Swarnamayee Behera and Sweekruti Das presented Pallavi.

The concluding presentation was a group Odissi presentation by the students from Nrutya Nilaya(Angul), led by Swapnarani Sinha. The troupe performed two shows, which were conceptualised and choreographed by Guru Dhaneswar Swain and Guru Swapnarani Sinha. The script and music were composed by Guru Sukanta Kumar Kundu and Guru Ramahari Das.

Among the dignitaries, OSNA President Aruna Mohanty, Secy Prabodh Rath, Culture Department Joint Director Subodh Acharya, and Odissi Research Centre Chief Executive Sikata Das were present at the event.

Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh and actorproducer Jackky Bhagnani have been in a relationship for a few years. And now their wedding is the talk of the town. Between all the

Behera and Sweekruti

Das from Cuttack

Rakul spills beans on her relationship

rumours, she has opened up about her relationship with Jackky.

In a chat with a media agency, the *Thank God* actress said. "Everybody likes stability, and I am glad that we have found that in each other. I think we are two similar people, and that is the most comforting part of it, as we don't have to bring any change into one another. It was very uncanny to know that there's another person who is exactly like me. We bond over the same food, the same films, the same travel destinations workouts, and a lot of other stuff.'

In October 2021, Rakul and Jackky Bhagnani made their relationship official on Instagram. For weeks now, there has been buzz about their wedding.

The couple's pre-wedding celebrations will take place over two

regulations will be on the table today at vour workplace. But evening promises a lighter fare; your fine taste in arts shall receive applause from all quarters.

SCORPIO

There are chances that you may easily get irritated and infuriated today, predicts Ganesha. Keep a lid on your anger or it may lead to irreconcilable differences. Avoid confrontations and unnecessary complications at work as well. You will spend a lot of time in finding out solutions to pending problems.

SAGITTARIUS

When Ganesha says -Perfect - He is talking about your planning skills and implementation. Today, due to systematic planning you will be able to deliver as per expectations and achieve great results. Your intelligent quotient may just impress someone from the opposite sex.

CAPRICORN

Work pressure may take a toll on you today, but you will overcome all impedi ments and excel in whatever work you undertake, says Ganesha. Support and motivation await you at home as family members will be exceedingly tolerant of your actions and endeavours.

Action is your forte, so seize the initiative and you will come out a winner! The afternoon sees you happy, but heavyduty work may take a toll on you. Relax a bit - listen to music, play with your pet, or simply don your best attire and step out to socialise!

PISCES

You are likely to be sweating todav at work. and it is neither the weather nor an illfitting suit that is the cause, says Ganesha. You will try your best to get your views across, and the post-afternoon lunch siesta is probably the best time to hammer your point home because that is when your boss will have all the energy to argue against.







CROSSWORD

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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IN ALL THE GAMES

YOU'VE PLAYED, HAVE YOU

EVER BEEN THE VICTIM

OF À CHEAP SHOT



MY DAD SAYS IF I

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AS MUCH AS I THINK ABOUT BASEBALL, I'D

BE AT THE HEAD

OF MY CLASS

PRETTY CHEAP SHOT

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YOU'RE USING YOUR HOW PESTLE UPSIDE MORTAR-FYING! DOWN.



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY JANUARY 20 | 2024

Naveen was ready to sacrifice govt for Puri Prakalpa: Pandian



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: Fivetime Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was ready to forgo his 24-vear-old government, but determined to complete the Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa or temple heritage corridor in Puri, BJD leader and Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha, Kartik Pandian revealed here, Friday. Pandian, the close aide of

Patnaik and a bureaucrat-turnedpolitician, said this while addressing a programme of the International Conclave on Urban Transformation, attended by representatives from 11 countries and 20 Indian states.

"I will take risk, I will forgo my government, but I will get this (project) done," Pandian said quoting Patnaik.

Pandian was addressing the audience on the Rs 800-crore Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa or the heritage corridor around Puri's Jagannath Temple, which was opposed by many since its beginning in 2021. However, Patnaik remained determined and completed it with full determination.

Recalling a recent history, Pandian said, "Somebody very important had asked the CM whether he was sure to do it (project)? In so many years, many people have not done anything. The CM said I am pretty serious about doing this.

"He (the man who spoke to the CM) said there is a huge political risk involved in it. Because I (the man who spoke to the CM) have seen chief ministers who started the projects with full en-

thusiasm, stopped it after 15 days or a month because they knew that they were getting into troubled waters which might finish their political career and government might fall," Pandian told the audience.

Noting that this is the kind of attachment of people with the temple, Pandian said, "For one mistake, your political career may be finished. You (CM) are actually playing with fire. This was the feedback to the Honb'le CM." According to Pandian, Patnaik told that person, "I am in my fifth term. People have bestowed so much love and affection on me. They have reposed faith on me. The people also love and have great respect for Lord Jagannath. If I do not do it for the people who have trust in me, I think history may judge me very wrongly. I will take risk. I will forgo my government, but

will get this done.' The BJD leader said this is the conviction of the man behind the success of the Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa. He is ready even to forgo the government for doing a 'larger good' for the people of Odisha. Pandian said Puri Gajapati

Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb has categorically said something for the 12th century shrine has been done after 700 years. "Gajapati is the titular king of Puri and also the 'karta' of the temple,' Pandian said.



AT LORD'S ABODE: Office bearers, artistes and devotees at Srimandir in Puri, Friday, for inviting Goddess Bimala to the inaugural ceremony of SAMALEI (Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economic Initiative) Project in Sambalpur, January 27 OP PHOTO

State inks pacts of over ₹23,300cr with 11 cos

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: The state government inked pacts with 11 companies for different projects to the tune of ₹23,389 crore during the Enterprise Odisha Summit held at Jharsuguda Friday.

These projects, which will be set up in Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts, will create employment for 15,168 people, officials said.

The pacts were inked in the presence of senior officials of the state government and various companies.

Epsilon Carbon Private Limited will set up a unit in the integrated carbon complex (ICC) in Jharsuguda with an investment of ₹10,000 crore

Ind Barath Energy Utkal Limited will set up an 800-MW ultra super critical coal-based thermal power plant at Jharsuguda with an investment of ₹6,012.46 crore

The agreements include pacts with Epsilon Carbon Private Limited, which has proposed an investment of ₹10,000 crore in the state over 10 years, and Ind Barath

Energy Utkal Limited, which will set up an 800-MW ultra super critical coal-based thermal power plant at Jharsuguda for ₹6,012.46 crore.

Epsilon Carbon Private Limited will set up a unit in the integrated carbon complex (ICC) in Jharsuguda. "Jharsuguda's industrial

ecosystem, availability of skilled labour, robust infrastructure and industry-friendly policies make it an ideal location for the upcoming mega projects,' said Epsilon Carbon Private Limited managing director Vikram Handa.

BRIDE HUNT COSTS MAN ₹3.18 LAKH: **CONMAN ARRESTED**

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: A con artist, who fleeced a man to the tune of ₹3.18 lakh by posing as a prospective bride on a matrimonial website, was arrested by the Commissionerate Police, Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh said the accused, Nrusingha Biswal, a resident of Bhatakudi village in Puri district, was arrested by the Cyber Crime and Economic Offences Wing (CC&EOW) sleuths following over two months' investigation. Three mobile phones, ₹1,61,190 cash, five debit cards and two SIM cards have been recovered from Nrusingha who was booked under Sections 419 and 420 of IPC following his arrest.

Singh said Biswal spread his con spell by creating a fake profile using his relative Dipa Pradhan's credentials, including her photographs. Matters came to the light after the Cyber Crime police station received a complaint from Manas Ranjan Pradhan November 15 last year claiming that he had been duped by Dipa who he came across on a matrimonial site May 15 while searching for a prospective bride. Biswal allegedly knocked out money from him on several occasions on various pretexts, Pradhan alleged.

An officer at the Cyber Crime police station said the sleuths tracked down the payment IDs of online transactions done by Pradhan before identifying the e-KYC details of Biswal, eventually leading to his arrest.

DSPL-559















downtown



R-DAY PREP: DCP Prateek Singh, along with other officials, takes stock of security preparedness by Commissionerate Police for the upcoming Republic Day parade near PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Govt to appoint docs on contractual basis

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: In order to address the issue of doctors crunch in state-run medical colleges, the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department has decided to appoint junior residents, senior residents, tutors, assistant professors, associate professors and professors on contractual/deputation basis. A notification issued by de-

OrissaPOST

SATURDAY | JANUARY 20 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

Centre: Cite reasons for antibiotics advice

New Delhi: The Union Health Ministry has urged all doctors in medical colleges and medical associations to make it a mandatory practice to mention indication, reason for justification while prescribing antibiotics. **Director General of Health Services** Atul Goel has also appealed to all pharmacists to strictly implement schedule H and H1 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and stop over-the counter sale of antibiotics and sell them only on the prescription of a qualified doctor. Misuse and overuse of antimicrobials are one of the main drivers in the development of drug-resistant pathogens, Goel said in a letter dated January 1.

MARKET WATCH VARIATION INDEX

well as at institution level." view/counselling and report the Lady principal in Vig net for bribery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: A joint team of Khurda and Bhubaneswar Vigilance Friday caught red-handed the principal of Keranga Panchayat higher secondary school while she was accepting ₹50,000 bribe for approval of pending salary of assistant librarian Dhiraj Badajena.

partment secretary Shalini

Pandit said, "The Government

of Odisha, after careful consid-

eration, has been pleased to allow

engagement of Junior Residents,

Senior Residents, Tutors,

Assistant Professors, Associate

Professors and Professors on

contractual/deputation basis

through walk-in-interview/coun-

selling conducted on a fixed day

of every month at state level as

The accused, Bidyut Prava Jena, had allegedly demanded the amount from the spouse of Badajena to settle the arrear salary issue, a Vigilance official stated.

As per reports, Badajena

his pending salary from January 2018 to February 2022 before the competent authority, the principal demanded ₹1 lakh for the purpose. However, later she agreed to do it at ₹50,000.

The notification said that all

Deans & Principals of the medical colleges, the Director of

PGIMER and Capital Hospital,

Bhubaneswar and Principal, SCB

Dental College, Cuttack shall con-

duct recruitment for contrac-

tual/deputational engagement

of the above mentioned posts on

12th of every month (or the next

working day in case it is a holi-

day) through walk-in inter-

As per the plan, a trap was laid January 19 and Bidyut Prava was nabbed when she was receiving the chemicallaced cash from Badajena's wife Diptirani.

Khurdha Vigilance lodged a case under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Amendment Act, 2018, and produced the accused before a special court Friday.

Meanwhile, the Vigilance

State a role model in dam safety

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: The Mid Term Review Mission by the World Bank on ongoing activities of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) was organised here from January 18 to 19 wherein Odisha's efforts on dam safety was highly appreciated.

The meeting saw active participation of key international and national entities like Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Central Water Commission (CWC), World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) along with the eight implementing agencies from West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Damodar Vallev Corporation (DVC), Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (UJVNL and Odisha.

Lauding the efforts made by the state Water Resources department in the field of dam safety and related activities, the dignitaries and participants said Odisha has been a role model for other states in this regard. Inaugurating the session,

Development Commissioner-cum-AdditionalChief Secretary Anu Garg reit-



erated various aspects of dam safety activities in Odisha.

She highlighted the phenomenon of climate change and growing challenge on water security front. "Odisha is facing cyclone very often, sometimes even twice a year. So, necessary protocol may be maintained to safeguard the dams. In case of any eventualities, well documented Emergency Action Plan is in place to protect the life and property. Odisha has more than 210 specified dams out of which 60 per cent have crossed the age of 30 years for which we really need to focus on dam health," she said.

In recent past, there have been so many incidents forcing dam professionals to lay more emphasis on dam safety issues, said Garg citing the example of dam failure in Sikkim and Libya recently.

She also appreciated the role of DRIP, which not only addresses hardcore structural changes but also brings about changes like Emergency Action Plan, **Operation & Maintenance** Manual etc. Odisha has a fullfledged Dam Safety Organisation having 40 per cent women who have the expertise in dam safety and play a key role in perpetual surveillance and maintenance of safety activities of dams in the state. There is provision of a separate state budget for addressing the most distressed dams immediately.

Garg also elaborated different success stories in the department starting from completion of long pending Subarnarekha Project, Deo Dam, Lower Indra Dam and Lower Suktel Dam.

Other dignitaries present at the meeting also appreciated the efforts made by the WR department under the able guidance of the development commissioner.

They also lauded the role of Odisha in dam safety and declared it a role model for other states.

Guidelines issued for Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha (Sahari)

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: Housing and Urban Development department Friday issued guidelines for the state-wide awareness programme Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha (Sahari), being undertaken from January 22 to

inform people about benefits offered under various government schemes.

In a letter, Sangramjit Nayak, director of municipal administration, instructed all Collectors, project directors of District Urban Development Agencies (DUDAs), commis-

sioners of municipal corporations and executive officers of all municipalities to follow the guidelines while organising awareness events.

Various camps will be organized as part of the Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha (Sahari) programme.

HC alters murder conviction of man_

AGENCIES

same to the DMET, Odisha

Similarly, the DMET, Odisha

shall conduct the recruitment for

the remaining vacancies on 25th

of every month (or the next work-

ing day in case it is a holiday)

through walk-in interview/coun-

selling and furnish a consolidated

report on all contractual/depu-

tation engagements done at in-

stitution level and Directorate

level to the H&FW department

by 5th of the next month.

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: Observing that temper runs high among people in scheduled areas and they, at times, behave in unexpected manners, the Orissa High Court has altered the conviction of a man belonging to scheduled caste (SC) community in Sundargarh district from 'murder' to 'culpable homicide not amounting to murder'.

While granting partial relief to Krushna Domb – who was convicted by the Additional Sessions Judge, Rourkela May 24, 2013 for murder (Section 302 of IPC) of his neighbour Ratan Domb at Puruna Bisra under Bisra police limits in the tribaldominated district April 28, 2012 - the division bench of the HC

Caste and hail from rural pocket situated within the Scheduled Area of the State where ordinarily their temper run high and for silly reasons, they many a times behave differently, at times in a quite an unexpected manner.'

According to the case details, Krushna and Ratan were at loggerheads over some landed property.

It was around 9:30pm April 28, 2012 when Krushna and Ratan picked up a quarrel. Soon, the fight turned violent when an enraged Krushna hit Ratan's head with a wooden plank.

A profusely bleeding Ratan was initially rushed to the staterun facility at Bisra and later to Rourkela Government Hospital, where doctors declared registered

Investigation was carried out and a chargesheet was filed against Krushna. After going through the evidence on record. the trial court in 2013 found Krushna guilty of the murder and convicted him under Section 302 of the IPC

Krushna then approached the HC for relief.

His advocate Sanjukta Bala Das argued that the lower court should have convicted her client under Section 304(I) of the IPC (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) instead of Section 302 of IPC (murder).

She contended that Krushna

belonged to a tribal-dominated

argued in favour of the lower court's decision. "As the assault was done by a wooden plank, it is well justified that the appellant was convicted for the highest degree of homicide," Nayak said. The HC observed that the as-

sault was not pre-planned as Krushna did not carry the wooden plank to the place of occurrence.

Taking into account the societal background of Krushna and Ratan, the HC noted, "Both of them belonged to scheduled areas and it is common for people from rural pockets of such areas to have high temper even for 'silly reasons'. They often behave differently and, at times, in quite unusual manners.

Concluding that the offence could be categorised as one punishable under Section 304-I of

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LOST

I, G VISHNU SAI, declare that my original 10th pass certificate with INDEX NO: T/4626/038 of Indian Certificate of Secondary Education 2008 (YEAR OF PASSING) from Sacred Heart School, Rayagada is lost. If found please contact below: Address: G VISHNU SAI, SAIPRIYA **RESIDENCY, GANDHI** NAGAR, RAYAGADA. ODISHA, PIN-765001.

who had undergone a brain surgery, was in dire need of money. When he approached Bidyut Prava to take up the issue of

began a search at the residence of the principal to look into any possible DA angle in the case

comprising Justices Debabrata Dash and Gourishankar Satapathy observed, "...the parties are members of Scheduled

him 'dead on arrival'.

Ratan's wife Purnima lodged a complaint with Bisra police following which a case was

area, where people are prone to high temper. "Thus, the trial court should have considered this factor while recording conviction," Das argued. Additional Government

Advocate SK Navak, however,

the IPC, the bench January 16, 2024 altered Krushna's conviction to culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Odisha shows the way in mainstreaming millets

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Pune. Jan 19: When the United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets, it started conversations around these so-called forgotten foods -- high in nutrition and dietary fibre, but with relatively lower carbon and water footprint than wheat and rice. There have been talks about including millets in public distribution system (PDS) in Karnataka. Meghalava and Telangana, but Odisha is really doing it, said sources.

The overall production of traditional ragi (finger millet) in India was 1.59 million tonnes in 2022-23 against the 1.7 million tonnes in 2021-22. Compared to the emerging hybrid varieties, the production of traditional varieties is low. "We do not have a large ragi production," attests Sachin Jain from Vikas Samvad. an organisation in Madhya Pradesh working on issues of child health and food security.

Farmers sell millets mostly to middlemen, but do not benefit much even as urban health-

conscious consumers pay high prices when buying them. "We need to optimise the processing of millets from harvesting to procurement and distribution,' says Jain, while suggesting that the millet ecosystem should be more decentralised with panchayats involved in policy decisions "Post-Green Revolution, the

production of wheat and rice doubled due to initiatives of the government, but the production of other food crops such as indigenous rice varieties and millets declined," reads the research article, Impact of Green **Revolution on Indigenous Crops** in India. Millets started diminishing from the agricultural landscape as farmers shifted to wheat and rice. Being commodities listed under the Public Distribution System (PDS), the demand for wheat and rice increased over time, providing farmers an incentive to cultivate them

'Developing high yielding varieties was necessary at that time. Since the production rate of traditional millets is low even



Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal Areas was started in 2017 to address nutritional security in Odisha through increased millet production and consumption

today, we need to develop hybrid varieties with minimum decline in nutrients when compared to that of traditional varieties. The fact that millets are primarily known for their health benefits should be taken into consideration while developing the hybrids," Jain says.

"The first step to incentivise farmers and mainstream mil-

lets would be by bringing them under the PDS. This way the producers will also get to consume them. Right now, the millet market is targeting the urban buyers, but rural communities are the ones that need them the most," says Jain, while agreeing that Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) can be a good model to emulate. There have been talks

about including millets in the PDS in Karnataka, Meghalaya and Telangana, but only Odisha is doing it practically.

Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal Areas or OMM started in 2017 to address nutritional security in Odisha through increased millet production and consumption, especially for the indigenous (and often vulnerable) communities. Other important objectives of the mission were to promote machinery for post-harvest processing, improve the productivity of millets, include millets in the PDS, Integrated Child **Development Services (ICDS)** and other large scale government programmes, facilitate the export of millets and milletbased products from Odisha, and facilitate Farmer Producer Organisations and self-help groups (SHGs) through government departments geared towards technical product and process innovations," write Pritha Banerjee and Shomita Kundu in their field notes for International Growth Centre.

According to OMM website. millet farmers get a maximum incentive of ₹26.500 per hectare over a period of five years. If the method of cultivation used is System of Millets Intensification for ragi and non-ragi millets, incentives are ₹10.000. ₹7.500. ₹5,000, ₹2,000 and ₹2,000 from the first to fifth year, in that order. For ragi cultivation using line sowing or line transplanting method, incentives are ₹7,500, ₹5,000, ₹3,000, respectively, in the first three years and ₹2,000 in the next two years. The website says that Odisha is the third state in the country to distribute millets in PDS.

Besides providing tractors, weeders and other equipment to farmers, OMM has optimised mandi procurement mechanism for millets. "OMM aims at providing protection against losses. Price benchmarking has been done for non-ragi millets, too. We are promoting both hybrid and local seed varieties based on the geographical conditions of the region," says an OMM official, on condition of anonymity.

OR CLASSIFIED AD BOOKING STATIONS VERTISEM CONTACT OUR ENTS

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No let-up in illegal mining from black stone quarries



Despite Orissa High Court's direction to take actions, the Dharmasala tehsil authorities have been sitting pretty allegedly shielding the wrongdoers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Jan 19: The illegal extraction of black stones from various quarries under Dharmasala tehsil area in Jajpur district continues unabated as the tehsil officials are yet to act tough against the illegal miners.

Notably, the Orissa High Court had issued an order to the tehsil officials to take necessary action against the illegal miners while hearing a public interest litigation (WPC Case No-40053) on the issue.

However, what is surprising is that the tehsil officials have shown little interest to implement the order. The district minor minerals department also wrote to Dharmasala tehsildar urging him to take necessary actions in implementing the high court order.

On the other hand, the steps taken by Dharmasala tehsil authorities such as satellite mapping of the quarries and linking the leaseholders with the respective crusher units have been quite disappointing. This has

Kaushal Mahotsav in Sambalpur from Jan 21

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: To offer a single platform to job seekers and employers, the National Skill **Development Corporation** (NSDC), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), will organise a recruitment drive Kaushal Mahotsav in Sambalpur January 21. Union Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will inaugurate the programme, which is expected to provide vouths of the district employment and apprenticeship opportunities across industries, informed NSDC officials at a press conference Friday. The event will see participation from over 50 organisations, with job offers for roles like registered nurse, student apprentice, caregiver, general duty assistant, assembly line operator and sales executive. Speaking about the Kaushal Maĥotsav, NSDC CEO Ved Mani Tiwari extended his best wishes to the candidates and acknowledged the contribution of industrial houses in uplifting morale of the youths by providing them right avenues to showcase their talent.

only emboldened the accused leaseholders to plunder over ₹50 lakh worth of black stones from six quarries of the Dankari hill with impunity.

It is alleged that they are still extracting the black stones illegally from the quarries and transporting them to nearby crusher units.

Fearing that their illegalities will be exposed if satellite mapping is conducted, leaseholders of 17, 1/4 and 3/9 quarries of the Dankari hill are illegally extracting black stones from the nearby non-leased quarries and those that have been leased out to a firm namely Lakshmi Exports.

Taking offence of theft, the owner of the Lakshmi Exports filed a case in the Orissa High Court against Prasant Kumar Jena, Jyotsna Rani Jena and Niranjan Rout, the director of a mineral firm PJ Minerals.

According to the complaint, the tehsil authorities had leased out quarry no-18 to Lakshmi Exports and signed an agreement in this regard.

However, some influential persons in the area are not allowing Lakshmi Exports to extract black stones from the quarry. The accused persons are rather extracting black stones from the quarry with the use of force and earning a premium from its sale

The high court heard the matter and directed the tehsil au-

thorities to conduct a probe into the allegations and complete it within a period of eight weeks, December 15, 2023. Meanwhile, the month of January is nearing end but the mining and tensil authorities are yet to act on the order.

It might take around two months to complete the satellite mapping, linking of the crusher units with the leaseholders and investigations into the illegalities. However, if the tehsil authority goes on buying time then the illegal extraction of minerals will increase manifold. This will make the influential leaseholders richer while draining the state exchequer of precious revenue.

Locals alleged that the tehsil officials are buying time as per a secret discussion held between them and the illegal miners, crusher unit owners and the mining authorities. Moreover, the government officials are hand in gloves with the miscreants and are trying to protect them in exchange of kickbacks, they alleged. Locals also alleged that A-1,

Maa, PRPL, Sherabali, Jain, Maa Chandi crusher units near the illegal units of Dankari hill are in possession of excess black stones than the permissible limits. The tehsil officials could seize black stone worth crore if a raid took place in these stone quarries,

they said. Moreover, a large volume of black stones has also been stolen from Rahadpur, Lunibar, Baraman, Barada, Bajabati, Aruha and Bichhakhandi hills

in the district. When contacted, Jayprakash Nayak, deputy director of district minor mineral department said a letter in this regard has been sent to Dharmasala tehsildar as per the high court order. The tehsildar has assured to take early steps while Nayak also assured to take steps and legal ac-

tion soon in this regard.

JSP is ramping up the

11.6 MTPA from the

capacity of the plant to

existing 5.6 MTPA. The

largest single-location

steel plant in the world

strip mill at Angul steel plant

year-old woman for allegedly kidnapping the baby. After the arrest, the baby was rescued from state capital Bhubaneswar, around 120 km away. "After monitoring CCTV JSP commissions 6 MTPA hot

Baby kidnapped

mom falls asleep

Berhampur, Jan 19: A nine-

month-old baby was allegedly

kidnapped after his mother fell

asleep at a bus stand in Ganjam

The incident happened at the

The woman left home with

her son after a fight with her

husband, and was living at the

bus stand for two days, they

added. After waking up

Wednesday morning, she could

not find her son. Following this

Police said they arrested a 45-

she reached out to the police.

Khallikote town of the district,

district, police said Friday.

PNN & AGENCIES

they said.

footage of the area, we identified the woman who kidnapped the baby," said SP Jagmohan Meena. "The baby was rescued from the house of the accused woman's sister at Sundarpada in Bhubaneswar," he said.

state

The baby was handed to his mother, he added.

16th Raising Day of 202 CoBRA Bn



TAKING STOCK: BSF IG Kailash Chandra Jat, who was on a two-day visit to Malkangiri and Koraput districts, reviews the security scenario and operational preparedness of BSF troops in Malkangiri, Friday

23 ILLEGAL ARMS SEIZED from bus stand as FROM SIMILIPAL; 8 HELD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Jan 19: Police have seized 23 illegal arms from various places in and around the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district in the last few months and arrested eight people in this connection, Mayurbhanj SP S Susree said during a press conference organised at the district police headquarters at Baripada Friday.

A total of 23 illegal arms were seized and 14 cases registered at nine police stations, the SP added. Mayurbhanj Police has been conducting raids inside the STR following the killing of two forest officials by armed poachers in May and June last year, she said.

In the first phase of search operation, 165 illegal firearms were seized, while in second phase search operation 71 illegal firearms were seized. In the third phase 23 country-made firearms have been seized.

Out of the 23 firearms seized during third phase of search



operations in between November and December last year, one illegal firearm each was seized by police personnel of Baripada Sadar PS, Sarat PS, Karanjia Jashipur PS and Thakurmunda PS. Similarly three illegal firearms were seized by Badasahi PS, five at Udala PS, eight firearms at Khunta PS and two country-made firearms were seized by Kaptipada PS.

Altogether, 259 illegal firearms and weapons have been seized so far, the SP said. With the deployment of police personnel inside the tiger reserve, cases of poaching have gone down significantly, she added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Sri Bibhuti Bhusan Das, S/o. Gu Das, resident of Srivihar (665/4213), P.O.: Patia, Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Odisha has ost Original Regd. Sale Deed No. 2309 Dtd.10.04.1974 executed by Rajkisho Mohanty in favour of Bishnupriya Das and Original Regd. Sale Deed No. 4383 Dtd.26.06.1972 executed by Ratha Sahoo in favour of Rajkishore Mohanty. Both ate to Plot No. 594/731 area Ac.0.06 decimals under Khata No ttack city, Unit No. 6, Uttar Deulasahi, P.S.: Bidanasi, Taha ttack recorded in the names of Bani Bhusan Das and others. S as and others are going to sell the said plot to Smt. Manjula Kumar Barik resident of Dagarpada, Chandini Chowk, Cuttack fore having any claim over the property going to be sold under th Original Regd. Sale Deed No. 2309 Dtd. 10.04.1974 and Origin No. 4383 Dtd.26.06.1972 are required to file their claim with the 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing umed that the property having link with the said document is free s and any claim in respect thereof against Sri Bibhuti Bhusan Da s and the prospective purchaser Manjulata Barik shall be void an lapse of 15 (Fifteen) days of publication of this notice. Sd./- (U.K. Mishra), Advocate, Phone: 9437314816 C/1328, Sector-6, CDA, Cuttack nt of Odisha "e" procurement Notice Dated. 18.01.2024 E-mail ID- rwdsonepur@gmail.com tion No. TENDER ONLINE SNPR-14 OF 2023-24 Work Building Works as per DTCN available in the website. www.tendersodisha.gov.in Work 27 (Twenty Seven) Nos. Varies from Rs.36.57 lakh to ost Rs.41.56 lakh 06 (Six) Calendar months mpletion ime of availability of bid : 24.01.2024 at 11.00 AM to 04.02.2024 upto 5.00 PM the portal for bidding 05.02.2024 at 11.00 AM e of opening of Tender ddress of the officer S.E.R.W. Division, Sonepur ils can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. im if any shall only be published in the website rodisha.gov.in rintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Soneput OIPR-25054/11/0019/2324

steel manufacturing facility in Angul. The mill has been commis-

New Delhi. Jan 19: Jindal Steel

and Power (JSP) Ltd Friday an-

nounced the commissioning of

a 6 MTPA hot strip mill at its

PNN & AGENCIES

sioned in a record time of 29 months, the hot strip mill (HSM) produced the first set of coils January 10 this year, which were dispatched this week Monday, JSP said in a statement.

Supplied by SMS SIEMAG. the HSM is capable of producing 1.00 mm thick and 1,680 mm wide coils and is equipped with advanced features like transfer bar cooling, edge heater, coil box, and heat shields, ensuring top-notch flatness, uniform mechanical properties, and production of superior value-added grades, it said.

Commissioning of the HSM positions the company to cater to various sectors, including auto, construction, oil, downstream cold rolling, galvanising, colour coating, etc, JSP said. Commissioning of HSM at

company also has a plan to further double it up to Koraput: The 202 CoBRA Battalion 24 MTPA, making it the

serious player in the flat products market. That it has been done in a record time adds to the growing list of firsts in the steel industry in India and globally, Pankaj Malhan, Executive Director of JSP's Angul Plant, said.

JSP is ramping up the capacity of the Odisha plant to 11.6 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) from the existing 5.6 MTPA. The company also has a plan to further double it up to 24 MTPA, making it the world's largest single-location steel plant. Part of OP Jindal Group,

Jindal Steel and Power is an industrial powerhouse, with a presinfrastructure sectors

celebrated its 16th Raising Day at Sunabeda Camp in this district. Friday. On the occasion fair, cultural programme and raffle draw were organised in which officers and troops. their families and nearby villagers participated. Amit Kumar, Commandant 202 CoBRA addressed the gathering and elaborated the role played by 202 CoBRA in eliminating Naxalism from West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha; its present role in Chhattisgarh and also bringing peace and harmony in the region, CS Meena IPS, DIG/ SWR/ Koraput (Chief Guest), Shailesh Kumar, DIGP BSF Koraput and various dignitaries also graced the occasion with their presence. The main attraction of the cultural night was CoBRA jazz band. Koraputiva Tribal dance and Dhimsa performed by SAI Sainik School, Sunabeda and Women's Degree College. Sunabeda respectively. At the end prizes were distributed to the winners of raffle draw by the chief quest and

other dignitaries and the function was Angul is an important mileence in steel, power, mining and concluded with the speech of CS Meena stone for Jindal to become a IPS, DIG/ SWR/ Koraput. 150-yr-old Ram temple gears up for Jan 22

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Jan 19: Hiding among the numerous temples dedicated to either Lord Shiva or Jagannath, there exists a temple in Rourkela, over 150 years old, solely dedicated to Lord Ram.

The temple is situated in Panposh Busti and as per the trustee of the temple it is more than 150 years old. One will find the temple at 500 metre distance after entering Panposh Busti from the railway overbridge.

This temple is maintained by the Raghunath Jiu Trust and the trustee is Bijayanand Agarwal. About the temple, Agrawal said, "This is not a private temple. The Jalan family had donated the land for this temple which remained neglected till 1990.



Janmabhoomi movement gathered momentum and became a national phenomenon, locals here started taking interest in it. "The renovation of the temple was done mostly by the local youths and some of the established families of the area," said the trustee. Late Kissan Prasad Sahu, a prominent leader of the BJP, Harmohan



Mohapatra and others took keen interest in the development of the temple, informed Agarwal.

The trust got monetary support from the public for the renovation of the temple. Besides running a lottery for over a year, many donated for its complete renovation as per their individual capacity.

The idols of Lord Ram, Goddess

Sita, Laxman and Hanuman being worshipped here came from Rajasthan. Besides, there is a Shivling which came from Khiching in Keonjhar district. The glass work decoration has been done by artisans from Delhi. Agarwal said this temple has a thriving presence of devotees nowadays.

Speaking about the upcoming Ram Temple consecration celebration, Agarwal said, "We have different programmes lined up in the run up to the consecration ceremony. Apart from non-stop reading of Ramayana, special 'arati' every afternoon, yajnas and lighting of diyas every evening, diyas will be lit January 22 as per the norms followed during Dev Dipavali. We also have a special prasad distribution for the devotees.'

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19 / Building Works / 2023
: Building Work
: 01 (One) No.
: Rs.26.21 lakh (approx.)
: "D" & "C" Class
: 6 (Six) Calendar months.
: As mentioned in the
Annexure at Column-04
: 24.1.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to
30.1.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
30.1.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. : 29.1.2024 upto 4.00 P.M.
ler : 31.1.2024



power post

nomic growth. His monumental

contributions to the field are

widely acknowledged, but for

me his passing creates a pro-

found and unexpected sense of

During the 2001-02 academic

year, I was a visiting professor

at MIT, where I taught micro-

economics and was expected to

By then, Solow had estab-

lished himself as a towering

figure, renowned for his exten-

sive contributions to the field.

particularly his groundbreaking

research on the drivers of eco-

nomic growth. Over his illus-

trious career, he received every

major economics award, cul-

minating in the Nobel in 1987.

found impact on global policy-

making, especially on East Asia's

so-called "tiger" economies dur-

ing their take-off. As the Nobel

Committee noted, Solow's growth

model, which he developed in the

1950s, illustrated how "contin-

uous technological progress"

could increase economic out-

put, encouraging governments

around the world to invest in

Solow's work has had a pro-

personal loss

FOCUS ECONOMICS

Yoga means union with the Divine, but it also means awaking first to your inner self and then to your higher self - a movement inward and then a movement upward SRI AUROBINDO



Repatriation Riddle

The abrupt recall of senior IAS officer Sanjay Bandopadhyay from his role as Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has sparked speculation among observers and babus about the underlying reasons for this unforeseen move. Bandopadhyay, previously occupying a secretary-equivalent position at the Centre, has been swiftly reassigned to his parent cadre in Madhya Pradesh, effective immediately,

Within MP's babu circles, murmurs suggest that his recall may be tied to a potential appointment as the next Chief Secretary of the state. However, uncertainties arise given the impending retirement of the current chief secretary Veera Rana in March of this year, with the prospect of her tenure extension remaining uncertain.

Adding complexity to the situation is the recent change in leadership with a new Chief Minister in Madhya Pradesh and a fresh electoral mandate, all transpiring under the Centre's watchful eyes. The circumstances surrounding Rana's appointment before the Assembly polls further contribute to the uncertainty surrounding her continued role as Chief Secretary

An alternative perspective posits that the consecutive placement of Bandopadhyay under shipping secretaries junior to him might have played a role in this decision. Despite this, as one of the senior-most officers in the cadre, and with a service tenure extending until August 31, 2024, Bandopadhyay remains a potential contender for the Chief Secretary post in Madhya Pradesh.

Outsider babu's strategic return to J&K

The Centre has reaffirmed its faith in retired IAS officer Satish

Chandra by appointing him as the Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (J&K RERA). Chandra, who concluded his term as chairman of the J&K Public Service Commission initiated in June



2021, steps into a significant role that has remained vacant since September 2022, following the abrupt resignation of the first RERA chairperson, Parimal Rai, within 50 days of his appointment.

The decision to bring back an outsider babu—Chandra is from the Andhra Pradesh cadre—into another pivotal position indicates the Centre's endorsement of Chandra's abilities, utility and effectiveness in this sensitive region. Sources have informed DKB that appointing an outsider can enhance an administrator's efficacy. Chandra's consecutive appointments, first as chairperson of the J&K PCS and now as RERA chairperson signal a deliberate effort to infuse fresh perspectives and administrative expertise to address the unique challenges facing the J&K region

As the Centre grapples with the intricate governance issues in Jammu & Kashmir, not the least of which is to possibly hold assembly elections a few months after the Lok Sabha polls, Chandra's appointment reflects a need to leverage experience, competence and an outsider's viewpoint to steer the administration.

Hunt for new UT Advisor in Chandigarh

The Centre is reportedly taking a fresh approach to providing the Chandigarh Administrator with a regular advisor. Departing from its initial proposal to transfer Puducherry Chief Secretary Rajeev Verma to Chandigarh, the focus has now shifted to considering another IAS officer for this post

Sources have informed DKB that Manish Kumar Gupta, a 1991-batch UT cadre officer, the former DDA Vice Chairperson and the current Additional Chief Secretary of industries in the Delhi government, has emerged as the frontrunner for the Chandigarh assignment. The position of UT Advisor has been under ad hoc arrangements since the retirement of Dharam Pal in October last year.

There are some insiders, however, who are sceptical about the feasibility of this new approach. Some argue that the additional charge arrangement is working fine for the administration, with Administrator and Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit reportedly expressing satisfaction with Nitin Kumar Yaday, the incumbent Principal Secretary, Home, who is also serving as the interim Advisor. The emergence of this point of view raises questions about the strategic considerations behind the potential appointment and the nuances involved in selecting the right candidate. Of course, it is for the Centre to take the final call, but until then babus will continue to speculate.



Robert Solow's growth model, which he developed in the 1950s, illustrated how 'continuous technological progress' could increase economic output, encouraging governments around the world to invest in research and development

During our first meeting,

Solow asked about the Indian

students he had supervised at

MIT, wondering if I was famil-

iar with any of them.

Remarkably, his interest was

not limited to those who had

achieved professional success.

He was equally interested in

those who, though brilliant, had

not reached their full potential

due to personal circumstances

or misfortune, asking thought-

ful questions about their lives

and families. During the year, my

wife and I developed a friendship

with Bob and Barbara, invit-

ing them to our home for dinner

and meeting them at various

Cambridge establishments to

talk about economics, sociol-

Solow was a person of re-

markable integrity. The model

of economic growth he is most

known for, the Solow-Swan

model, is a case in point. While

Solow first published his model

in the prestigious Quarterly

Journal of Economics in 1956,

a similar model was developed

independently by the Australian

economist Trevor Swan, who

published his work in the lesser

ogy, and life.

research and development.

Unlike many other economists of his generation, Solow did not begin his academic journey in mathematics, physics, or economics. Instead, he initially studied anthropology and sociology, with Harvard sociologist Talcott Parsons as his mentor. Interestingly, Parsons himself had made the opposite decision, starting his career in economics before moving to sociology. Solow's studies were interrupted when, at the age of 18, he joined the United States Army, serving in North Africa and Sicily until the end of World War II in 1945.

Upon returning to Harvard, Solow studied under the famous Russian economist (and future Nobel laureate) Wassilv Leontief. He also married Barbara Lewis, beginning a lifelong partnership that lasted until her death in 2014.

While Solow was already a seminal figure by the time I met him, it was his extraordinary character that struck me the most. What truly set him apart was not just his modesty but his total lack of pretense, and his natural human warmth

known Economic Record that same year Swan, being an economist

from a less renowned institution, did not receive the same recognition as Solow for his contributions. I was deeply impressed by Solow's consistent acknowledgment of Swan's work on the many occasions when we discussed his groundbreaking research.

One of my last interactions with Solow occurred shortly after I became the Chief Economic Adviser to the Indian government. During my first few months in the role, as I struggled to deal with politicians and business leaders, I found myself longing for the intellectual environment of academia. While corresponding with Solow on some policy issues, I told him that I was not enjoying my current job and that I missed the world of research and writing. In his typically avuncular manner, he responded with a handwritten letter, emphasizing the importance of effective policymaking and urging me to dig in my heels and do my best, despite the personal sac rifices this might involve.

Solow was speaking from personal experience, having been a member of US President John F. Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisers from 1961 to 1962. He was right: over time. I grew to enjoy my policymaking work. particularly my discussions with then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on some of the minutiae of policy design. I am deeply grateful to Solow for offering much-needed encouragement when I needed it most and for his enduring friendship. He was not just an exemplary scholar; first and foremost, he was an exemplary human being.

The writer is a former chief economist of the World Bank and chief economic adviser to the Government of India, ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SOCIAL SECURITY

NPS: The insecurity dimensions

ith the assurance to ice. The project work was as-

offer the population a signed to a privately managed comprehensive social economic foundation in Mumbai, security scheme the government that had interest in financial of India had introduced New and capital market education in

from informal workers, collect their shares, invest in the markets, earn profits, and ask them In the old system, government to wait until they reached the employees knew that their penage of sixty. It was a herculean sion would be 50% of their last

This is a departure from a defined benefit pension scheme. salary if they served at least 25 years or proportionate to the service. The benefit in NPS is unknown. Neither the return on accumulated capital nor the return on investment is guaranteed. In addition, there is no family pension. According to the original proposals, employee contributions would be invested in the market of their choosing. Employee financial literacy issues were ignored. The funniest part in the new systems is that, under the old system, the government paid pensions to employees only after they retired. The burden of all emplovees was not immediate, and it did not feel the burden. It was treated as deferred wages. In the new system, government pays a monthly contribution to private fund managers under NPS, in addition to a pension to the old cohorts. The burden on the exchequer has increased rather than decreased. Only the central government knows how wise the decision to carry two burdens at once under guise of reducing the burden on the exchequer.



Kaushik Basu

WHAT TRULY **SET SOLOW APART WAS NOT JUST HIS MODESTY BUT PRETENSE, AND HIS NATURAL**

give a few other lectures. Olivier Blanchard, then-chair of the economics department, explained that due to limited space. I would have to share a cluster of three offices, the other occupants being Solow and Paul Samuelson. Although the thought of being in a cluster with two Nobel laureates was somewhat discomfiting, my trepidation was unwarranted; my neighbours turned out to be lovely people. I got to know both Samuelson (who died in 2009), and Solow well during that ac-

ademic year

HIS TOTAL LACK OF HUMAN

WARMTH

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

WISDOM CORNER

- A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed HENRIK IBSEN
- Everywhere across whatever sorrows of which our life is woven NIKOLAI GOGOL some radiant joy will gaily flash past
- You cannot catch a child's spirit by running after it; you must stand still and for love it will soon itself return. ARTHUR MILLER

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1768: British explorer James Cook landed at Waimea, on Kauai island, becoming the first European to visit Hawaii. The cartographer and naval officer was famous for his three voyages between 1768 and 1779 in the Pacific Ocean and to New Zealand and Australia in particular
- **1892:** The first official basketball game was played in Springfield, Massachusetts, by YMCA students of the game's inventor, James A. Naismith. Two teams of nine players each compete against each other, with the objective to throw a soccer ball into a peach basket attached to a balcony 10 feet above the floor.
- 1961: U.S. President John F. Kennedy, in his inaugural address, said, "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you-ask what vou can do for vour country."
- 1993: Belgian-born actress Audrey Hepburn–who created unforgettable film roles as the epitome of sophistication and glamour while paradoxically bewitching audiences and critics with her sprightly mannerisms and elfin charm-died in Switzerland.



PUT ME INTO A FIGHTING MOOD

Datient: Doctor, what I need is something to stir me up: something to put me in a fighting mood. Did you put something like that in this





P Madhava Rao

THE NEW PENSION SCHEME WOULD OPERATE ON A DEFINED **CONTRIBUTION BASIS THAT PROMISED CREATION OF HUGE POST-RETIREMENT** WEALTH

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

send in their valuable comments, opinior

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

Pension Scheme (NPS) in January 2004. Two decades after this, the beneficiaries started feeling the pinch of it. None heeded to the economists' hints and analytical advice at that time. Old beneficiaries were not affected, new entrants were vet to become eligible for it. There was a point for the government to push it because the private sector strongly lobbied to make a quick buck out of the employed class' retirement funds. However, it was pointless for the trade unions to remain silent. Thus, it was more political than mathematics

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, launched Project OASIS (Old Age Social and Income Security) in August 1998, claiming its stake as a provider of oldage security to the population as a measure of social justice. The original mandate of the Project OASIS was on the ninety per cent of workers who were not covered by any pension scheme in India; however, it made a 'paradigm shift' in advising reforms to civil service pensions in India on the premise that the government's finances are under pressure due to an ageing civil serv-

India. Playing with huge pension funds in the market was only the goal as some economists then felt.

The foundation believed that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment recognised that poverty alleviation programmes aimed at the elderly alone cannot solve our elderly's income and social security problems; the problem must be addressed through thrift and selfhelp, in which people save for old age during their working lives. The government's role in this endeavour could be to build the necessary institutional infrastructure in collaboration with the private sector to enable and encourage each citizen to take on this task. Based on the foregoing, Project OASIS proposed an individual contribution-based, non-benefit guaranteed, non-return guaranteed non-accumulation guaranteed pension scheme for the unorganised sector, to be managed by private fund managers, in which contributions of ₹5 to ₹10 per day per worker flow into the system were expected to gener ate wealth for their old age. It required to rally support

task. Instead, the foundation targeted government employees across the country, where money could flow into their investment businesses with a single government order; and they were successful in convincing the government to replace the old defined benefit social security pension with contribution-based NPS for civil servants hired on or after January 1, 2004.

The New Pension Scheme would operate on a defined contribution basis that promised creation of huge post-retirement wealth. The government employees must contribute 10% of their basic pay, Dearness Pay, and Dearness Allowance, which will be deducted from their monthly salary bill. At exit, he must invest 40% of his pension wealth in an annuity (from an IRDA-regulated Life Insurance Company), which will provide pension for the employee and his dependent parents/ employee for the rest of his life. If a government employee leaves the scheme before reaching the age of 60, the mandatory annuitisation would be 80% of the pension wealth. The quantum of benefit is not defined.

The author is a former International Senior Advisor at UNDP

Doctors' prescriptions

Sir, Following a recent directive from the Orissa High Court, the Odisha government has asked both government and private doctors to write prescriptions in a legible manner or in typed form. The High Court's dictum also applies to hospitals in the state to write medico-legal and postmortem reports legibly, in capital letters, or in typed form. Reasons like time pressure, volume of work, and the patients-in-waiting are what have contributed to the community of doctors for their scrawled or unreadable writing. However, doctors must know that their indecipherable notes and prescriptions at times lead to serious implications, and even to deaths. There are cases that pharmacists and healthcare workers gave the wrong medicines and administered erroneous medications because of doctors' illegible handwriting in prescriptions. It is time that other states in India follow suit Odisha's government order, since the problem of doctors' bad handwriting is universal. Nevertheless, it is puzzling that living in the digital age why doctors still stick to the age-old practice of hand-written prescriptions. To put it on a lighter note, 'a doctor's font sometimes leads to a patient faint.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Education reform

Sir, The Indian Ministry of Education's recent introduction of guidelines for the registration and regulation of coaching centres in 2024 is a commendable decision. This initiative is aimed at creating a framework to govern these centers, ensuring minimum standards to protect the interests of enrolled students. The main objective of these guidelines is to shield students from prevalent scams and false promises within the coaching industry. The exploitation of students, particularly those under 16, has led to undue pressure and stress, impacting their mental wellbeing. This move shows the need for a more holistic approach to education, encouraging co-curricular activities for overall development. This decision is timely given the increasing trend of coaching centres exploiting students, often failing to deliver quality education despite substantial fees

> Preetiyukta Mohakud, BHUBANESWAR

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

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Climate change a reality in Goa

The Government said that heavy precipitation events and rise in ambient temperature have had a negative effect on agriculture in the state, though there were no reports of cashew crop loss due to the heatwave

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, Jan 19: Due to the increasing use of fossil fuel resulting in global warming, problems like change in weather patterns and heatwaves are impacting agricultural production and people of the coastal state of Goa

Hence, environmentalists suggest planting indigenous trees and taking other measures to counter the effects of climate change on the lives of the people and the environment.

According to experts, the number of vehicles in Goa has increased, resulting in major carbon emissions in the state.

Speaking to IANS, noted environmentalist Rajendra Kerkar said, "The way we are using fossil fuel is adding to global warming. In Goa, the number of vehicles is continuously increasing and as a result, carbon emission has increased.'

He said that emission levels can be controlled by planting indigenous trees which in turn will act as an carbon sink.

"People don't focus on these plants which can help us to get rid of this problem. We need to plant trees which can help in soil conservation and also protect us from air pollution,' Kerkar said.

"We need to study what type



there were no reports of cashew

However, last year, around

10,560 cashew trees were de-

stroyed by a massive fire. It was.

however, not clear whether it

was sparked by the heatwave or

it was a case of arson in a bid to

After drawing flak over re-

peated forest fires, the Goa

Government has now decided

to keep watch on the vulnerable

Forest Minister Vishwajit

Rane recently said that ten drones

clear forest land.

areas using drones.

crop loss due to the heatwave.

of trees were planted earlier and agriculture in the state, though should follow that. Nowadays we are using a lot of electricity that is mostly generated from coal-based thermal power plants. This adds to the problem," Kerkar pointed out

Last year in March, taking a serious note of a heat wave alert by the India Meteorological Department, the Goa Education Department had decided to shut schools before noon for two days.

The maximum temperature of Goa was 4-6°C higher than normal and daytime temperature in the capital city was 38.4°C in March

would be purchased as part of The Government said that Goa's measures to prevent forest heavy precipitation events and rise in ambient temperature "Initially ten drones will be have had a negative effect on purchased and if needed we will

purchase more. Around 600 trekkers will be trained to deal with the situation and even locals will be involved if any incidents take place," Rane said.

"Issues like global warming, weather change and the change in rain patterns are impacting us. Rain falls even in November and December. We are taking measures to prevent forest fires and will involve locals if any incidents take place," he said.

He said that drones will keep watch on forest areas and the Goa Government will take action against those who set fires.

"Even if people light fires in their cashew plantation to clean the area, the forest department will take action. Because finally we are held responsible for forest fires," Rane said.

Environmentalist Abhijit Prabhudesai also said that climate change is impacting agriculture and hence the government should resolve these issues by making maximum provisions in the budget on a priority basis. 'We may also suffer a shortage of potable water if the ground water doesn't recharge. There are several issues. Now the rain pattern has changed, we never know what will happen in future. Rather than spending huge amounts on fancy projects, it should be spent on addressing climate change," he said.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Jan 19: RJD president Lalu Prasad Friday called on ally Nitish Kumar, the chief minister of Bihar who also heads the JD(U), at his residence.

Prasad was accompanied by his son Tejashwi Yadav, the Deputy CM, who briefly spoke to journalists upon returning to their residence after the meeting, and asserted that rumours of a rift were divorced from "ground reality".

"I feel sorry when you people ask questions that seem so divorced from ground reality. Why is there so much curiosity about when seat-sharing was likely to be final in Mahagathbandhan? Has the BJP-led NDA sorted it out in its own camp? Nobody cares about that," said Yadav.

Notably, the leaders of the JD(U), a relatively new entrant to the Mahagathbandhan, have been calling for an expeditious seat-sharing deal, a suggestion which was rebuffed by the RJD supremo a couple of days ago.

Speculations are rife that the JD(U), which won 16 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls that it fought as an NDA partner, would not agree to a lesser number this time

Lalu meets Nitish

while the RJD, which drew a blank, would insist on a lion's share citing its superior numerical strength in the assembly.

Yadav was also asked about Union Home Minister Amit Shah's interview to a Hindi daily in which his response to a query on Kumar, who dumped the BJP less than two years ago, was being interpreted as an admission of doors not being shut on the JD(U) boss.

The young RJD leader replied sarcastically, "I do not know. Maybe you people have better knowledge of what Amit Shah wanted to imply."

Yaday, who is on the ED radar, and has skipped more than one summonses issued by the agency, said, "We are running a government that will not be distracted from the agenda of working for the people. The RJD and the JD(U) are firmly together and will jointly contest the Lok Sabha polls to defeat the BJP."

Kumar, an old BJP partner, had called off the alliance in August 2023, accusing the saffron party of trying to split the JD (U) and vowing to defeat the NDA in 2024 by bringing together the entire opposition. He played a key role in INDIA bloc's formation, and hosted the first meeting in Patna of leaders opposed to the BJP who agreed to huddle together burying past differences.

The longest-serving CM of the state took over as the JD(U) president recently, replacing close aide Rajiv Ranjan Singh "Lalan' who was rumoured to have grown too close to the RJD camp.

Patna sees rise Patna sees rise in power demand due to cold wave



AGENCIES

Patna, Jan 19: With Bihar in the grip of a severe cold wave, the demand for electricity is increasing in cities like Patna.

The residents of Patna consumed 451 megawatt (MW) of power on Saturday and 466 MW on Sunday, the highest recorded so far in this winter season.

The demand for electricity starts going up from around 11 am and remains high till 11 pm as people use blowers, heaters, geysers to battle the cold.

Murtaza Helal, General Manager, Patna Electricity Supply Undertaking (PESU) told IANS that though the power demand has surged in the last few days the electricity supply from the discoms has been uninterrupted. "If any locality is facing erratic power supply, it might be due to some local glitches in transformers, or sub-feeder units. Besides that, there is no scarcity of power supply in Patna. We are getting adequate supply," the General Manager said

Four-day carnival to begin in Goa on Feb 10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, Jan 19: The four-day Goa carnival will begin February 10 with a float parade in Panaji, state Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte said Friday.

Talking to reporters after chairing a meeting of the empowered committee of the tourism department, the minister said the carnival float parade will start from Panaji February 10 followed by other cities on subsequent days.

A curtain-raiser event for the carnival will be held at Porvorim near here February 9, he said. After Panaji, float parades will be held at Margao February 11, Vasco February 12 and Mapusa

February 13. he said. Municipal councils have been asked to ensure that the traditional fervour of the car-



Similarly, the Shigmo festival will be held in the coastal state from March 26 to April 8.

"The parades would be held at 18 different places. We will soon announce the calendar of the event," he said. The government has boosted infrastructure to host Shigmo and increased the prize money, the minister said. 5 lakh each to celebrate Shiv Javanti," Khaunte said. The prize money for the firstplace float has been increased from ₹ 35,000 to ₹ 75,000, while the prize for Romtamel (folk dance) has been hiked from ₹ 35,000 to ₹ 75,000, he said.



He further said the state will celebrate the upcoming Shiv

Jayanti on a larger scale. "The state tourism depart ment has provided the municipal councils and their respective committees in Panaji, Margao, Mapusa, Mormugao, Sankhalim and Ponda a one-time grant of ₹

20 of 35 Smart

Panaji, Jan 19: Twenty of the 35 works under the 'Imagine Panaji' Smart City project have been completed, a senior official said Thursday.

The project was conceived in 2015 and work orders were issued in 2022, Imagine Panaji Smart city Development Limited (IPSCDL) Chief Executive Officer Saniith Rodrigues said at a press conference amid allegations of its slow pace.

While the project entails digging of several roads to lay

BSPCB to issue notice to pvt healthcare facilities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Jan 19: The Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB) has decided to issue notices to 4737 private healthcare facilities in the state, which allegedly failed to comply with the norms for bio-medical waste disposal.

Such waste materials can have adverse effects on the health of a person or the environment if not disposed of properly, BSPCB Chairman Devendra Kumar Shukla said.

pipelines, which was inconve-If these healthcare facilities "These 915 centres fail to adhere niencing people due to dust polfail to adhere to the norms perto the norms pertaining to the taining to scientific storage. lution, Rodrigues blamed it on treatment of medical waste at Common Bio-medical Waste the fast pace at which the works transportation and treatment Treatment Facilities (CBWTF) in were being carried out. of medical waste, within 15 days, "Due to the tremendous pace they will be closed down, he said. the state. Despite repeated reof work, we are facing issues of Samastipur district (418) tops minders, these centres did not dust and dug up roads. Issues the list of such healthcare cenfollow the norms", Shukla said. like heavy rains and organisation tres, followed by West of festivals like Purple Fest, Champaran (389), Vaishali (373), Saran (260), Siwan (253), Gaya 🕋 ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI, BARGARH 🚕 Shigmo, Carnival also create hurdles. (157) and Patna (115). "Bio-med-Dept. of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Odisha District Head Quarter Hospital, Bargarh - 768028, Phone/Fax: 06646-231763 Advt. No. 64/NHM, BARGARH/2023-24 Date: 18.01.202 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.C-2378 TENDER CALL NOTICE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER No. E-752: Sealed bio No. E-752: Sealed bids are invited from registered firms/agencies for Outsourci of Techno Managerial Manpower. Details regarding eligibility criteria, terms conditions and formats for submission of RFP (Technical & Price Bid) are mentione PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA n the tender document which may be downloaded from the website: www.bargarl Parmanandpur Railway Station Road, Bhawanipatna In the tender document which may be downloaded from the website: www.bagrgarh. nic.in. Interested agency/firm has to submit their bids in a sealed envelope superscribing on the top of the sealed envelope as "Request for Proposal (RFP) - Selection of Agency for Outsourcing of Techno Managerial Personnel at Govt Health Institutions of Bargarh". Bid documents should reach to the office of the undersigned on or before Dt.12.02.2024, 4 P.M. through Speed Post/Regd. Post Courier only and will be opened on Dt.15.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on Dt.30.01.2024, 11.00 A.M. in the Conference Hall of the undersigned. The undersigned are very the right to reject any or all the bid documents without Dist-Kalahandi, PIN-766002 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Identification No.EEPH-BHPT-27 of 2023-24/Dt.16.01.2024 e-Procurement Notice 1 No. Work Single Bid System Rs.17.93 Lakh 1 (One) Calendar Month From 11.00 AM of dt.20.01.2024 to Name of the Work will be held on Dt. 30.01.2024, 11.00 A.M. in the Conference Hall of the undersigned The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the bid documents withou assigning any reason thereof. The authority is not responsible for any postal delay. Type of Bid Estimated Cost 02. 03. Estimated Cost04. Period of Completion05. Date & Time of availability The dire situation of OIPR-10124/11/0017/2324 Sd./- Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Bargar Bihar's of bid document in the portal 06. Last date/time of receipt of 5.00 PM of 30.01.2024 5.00 PM of 30.01.2024 education system is not **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** hidden from anyone, bids in the portal DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES although, in recent months 07. Date & Time of opening of technical bids At 11.30 AM of 31.01.2024 the government's Office of the Superintending Engineer, 08. Name and address of the Superintending Engineer attention has turned P.H. Division, Bhawanipatna Railway Station Road, At/Po- Parmanandpur-766002 Officer Inviting Bid Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division, Bhanjanagar towards the education sector Phone No. 06821-291004, e-mail ID:- bnjirrigation2010@gmail.com Dist-Kalahandi e-Procurement Notice No. e-BNID- 10/2023-24 Further details can be seen from the website http://tenders.ori.nic.in or The government has not www.tendersorissa.gov.in No.A-1240:Bid documents consisting of Work, Estimated cost, Cost of only appointed a large Sd./- Superintending Engineer Tender paper, Time of completion, Class of Contractor, the set of Terms number of teachers but OIPR-13059/11/0013/2324 P.H. Division, Bhawanipatna and Conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen has also taken steps to in e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. improve the basic GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-1244: Name of the work: Flood Bank, Canal works & Building Works structure of the schools DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES No of Works: 79 (Seventy nine) no. of works. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER 3. Class of Contractor: Varies from "C" Class to "B" Class MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KANDHAMAL The people of the state Bid Identification No: BNID-260/2023-24 to 338/2023-24 e-Procurement Notice also believe that if there is 5. Estimated Cost put to Tender: Rs.4.90 Lakh to 37.28 Lakh. **BID IDENTIFICATION NO-06/2023-24** 6. Period of Completion: 04 (Four Months). improvement in the basic Letter No.24, Dt.05.01.2024 Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal: structure of government Name of Work Improvement of M.I. Projects under the scheme 24.01.2024 to 02.02.2024 up to 5.00 P.M. schools and the presence Improvement to Tanks and MIPs for 2023-24. 8. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the Portal: 02.02.2024 of teachers is main-No Works 03 (Three) No. up to 5.00 P.M tained, then there is no Estimated Cost Rs.35.31 Lakh to Rs.13.34 Lakh Approximately 10 Date of Opening of Bid: 03.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M in the office of doubt that there will be Rs.6000.00 (Non-Refundable) Tender Paper Cost the Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division, 90 (Ninety days) only. Period of Completion significant improvement Bhanjanagar Availability of Bid From 10.00 AM of 16.01.2024 to 16.00 hrs. of in the educational en-11. Date of Lottery: 07.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M in the office of the 29.01.2024 in website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in documents vironment in the state. Time of receipt of bid From 10.00 AM of 16.01.2024 to 16.00 hrs. of Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division, Meanwhile, Bihar's through online 29.01.2024 through online Bhanjanagar (if situation arises) Deputy Chief Minister Date of Opening of bid: At 11.00 hrs of 30.01.2024 in the O/O S.E., M.I 12. Submission of Affidavit: The Bidder should mention his/her Full Tejashwi Yadav said that Division, Kandhamal, Phulbani documents Present Postal Address, e-Mail ID, Valid Mobile Number in his a lot of work is being Digital Signature The bidder must possess compatible Digital Original Affidavit for each work during upload of tender Signature Certificate (DSC) of class II or class III Certificate done in the state. 13. Submission of Original License (for Engineering Contractor) The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website http Unemployed individuals at the time of verification of Documents. dowrorissa.gov.in.Name and address of the OIT: Superintending Engi from other states are also Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tender neer, M.I. Division, Kandhamal, Ph.No.06842-253634, Fax:06842-253816 coming here for employ-E-mail:kmidplb@gmail.com. Further details can be seen from the e-Prosodisha.gov.in. curement market place, http//www.tendersodisha.gov.in. ment. He stated that the government is consistently Sd./- (Er. Sunil Kumar Tripathy) Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Kandhamal working to provide jobs to OIPR-32487/11/0009/2324 OIPR-32010/11/0013/2324 the people.



ical waste means any waste, which is generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals or research activities pertaining thereto or in the production or testing of biological or in health camps," said the Chairman.

A CBWTF is a set-up where biomedical waste from healthcare facilities is imparted necessarv treatment to reduce adverse effects that it may pose on human health and the environment, the scientist explained. District Magistrates concerned are also being informed by the BSPCB about the closure notices. he said.

These centres are located in Bhojpur, Buxar, Kaimur, Nalanda, Patna, Rohtas, Vaishali, Saran, West Chmaparan etc.

"The board keeps instructing hospitals, nursing homes and other medical establishments across the state to get their biomedical waste treated at authorised CBWTFs in Patna, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Gaya", the BSPCB added.

Date: 18.01.2024

cies for Outsourcin



nival is highlighted during the parades, Khaunte said, Foreign and domestic tourists will arrive in Goa to witness the carnival, and they should get a glimpse of the traditional festivities, he said.

The government is celebrating 350 years of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's coronation. The main event will be held February 19 at Bicholim (North Goa), he said.

Bihar ensures better future for govt schools

AFTER THE RECRUITMENT OF MORE THAN 94,000 TEACHERS IN THE SECOND PHASE BY THE BIHAR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT **IMPROVEMENT IN THE STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO IN THE STATE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna. Jan 19: In the last two months, the Bihar government has set a new record by appointing nearly two lakh teachers in the state for the better future of government schools.

With such a significant number of teacher appointments, there is now a sense of relief in the government schools.

If we look at the government figures, in the first phase of the teacher recruitment exam conducted by the Bihar Public Service Commission, more than one lakh candidates qualified.

On November 2 last year, a historic moment occurred when one lakh appointment letters were distributed. On the same day. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar directed education officials to conduct the second phase of the examination soon. Following this, on January 13, over 94,000 teachers were issued appointment letters.

It is reported that the primary school teacherstudent ratio is now 1:35. This is considered equivalent to the national stu-



dent-teacher ratio. Before cussions in the state.

ratio was 1:38, before the appointment of two lakh teachers, this ratio was 1:45, and after the formation of the NDA government in 2005, it was 1:65.

Similarly, there has been an improvement in the student-teacher ratio in secondary schools. After the second phase of appointments, the ratio is now 1 teacher for 36 students. Previously, this ratio was 1 teacher for 88 students. The most significant

aspect is that candidates from other states, including Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, participated in the teacher recruitment exam and

achieved success. This led to heated political dis-

the recruitment of teachers in the first phase, this On the other hand, the government has also focused on improving the basic structure of its

> schools. The Education Department has allocated approximately ₹900 crore in the current financial

year for strengthening the basic structure of government schools. This amount is in addition to the annual budget provision, with more than ₹200 crore specifically designated for purchasing benches and desks. Plans are in place to spend more than ₹1000 crore in the next financial year (2024-25).

The department's goal is to ensure that no child in a government school sits on the floor.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer **Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division** Bhanjanagar







PHOTO POST



OrissaPOST

SATURDAY | JANUARY 20 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

American flamingos are pictured in a pond surrounded by snow at the Pairi Daiza zoo in Brugelette, Belgium



P6

Palestinians wait to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip



Participants pray as they take an ice-cold bath during a ceremony to purify their souls and to pray for the New Year at the Teppozu Inari shrine in Tokyo, Japan



A man casts a net in a canal near Vellayani Lake in Thiruvanathapuram





People stand near the long icicles formed after leak of a water pipeline at Tangmarg in north Kashmir

A kitesurfer loses control of his board, on a sunny day at Bloubergstrand beach in Cape Town, South Africa



An armed security personnel keeps vigil ahead of the consecration ceremony of the Ram Mandir, in Ayodhya



Members of tribal community with bow and arrows, 'Nagada' and 'Mandaar' stage an 'Aakrosh Rally' against the Enforcement Directorate's summon to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, in Ranchi REUTERS/PTI PHOTOS







The schemes of the previous Congress government were such that they were discussed and appreciated not only in the state but in the entire country ASHOK GEHLOT FORMER RAJASTHAN CM

R-DAY PREP: FLIGHTS RESTRICTED IN DELHI

There will be no flight arrivals or departures at the Delhi airport from 10:20 am to 12:45 pm every day till January 26 in connection with the Republic Day preparations and celebrations, according to an official



uote 77 **Cong opposes simultaneous polls** SP, RLD announce Lok Sabha alliance

The 'Business Blasters' programme will be introduced in Delhi governmentfunded colleges and grants for the curriculum are being sanctioned

ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CM

I don't think there is any delay in seat sharing. They are already talking about it. It takes time. Everybody has their own interests, and those have to be looked into. I am sure it will be alright FAROOO ABDULLAH NATIONAL

CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Power corridors have been sanitised from corrupt elements under the Narendra Mod government and this is why some people are upset as they believed the law would never be able to catch up with them JAGDEEP DHANKHAR VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Fresh ED summons to Lalu, Tejashwi

Patna: The ED has issued fresh summons to RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his son and Bihar **Deputy Chief Minister** Tejashwi Yadav to appear for questioning at its Patna office in connection with the alleged railways land-for-jobs money laundering case, official sources said Friday. While Prasad has been asked to depose January 29, Tejashwi has been called the next day January 30. A team went to the official residence of Prasad's wife and forme Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi in Patna to deliver the summons, they said.

Sharad Pawar's kin summoned

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Maharashtra MLA Rohit Pawar. a grandnephew of NCP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 19: The Congress Friday strongly opposed the 'undemocratic' idea of holding simultaneous elections in the country and said it goes against the guarantees of federalism and the basic structure of the Constitution.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge also demanded that the idea be abandoned and the highpowered committee formed to study it be dissolved

In a letter to the secretary of the committee on one nation, one election, he requested former President Ram Nath Kovind, who heads the panel. "not to allow his persona and the office of the former President of India to be abused by the Union government to subvert the constitution and parliamentary democracy in this country"

"The Indian National Congress is strongly opposed to the very idea of 'One Nation, One Election'. For the sake of maintaining a thriving and a robust democracy it is imperative that the entire idea must be abandoned and the high-powered committee dissolved," Kharge said in his letter to Niten Chandra, the secretary of the

committee. His letter came in response to Chandra's letter October 18 whereby he had invited suggestions for consideration of the committee. He said the committee seems to have "already made up its mind and seeking a consultation seems to be an eye wash".

"The government, parliament and ECI should work together to



The government, **Parliament and ECI** should work together to ensure people's mandate is respected rather than divert their attention by talking about undemocratic ideas like simultaneous elections

ensure people's mandate is reattention by talking about undemocratic ideas like simultaneous elections," Kharge said. He said the composition of the committee is "biased" as it was formed without giving substantial representation to the Opposition parties that head

ommendations of this commit-"When the committee is headed by no less than the former President of India, it is dis-

tressing when even common voters feel the consultations of the committee are likely to be a pretence since minds have already been made up. Firm views in support of the proposal have already been expressed in public and a dispassionate analysis of pros and cons is not being attempted in a serious and systematic manner," the Congress chief said in his response.

He said that in the last 10 years the only instances where the Chief Ministers have lost the confidence of the House have been when one particular party has abused the government machinery at its disposal and subverted the anti-defection law to 'steal" people's mandate.

"There is no place for the concept of simultaneous elections in a country that has adopted a Parliamentary system of government. Such forms of simultaneous elections that are being floated by the government go against the guarantees of federalism contained in the Constitution," Kharge asserted.

He said the government and this committee should have been honest in stating at the outset that what they are attempting goes against the basic structure of the Constitution and will require substantial changes to the basic structure to implement.

"The holding of simultaneous elections would require the dissolution of several legislative assemblies which are still halfway (or less) through their terms. This would be a betraval of the electorate in those states, the Congress chief claimed.

He said the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister holds office for as long as he or she enjoys the confidence of the House and if a Chief Minister loses confidence of the House and no other party is able to form a government.

Gurmeet gets

50-day parole

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Jan 19: The Samajwadi Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal Friday announced their alliance for the Lok Sabha polls, with the RLD saying that the other party will leave seven seats in western Uttar Pradesh for its nominees.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav and RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary announced the tieup on social media for the elections later this year."Congratulations to everyone on the alliance of RLD and SP. Let us all unite for victory,

Yadav said in a post on X. Reposting this tweet,



Chaudhary said, "Always ready to protect national and constitutional values. We expect all workers of our alliance to move forward together for the development and prosperity of our region.'

He also posted pictures of the two leaders shaking hands. An RLD spokesperson said that the seat-sharing deal was finalised at a meeting between the two leaders

"The RLD will contest seven seats in western Uttar Pradesh, he said. But the spokesperson did not name the specific seats. Uttar Pradesh has 80 Lok Sabha seats.

Moitra vacates govt bungalow

Thursday, Moitra failed to get any relief from the Delhi High Court which refused to stav the DoE notice and asked her to vacate the government bungalow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 19: Expelled Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra Friday vacated her government bungalow here, a day after the Delhi High Court dismissed her plea for a stay on eviction proceedings. The former TMC MP's coun-

sel Shadan Farasat said that house number 9B on Telegraph Lane was vacated by 10 am Friday morning before the authorities arrived. "No eviction took place," the counsel said.

The Directorate of Estates (DoE), which comes under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, in the morning sent a team to get the bungalow vacated and the area around it was barricaded. Earlier this week, the DoE issued an eviction notice to Moitra.

The possession of the bungalow has officially been handed over to the Directorate of Estates. We are assessing if there is any damage to the property," an official said. Thursday, Moitra failed to get any relief from the Delhi High Court which refused to stay the DoE notice and asked her to vacate the government bungalow.

Justice Girish Kathpalia said no specific rule has been brought before the court which dealt with the eviction of MPs from government accommodation



after they cease to be lawmakers. The TMC leader, who was expelled from the Lok Sabha December 8 last year, was earlier asked to vacate the house by January 7 after her allotment was cancelled

January 8, the DoE issued a notice seeking her reply within three days as to why she had not vacated her government accommodation. Another notice was also issued to her January 12.

January 4, the Delhi High Court asked the TMC leader to approach the DoE with a request to allow her to continue to occupy the government accommodation allotted to her.

Moitra was held guilty of "unethical conduct" and expelled from Lok Sabha December 8 last year for allegedly accepting gifts from businessman Darshan Hiranandani and sharing her user ID and password of the Parliament website with him.

SC judges behind Ayodhya verdict get Ram Temple invite

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Jan 19: Dera Sacha Sauda chief and rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has been granted 50-day parole, of ficial sources said Friday.

The parole comes two months after the Sirsa-headquartered sect chief had walked out of the Sunaria jail in Haryana's Rohtak district November 21 last year after he was granted a 21-day furlough -- his third temporary release from jail in 2023. During his temporary release period. Singh will go to the Dera Sacha Sauda Ashram in Barnawa in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat. Singh is serving a 20-year jail term for raping two of his disciples.



MALLIKARJUN KHARGE CONGRESS CHIEF spected rather than divert their

various state governments that would be affected by the rec-

supremo Sharad Pawar, for questioning January 24 as part of its money laundering probe into the alleged Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) scam, official sources said Friday. The federal agency had raided the premises of Baramati Agro, a company owned by Rohit Pawar, and some linked entities January 5 in Baramati, Pune, Aurangabad and some other locations.

Air India staffer shot dead

Noida: A 30-year-old crew member of Air India was allegedly shot dead by unidentified bike-borne assailants near a market here Friday, police said. An official said that the alleged murder could be fallout of a gang rivalry involving the family of the deceased, who has been identified as Suraj Mann. The incident took place in Sector 104 here when the Mann came out of a gym and sat in his car, they added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

emony January 22.

November 9, 2019.

Chandrachud, former CJIs

Ranjan Gogoi and S A Bobde

and former judges Ashok

Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer

were part of the bench which

had delivered the historic verdict

The unanimous and anony-

must be found for a mosque in the Hindu holy town.

New Delhi, Jan 19: Five The Uttar Pradesh govern-Supreme Court judges includment's list of invitees also ining present CJI D Y Chandrachud, clude over 50 jurists, including who were part of the Constitution former Chief Justices, judges bench which paved way for the and top lawyers, as well as K construction of the Ram Temple Parasaran, the counsel for 'Ram at the disputed site in Ayodhya, Lalla'. Solicitor General Tushar have been invited as state guests Mehta and former Attorney General KK Venugopal are also to witness the consecration ceramong the invitees. Besides the present CJI According to the temple trust.

over 7,000 people, including politicians, celebrities, industrialists, saints are slated to attend the ceremony. The invitation has been sent by the special secretary protocol of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The Ram Mandir consecra-

mous verdict had backed the tion ceremony will be held January 22 with the 'Pran construction of a Ram temple by a government trust at the dis-Pratishtha' of the idol of Ram puted site in Avodhva and ruled Lalla in the still under-conthat an alternative five-acre plot struction temple in Ayodhya.



The Dera chief had walked out of the Sunaria jail on a 30day parole July 30, 2023, while he was granted a 40-day parole in January last year as well. In October 2022 too, he was granted a 40-day parole.

Before that, he had come out of prison on a month-long parole in June 2022. Besides, he was granted a three-week furlough February 7. 2022.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with folk artistes at the Sri Sri Auniati Satra during the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' in Maiuli, Assam, Friday

SC designates 11 women lawyers as senior advocates in one go

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 19: In a first, the Supreme Court Friday designated 11 women lawyers as senior advocates in one go. A committee headed by Chief

Justice of India D Y Chandrachud designated 56 lawyers and advocate-on-record (AoR) as sen-

ior advocates, 11 of them women. The Apex court had on the last occasion designated 18 lawyers as senior advocates in 2021. "The Chief Justice of India

and the judges of the Supreme

Court of India in a full court

meeting held on Friday, January

19, 2024, have been pleased to des-

ignate the following advocates-

on record/advocates as senior advocates with effect from January 19, 2024...," said a notification issued by the Apex court. Advocates Shobha Gupta, Karuna Nundy, Swarupama Chaturvedi, Archana Pathak Dave and Shirin Khajuria are among the 11 women lawyers who have been designated as senior advocates.

Climate change could reduce average life expectancy by six months

R-Day parade to be women-centric

New Delhi: The 75th Republic Day celebrations at the majestic Kartavya Path January 26 will largely be 'women-centric' with the central theme of India's democracy and its resolve to become a developed nation. In a first, the parade will be heralded by 100 women artistes with Indian musical instruments, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane said Friday. The parade will also witness an all-women tri-services contingent marching down the ceremonial boulevard for the first time, and the central armed police forces contingents will also consist of women personnel, he said.

A 10-POINT INCREASE IN THE COMPOSITE CLIMATE CHANGE INDEX—WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR BOTH TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL-IS **EXPECTED TO DECREASE THE AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY BY SIX MONTHS, THE RESEARCHERS SAID**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 19: Climate change may take six months off the average human life span, according to a study which found that women and individuals in developing nations are disproportionately affected.

The study, published recently in the journal PLOS Climate, evaluated average temperature, rainfall, and life expectancy data from 191 countries from 1940-2020.

In addition to measuring the isolated impacts of temperature and rainfall, the researchers designed a first-of-its-kind composite climate change index, which combines the two variables to gauge the overarching severity of climate change.

Results indicate that in isolation, a global temperature increase of 1 degree Celsius is associated with an average human life expectancy decrease of approximately 0.44 years, or about six months and one week.



A 10-point increase in the composite climate change indexwhich accounts for both temperature and rainfall-is expected to decrease the average life expectancy by six months, the researchers said.

Women and individuals in de-

veloping nations are disproportionately affected, they said. "The global threat posed by climate change to the well-being of billions underscores the urgent need to address it as a public health crisis. as revealed by this study," said Amit Roy from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Bangladesh and The New School for Social Research, US.

The study emphasises that "mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and proactive initiatives are essential to safeguard life expectancy and protect the health of populations worldwide," Roy added.

Temperature and rainfall two telltale signals of climate change—cause myriad public health concerns, from the acute and direct (e.g., natural disasters like flooding and heat waves) to the indirect yet equally devastating (e.g., respiratory and mental illnesses), the researchers said.

While impacts like these are observable and well documented. existing research has not established a direct link between climate change and life expectancy, they said. The team is hopeful that the composite climate change index will standardise the global conversation about climate change, become a usable metric for the nonscientific public and encourage collaboration and even friendly competition among countries to combat the impacts of climate change.

Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to a changing environment are of particular importance, the researchers said. To complement this large-scale approach, they suggest localised future studies that consider specific severe weather events (e.g., wildfires, tsunamis, and floods), the impacts of which cannot be fullycaptured through analysing temperature and rainfall alone.









international



We will not settle for anything short of an absolute victory BENJAMIN NETANYAHU ISRAEL PM

GERMANY EASES RULES TO GET CITIZENSHIP

German lawmakers Friday approved legislation easing the rules on gaining citizenship and ending restrictions on holding dual citizenship. The government argues the plan will bolster the integration of immigrants and help attract skilled workers



uote

surprise that Donald Trump is back at it with more false and racist 'birther' claims

It's sadly no

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI INDIAN AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN

When you say working, are they stopping the Houthis, no. Are they going to continue, yes JOE BIDEN US PRESIDEN



addressed by peaceful means, through dialogue and cooperation, in accordance with the principles of sovereignty. territorial integrity, and good neighbourly relations

ANTONIO GUTERRES UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

SHORT TAKES

Polio programme coordinator killed

Peshawar: A Polio immunisation programme coordinator was killed and a policeman was injured when their vehicle was attacked in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of northwestern Pakistan Friday, police said. Unidentified assailants opened fire on the vehicle of Dr Abdur Rahman in Bajaur district when he was on his way back home from the district hospital, SHO Mamond Police Station, Dilawar Khan, said. The Rescue 1122 team provided medical aid to the injured persons and shifted them to the district headquarters hospital in critical condition. The doctor, however, succumbed to his injuries at the hospital in Bajaur, an official told PTI.

Toll in Philippine landslide rises

Davao: A landslide set off bv days of heavy rain buried a holding Christian prayers in the southern Philippines, killing at least 10 people, including five children, officials said Friday. Two people were injured, and at least one more villager remained unaccounted for following the landslide in a remote mountain village in the goldmining town of Monkayo in Davao de Oro province, Ednar Dayanghirang, the regional chief of the government's Office of Civil Defence, said. Three more bodies were found Friday, after the search was paused mid-afternoon Thursday due to the risk of another landslide.

Pak, Iran agree to 'de-escalate' situation PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Jan 19: Pakistan and Iran Friday agreed to "de-escalate the situation" and strengthen coordination on counter-terrorism as the two sides began to pick threads of tattered ties following their tit-for-tat military strikes in each other's territory.

Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani spoke with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on the telephone and expressed his country's desire to "work with Iran based on the spirit of mutual trust and cooperation." Pakistan's Foreign Office said in a statement

"The Foreign Minister stressed that respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty must underpin this cooperation," it said.

They "agreed that workinglevel cooperation and close coordination on counter-terrorism and other aspects of mutual concern should be strengthened. They also agreed to de-escalate the situation." the FO said. underscoring the close "brotherly



In this photo released by the Iranian Army Friday, a missile is launched during a military drill in southern Iran

relations" between the two neighbours. The return of the Ambassadors of the two countries to their respective capitals was also discussed. In a separate statement earlier, the FO said Foreign Minister Jilani expressed Pakistan's readiness to work with Iran on "all issues

and underscored the need for closer cooperation on security issues". The positive development came after Pakistan conducted "precision military strikes" against what it called "terrorist hideouts" in Iran's Siestan-Balochistan province that killed 9 people Thursday. The attack

he positive development came after Pakistan conducted "precision military strikes" against what it called "terrorist hideouts" in Iran's Siestan-Balochistan province that killed 9 people Thursday

he attack was seen as retaliation to Iranian missile and drone attacks Tuesday, which targeted two bases of the Sunni Baloch militant group Jaish al-Adl in Pakistan's unruly Balochistan province

was seen as retaliation to Iranian missile and drone attacks on Tuesday, which targeted two bases of the Sunni Baloch militant group Jaish al-Adl in Pakistan's unruly Balochistan province.

According to IRNA, Iran's official news agency, Amir Abdollahian urged Pakistan to assist in "foiling plots and destroying terrorist hideouts in its territories." The top Iranian diplomat also called for the pursuit of security and military cooperation seriously, noting that Iranian forces will not allow terrorist groups to carry out sabotage in the country.

Pointing to Iran's recent attack on a hideout of the socalled Jaish al-Adl terrorist group inside Pakistani soil, he argued that intelligence documents showed that over 50 terrorists were getting ready to conduct terrorist attacks on Iran. Pakistani foreign minister.

for his part, emphasised that both nations have a common attitude in the fight against terrorism, adding that Islamabad underlines the need for maintaining constructive and brotherly ties with Tehran. In the phone conversation,

the Pakistani top diplomat officially invited his Iranian counterpart to visit Islamabad, the IRNA said.

Earlier, Jilani and his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan discussed the "ongoing developments between Pakistan and Iran", the Foreign Office said.

JAISHANKAR HOLDS BILATERAL MEETINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kampala, Jan 19: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Friday held a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Bolivia, Azerbaijan and Venezuela during which he discussed bilateral ties, as well as regional and global issues.



Jaishankar is in the Ugandan capital city of Kampala to represent India at the two-day summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which began Friday. "Pleasure to meet FM of

Bolivia Celinda Sosa Lunda. Discussed development cooperation, traditional medicine and sustainable lifestyle," the minister posted on X, sharing a photograph of the meeting.

In another post on X, Jaishankar said he met outgoing NAM Chair Azerbaijan's foreign minister Jeyhun Bayramov and discussed "our bilateral relationship and exchanged views on regional matters".

He also shared a photograph of the meeting held on the sidelines of the NAM summit. During his meeting with Venezuelan foreign minister Yvan Gil, the two leaders discussed economic, energy and development cooperation between India and Venezuela, and "exchanged views on regional and global issues".

Jaishankar's visit to Kampala is part of his two-nation tour to Uganda and Nigeria. From Kampala, the external affairs minister will travel to Nigeria for a three-day visit from January 21, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a press release in New Delhi on Thursday ahead of his visit.

The NAM Summit under the leadership of Uganda brings together more than 120 developing countries on a platform of crucial historic significance, it said.

Gaza: Israeli tanks push towards biggest hospital



REUTERS

to the south

which staff deny.

the 46 km-long (29-mile) coastal

descended, the Japan

Aerospace Exploration

Agency's mission control

said that everything was

going as planned and later

said that SLIM was on the

lunar surface. But there was

no mention of whether the

landing was successful

Tokyo, Jan 19: Japan's space

agency said early Saturday that

its spacecraft is on the Moon,

but is still "checking its status".

More details will be given at a

news conference, officials said.

Investigating Moon, or SLIM,

came down onto the lunar sur-

face at around 12:20 am. Tokyo

time Saturday (1520 GMT Friday).

The Smart Lander for

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza/Doha/Tel Aviv, Jan 19: Israeli tanks Friday mounted a new push into southern Gaza's main city, which is sheltering hundreds of thousands of Palestinians driven there by Israeli bombardment, once more approaching the enclave's biggest functioning hospital.

Israeli Gaza tanks push communications towards blackout Nasser hampering calls

Hospital in to relatives and Khan Younis V rescue services for a now in its second eighth

in Israeli strikes on a residential building near the largely nonfunctioning Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City in the north of the enclave. Palestinian health officials said. Israeli forces have made limited withdrawals from northern Gaza this month, saying operations there were largely complete. But Palestinians in the southern Gaza City suburb of Tel Al-Hawa said Israeli tanks pushed back into the neighbourhood, forcing people taking shelter in some schools there to evacuate and head south.

war. Twelve people were killed

The Islamic Jihad militant group said it had fought with Israeli forces in the Al-Bureij and Al-Maghazi refugee camps in central Gaza and in Khan Younis, while Hamas's armed wing said its fighters had clashed with Israeli forces in several areas across Gaza overnight and Friday morning.

The Israeli military said it



A boy reacts as Palestinians wait to receive food amid shortages of food supplies, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip REUTERS

Vietnam passes amended land law

Hanoi: The Vietnamese National Assembly (NA) approved the amended land law at its fifth extraordinary meeting, the media reported. NA Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue said Thursday that by passing the law, the legislators had accomplished one of the most important legislative tasks of the 15th-term National Assembly.

Pak caretaker govt moves top court

Islamabad: Pakistan's caretaker government Friday challenged in the Supreme Court the Islamabad High Court's verdict nullifying the jail trial of former prime minister Imran Khan in the cipher case for allegedly leaking state secrets. In its petition filed in Pakistan's Supreme Court, the federal government implored the apex court to overturn the Islamabad High Court's decision, saying that the high court did not evaluate the facts of the case properly.

People inside Khan Younis' DOCTOR WHO AMPUTATED Nasser Hospital, forced to house NIECE'S LEG SAYS: 'COULD I GET displaced Gazans as well as pa-HER TO THE HOSPITAL? OF tients, reported hearing shellfire COURSE NOT. from tanks advancing into the west of the city, while residents

day

also reported fierce gun battles strip. Around 85% of the 2.3 million population have been driven The Gaza health ministry said to seek shelter in the south, ac-142 Palestinians had been killed cording to the U.N. - the area and 278 injured in the previous that is now the focus of Israel's 24 hours. Israeli officials have accampaign to eradicate the Hamas cused Hamas fighters of opermovement that governs Gaza. ating from Nasser Hospital, People's ability to monitor the latest threats, report attacks or The Israeli bombardment and check on relatives - along with ground invasion launched in the functioning of rescue servresponse to Hamas' Oct. 7 asices - has been severely curtailed sault on towns and villages by a near-total blackout on around Gaza have largely emptelecommunications that was tied the northern two-thirds of now in its eighth day, the longest

northern and central Gaza was continuing operations in central and northern Gaza, seizing weapons and killing "several armed terrorists".

day

NETANYAHU OPPOSED TO PALESTINIAN SOVEREIGNTY

Israel's onslaught on Gaza was triggered on Oct. 7 by Hamas attacks on the surrounding area in which around 1,200 people were killed and 253 taken hostage, of whom around half are still in Gaza, according to Israeli tallies. Netanyahu also restated his opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state that Israel's main ally the United States, and many powers in and beyond the Middle East advocate as the only feasible long-term solution to the conflict.

Maha signs investment MoUs at Davos

Davos: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Friday said he is resolute in leading the state to its ambitious target of becoming a \$1 trillion economy as the state government secured investment MoUs worth Rs 3.53 lakh crore (\$44 billion) this week at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting. The state also received an expression of interest for an addition al Rs 1 lakh crore investment, taking the total to Rs 4.5 lakh crore (nearly \$57 billion) with a potential to create about two lakh jobs across sectors, including electronics, IT, data centres, gems and jewellery, agriculture, automobile and renewable energy, a statement said. During his visit here accompanied by Industries Minister Uday Samant and several senior officials, Shinde signed 19 MoUs.

Boeing 747 cargo plane makes emergency landing

Miami: A witness saw sparks shooting from a cargo plane as it made an emergency landing at Miami International Airport shortly after takeoff. The aircraft landed safely Thursday night "after experiencing an engine malfunction soon after departure," a spokesperson for Atlas Air said in a statement Friday, "The crew followed all standard procedures and safely returned to MIA." The airplane was "shooting sparks" as it flew overhead, said Melanie Adaros, who was out for a walk with her mother and was about to turn into her home, when she heard and saw an approaching plane.

NK tests nuclear-capable underwater drone

Seoul (South Korea): North Korea said Friday it has tested a nuclearcapable underwater attack drone in response to a combined naval exercise by South Korea, the United States and Japan this week, as it continues to blame its rivals for raising tensions in the region. The test of the drone, purportedly designed to destroy naval vessels and ports, came days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un declared he is scrapping his country's long-standing goal of a peaceful reunification with South Korea and that his country will rewrite its constitution to define South Korea as its most hostile foreign adversary.

Japan's lunar lander is on the Moon, but its status is unclear As the spacecraft No astronauts were onboard the

spacecraft.

outage since the start of the

If SLIM landed successfully, Japan would become the fifth country to accomplish the feat after the United States, the Soviet Union, China and India.

As the spacecraft descended. the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's mission control said that everything was going as planned and later said that SLIM was on the lunar surface. But there was no mention of whether the landing was successful.

Mission control kept repeating that it was "checking its status" and that more information would be given at a news conference. It wasn't immediately clear when the news conference would start. SLIM, nicknamed "the Moon

Sniper," started its descent at midnight Saturday, and within 15 minutes it was down to about 10 km (six miles) above the lunar surface, according to the space agency, which is known as JAXA.



At an altitude of five km (three miles), the lander was in a vertical descent mode, then at 50 metres (165 feet) above the surface, SLIM was supposed to make a parallel movement to find a safe landing spot, JAXA said.

About a half-hour after its presumed landing, JAXA said that it was still checking the status of the lander. SLIM. which was aiming to hit a very small target, is a lightweight spacecraft about the size of a passenger vehicle. It was using "pinpoint landing" technology that promises far greater control than any previous Moon landing.

While most previous probes have used landing zones about 10 km (six miles) wide, SLIM was aiming at a target of just 100 metres (330 feet). The project was the fruit of two decades of work on precision technology by JAXA.

The mission's main goal is to test new landing technology that would allow moon missions to land "where we want to, rather than where it is easy to land," JAXA has said. If the landing was a success, the spacecraft will seek clues about the origin of the moon, including analysing minerals with a special camera.

The SLIM, equipped with a pad to cushion impact, was aiming to land near the Shioli crater. near a region covered in volcanic rock.

The closely watched mission came only 10 days after a moon mission by a US private company failed when the spacecraft developed a fuel leak hours after the launch. SLIM was launched on a Mitsubishi Heavy H2A rocket in September.

It initially orbited Earth and entered lunar orbit December 25. Japan hopes a success will help regain confidence for its space technology after a number of failures.

A spacecraft designed by a Japanese company crashed during a lunar landing attempt in April, and a new flagship rocket failed its debut launch in March. JAXA has a track record with difficult landings.

Its Hayabusa2 spacecraft, launched in 2014, touched down twice on the 900-metre-long (3,000foot-long) asteroid Ryugu, collecting samples that were returned to Earth.

Experts say a success of SLIM's pinpoint landing, especially on the moon, would raise Japan's profile in the global space technology race. Takeshi Tsuchiya, aeronautics professor at the Graduate School of Engineering at the University of Tokvo, said it was important to confirm the accuracy of land-ing on a targeted area for the

future of Moon explorations.











business



No country can develop if it does not have sufficient power. The power shortage in India has come down from around 4.5% in 2014 to less than 1% today RK SINGH UNION POWER MINISTER

1ST MADE-IN-INDIA CHIP BY DEC

The first made-in-India chip will be out by December, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for developing a very strong semiconductor industry in the country in a short span of time with focus on the entire ecosystem





There is a rising tendency of inflating the **IPO** application numbers to give an impression of high amount of subscriptions

MADHABI PURI BUCH CHAIRPERSON, SEBI

As per the sowing data. wheat has been covered in more area and we expect good production this

ARJUN MUNDA AGRICULTURE MINISTER



the subsidy in April would prompt industry players to tighten their belts and work hard

TARUN MEHTA CEO, ATHER ENERGY

03 RESULTS

Reliance net rises

Mumbai: Reliance Industries Ltd Friday reported a 9 per cent rise in its December quarter net profit as a planned maintenanceinduced weakness in oil business earnings was offset by stability in retail and telecom verticals. Net profit of ₹17.265 crore, or ₹25.52 per share, in October-December - the third quarter of the current 2023-24 fiscal was 9.3 per cent higher than ₹15,792 crore, or ₹23.19 a share, earning a year back, according to a company's stock exchange filing. The revenue from operations was almost flat at ₹2.2 lakh crore.

Central Bank net up

New Delhi: The state-owned Central Bank of India Friday posted a 57 per cent increase in its profit at ₹718 crore in the third quarter ended December 2023. The bank had earned a net profit of ₹458 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Iotal income increased to ₹9,139 crore during the quarter under review against ₹7,636 crore in the same period last year, the Central Bank of India said in a regulatory filing. However, the net interest income of the bank declined to ₹3,152 crore during the quarter compared to ₹3,285 crore in the same period a year ago.

LOWEST-EVER

Cheap Russian oil cuts OPEC imports

Last year Russia was the top oil supplier to India, replacing *Iraq, which is now* at No 2, with Saudi Arabia tumbling to third position

REUTERS

New Delhi, Jan 19: The annual share of OPEC's oil in India's crude imports fell to its lowest level ever in 2023 while that of discounted Russian barrels surged to an all-time high, data obtained from trade and industry sources show

oil importer and consumer, has long relied on the nearby middle eastern nations for meeting most of its oil needs to cut freight

costs Last year for the first time India imported nearly equal quantities of oil from the **Organisation of Petroleum** Exporting Countries (OPEC) members as it did from nonmembers, the data shows.

The South Asian nation imported an average 4.65 million barrels per day (bpd) oil in 2023, up 2% from the previous year.

OPEC's share in India's crude oil diet plunged to about 49.6% in the first nine months of this fiscal year from April compared with 64.5% a year earlier, the



Russian imports India imported average OPEC's accounted 4.65mn 4.65mn share in bpd oil in India crude oil for about 36% at 2023, diet plunged to about / 1.66mn 49.6% bpd

INDIA'S INTAKE OF MIDDLE EASTERN OIL ALSO AT LOWEST LEVEL EVER data show. Altered trade flows

due to geopolitical tensions and costlier shipments from some traditional suppliers have expedited India's efforts to diversify its import sources and tap cheaper supplies from even far flung areas such as Russia.

Imports of Russian oil accounted for about 36% of India's total crude purchases in 2023 at 1.66 million bpd, the data showed. In 2022, India imported an aver-

age 6,51,800 bpd Russian oil, the data shows. Discounted Russian oil also curtailed India's intake of Middle Eastern oil to the lowest level ever, the calculations show. Russian oil became cheaper for India as western nations shunned purchases from Moscow

in retaliation for its invasion of Ukraine. However in December India's imports of Russian oil fell to the lowest in a year as some shipments were diverted after Washington tightened rules including toughened scrutiny by banks and service providers to ensure that cargoes do not breach the \$60 per barrel price cap.

The South Asian nation shipped in 1.34 million bpd of Russian oil last month, a decline of about 16.3% from November, as some cargoes were diverted, the data showed.

Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said that cargoes were diverted due to pricing.

Last year Russia was the top oil supplier to India, replacing Iraq, which is now at No 2, with Saudi Arabia tumbling to third position.

Equity markets to stay open today; holiday on Jan 22 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 19: Stock exchanges NSE and BSE Friday said there will be normal trading sessions January 20 and a trading holiday January 22.

Earlier, the bourses were scheduled to hold special trading sessions in the equity and equity derivative segment January 20 (Saturday) to check their preparedness to handle major disruption or failure at the primary site.

In separate circulars, NSE and BSE said there will be a normal trading session Saturday.

'Members are requested to note that the exchange shall be conducting regular trading sessions on Saturday, January 20, 2024, from the primary site in equity and equity derivatives segments as per regular market timings. Price bands applicable for normal trading day shall continue to be remain applicable on January 20, 2024," NŠĒ said in its circular.

Besides, it will be a trading holiday January 22, with the Maharashtra government announcing a holiday in connection with the consecration of the Ram Temple in Avodhva.

The Maharashtra government has declared January 22 as a public holiday.

Earlier in the day, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that money markets will remain closed January 22.

On the same day, public sector banks, insurance companies, financial institutions and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) across the country will remain closed for half a day.

The Department of Personnel and Training has also issued an order for a half-day closure of central government establishments January 22.

Markets rebound after losing streak

In the past three days, the BSE benchmark fell by 2.91%, and the Nifty declined 2.87%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 19: Benchmark Sensex rebounded 496 points while Nifty closed above the 21,600 level Friday as value buying in heavyweight stocks and a firm trend in global markets helped indices cut short three days of losses.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 496.37 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 71,683.23. During the day, it zoomed 708.78 points or 0.99 per cent to 71,895.64.

The Nifty climbed 160.15 points or 0.75 per cent to close at 21,622.40 with 43 of its shares closing in the green and seven in the red. In the past three days, the BSE benchmark fell by 2.91 per cent, and the Nifty declined 2.87 per cent.

Among the Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel rose the most by 3.52 per cent. NTPC rose by 3.04 per cent and Tech Mahindra by 2.56 per cent. Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, UltraTech Cement Titan, Axis Bank, JSW Steel ICICI Bank and Larsen & Toubro were the major gainers. IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India were the laggards.

HDFC Bank extended its losses for the fourth straight day, falling



after a three-day fall, investors' wealth climbed ₹4 lakh crore Following the recovery in domestic equities, the market cap-

INVESTORS RICHER

With a rebound in equities

On the weekly front. the

885.22 points or 1.21%,

and the Nifty declined

272.15 points or 1.24%

by 1.08 per cent. The stock de-

clined around 10 per cent in the

four sessions after the release of

its third quarter financial re-

The rupee gained 6 paise to set-

tle at 83.07 against the US dollar

Friday. However, strengthening

crude oil prices and foreign cap-

ital outflows capped the sharp

gain in the domestic currency,

FIIs were net sellers in the eq-

uity market Friday as they sold

shares worth ₹3.689.68 crore, ac-

cording to exchange data.

forex traders said.

sults

BSE benchmark fell

italisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms jumped ₹4 lakh crore to ₹373.57 lakh crore.

Tata to shut UK plant, 2.8k jobs on the line

AGENCIES

London, Jan 19: Tata Steel said_ Friday it will close its two blast furnaces in Britain by the end of this year. resulting in up to 2.800 workers potentially losing their jobs at its steelworks plant in Wales.

Boeing to make jets in India soon: PM AGENCIES

Bangalore, Jan 19: India will not have to wait too long for a Boeing aircraft that is designed and manufactured in the subcontinent, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the inauguration of the planemaker's engineering center in Bangalore Fridav. The Boeing India Engineering & Technology Center (BIETC) in the capital city of the southern Indian state of Karnataka is the company's largest facility outside of the United States and will focus on research and development. The company said it had invested \$200 million in the campus, which is spread across 43 acres, but did not provide details on the number of people the facility will employ. Boeing currently employs more than 6,000 people in India across its various centers. At the event, which was also attended by senior Boeing executives including Chief



up 2% India, the world's third-biggest

YoY

Paytm loss narrows

New Delhi: Digital payments major Paytm Friday reported that it has narrowed its losses to ₹220 crore for the quarter ended December 2023, compared with ₹290 crore in the preceding September quarter and ₹392 crore in the year-ago quarter. Revenue from operations in the third quarter jumped 38 per cent to ₹2,850 crore as against ₹2,062 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. EBITDA (before ESOP) improved during the December quarter to ₹219 crore, with a margin of 8 per cent. Contribution profit, meanwhile, rose 45 per cent year-on-year to ₹1,520 crore.

Jio profit surges

Mumbai: Reliance Jio Infocomm Friday reported a 12.3 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in net profit for the quarter ended December to ₹5,208 crore. Revenue from operations increased 10.3 per cent on year to ₹25,368 crore. Sequentially, the bottomline rose nearly 3 per cent, and the topline grew 2.5 per cent. The operating margin for the quarter contracted marginally to 26.3 per cent from 26.6 per cent a year ago, and 26.4 per cent a quarter ago.



BIZ BUZZ

Union Bank inaugurates new premises

Bhubaneswar: Union Bank of India, Delanga RSB Branch new premises was

inaugurated January 18 by General Manager and Zonal Head Bhubaneswar

Head Bhubaneswar Region, Niranjan Barik. On this occasion Mission Shakti

Zone, Sarvesh Ranjan along with Deputy General Manager and Regional

officials from Delanga Block, Branch Head Delanga RSB Branch Niranjan

Pandit and other senior officers from Regional Office Bhubaneswar along

with valuable customers were present to grace the occasion. On this

occasion a Self Help Group meeting was organised and ₹1.50 crore

won't have to wait long for Boeing's first fully designed and manufactured aircraft in Bharat

NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

Operating Officer Stephanie Pope, Modi stressed the need to build an aircraft manufacturing ecosystem in India.

'Given that there is so much potential in India, we need to rapidly build an aircraft manufacturing ecosystem in the country," Modi said.

"I proclaimed from the ramparts of the Red Fort – 'this is the time, this is the right time'. It is also the opportune time for

As per the company's

on a single charge. As

Spectre can go from

claims, the new EV can

deliver a range of 520 km

for pick-up capacity, the

0-100 in just 4.5 seconds

companies to align their growth with Bharat's rapid progress. The commitment of 140 crore Indians is now focused on building a developed Bharat in the next 25 years," PM Modi said.

PM Modi also launched the Boeing Sukanya Programme that the company said aims to support the entry of more girl children from across India into the country's growing aviation sector.

The programme will provide opportunities for girls and women from across India to learn critical skills in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and train for jobs in the aviation sector, Boeing said.

The closures are part of Indiaowned Tata Steel's plan to turn around its loss-making UK steelmaking business by switching to lower carbon electric arc furnaces, a proposal backed by 500 million pounds of government money.

Tata Steel said it would start a consultation process as part of its restructuring plan. It said that about 2,500 roles were likely to be impacted in the next 18 months, with 2,800 jobs affected overall and it would try to maximise voluntary redundancies.

The course we are putting forward is difficult, but we believe it is the right one," Tata Steel Chief Executive TV Narendran said. "We must transform at pace to build a sustainable business in the UK for the long-term.

Hyundai acquires GM Talegaon unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 19: Hyundai Motor India Friday said it has completed the acquisition of General Motors India's manufacturing plant at Talegaon in Maharashtra.

The country's second-largest carmaker also announced that it will invest ₹6,000 crore in Maharashtra as part of an agreement inked between the company and the state government in Davos.

The acquisition of the Talegaon facility has been completed after the fulfilment of certain conditions and the receipt of regulatory approvals from relevant government authorities and relevant stakeholders, Hyundai Motor India said.

"India is a very important market for Hyundai Motor Company, and we are committed to provide benchmark creating products and technologies to Indian customers," Hyundai Motor India Ltd MD & CEO Un Soo Kim said.

THE SPECTRE EV, **LAUNCHED BY BRITISH CARMAKER, IS THE MOST AERODYNAMIC ROLLS-ROYCE TO DATE**

ELECTRIC

MOBILITY

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Jan 19: Rolls-Royce, the British luxury carmaker, launched its Spectre electric vehicle in India January 19 at a price of ₹7.50 crore (ex-show-

room) Amid an ongoing worldwide transition towards EVs, the Spectre EV is the first all-electric car launched by the company

Billed as a spiritual successor to the iconic Phantom, the Spectre is a two-door coupe. According to the company, the new car is based on the same 'architecture of luxury' platform as its stablemates, the currentgeneration Phantom and the

Cullinan SUV. According to various reports, the Spectre is the most aerodynamic Rolls-Royce to date.

The Spectre is powered by a fully-electric powertrain comprising a dual-motor setup. The engine can produce a stunning 577 hp and 900 Nm of peak torque.

The front of the Spectre has the broadest Rolls-Royce grille ever, according to reports. The car sports 21-inch alloy

pack.

wheels and a 102-kWh battery

Dimension specs are: 2,080 mm in width, 5,453 mm in length, and 1,559 mm in height. Rolls-Royce has already an-

nounced that by 2030, it will phase out all of its ICE models, and thereafter only produce electric cars.

INDIA EV SCENE

Despite huge enthusiasm, India sold just 82,000 EVs last year, with price-conscious Indian consumers still finding them relatively too costly.

The Indian EV scene is

Rolls-Royce brings its first EV to India



280 hybrid-electric aircraft deal A ir services operator JetSetGo has signed a 280 hybrid-electric Aaircraft deal, including 130 on option, worth over \$1.3-billion with

three global aviation tech firms. These planes can be deployed for airport transfers, regional connectivity, inter-city commute, intra-city shuttles and urban air taxis, JetSetGo said. The strategic collaboration with Electra. Aero, Horizon Aircraft and Overair, was unveiled at the ongoing mega aviation event Wings India 2024 in Hyderabad. "As part of the agreements signed this week, JetSetGo is set to acquire 150 aircraft for an aggregate deal value of \$780 million. The agreements include further options to acquire additional aircrafts for a potential fleet size of 280 to scale its innovative air mobility solutions, raising the overall deal value of above \$1.3 billion," the company said.

> basically because of the cost factor and the absence of charging infra.

> Amid all this, world's most renowned EV company Tesla has been on and off the news over its long-gestating India plans. Tesla has proposed setting up an Indian factory but also asked for lower import taxes on EVs

India is currently readying a rently in a state of flux, with policy to cut import taxes on carmakers joining the EV band-EVs to as low as 15% for comwagon but car buyers not expanies that commit to manuactly flocking to EV showrooms, facturing locally.







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Govinda fights alone before bowlers help Odisha take control

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: Govinda Poddar (55, 62b, 9x4) fought a lone battle Friday as Odisha were bowled out for a paltry 130 in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D encounter against Jammu and Kashmir at the DRIEMS Ground

in Banki, Cuttack. The bowlers, however, didn't back down to challenge the visiting batters as they reduced J&K to 45/4 by the time umpires called off the play for the opening day. They were still 85 runs behind Odisha's total.

The visitors were off to an impressive start with their openers adding 39 runs before Suryakant Pradhan (1/18) broke the stand dismissing skipper Shubham Khajuria (24). The wicket triggered a collapse as J&K were reduced from 39/0 to 43/4. Sunil Roul (2/8) bagged two wickets, before Rajesh Mohanty (1/18) bagged the last wicket of the day.

Earlier, home team skipper Shantanu Mishra (28) and Anurag Sarangi (11) gave Odisha a slow but steady start stitching 41 runs for the opening wicket. Once, Rohit Sharma (5/12), who bagged a five-wicket haul, broke the stand in the 24th over getting rid of Anurag, wickets fell like nine pins.

Odisha lost eight wickets in just 26 runs – from 41/0 to 67/8. However, the experienced Govinda found an able ally in Rajesh (11). The duo forged a 62run partnership for the ninth wicket. Umar Nazir (2/27) ended their stand dismissing Rajesh before putting a full stop on Odisha's essay in his next over with Govinda's wicket.

BRIEF SCORES

Odisha 130 (Govinda Poddar 55, Shantanu Mishra 28; Rohit Sharma 5/12, Umar Nazir 2/27, Umran Malik 2/34); Jammu and Kashmir 45/4 (Shubham Khajuria 24; Sunil Roul 2/8, Rajesh Mohanty 1/18 Suryakant Pradhan 1/18). Match to continue.

PARIS DREAM SHATTERED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Jan 19: Paris will remain out of bounds for Indian women's hockey team that eschewed its crisp, short-passing game to bow of 2024 Olympic qualification race with a 0-1 loss to Japan in the third-place match of FIH Qualifiers here Friday.

Kana Urata's sixth minute strike from the penalty corner turned out to be the winner for Japan as the wheels that were set in motion for the Indian women's team, following a momentous fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, seemed to have come off after the utterly disappointing show in one of its hubs in recent years.

The top three sides from this tournament qualified for the Paris Olympics. By finishing third, Japan, booked their berth. Germany and USA, who will play in the final later in the evening, are the other two sides to have sealed their places.

Japan were the early aggressor as they exerted pressure on the Indian defence and, in the process, had the first scoring chance, but an alert Indian skipper Savita in front of the goal came out rushing to kick away the loose ball



in the second minute.

The Indians played catch-up as they failed to threaten the Japanese goal despite making some fine circle penetrations. Japan kept up the pressure and secured their first penalty corner minutes later but the Indians defended well.

Two minutes later, India conceded another soft penalty corner and this time Urata found the back of the net through the legs of Savita with a grounded flick.

The Indian backline was put under tremendous pressure by the Japanese with some defencesplitting dangerous crosses but the hosts somehow managed to hold on.

Sabalenka will play Amanda

In the 12th minute, India had their first real chance. Monika created the opportunity with a fine cross from the right flank but Lalremsiami's deflection went over the bar.

As has been the case in this tournament, the Indians were guilty of not using both the flanks. It was predictable hockey from the Savita-led side as they tried to build most of their attacks from the right flank.

Japan continued from where they left in the first quarter and secured their third set piece just after the restart.

The Indian players didn't show any intent to win 50-50 balls. They also seemed to have run out of ideas, and mostly tried to hit the ball from the 30 yard circle instead of opting for crisp, short passes, which is their strength.

Trailing 0-1, the Indians came out attacking after the change of ends and made a few good moves, but goals eluded them.

Chances came thick and fast for India in the form of penalty corners as they secured back to-back set pieces in the 43rd minute but Udita Duhan failed to break the Japanese defence with her slap shot.

Japan were put under tremendous pressure by the Indians in the third quarter with repeated forays, but they failed to equalise. It was complete domination from the Indians after the change of ends but that did not translate into goals.

India earned as many as nine penalty corners in the entire 60 minutes but their perennial problem of conversion continued. In the last 11 minutes of the game, India secured three penalty corners but Deepika and Udita's poor record continued.

A minute and a half from the final hooter; an unmarked Salima Tete got the best chance for India to equalise but, with only the goalkeeper to beat, she shot wide.

Prannoy marches into⁻ India Open semifinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 19: India's HS Prannov produced a valiant effort to progress to the men's singles semifinals with a thrilling three-game win over Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei at the India Open Super 750 badminton tournament here Friday. It is his first semifinal of the India Open. The 31-year-old, who had won

the bronze medal at the Asian Games and World Championships last year, recovered from a slump in the second game and showed nerves of steel in the decider to eke out a 21-11, 17-21, 21-18 win over World No.28 Wang in a 77-minute match. Coming into the match with a

5-3 head-to-head count, Prannov dished out an attacking game and constructed his rallies well, keeping his opponent to the back and often finishing points with steep smashes.

Wang kept the pressure on Prannoy in the third game but the Indian responded with a quick return to serve and then a net kill as they were locked 5-5 at one stage. Wang took the next five points with a fabulous

cross court smash leaving his opponent flat on the floor.

A beautiful backhand drive and then a controlled net shot followed by a smash took the Indian to 9-10. However, Wang ensured he had a two-point lead at the interval with a steep return. Prannoy kept snapping at his opponent's heels to move closer at 11-12 but two unforced errors again pegged him back.

A fighting Prannoy soon clawed back at 14-14 after unleashing a smash. Wang rained down a straight smash but sent the next one out as it was 15-15. Prannoy recovered from an awkward position to unleash a smash on the forehand corner and then produced a net kill to move into the lead at 17-16. Soon an alert Prannoy put one away at the forehand corner to gain two match points and converted it at the first chance.

Earlier, World No.1 and defending champion An Se Young of Korea retired hurt against Singapore's Jia Min Yeo after aggravating her knee injury in women's singles quarterfinals. Young was trailing 19-21 0-3 against Jia Min. when she decided to throw in the towel.

Sabalenka reaches 4th round Silva brace helps EB down MBSG

ASSOCIATED PRESS

rounds so far.

Sabalenka verbally.

Anisimova, who continued her Melbourne, Jan 19: Defending comeback with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Paula Badosa. Anisimova, champion Aryna Sabalenka reached the fourth round of the who took seven months out of the Australian Open Friday with a game last year for mental health 6-0, 6-0 demolition of Lesia reasons, hit 40 winners on her Tsurenko.

way to the fourth round. The second-seeded Belarusian, Men's No.4 Jannik Sinner who won her first Grand Slam moved into the fourth round title here 12 months ago, needed without losing a set, thanks to a just 52 minutes for victory at dominant 6-0, 6-1, 6-3 victory the Rod Laver Arena. She has over Sebastian Baez. dropped just six games in three

Bopanna-Ebden pair advances

The pair did not shake hands Second-seeded Indo-Australian – as is the convention for pair of Rohan Bopanna and Ukrainian players against op-Matthew Ebden barely broke a ponents from Russia or Belarus sweat in a straight-set victory - but Tsurenko congratulated over local hopes John Millman and Edward Winter to enter the men's doubles third round of the Australian Open here Friday. Bopanna and Ebden strolled past the wildcards 6-2, 6-4 in a second-round match at Court 3 that lasted a little over one hour.

The 43-year-old Bopanna and Ebden dominated their rivals in all areas. They won 80 percent of the first serve against 68 percent by Millman and Winter.

Earlier, another Indian, Sriram Balaji, entered the second round of the Australian Open men's doubles in the company of his Romanian partner Victor Cornea. The Balaji-Corena duo defeated the Italian duo of Matteo Arnaldi and Andrea Pellegrino 6-3, 6-4 in the first round

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: A brace from Cleiton Silva and a simple tap-in from Nandhakumar Sekar guided East Bengal (EB) past their cross-town rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) 3-1 in their final Group A fixture in the Kalinga Super Cup at the Kalinga Stadium here, Friday.

This win ensured that EB sail into the semifinals of the Super Cup, knocking the Mariners out of the competition. With the win, EB also avenged their Durand Cup final loss (0-1) to MBSG earlier this season.

MBSG opened the scoring Friday with a fantastic backheel from Hector Yuste finding

the back of the East Bengal net in the 19th minute. The Torchbearers, however, responded strongly to the setback and fired three goals to make sure that the Mariners had no chance of coming back. Captain Silva started the scor-

ing off with a brilliant right-footed shot in the 24th minute. Although he was marked tightly by Raj Basfore and Brendan Hammill, the Brazilian still managed to find some space to get his shot wide of goalkeeper Anwer Sheikh.

The first half, however, ended on a controversial note as Hijazi Maher found himself conceding a penalty while trying to lunge and protect a shot inside the box. Although Dimitri Petratos put the resultant spotkick away, the referee was not satisfied and decreed that it had to be taken again.

Australian hit the upright and Armando Sadiku ran the rebound wide as the scoreline remained at 1-1.

The second half started well but EB were the stronger of the two sides. Boria reinforced EB's supremacy when a curler of his was evaded by Sheikh in the 63rd minute. Fortunately, Nandhakumar was lurking nearby to tap it in. MBSG's woes were compounded further when Silva latched onto a loose ball from a corner in the 80h minute to bag his second of the night.



In the re-take, however, the

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