

DSPL-590

JAI MAA SAMALEI



With Maa Samalei's blessings, the 'Samalei Prakalpa' inaugurated on 27th Jan. The celebration is still going on! Join us at Maa Samaleswari Temple for mesmerizing projections and vibrant cultural events until 2nd Feb.



leisure



NICK JONAS STOPPED AT MUMBAI AIRPORT

American singer-songwriter Nick Jonas, who was recently in India for the maiden gig of the Jonas Brothers, was stopped by airport security at the Mumbai airport. As per media reports, the singer was stopped due to an alleged oversight by his team regarding his tickets.

DUA LIPA'S AMBITION IS TO BE A POLYGLOT

Singer-actress Dua Lipa expressed a desire to diversify her activities and shared an interest in learning multiple languages, potentially relocating abroad, and exploring various pursuits beyond her musical career.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

For no reason whatsoever, you may clam up today. Of course, you will give credit to others wherever they've contributed. But you need to be more generous than that, says Ganesha, and share the secrets of your success with your compatriots. Also, do you really need to buy that \$100 wallet?

TAURUS

This is a bright, rosy day for students and scholars, particular who are engaged in, or are looking forward to higher studies, specializing in a particular professional stream. This is a great day for making plans for higher studies abroad. Do not miss this opportunity. Plans made today are likely to materialize.

GEMINI

It is better for you to swim with the current in all of today's dealings, suggests Ganesha. This will help you effortlessly deal with even the most morbid state of affairs. No need to be a hero, today. Pleasure is the key word for you.

CANCER

A shopping spree with your darling is likely to be the highlight of the day, even though you will be paying for almost everything. Though you have decided to be this lavish out of sheer love, your sweetheart will more than return the favour with a sweaty thank you 'return gift' in the evening.

LEO

Seems today is just one of those days when things simply refuse to go your way. It happens to the best of us, says Ganesha, and there isn't much one can do about it except slog it out and find that hidden reserve of moral support. On a brighter note, Ganesha observes the possibility of you meeting the right person who shall help you rekindle your imagination.

VIRGO

Today is the right time to start a new project, while older projects which had been postponed will be finished. Over the next week you will try to boost your energy levels. Parties will lead to a lot of entertainment and joy, Ganesha says children will bring home pride which will put you in even higher spirits.

LIBRA

The clock ticks on, but chances are it can hardly beat you in the race, thanks to your prompt and sincere efforts. Today, you shall be a paragon of excellence. However, Ganesha waves the red flag of caution: it always pays to be safe rather than sorry. Keep your eyes open and pay attention to the fine print before signing any contract or paper.

SCORPIO

Add a pinch of innovation and inventiveness to your daily working style. There shall be order in the chaotic way you perform your tasks - though not apparent to others. Revitalize yourself and plunge into work with new-found zest and vigour, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Today, find yourself driving all your thoughts and actions towards your family. You will also spend some superb time with your dearie and discuss intimate matters. A relaxing day today as you spend time with your friends and family, chilling out and having a good laugh or two.

CAPRICORN

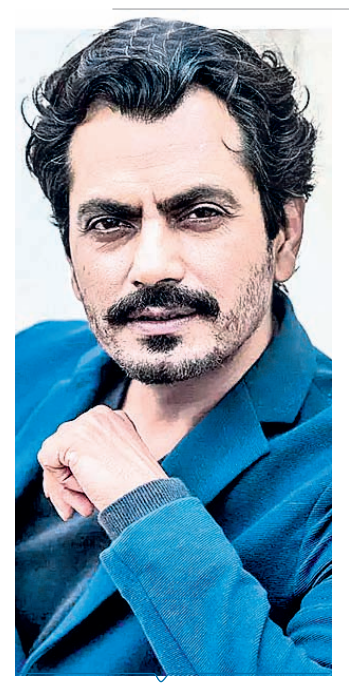
Now is the perfect time to showcase your talents and skills. You are all geared up to hit your target and do everything that is needed to be done. Your efforts will not go in vain as they will bear fruits for sure, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

It's a day you may want to spend with yourself. But it may still not bring the desired peace and tranquility. An unpleasant situation may force you to deal with reality, says Ganesha. You now realise how much strength you derive from your devotion to God.

PISCES

Of late, the harder you try, the more it seems you have to do. You are likely to put your foot down today and spend some time taking care of yourself and playing truant with your responsibilities. Recharge your batteries fully while you are at it, says Ganesha.



Shruti at ease with negative comments

Mumbai: Actress Shruti Haasan's love for black is evident on her social media, where she often attracts trolls. She admits that her life choices, including a nose surgery years ago, are not taken kindly by the trolls who call her a witch, but she isn't offended.

Shruti says, "If you call me 'chudaii', I take it as a compliment. A woman who defies expectations and is not afraid of judgement is what was historically called a witch. I grew up wearing black and having a metal head. Heavy metal isn't just music, it's medicine. It helps me channel my energy and focus on my power as a human being. When I get comments like 'yeh toh chudaii ban gayi' on my social media posts, that's fine with me."

if I just wanted to fix the septum or also make my nose prettier, and I opted for both because it's my face and that's how I wanted to look. Then people started commenting on how I am not a natural beauty. Yes, I am not, but I like how I look when I see the mirror, and that is what matters."

NAWAZ'S PLANS TO DEAL WITH JOBLESSNESS

Mumbai: Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui opened up about his love for acting and revealed his plans if he becomes jobless in the future.

Speaking to an entertainment channel, the Lunch Box actor said, "If a day like that comes when I have no work, I don't even have the strength to go and ask for it. I can't come to you and say, 'Give me work.' I will sell my house, my shoes and everything and make a film on my own. I am so confident about that. Acting is important, but acting in films is not. I will do it on the streets, trains or bus."

The actor further detailed it is not demeaning to him to ask for work. But he would not ask for work. In the same interview, Nawazuddin also shared about the time he had a stammering problem and how it created insecurity.

"When I am really angry, the stammering comes back. It went away in 2005 and 2006. Maybe it was there because of insecurity, and then when I achieved some things in life, it went away," he said.

Nawazuddin recently made his debut in Telugu with Sailesh Kolanu's *Saindhav*. He has *Section 108*, which also stars Arbaaz Khan and Regina Cassandra, in the pipeline.



Sonam's take on red carpet looks

Mumbai: Sonam Kapoor has time and again showcased her prowess at style and trends through her association with all major global fashion & luxury brands.

Speaking of her love for fashion and style, the *Neerja* actress said, "I love fashion. My mum used to be a fashion designer. So, I grew up surrounded by fashion. When I entered the industry, I noticed that red carpet looks were not so common, in fact non-existent, and I wanted to wear beautiful things and go on the red carpet. I started doing that without realising I was different to everyone else."

She went to open up about the deep connection that movies share with ongoing trends and style as she added, "My passion for films and fashion led me to create that impact. I am enjoying fashion and beautiful things without taking myself too seriously. Fashion is supposed to be fun, an escape. It's important to appreciate the beauty and goodness in life."

According to a global fashion report, Sonam was amongst the list of celebrities like Zendaya, Kylie Jenner, Kendall Jenner, *Blackpink*, *BTS*, etc who had the highest impact for luxury fashion brands in 2023.

GOTIPUA DANCE FESTIVAL-2024: DAY I



A sparkling performance during the extravaganza at Utkal Rangamanch, Bhubaneswar, Monday. The two-day event, with the participation of 20 Gonipua troupes from Odisha, is being organised by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in collaboration with the Department of Odia Language, Literature, and Culture.

WALKING BOOKFAIRS @10

'Govt should make space for more bookstores'



Eminent authors participated in a discussion programme *The need for a 100-year-old bookstore: Why local bookstores matter*

Bhubaneswar: Walking BookFairs, a book shop-cup-library in this city, has made its mark as India's first-of-its-kind travel book store, touring more than 35,000 km across the country to promote reading habits among people.

As it completed its 10th year, a special event was organised here Monday. Under it, a special session titled *The need for a 100-year-old bookstore: Why local bookstores matter* was held, attended by eminent authors and publishers.

Speaking Tiger Books publisher Ravi Singh, author and translator Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar, novelist Chandrabhas Choudhury, poet Karuna Ezara Parikh, and Walking BookFairs co-founder Akshaya Bahibala were among the dignitaries who participated in the programme.

"A bookstore is not just a place where people come to buy books. A bookstore is a democratic space that nurtures free thinking and free expression of the individual," said Akshaya

while lamenting that people these days focus more on 'bookstagram' rather than buying and reading books.

The government should take initiative in making space for bookstores like they do for temples and other structures, he added.

Participating in the programme, Singh said that buying from sites like Amazon doesn't give one the pleasure of discovering good books as these online platforms promote best-sellers only.

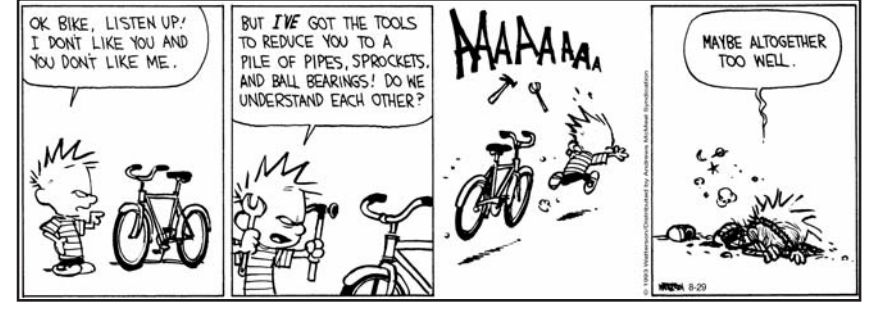
Karuna was of the view that booklovers often don't get good books because they are unaware of the bookstores in their vicinity. Walking BookFairs' other founder, Satabdi Mishra, said that the need of the hour is to popularise storybooks among the students, as the habit helps broaden their vision.

On this occasion, a book-signing event for Karuna's books *Where Stories Gather* and *The Heart Asks Pleasure* was held.

PEANUTS



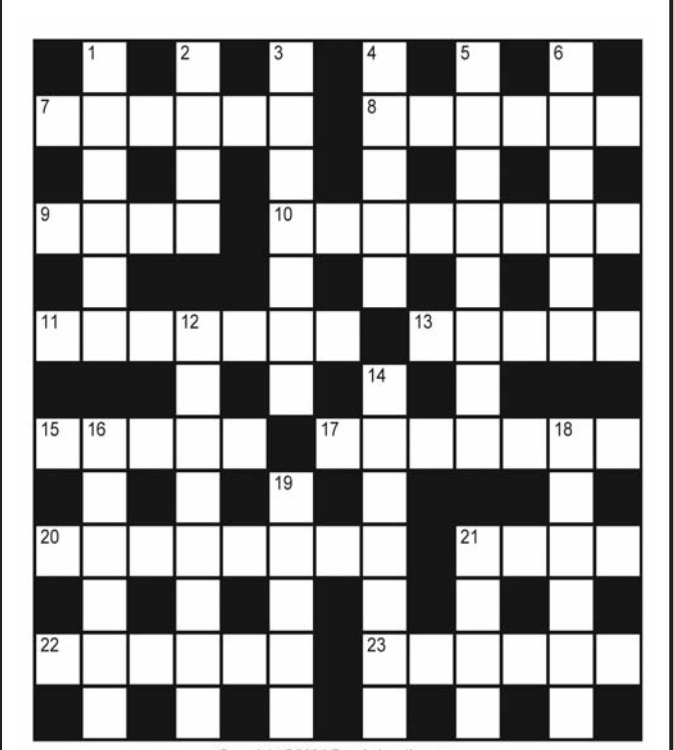
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



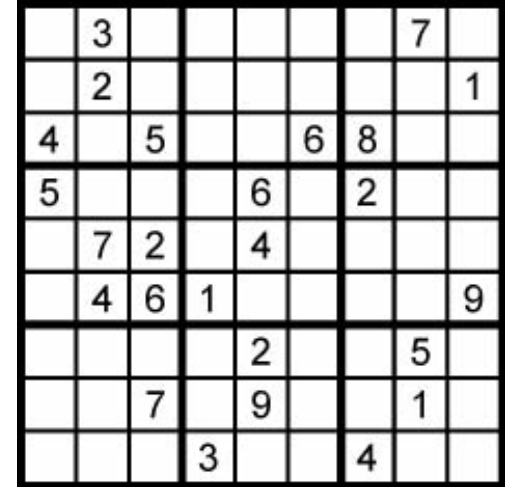
FUN post CROSSWORD



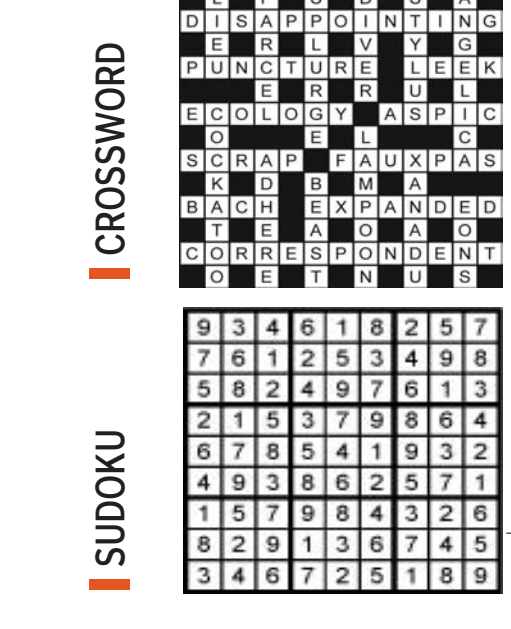
- Across
- 7 Consequence
 - 8 Electrician's job
 - 9 Warm-hearted
 - 10 Author
 - 11 An old movie, perhaps
 - 13 Gargle
 - 15 Extreme
 - 17 Intense indignation
 - 20 Birthright
 - 21 Send to the canvas
 - 22 Martial art
 - 23 Renter
- Down
- 1 Excusable
 - 2 Bean (tofu)
 - 3 Part of a place setting
 - 4 Demonstrate
 - 5 Oedema
 - 6 Emergency
 - 12 Staying alive, mostly
 - 14 Softly, like tiptoeing
 - 16 Allowance
 - 18 H2O part
 - 19 Man's man
 - 21 Buss

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Dream big
5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian advises students to work hard with self-confidence to get success in life

DOWNTOWN | P3



Trouble for Muizzu
The main Opposition party in Maldives is set to begin impeachment proceedings against its pro-China President Mohamed Muizzu

INTERNATIONAL | P8



Third largest economy
FinMin expects India to become third-largest economy globally with a GDP of \$5 trillion in the next three years and touch \$7 trillion by 2030

BUSINESS | P9



Jadeja, Rahul ruled out
In a double blow for India, Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul have been ruled out of the second Test against England

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

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BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY JANUARY 30 | 2024

P1

LABHA launched for Odisha tribals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 29: The state Cabinet, chaired by CM Naveen Patnaik, approved Monday five proposals, including a new scheme - LABHA (Laghu Bana Jatiya Drabya Kraya) - aimed at the development of Odisha's tribal population. LABHA is a 100 per cent state-funded minimum support price (MSP) for minor forest produce (MFP) scheme, Chief Secretary PK Jena told media-persons after the meet.

"The state government will determine the MSP every year. A primary collector (tribal) will be able to sell the MFP at MSP at the procurement centres. Since 99 per cent of primary collectors are tribals and majority of them are women, LABHA will integrate the efforts with the Mission Shakti women self-help groups (SHGs)," Jena said.

In a move that would benefit the tribals further, the state Cabinet approved setting up of a tamarind processing plant in Rayagada district at a cost of ₹25 crore, Jena informed. **P3**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It feels comforting and nice after breaking I.N.D.I.A.



TOPPING CHARTS: Odisha's tableau presented at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi, Friday has emerged as the best among all states and Union Territories. The theme of the tableau was the heritage crafts village in Raghurajpur with messages on women empowerment **(MORE P3)**

Polls to 3 Odisha RS seats Feb 27

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 29: The Election Commission (EC) said Monday that the biennial Rajya Sabha polls will be held February 27 for 56 seats, as the tenure of incumbents including former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and BJP president JP Nadda will end in April. Elections to three Rajya Sabha seats from Odisha will also be held then with terms of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and BJD's Prashant Nanda and Amar Patnaik ending.

The vacancies also include seats held by eight Union Ministers including Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav and Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. Filing of nominations will begin February 158 while the last date of withdrawal is February 20.

Uttar Pradesh will have the highest number of vacancies of 10 seats, followed by Maharashtra and Bihar (six each), Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (five each), Karnataka and Gujarat (four each), Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh (three each), Rajasthan (two), and Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Chhattisgarh (one each).

Among others who are retiring in April are Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan.

'Dictatorship if Modi wins' CAA implementation in 7 days: Union Min

Congress president Malikarjun Kharge likens BJP and RSS to poison and says democracy will be wiped out if the BJP again returns to power

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 29: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed apprehension Monday that the 2024 Lok Sabha elections would be the last opportunity for the people to save 'democracy', as Prime Minister Narendra Modi might prefer 'dictatorship' in case his party wins the upcoming polls.

"This will be the last opportunity for the people to save democracy in India. If Narendra Modi wins another election, there will be dictatorship in the country. The BJP will rule India like Putin in Russia," Kharge said while addressing a party rally, here.

Kharge also urged people to keep away from the BJP and its ideologue RSS. He alleged that



Mallikarjun Kharge addressing a rally in Bhubaneswar, Monday **OP PHOTO**

they are 'like poison'.

Launching a scathing attack on the BJP and RSS, Kharge said the present government under Modi is being run by threatening states and leaders of the Opposition.

"Notices are being served to the leaders and ED and Income Tax has become weapons to grind the political opponents," Kharge claimed. He asserted that Nitish Kumar's return to the

NDA will not have any impact on the polls. "One person quitting 'Mahagathbandhan' will not weaken us. We will defeat the BJP," he said.

Referring to Modi's jibe at Congress's achievements during the last 70 years, Kharge said, "You (Modi) become the Chief Minister of Gujarat and now the PM because the Congress had held democracy and Constitution high. But you are now destroy-

ing the basics of democracy and the Constitution."

Kharge also pointed out that the ruling BJP in Odisha and opposition BJP have solemnised 'love marriage'. He alleged that the two parties are looting Odisha and oppressing the poor people of the state.

Kharge said that people lost their hard-earned money in the chit-fund scam, while mining loot is a regular phenomenon in Odisha. "As both parties are hand in glove with each other, culprits are not caught," Kharge stated.

Kharge asked people what the Modi-Naveen Patnaik combine has given to Odisha. "Congress has given Paradip Port, RSP, Chilika Naval Academy, Mancheswar Rail Coach Factory, HAL, Ordnance Factory, AIIMS and several educational institutions to the state. But today Patnaik ji, along with BJP, is allowing the natural wealth here to be looted," he alleged.

Without naming anyone, Kharge also targeted Patnaik's close aide and former IAS officer Kartik Pandian, who recently quit civil service and joined the BJD.

CAA implementation in 7 days: Union Min

The minister is an influential leader of the Matua clan which has a substantial vote bank in West Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 29: Union Minister Shantanu Thakur claimed Monday that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA will be implemented across the country within a week. The ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, on the other hand, dismissed the claim as 'poll rhetoric', while vowing to prevent CAA implementation in the state.

Thakur, the BJP MP from Bongaon Lok Sabha seat, which has a substantial population of Matua community, outlined plans for swift implementation of the contentious legislation within seven days.

The CAA, enacted by the BJP-led government at the Centre in 2019, seeks to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim immigrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians, from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014.

Thakur, who is the Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, guaranteed the implementation of CAA within a week while addressing a public rally at

Despite having voter and Aadhaar cards thousands in West Bengal are ineligible to vote. Will the CM answer as to why this happens?

SHANTANU THAKUR

Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas district Sunday evening, "Ram Mandir has been inaugurated. Within the next one week, CAA will be implemented not only in West Bengal but also across the country," Thakur asserted.

In a separate development here Monday, Thakur, a prominent Matua community leader reiterated his views. "I stand by what I stated yesterday (Sunday). The CAA will be implemented within seven days. This is my guarantee," Thakur said.

Thakur's remarks elicited strong reactions from the TMC which has vehemently opposed the CAA, labelling it as 'divisive'. "As usual, the BJP is resorting to its old tactics of using CAA. Our party supremo and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has categorically stated that CAA won't be implemented in West Bengal," remarked minister Shashi Panja.

WEATHER

INDEX	SENSX	71941.57	▲	1240.90
NIFTY	21737.60	▲	385	
DOLLAR	83.14	▲	₹0.04	
EURO	90.15	▼	₹0.40	
GOLD	₹62,450	▼	₹26	
SILVER	₹75,420	▲	₹596	

'Mosfilm' cashing in on Russia-Ukraine conflict

TOP OFFICIAL FEELS THAT THE DIMINISHING NUMBER OF WESTERN FILMS DUE TO WAR WILL INCREASE THE STUDIO'S INCOME

AGENCIES

Moscow, Jan 29: 'Mosfilm', the state-owned giant of Soviet and Russian cinema which produced classic films such as *Battleship Potemkin* and *Solaris*, marks its centenary Tuesday. The director-general of 'Mosfilm', Karen Shakhnazarov said here Monday that it is well set up to prosper in the future. Shakhnazarov who is at the helm of 'Mosfilm' for more than 25 years, said the standoff between Moscow and the West over the conflict in Ukraine should benefit Russian film makers.

"It's a gift for us," Shakhnazarov said at the sprawling 'Mosfilm' complex on the outskirts of the Russian capital. He was referring to the drop in the number of Western films



Russian films have accounted for 28 billion roubles out of the 40 billion earned in 2023

Official feels that with the number of films decreasing due to war, Mosfilm's income will certainly increase

featuring in Russian cinemas. Shakhnazarov was one of the leading cultural figures in Russia to publicly endorse what the Kremlin calls the 'special military operation' in Ukraine. "There is another issue -

how can we use it? I hope that it has its effect," Shakhnazarov said. "It's understandable that competition is essential for the film industry, but there are times when we need to raise the level of our film-making,

and now it's a good time to do that," he added.

Box office returns in Russia exceeded 40 billion roubles (\$450 million) in 2023, according to Tatiana Golikova, a deputy prime minister who is also in charge of the board of trustees of the Cinema Fund. She was quoted late last year as saying the revenues were close to pre-pandemic levels when Western films were shown more frequently, and that last year Russian movies accounted for 28 billion roubles of the box office total.

"Mosfilm' has survived both the Soviet Communist era, when films were subject to strict censorship, and the severe economic downturn that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The studio makes only a fraction of Russian movies, but it re-

mains a force, boasting expansive outdoor sets recreating imperial-era cityscapes, advanced recording and editing studios, CGI facilities and a large cinema complex.

"Mosfilm is not inferior to any studio in the world, and surpasses many of them," said Shakhnazarov, who is also a film director. The 71-year-old said he was proud of the studio as its centenary approached, adding that although it was state-owned, it covered its own costs. Shakhnazarov repeated earlier statements that he thought the war in Ukraine was inevitable and that 'it is the other side that is responsible' - a reference to the West. "When two strong people meet, each of them always wants to dominate," said Shakhnazarov of Russia and the West. "It's unavoidable," he added.

SHORT TAKES

Simi ban extended for 5 more years

New Delhi: Underlining zero tolerance against terrorism, Home Minister Amit Shah announced Monday that the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) has been declared an 'unlawful association' and the ban on it has been extended by another five years under the stringent anti-terror law. "Bolstering PM @narendramodi Ji's vision of zero tolerance against terrorism 'Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI)' has been declared as an 'Unlawful Association' for a further period of five years under the UAPA," Shah posted on Twitter

Miscreants slit student's throat

Atharh: Miscreants slit Monday the throat of Class X student Surya Narayan Das, 15, in broad daylight at Kulailo village under Atharh police limits in Cuttack district. The victim is undergoing treatment at the Atharh hospital here. Police said that two bike-borne miscreants attacked Surya while he was returning home from tuition and tried to slit his throat. They fled the scene when locals chased them. Family members of Surya later lodged a complaint at the police station here. Police are now probing the incident to ascertain what led to the attack.

Devotees from five dists visit Parikrama Prakalpa

District administration made elaborate arrangements for devotees to have smooth darshan of the deities and seamless perambulation around the 12th century shrine



DAY-1 OF SPECIAL BUS SERVICE

Puri, Jan 29: Devotees from five districts - Ganjam, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Cuttack and Kendrapara - Monday had darshan of Srimandir deities and perambulation around the recently inaugurated Parikrama Prakalpa as part of an earlier plan of the state government.

The district administration has made elaborate arrangements for devotees to have smooth darshan of the deities and seamless perambulation around the 12th century shrine. Monday was the first day when the devotees from some blocks of Ganjam, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Cuttack and Kendrapara were ferried in special buses to Puri.

Earlier, when the Parikrama Rath was rolling across the state for collecting fistful of raw rice and betel nuts for inauguration of Parikrama Prakalpa,

the state government had informed that devotees from all the districts will be taken to the Pilgrim City in buses and given the unique experience of perambulating around the Srimandir apart from having darshan of the deities.

Accordingly, the district administration has deployed adequate police personnel for smooth arrival and departure of devotees coming from distant places. The buses carrying the devotees reached the designated parking lot at Samang where they had their ablutions and breakfast before leaving for Jagannath Ballav Pilgrimage Centre through Sri Setu by feeder buses. The devotees walked on the Sri Marga and made rounds of the temple on Parikrama Marga. They also saw exhibitions on Srimandir and several adornments (Beshas) of the deities arranged by the district ad-

ministration. Then they returned to Samang where they had lunch before returning to their destinations.

The administration has made elaborate arrangements for arrival of 10,000 devotees in the Pilgrim City. Nodal officers have been engaged along with officials from Panchayati Raj department and district administration to ensure that devotees have smooth darshan of the deities.

Puri Sub-Collector Bhabataran Sahu said, "Devotees from five districts have arrived here on day one and they have carried good memories from the visit to the Pilgrim City. They were happy to land here and seek blessings of Lord Jagannath. All the arrangements are in place for smooth darshan. The process of arrival of devotees through buses will continue for one month."

Similarly, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief Ranjan Kumar Das said, "Devotees from all 30 districts of the state will visit Puri and enjoy the holy walk on Parikrama Marga. On the first day, devotees from some blocks of five districts had arrived here and had darshan of the deities apart from perambulating around the shrine on Parikrama Marg."

The process will continue until all the devotees would visit the shrine, the SJTA chief added.

Notably, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had inaugurated the Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa January 17, 2024.



CHAOS ON ROADS: Massive traffic snarls were reported on many important roads in the Capital city, including Rasulgarh Square (photo). Vehicles were stuck on roads for long as traffic cops were few and far between as most of them were deployed on roads around the Lower PMG Square for a political rally, Monday

Startup Utsav to honour leading innovators

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 29: Startup Odisha, an initiative of the state MSME department, is organising Startup Utsav, 2024 here January 31 to celebrate the state's innovation and entrepreneurship culture.

As per sources, the event, which will feature awards and felicitations, will also witness signing of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between industry leaders from ICAI, NIE, ISBA and NRDC.

The event will also have 'Ask Me Anything' sessions with ex-



perts on subjects such as blockchain ecosystem of India and masterclasses for founders on design thinking, role of academic institution and incubators and intellectual property institutional support for entrepreneurship.

The event will be attended by Industry, Energy, and MSME

minister Pratap Keshari Deb, Subroto Bagchi, chief advisor to the state government (institutional capacity building), Pradeep Kumar Jena, Chief Secretary, Omkar Rai, executive chairman of Startup Odisha as well as Anu Garg, additional chief secretary-cum-development commissioner and Saswata Mishra, MSME principal secretary.

The event will celebrate personalities in the startup ecosystem with awards like Incubator of the Year, Supportive Incubator of the Year, and Emerging Incubator of the Year. It will

also offer recognition to top innovators from Odisha Startup Yatra and Odisha Startup Xpress, rewarding top ten innovators from each programme.

"The event will feature the launch of Startup Yatra Booklets and Brochures. Additionally, it will shine a spotlight on student and women-led startups, and showcase the outstanding achievements of 122 Startup Odisha Grantees from 2022-23 and 51 Startup Odisha Grantees from 2023-24. 50 innovators from both Startup Yatra and Xpress will also be felicitated," said an official.

BGU holds 3rd alumni meet



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 29: BirlaLumiere 3.0, the annual alumni meet of Birla Global University (BGU) was inaugurated by VC PP Mathur.

Addressing the alumni, he said the prestige of the alumni and their alma mater are interlinked with each other. Registrar BK Das encouraged the alumni to build a stronger network among each other. P Nayak, the chairperson of the Alumni Committee, in his welcome address, emphasised on the role of alumni in the growth and reputation of a university.

Alumni shared sweet memories, interacted with faculty and fellow friends, and immersed in an evening of cultural extravaganza, presented by the current batch of students.

They forged new bonds with their alma mater, recreated memories that will linger on in their hearts for many years to come.

Anubha Ray, the convener of the committee, proposed a vote of thanks.

IDE Bootcamp at IIM Sambalpur

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Sambalpur, Jan 29: IIM Sambalpur hosted the 5-day 'Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp (Phase II)' at its campus, Monday.

Organised by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC), the bootcamp was inaugurated by AICTE chairman TG Sitharam in virtual mode from AICTE Headquarters, New Delhi.

As many as 81 startups are participating in the bootcamp from the states like Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh. Out of them, 40 startups are from Odisha.

In his address, Sitharam acknowledged the successful completion of six IDE boot camps in phase-I and said, "The commencement of phase-II at ten locations of the Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship



Bootcamp marks the unique initiative envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The goal is to nurture innovation, design, and entrepreneurial skills among the youths of India."

IIM Sambalpur director Mahadeo Jaiswal said, "Research, innovation, and entrepreneurship are interlinked components of soft power. India is making strides in research and innovation, with efforts to reposition it from a lower rank, albeit challenging in funding."

Jaiswal further said, "It is important for students and innovators to become the job givers and creators rather than job seekers. The focus should extend beyond completing the cur-

riculum."

The introductory address was given by Diwahar Nadar, faculty of IIM Sambalpur while the event was concluded with a vote of thanks by Ishika Jaiswal, faculty of IIM Sambalpur.

At the inaugural day, the participants showcased their innovations in the exhibition. On the fourth day, the local tour will be arranged for the participants to provide them with real-world insights, networking opportunities, and creative inspiration, enhancing their entrepreneurial mindset.

On the final day, the student teams pitch their innovations in front of expert panels consisting of startup founders, incubators, IP experts, angel investors and VCs and knowledge agencies.

The IDE Bootcamps exemplify the government's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, propelling India towards becoming a global hub for innovation-driven enterprises.

Night safari begins in Chandaka, Dampara

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 29: Odisha Wildlife department started a regulated guided Nocturnal Trail at Bharatpur in Chandaka and Dampara wildlife sanctuary here, Monday. This facility will be available for tourists, nature and wildlife lovers till 9pm every day.

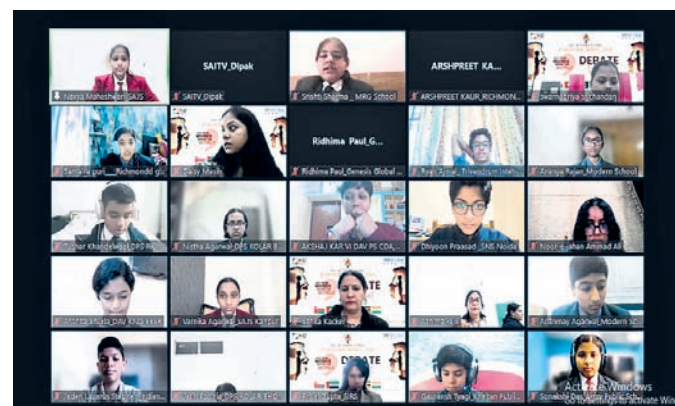
The Nocturnal Trail will create ample opportunity to study the behaviour of the animals. The darkness will add another element of mystery to the whole experience as well. The Ecotourism in the Chandaka-Dampara Sanctuary has been promoted to spread the message of Conservation of Bio-Diversity as well as to provide livelihood to the local community.

There is one Nature Camp at Deras with accommodation facilities for night stay of visitors.

Besides the Nature Camp, there are two Nature Awareness Centers at Bharatpur and Dampara for day visitors. Jungle Safari Vehicle service is available for visitors to experience forest and wildlife in Eco-Tourism Zone.

SAI GLOBAL DEBATE

Students from 6 countries discuss development & AI



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 29: More than 300 students from 41 schools across 6 countries participated in the fourth edition of the SAI Global Debate organised recently by the SAI International School to encourage critical thinking in students and develop their communication skills.

The online debate competition saw participation of students from Kenya, Oman, UAE, Uganda, Pakistan, and India.

This year's debating forum placed special emphasis on facilitating in-depth discussions on 'Sustainable Goals-Marching towards Real Development' and 'Artificial Intelligence and the Next Century.'

Alison Barrett MBE, director of British Council India joined the opening ceremony as chief guest along with keynote speaker Marion Kenny, an eminent Scottish storyteller, and Silpi Sahoo, chairperson of the SAI International Education Group.

In her speech, Barrett said, "I am delighted that you are all debating on important issues like sustainable development, climate

change and artificial intelligence. These are critical issues that we take seriously around the world. There are various ways in which India and the UK can work together to create local solutions to these global issues."

Sahoo appreciated the enthusiastic participation of large number of students and said, "It is heartening to see such a large and enthusiastic group of young adults engaged in sharing opinion on global issues, coming together to find solutions to problems through constructive debate and an exchange of ideas."

"In the intricacies of efficient communication, let us master the subtleties of body language, eye contact, and the artistry of words," emphasized Kenny during her keynote address. Illustrating universal impact of a well-told story, she added, "Stories, when skillfully told, possess the unmatched ability to unite and inspire."

The SAI Global Debate was conceived by SAI International Education Group founder and chairman Bijaya Kumar Sahoo to nurture confident communicators and global citizens.



FEATHER IN THE CAP: Rama Devi Women's University Vice-Chancellor Aparajita Chowdhury felicitates eminent writer Pratibha Ray at Odisha State Level Inter-University Literary and Cultural Meet 2023-24 held on the university premises in Bhubaneswar, Monday

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Sumedha Asteek, S/o Pradeep Kumar Barik, resident -ward no.-04, Lal Bazar, PO/PS- Baripada, Dist-Mayurbhanj-757001, declare by this affidavit (35/2024/dtd.29.01.2024) that now onward I shall be known as Sumedh Asteek for all future purposes.

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downtown

GROWING STRONGER

Several members of Odisha Jatra Party Kalakar Sangha joined Biju Janata Dal at Sankha Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Monday



NEW ASSIGNMENT: Outgoing twin city police commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi (right) greets his successor Sanjeeb Panda as the latter takes charge of the top position in Bhubaneswar, Monday

WORK HARD, DREAM BIG: PANDIAN

5T Chairman interacts with students during Nua-O programme & reviews various projects in Sundargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 29: During his interaction with students at Nua-O - an initiative of the state government to provide a platform to youths for showcasing their talent - at the Sports Hostel Complex in Bhawanipur area in Sundargarh district, Monday, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian advised them to work hard with self-confidence as it would help them achieve success in life.

He told the gathering of students - who came from various colleges - that the college transformation project in the district will be completed by February. Highlighting the achievement of some of the eminent personalities from Sundargarh like Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, Pandian motivated the students to 'dream big' in life. Earlier during the day, Pandian



5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian interacting with students during Nua-O programme at Sports Hostel Complex in Bhawanipur area in Sundargarh district, Monday

reviewed the progress of various development projects and also interacted with the general public.

The 5T Chairman reviewed the construction of in-stream storage structures at Bhasma on Ib river and Fulbari on Sapei river with an allocation of ₹262.5 crore and ₹123.75 crore, respectively.

These storage structures have been sanctioned based on feedback received from public during Pandian's visit to Sundargarh in March last year.

He took stock of the progress of mega lift irrigation projects at Semina, Riughat, Khairidih and Satara being executed with

an allocation of ₹232 crore.

The Nabin Odisha Chairman also reviewed the ongoing re-development of Vedvyas temple at Rourkela and Shiva temples at Ghoghar and Belsara.

He reviewed the progress of railway over bridge at Rajgangpur which is being executed with an allocation of ₹48.11 crore. The construction of the railway over bridge was expedited following the visit of Pandian in March last year.

The 5T Chairman also took stock of the progress of various mega piped water supply and other development projects in the district. He directed the officials to ensure early completion of the projects.

Many of the projects had been taken up following the visit of Pandian to Sundargarh in March 2023, when he attended grievance meetings and took feedback from the public, it was learnt.

343 transformed schools unveiled in five districts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 29: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday inaugurated 343 transformed schools in 5 districts on the fifth day of the 4th phase of school transformation programme under 5T initiative. 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian was also present on the occasion.

As many as 73 high schools in Kalahandi district, 46 in Kandhamal, 82 in Kprapat, 60 in Bhadrak and 82 in Sundargarh were unveiled after their transformation under the government initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that the transformed schools have all the opportunities for a successful future of the child.

The Chief Minister expressed strong hope that the children of today will transform the state into a 'Strong Odisha' in coming days.

The CM also said that now the era of transformation is going on in Odisha.

"Education is what elevates the collective mindset of our society. Transformation of schools has paved the way for a new awakening in the Odia community. Starting from schools, colleges, hospitals, tourism areas, monasteries, temples, panchayats, villages, the work of transformation is going on everywhere," said Patnaik, adding that this transformation is paving the way for a new Odisha.

Commission for tribal language promotion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 29: Setting up of a 'Commission for Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Languages of Scheduled Tribes of Odisha' is among the five proposals approved by the state Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, here, Monday.

Addressing newsmen after the 71st Cabinet meeting, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena said the commission will work to preserve, promote, develop, disseminate and safeguard the 21 tribal languages in Odisha.

"The commission will encourage multilingual education, documenting and preserving tribal languages, promoting the use of those languages and protecting linguistic rights among several enriching activities for the development of the tribal languages," Jena said.

All 21 tribal languages recognised by the state are included under the Multilingual Education (MLE) programme, the chief secretary said.

Solar-powered weather station on KIIT campus

Bhubaneswar: An automatic solar-powered weather and air quality monitoring station has been installed on KIIT campus. The station was installed by Bronx Community College (BCC) of the City University of New York (CUNY). The weather station is part of a green initiative and runs fully on solar energy. Weather data will be available to residents through Weather Link smartphone app and IBM's 'Weather Underground' network of weather stations worldwide. Two other weather stations will be installed in Odisha this month and three more in Telangana in February.

CABINET DECISIONS



retary said.

"Despite multiple requests by the state government, the Centre is yet to include tribal languages like Ho, Mundari, Kui and Saora in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The 'Commission for Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Languages of Scheduled

Tribes of Odisha' will work towards its inclusion in the Constitution," Jena said, adding that the Cabinet passed a resolution reiterating the demand for inclusion of Ho, Mundari, Kui and Saora languages in the 8th Schedule.

The Cabinet also passed a resolution reiterating the demand for inclusion of 169 communities in the scheduled tribe (ST) list of Odisha.

The Cabinet passed a resolution reiterating the demand for inclusion of Ho, Mundari, Kui and Saora languages in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution

The Cabinet also passed a resolution reiterating the demand for inclusion of 169 communities in the Scheduled Tribe list of Odisha by the Centre

The Cabinet has withdrawn the November 14, 2023 decision to amend the Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1956

olution reiterating the demand for inclusion of 169 communities in the scheduled tribe (ST) list of Odisha.

The Cabinet has withdrawn the decision of November 14, 2023 to amend the Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1956.

R-DAY PARADE

Top honour for women empowerment tableau



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 29: The beautifully crafted Odisha tableau, showcasing women empowerment in Raghurajpur heritage village, has been adjudged the best tableau among the states/UTs. It has won the first prize in Judges Choice category at the 75th Republic Day parade, the state I & PR department informed, Monday.

The tableaux from Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have been adjudged second and third, respectively. Sixteen states and Union territories had showcased

their tableaux at the parade.

Odisha was not able to put up its tableau on the Kartavya Path in New Delhi during the Republic Day event for three consecutive years. This year, Odisha's tableau featuring the state's heritage craft village Raghurajpur participated in the parade January 26.

The design of the model was prepared by noted artist Kirti Kishore Moharana, while the fabrication of was done under the supervision of eminent artist Gajendra Sahu.

Speaking to Orissa POST, Sahu said, "We had integrated two themes in our

model showcasing women empowerment. We put the image of Kandarpa Hati along with Pattachitra - which are symbols of progress in the backdrop of Raghurajpur village."

The tableau from Odisha rolled down the Kartavya Path accompanied by Sambalpuri dancers during the 75th Republic Day parade. The 45-ft long, 14-ft wide and 16-ft high tableau had two components - a replica of a Kandarpa Hati (a popular Pattachitra design depicting Krishna Leela where nine women are entangled with each other to form the shape of an elephant) and women artisans of Raghurajpur village in Puri. The central part highlighted the contribution of women to the global positioning of the heritage crafts village in Puri district while acknowledging their adaptation to technology and entrepreneurial skills in selling the handicrafts online.

DSPL-587

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସ୍ଥାବର ସମ୍ପତ୍ତି ନିୟାମକ ପ୍ରାଧିକରଣ

Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority

ଆପଣ ଜାଣନ୍ତି କି ?

- କୌଣସି ପୁରୁଷ ଓ ମହିଳାଙ୍କୁ ୫୦୦ ବର୍ଗ ମିଟରରୁ ଅଧିକ ହୋଇଥିଲେ ରେରା ଅଧୀନରେ ପଞ୍ଜୀକୃତ ହେବା ବିଧେୟ ।
- ଉଭୟ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳ ଓ ଗ୍ରାମାଞ୍ଚଳରେ କରାଯାଉଥିବା ପୁରୁଷ ଓ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ନିୟମ ପ୍ରଯୁଜ୍ୟ ।
- ରେରା ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଏହା ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଅଧିକାର ଅନୁମୋଦନ ଲାଭ କରିବା ବାଧ୍ୟନୀୟ ।
- ରେରା ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ ନ ଥିଲେ କୌଣସି ପୁରୁଷ ଓ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ବିଜ୍ଞାପନ କିମ୍ବା ବିକ୍ରି ଏବଂ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ କରନ୍ତି ତେବେ ତାହା ଆଇନତଃ ବୃକ୍ଷଣୀୟ । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ରେରା ଆଇନରେ ପ୍ରକୃତ ମୂଲ୍ୟର ସର୍ବୋଚ୍ଚ ୧୦% ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଜରିମାନା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଛି ।
- କୌଣସି ପ୍ରଲୋଭନ ବଣ୍ଟଣ ହୋଇ ଅଣପଞ୍ଜୀକୃତ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପରେ ସର୍ବଦା ଜମି କିଣିବାରୁ ଛାଡ଼ ରୁହନ୍ତୁ ।
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Secretary, Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority

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OIPR-13223/13/0013/2324

FOCUS THE SHANKARACHARYAS

A SIGNIFICANT DISSENT



It is noteworthy that a clear and indeed a vociferous point of view against the developments in Ayodhya has come from religious leaders rather than the political opposition, which has struggled to frame its line of argument in a clear manner

the temple issue. This is not the first time that fellow travellers have felt left out or seen the BJP as the enemy within, a force that swells at the cost of everything else the wider group might hold dear: If you have doubts, ask Uddhav Thackeray and his Shiv Sena in Maharashtra!

In the 22 January display of bhakti mingled with political mobilisation, the Shankaracharyas' dissent represents an important voice that stands in contrast to the political narrative sought to be pushed by the BJP and its associates. The dissenting voice has been clear, unambiguous and dispassionate, unlike the frenzied discourse built around exaggerated claims dressed in superlative adjectives for a futuristic Ayodha-dham. The Shankaracharyas' arguments though not in these words point to the political capture of the temple movement by the BJP, the weaponisation of the movement for narrow political gain and their immediate cause of ire – a date of inauguration that the Shankaracharyas hold has nothing to do with an auspicious moment and everything to do with the coming elections. They have pointed out with force and conviction that the temple cannot be inaugurated now when the construction itself is not yet complete.

In sum, the statements that

have been coming from them, notably the Shankaracharya of Jyotish Peeth, Swami Avimuktshwarananda Saraswati, and the Shankaracharya of Puri Peeth, Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, have torn the entire edifice on which the BJP appears to be preparing its election campaign. As matters stand today, these positions have a strong grounding in religion, tradition and morality but not necessarily a political edge that the BJP may worry about. They may not dent the votes that the BJP expects to encash in return for the temple. But they mark a significant point of departure, bringing the force of scriptures and their understanding as embodied in the institution of the Shankaracharyas, to challenge those using the same scriptures and traditions for political rewards.

It is noteworthy that a clear and indeed a vociferous point of view against the developments in Ayodhya has come from religious leaders rather than the political opposition, which has struggled to frame its line of argument in a clear manner. This unexpected turn of events points to the complex nature of the current discourse, and self-defeating narratives in the past that have brought us simplistic understandings and flavours marked out as "hard" or "soft" versions of communalism, or at

the other extreme, the demand for a water-tight dividing line between religion and politics.

Each of these versions is exploitative in its own way and unappreciative of the values and principles that, for example, Mahatma Gandhi brought to his discourse on politics unhesitatingly mixed with religion. Gandhi openly saw Rama as his Lord and saviour and brought him into a political discourse that was inclusive.

The Shankaracharyas are of course religious, overtly and completely by the very definition of their roles, and position. Their statements on the form and substance of the temple inauguration bring a refreshing dissent in the face of political forces that have done everything to wipe out dissent. Politics and religion mix up here but in ways that serve the nation well, even though historically the Shankaracharyas' views have not always been progressive and not always welcoming of Gandhi's reforms and his fight on issues of temple-entry for all castes and classes.

The typical response of the BJP to the Shankaracharyas' dissent has been to go on the attack; Union Minister Narayan Rane, who is from Maharashtra, asked what the Shankaracharyas have done for Hinduism while UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made the point that no one can be bigger than Lord Ram. But soon enough, these attacks have stopped and the BJP leadership appears to have realised that overtly targeting the Jagadgurus will be counterproductive.

Meanwhile, it may be business as usual as Ayodhya is sought to be brought on the global tourist map and well-connected builders buy up land to put it for sale at exorbitant mark ups to investors looking to park funds. Amitabh Bachchan is said to have booked his plot. "Development" is coming to Ayodhya!

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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Jagdish Rattanani

THE BJP APPEARS TO BE SAYING TO ITS CONSTITUENTS: WE GAVE YOU THE TEMPLE. WE KNOW THE WAY

The inauguration of the Ram temple on 22 January has seen unprecedented euphoric reactions in large parts of India on the one hand and internal dissonance on the other hand with stiff opposition from the high priests, the Shankaracharyas, citing age-old scriptures and violations of Hindu traditions. The celebrations brought us a sea of saffron flags, particularly in the North, highlighting a political mobilisation that the BJP and many others are assured will bring unprecedented dividends for the party in the 2024 national elections. The opposition to the temple inauguration, first on scripture technicalities, then on invitation niceties and later on larger issues of overall propriety and political capture, brought out differences that point to an internal breakdown of a shared understanding and trust within the broader pro-temple group. Not everybody is willing to stomach the command-and-control operation that the temple movement has been turned into by BJP strategists, and certainly not the Shankaracharyas, who have put up a significant dissent. The BJP appears to be saying to its constituents: We gave you the temple. We know the way. Follow us and ask no questions. Many from the army of political bhaktas seem to agree. But those now uncomfortable seem to say: We fought for it. And this is not what we bargained for.

Questions on the date of the inauguration, the centrality of a Prime Minister leading the consecration ceremony, the unceremonious treatment of the Shankaracharyas and their subsequent refusal to attend the event, the display of wealth and showbiz in the invitations to select pro-BJP business magnets and assorted notables, the focus on material grandioseness, the overwhelming use of security forces that became inevitable when the inauguration was all about politics, have raised new questions even for those thought to be with the BJP on

We are always surrounded by the things of which we think.

THE MOTHER



Israeli 'Apartheid'

The interim judgement of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) validating South Africa's charge of genocide against Israel marks a watershed moment in the Israel-Hamas strife. The Court confirmed there is substance in the complaint that under the Genocide Convention "Israel has engaged in, is engaging in and risks further engaging in genocidal acts against the Palestinian people in Gaza." It has further ruled that Israel must "take all measures" to avoid acts of genocide in Gaza. Most of the provisional measures demanded by South Africa to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinians have been endorsed by the Court. The Court, however, stopped short of ordering an Israeli ceasefire in Gaza.

The inescapable reality is there is no indication that Israel has any intention of heeding the Court's provisions. In fact, there is no let-up in Israel's acts of war in Gaza. Killings and attacks are continuing unabated. This only suggests Israel is in no mood to accept demands or measures of any international institution – legal or political. Many countries have condemned the attacks on the population of Gaza, 2.2 per cent of which has been injured in the past three months. Most of the enclave has been destroyed and over two million residents have been displaced. The continuing siege and targeting of hospitals that are known hide-outs of Hamas militants have brought the healthcare system to a grinding halt. People are starving and there are reports of outbreak of diseases such as hepatitis A and Leishmania. Hundreds of women are said to have had miscarriages and many others died in childbirth due to lack of medical care.

The work done by South Africa to bring Israel to book is praiseworthy if one considers how the West has done hardly anything more than mouthing pious platitudes, while many other countries of the world have merely sympathised with the cause of the Palestinians. South Africa could justify its action by proclaiming that it cannot remain silent when it finds a country like Israel practising apartheid, the scourge it once faced. The message that South Africa seems to be trying to send across is that since Israel's occupation and oppression have acquired genocidal proportions, the international community can no longer have the luxury of waiting, issuing statements and hoping something good would turn out.

Israel may not heed the court's rulings and provisions, but South Africa's historic position will have its consequences. The Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa has stated that after the ICJ's interim decision "third States" are now on notice of the existence of a serious risk of genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza. They must, therefore, also act independently and immediately to prevent genocide by Israel and to ensure that they are not themselves in violation of the Genocide Convention by aiding or assisting in the committing of genocide. Interestingly the US Administration has publicly announced that it is in the process of evaluation as to how to cut back arms supplies to Israel so as to stop genocide from taking place in Gaza.

Now, the ICJ is required by international law to proceed with a full hearing and eventually to render a verdict on the question of whether Israel is guilty of the crime of genocide in Gaza. Israel on its part is obliged to detail how, when and where it has taken the compulsory measures to prevent genocide and allow humanitarian aid to reach the starving and destitute people.

For whatever it may be worth on the ground, the pro active initiative of South Africa deserves praise.

WISDOM CORNER

Life is not a series of gig lamps symmetrically arranged; life is a luminous halo, a semi-transparent envelope surrounding us from the beginning of consciousness to the end. VIRGINIA WOOLF

Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it. BLAISE PASCAL

As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being. CARL JUNG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1931: The American silent romantic-comedy film City Lights had its world premiere, and it is considered by many to be Charlie Chaplin's crowning achievement in cinema.
- 1933: Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. The "Machtergreifung" marked the end of the Weimar Republic and the beginning of the "Third Reich".
- 1945: 9,400 people die in the deadliest maritime disaster in history. The "Wilhelm Gustloff" was sunk by a Soviet submarine during World War II.
- 1948: Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi—internationally esteemed for his doctrine of nonviolent protest (satyagraha) to achieve political and social progress—was assassinated on this day in 1948.
- 1969: The Beatles give their last public performance. The concert was played on the rooftop of the Apple Corps building at 3 Savile Row in London.
- 1972: A demonstration by Roman Catholic civil rights supporters in Londonderry (Derry), Northern Ireland, turned violent when British paratroopers opened fire, killing 13 and injuring 14 others (one of the injured later died); Bloody Sunday, as it became known, precipitated an upsurge in support for the Irish Republican Army.

LOL

Cop & criminals

A local policeman had just finished his shift one cold November evening and was at home with his wife. "You just won't believe what happened this evening. In all my years on the force I've never seen anything like it." "Oh yes dear, what happened?" "I came across two guys down by the canal, one of them was drinking



battery acid and the other was eating fireworks." "Drinking battery acid and eating fireworks!! What did you do with them?" "Oh that was easy, I charged one and let the other off."

SPECTRUM JOB MARKET

Thriving in the concrete jungle



Ashyashree Praharaj

THE AFTERMATH OF COVID-19 HAS RESTRUCTURED THE CORPORATE LANDSCAPE, GIVING RISE TO THE NEED FOR PROFESSIONALS TO POSSESS DISTINCTIVE SURVIVAL SKILLS

In the tumultuous and harum-scarum corporate world, individuals encounter numerous issues in their day-to-day lives. Beyond the polished resumes and impressive qualifications lies a battlefield where pliability, durability, and reasonability become the unsung heroes. This article delves into the ramifications of the survival saga, reconnoitering the pivotal importance of skills that go beyond the traditional means to ensure professional relevance and sustainable success in a volatile and dynamic corporate ecosystem.

The aftermath of COVID-19 has restructured the corporate landscape, giving rise to the need for professionals to possess distinctive survival skills. Beyond immediate changes of remote work and economic precariousness, modern-day employees must navigate the new everyday world with utmost chariness, bounce back ability and strategic insight. Many firms faced extreme economic setbacks, leading to downsizing and unfair employee termination during the pandemic. For organisations, balancing compassion with pragmatism, transparent communication and providing post-exit emotional

counselling are essential elements of a much-needed humane approach to workforce downsizing.

While unemployment remains a tenacious challenge in specific regions and demographics, the dynamics of corporate placements unveil a nuanced narrative of survival skill demands to survive in a changing industry landscape. Apart from the conventional technical and soft skills that a candidate learns through formal education, a quiescent need for survival skills is observed. Despite the availability of a large number of fresh graduates, corporations face complications in finding candidates with appropriate skills needed for specialised roles. The vulnerability of these groups was exacerbated during the pandemic, necessitating the need to address the systematic skill inequalities and create inclusive pathways for skill development and practice. On the flip side, the corporate world undergoes continual transformations propelled by technological advancements, automation and shifting consumer behaviour. This evolution demands a workforce equipped with digital literacy, adaptability, networking, critical thinking, and cul-

tural intelligence to fill positions despite a surplus of job seekers.

A multifaceted approach is necessary to connect the dots between corporate requirements and employee sustenance. This includes targeted educational initiatives aligning the academic curriculum with corporate requirements, fostering a culture based on continuous learning and implementing policies that address the systematic inequalities contributing to survival challenges. Companies can also play a pivotal role by imparting employee training programmes, mentoring fresh graduates, and embracing diversity to create a more holistic environment. Beyond the theoretical knowledge, the inclusion of practical hands-on learning experience is also encouraged. Hybrid learning through textbooks and real-world exposure can assist the novice graduate in becoming a key performer for the upcoming future-ready workforce. Government statutory bodies such as the UGC and AICTE can formulate necessary policies to impart an all-inclusive learning experience to candidates as well as professionals through proper implementation and supervision of National Education Policy, 2020.

The modern professional landscape is manifested by a delicate balance between skill-set challenges and nuances of corporate requirements. The indefatigably high unemployment rates, often rooted in economic downturns and structural shifts, underscore the need for targeted interventions to address systemic issues and ensure equitable access to opportunities. This needs a paradigm shift in educational curriculum prioritising continuous learning, adaptability and digital literacy to empower individuals with the tools necessary for succeeding in the contemporary job market. Likewise, educational institutions can provide a proper platform for open discussions for formulating education curricula, ensuring professional programmes align with corporate requirements and assisting in placement-relative activities. In doing so, we can aspire to create a professional landscape where the pursuit of success is not limited by systematic challenges but set in motion by collective commitment to empowering individuals.

The writer is a research scholar, Dept of Business Administration, Berhampur University.

A star is born

Sir, The James Webb Space Telescope has captured a stunning image of a massive region in space with new suns being born in a massive cluster. The star-forming complex known as N79, located in the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC), is a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way. This nebula, a vast region of ionised interstellar atomic hydrogen, is pictured through Webb's Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI), revealing a cosmic landscape that spans approximately 1,630 light-years. N79 is considered a younger sibling to the well-known Tarantula Nebula, or 30 Doradus, another subject of Webb's recent observations. Remarkably, research indicates that N79's star formation efficiency surpasses that of the Tarantula Nebula by two-fold over the last half-million years. The image focuses on one of the three giant molecular cloud complexes within N79, specifically the southernmost section labeled N79 South (S1). Surrounding this luminous area is a distinct 'starburst' pattern, a series of diffraction spikes that are inherent to telescopes like Webb that utilize mirrors to collect light. These patterns emerge due to the hexagonal symmetry of Webb's 18 primary mirror segments and are particularly noticeable around intensely bright and compact objects. **Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR**

Complex geopolitics

Sir, The expansion of NATO to encompass Sweden and Finland represents a significant geopolitical shift, bolstering the alliance's presence in the Baltic region and intensifying its border with Russia. While aimed at enhancing defensive capabilities and deterring potential Russian aggression against Nordic countries, this move also raises concerns about perceptions of encirclement and the potential for escalating tensions, thus challenging regional stability. Moreover, the nuanced scenario of a potentially weakened Russia seeking closer ties with China introduces complexities, impacting global trade, security, and norms, and adding layers of consideration to India's strategic calculus. For India, navigating this complex geopolitical landscape involves a delicate balancing act. It must carefully manage its historical ties with Russia, nurture emerging relations with the US and NATO members, and discern the broader implications of NATO expansion. This requires India to maintain its strategic autonomy while engaging with evolving regional dynamics and global power shifts. **Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH**

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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

2 youths awarded 20-yr jail term for gangrape



POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Jan 29: Phulbani District and Sessions Judge Satyapeer Mishra Monday convicted two youths for gangrape of a disabled girl and sentenced each of them to 20 years of imprisonment. The judge also slapped a fine of ₹50,000 on each of the convicts. In default, both the convicts have to undergo two additional years in jail, the judge ordered.

The convicts were identified as Janmejaya Podha aka Mantu of Kachara Sahi village and

Trilochan Nayak aka Chikum of Sagadia Sahi village in Kandhamal district.

As per the case diary, the convict duo committed the crime in 2021. They were selling water containers in the village when they found the disabled girl alone at her home. Taking advantage of the situation, the duo gangraped her after forcefully entering her house. After committing the crime, both fled the spot.

When the girl's mother returned, she narrated her ordeal before her. The family members of the victim then lodged a complaint in this regard at Khajuripada police station. Acting on the complaint, police registered a case (No-42/21) and after arresting the culprits forwarded them to court.

The judge pronounced the verdict after hearing from witnesses and going through the investigation report, said special public prosecutor Soumendra Sahu.



WESTERN WHIRL: Artistes from Nataraj dance troupe performing traditional 'Dalkhai' dance as part of the celebrations to mark public dedication of SAMALEI project in Sambalpur, Monday. OP PHOTO

BJD gunning for Sanakhemundi

THIS IS THE ONLY ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY IN GANJAM DISTRICT WHERE THE RULING PARTY FACED A LOSS IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTIONS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Jan 29: With its eye on Sanakhemundi Assembly constituency in Ganjam district, the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is preparing a poll strategy to wrest the seat from opposition Congress in the upcoming Assembly elections.

In 2019 elections, the ruling party had won 12 out of the 13 Assembly seats in Ganjam district barring Sanakhemundi Assembly segment as Congress candidate Ramesh Jena had trounced his BJD rival Nandini Devi by over 20,000 votes. Jena's

win served a blow to the ruling party which had pinned high hopes to win the seat.

Unable to absorb the loss, BJD has pinned its focus on Sanakhemundi Assembly seat and is preparing a poll strategy eyeing a win in the upcoming polls. This was stated here by BJD's district president Ramesh Chandra Chyau Patnaik during an interaction with this correspondent.

Notably, Sanakhemundi block was part of Kabisuryanagar Assembly segment till 2004 since independence. A delimitation exercise was conducted in 2009 before the general elections and Sanakhemundi Assembly constituency, comprising Sanakhemundi and Dharakote blocks, was carved out.

After the birth of Sanakhemundi Assembly seat, Congress candidate Ramesh Jena defeated BJP candidate and Dharakote royal Kishore Chandra Singh Deo in 2009 elections. In 2014 elections, BJD fielded Dharakote queen Nandini



Devi, who defeated Congress' Ramesh Jena by over 8,000 votes to become the first woman to represent the newly carved out Assembly seat.

The 2019 elections again witnessed a close fight between Nandini Devi and Ramesh Jena. However, this time Jena defeated Nandini Devi owing to his strong organisational network in Sanakhemundi block and some other areas under the segment.

Meanwhile, both Nandini Devi and Jena have launched preparations for the upcoming elections this year. BJD is busy devising a strategy to wrest the

seat from Jena. However, internal feud in the party, which has been going on for long, might play spoilsport for the ruling BJD.

With brewing resentment, many long-time and senior workers are openly opposing Nandini Devi. Two groups in the ruling party had a face-off during a Jansampark Padayatra at Goutami panchayat under the segment. Efforts are being made to broker peace between the two warring factions, district BJD president Ramesh Chandra Chyau Patnaik said.

Speculation is rife that the ruling party may field Dharakote block chairperson and royal heiress Sulakshana Devi as party candidate if the issue remains unresolved. Chatters are abuzz that the BJD is not taking other workers into confidence and is solely dependent on the royal family to win the elections.

Political analysts said that the BJD may have to encounter heavy fight in the upcoming polls if it does not field a right candidate.

Man found guilty of killing wife sentenced to life term

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Jan 29: A court here Monday sentenced a man to rigorous imprisonment (RI) for life for killing his wife for objecting to his extra-marital affair.

The convict has been identified as Rajendra Mukhi, a native of Kandhamal district staying at Birsra Munda Sahi in Saheed Nagar police limits here.

"The convict who used to work as a security guard had developed an extra-marital relationship with a woman. When his wife, Amita Mukhi came to know about the illicit relationship, she accosted Rajendra and both engaged in a heated argument



September 20, 2020. Mukhi, in a fit of rage, took out a sharp-edged weapon and stabbed his wife multiple times." Additional Public Prosecutor Saila Kumar Pradhan said.

Pradhan also stated that Mukhi's daughter called a neighbour who rushed the victim to Capital Hospital.

Amita became critical after

a few days and she was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack where she succumbed to the injuries September 28, 2020.

On the basis of a complaint lodged by Mukhi's daughter, Saheed Nagar police lodged a case and arrested the absconding accused from his native village in Kandhamal district.

The court after examining statements of 11 witnesses and other exhibits pronounced him guilty. Mukhi has also been directed to deposit a fine of ₹50,000 and if he fails to pay the fine amount, he would serve additional imprisonment for one more year.

Decomposed body of driver found in truck

POST NEWS NETWORK

Simulia, Jan 29: The decomposed body of a container truck driver was found inside the vehicle under mysterious circumstances near a dhaba at Manjuripur village on National Highway-16 under Simulia police limits in Balasore district, Sunday.

According to sources, the container truck was parked near a dhaba on NH-16 for the last three days. As the truck started ema-

nating a foul smell, the owner of the dhaba went near the vehicle to inspect it. He was shocked to see the decomposed body of the driver inside the container truck and informed the police Sunday night.

On being informed, a police team from Simulia PS reached the spot, recovered the body and started an investigation into the matter. However, the identity of the deceased driver was yet to be established when the report was filed Monday.

Dragged by panicked ox, farmer dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khandapada, Jan 29: A septuagenarian farmer here died Saturday after a panicked ox dragged him along with the rope at Mahadev Sahi under Badabanapur panchayat and Khandapada block in Nayagarh district, sources said Monday.

According to the reports, Murali Mantri, 75, was taking his ox for feeding after releasing it from the cattle-shed. A rhesus monkey suddenly appeared before them and

the ox suddenly started running in panic.

The farmer was also dragged by the panicked ox as he had caught hold of the rope tied to the neck of the animal. Murali sustained critical injuries on his head and other parts of his body. He was immediately rushed to the local hospital and later shifted to a private hospital at Bhubaneswar where he died while undergoing treatment Saturday. A pall of gloom prevailed in his village after the news of his death spread.

Kandhamal girls beat all odds to learn Odissi dance, music

Sunima of Daringbadi and Sradhanjali of G Udayagiri have made their district proud with their achievements

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, Jan 29: Chasing a dream against all odds is easier said than done. Children growing up in the shadow of poverty face a host of challenges that their counterparts from affluent families never experience.

These children, residing in disadvantaged neighbourhoods with sub-standard housing, inadequate medical care and under-resourced schools face innumerable hurdles to excel in life. However, only some of them beat all odds and realise their dreams while others fail to make it.

Sunima Pradhan of remote Silikuti village under Simanbadi panchayat of Daringbadi block and Sradhanjali Nayak of Rushiguda village under G Udayagiri block are two such girls who have braved all obstacles and made the district proud with their achievements.

Sunima has been able to show case her hidden talent by doing her post graduation in Odissi dance at Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya in Bhubaneswar. Similarly, Sradhanjali who had a penchant to become a Tablist has managed to do her post graduation



in Tabla from the same institute.

However, their talents would have gone waste sans the support of cultural group Sanskar Bharati. Sunima, who comes from a very poor background, had never thought in her wildest dreams that she will be able to learn and excel in Odissi dance.

Sunima nursed an interest in dance since her childhood but never got the help to advance it further. She completed her primary education at Dakarbadi near her village. Later, she studied at Kasturba Gandhi Girls' School at Daringbadi and Government Upgraded High School at Simanbadi till Class X.

She tried to get higher education but lack of money proved to be a barrier in achieving her dream. However, fate smiled on her when she performed at a cultural programme at her

village. The officials of Sanskar Bharati noticed her performance and advised her to learn Odissi dance and take higher education in the dance form.

However, her father Sanjiv Pradhan being a small-time carpenter and a marginal farmer lacked funds to support her daughter's dreams.

Sanskar Bharati officials came to know about her problem. Niranjan Panda, the tribal folk art coordinator of Sanskar Bharati, decided to help her and provided funds for taking admission at Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya in Bhubaneswar.

Not only Sunima, but Swastika Pradhan of Takarmala village in Sriniketa panchayat and Devaki Mallik of Dumudupanga village under Raikia block were also helped by Sanskar Bharati in taking admission at prestigious institute.

Similarly, while male Tabla players are more in number than women, Sradhanjali has learnt the instrument by doing her post graduation in Tabla from Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya with the help of Sanskar Bharati.

All these girls hail from very poor backgrounds but have been able to realise their dreams with the help of Sanskar Bharati. The girls, when return home on holidays, help their parents in household chores as well as in turmeric and vegetable cultivation.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

01. Tender No. ELS-ANGL-OT-23-24-10
NAME OF WORK : REPAIR, REHABILITATION OF SMOOTHING REACTOR SL-30 OF WAG-7 LOCOMOTIVE OF ELECTRIC LOCO SHED, ANGLUL.
Advertised Value (₹) : 74,04,125.58,
EMD (₹) : 1,48,100.00, **Period of Completion :** 12 Months
Bidding Start Date : 07.02.2024,
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 21.02.2024.

02. Tender No. ELS-ANGL-OT-23-24-11
NAME OF WORK : WELDING WORKS OF ELECTRIC LOCO EQUIPMENTS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WELDING WORKS AT ELECTRIC LOCO SHED, ANGLUL.
Advertised Value (₹) : 74,04,264.61,
EMD (₹) : 1,48,100.00, **Period of Completion :** 24 Months
Bidding Start Date : 14.02.2024,
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 28.02.2024.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.irps.gov.in>
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS), Angul PR-1032/O/23-24

AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE
 Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.
Date and Venue:
 Friday, 2nd February 2024; 6:30 pm onwards.
 at Hotel Radhika Regency, Birsra Road, Rourkela - 769 001, Odisha.
 For registration, please contact: Ranjit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035.
 Registration is compulsory.
 The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.
 No walk-ins will be allowed.

AN Investor Education and Awareness Initiative
 Visit [https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how-to-know-more-about-the-process-to-complete-a-one-time-know-your-customer\(kyc\)requirement-to-invest-in-mutual-funds](https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how-to-know-more-about-the-process-to-complete-a-one-time-know-your-customer(kyc)requirement-to-invest-in-mutual-funds). Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.htm). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMCs and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMCs, if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by AMCs they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on <https://scores.gov.in>. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised by the AMCs or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on <https://smartodr.in/login>.
 Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

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Small Finance Bank

LOAN AGAINST GOLD - AUCTION NOTICE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS

The below mentioned borrower/s have been issued notices to pay their outstanding amounts towards the loan against gold facilities availed from Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd ("Bank"). Since the borrower/s has/have failed to repay his/her/dues, we are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold items/articles on **05 February 2024 between 11:00 AM - 03:00 PM (Time)** at below mentioned branches according to the mode specified therein. In case of deceased borrowers, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs. Please note that in the event of failure of the above auction, the bank reserves its right to conduct another auction without prior intimation.

E-Auction Branch Details (E-auction will be conducted by using Weblink <https://gold.samil.in>)

BHADRAK - 23660000653990 23660001635577 23660001705446 |
CUTTACK - 23660000639497 23660001003387 | **JAJPUR** - 23660001554759 23660001627543 | **KUAKHIA** - 23660000545933 23660001152965 23660001556425 |

Note: The auction is subject to certain terms and conditions mentioned in the bid form, which is made available before the commencement of auction.

Sd/-
 Manager
 Fincare Small Finance Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tapas Ranjan Padhi, S/o. Manoranjan Padhi at Barik Lane, Post: Sankarpur, P.S.: Badambadi, Cuttack hereby declare that we the bonafide owner of the property bearing Revenue Plot No.1012/3006 under Khata No.1205/12 of Mouza: Cuttack Sadar No.- 33 Bisnibar under Tahasil No.- 228 District: Cuttack comprising an Area of Ac-0.060 dec. bound by North- Mahendra Barik, South- Road, West- Rajendra Patra, East- Jayanti Das.

I intend to mortgage the said property at SBI SME Branch, Link Road, Cuttack & no other and agency has any claim over the same. Link deeds, RSD No.- 488 Dt.10.02.1995 and ROR No.- 533 has been lost on 04.12.2023, if anybody has any claim over the property, whatsoever is requested to take their claim before SBI SME Link Road Branch, Cuttack within 15 days of the publication of the notice. Case diary has been lodged at Dargah Bazar Police Station vide GD No.- 10, Dt.19.01.2024.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank Zonal Office, Indian Bank Building, B-2 (East), Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Bank** for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon.

BHUBANESWAR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor	Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower: M/s. Maa Tarini Fruit & Co., Prop.: Mr. Pramod Kumar Dora, at Plot No.: 2, Budhanagar, Near Electric Sub-Station, P.O.: Budheswari, Bhubaneswar-751006 / Guarantor: Mr. Bhagaban Tarai, S/o.: Mr. Udainath Tarai, at Plot No.: 2321/3149, Budhanagar, Bhubaneswar-751006	₹ 19,08,804/- as on 22.01.2024 + interest and other expenses thereon	03.10.2019 / 29.01.2024	All that immovable property of Land & Building in the name of Mr. Pramod Kumar Dora , S/o.: Mr. Ramamurti Dora, situated at Khata No.: 68, Plot No.: 1101 & 1107, measuring Area: Ac.0.0755dec. & Ac.0.0555dec., KISSAM: Gharabari under Mouza: Paniara under Jurisdiction of SRO: Jatani, Khurda, PS.: Chandaka, Tahasil/SRO: Jatani, Dist.: Khurda, Bounded by North : Govt. Road, South : Govt. Road, East : Plot No.: 1102, 1105 & 1106, West : Plot No.: 1100, 1109 & 1108

Place: Bhubaneswar
 Date: 29.01.2024

Authorised Officer
 Indian Bank

APPENDIX - IV (Rule-8(1))
POSSESSION NOTICE
 (for Immovable property)

ASI report on Gyanvapi not conclusive: AIMPLB

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Jan 29: The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has refuted claims that Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which conducted a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque premises in Varanasi and submitted a survey report in the district court earlier, found evidence of a Hindu temple there.

In a statement, AIMPLB executive member Qasim Rasool Ilyas said the ASI report is not 'conclusive evidence' in this controversial case.

"By doing this, the opposition party (Hindu side) has created a feeling of anarchy and insecurity in the society," he said, while also accusing the Hindu side of 'insulting' the court by releasing the ASI report in the media.

"Hindu communal organisations are misleading the public for many years regarding the Gyanvapi Masjid. The latest example is the ASI report which they filed in court and made available to the plaintiff and defendant only on court orders," he said.

He alleged that the Hindu side tried its best to 'create unrest' in the society months before when the survey team, in its report, had described the fountain present in the reservoir as a 'Shivling'.



The Muslim side's response came after the Hindu plaintiffs' lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain claimed, citing the ASI report, that there was evidence to prove that the Gyanvapi mosque had been built after demolishing a Hindu temple in the 17th century.

Meanwhile, an office bearer of the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee (AIMC), which manages Gyanvapi mosque, said he will not speak about the ASI's survey report until he himself and his legal team have read it (the report) properly.

He, however, said that he is not satisfied with the report.

"Until I and my team of lawyers read this report, I will not speak anything on this ASI report. After report is studied, then only we will speak on the report," AIMC joint secretary SM Yasin said.

Akhlaque Ahmad, one of the counsels representing AIMC, said: "We have started studying the survey report and have perused a few initial pages. The ASI survey report comprises 839 pages. It will take a few days to complete its study."

Hindu communal organisations are misleading the public for many years regarding the Gyanvapi Masjid. The latest example is the ASI report which they filed in court and made available to the plaintiff and defendant only on court orders

QASIM RASOOL ILYAS | AIMPLB EXECUTIVE MEMBER

"So far, our legal team has not held any meeting regarding the matter. But we will hold a meeting soon. After going the report, we will make a comment on it with concrete facts as to why we are dissatisfied with it," Ahmad added.

On the other hand, Subhas Nandan Chaturvedi, one of the counsel representing four Hindu women plaintiffs, said: "The ASI's report on scientific survey of Gyanvapi is based on concrete findings and facts. It is an authentic document. The report has made everything clear."

Standing government counsel Amit Kumar Srivastava, representing the ASI, said: "The ASI is a premier agency of the country. On the basis of the facts and figures (that) came to the fore during the survey, ASI prepared the report and filed a copy in court."

BOOST TO RELIGIOUS TOURISM

Subsidised meals to Sangam visitors soon

Through community kitchen, it is proposed to provide breakfast for ₹5 and lunch for ₹10 to pilgrims

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj, Jan 29: With the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh determined to promote religious tourism, the Prayagraj Mela Authority has decided to offer hygienically cooked food at greatly subsidised rates to pilgrims and saints coming for a holy dip in Sangam.

The Prayagraj Mela Authority will establish and operate a community kitchen and two food distribution centres year-round with a capacity to feed 5,000 devotees a day, said officials.

A proposal in this regard has already been approved by the Prayagraj Mela Authority Board.

Through this kitchen, it is proposed to provide breakfast for ₹5 and lunch for ₹10 to the pilgrims.

Following the plan's approval, the mela authority will now fund



a feasibility gap study of the proposal under which the income and expenditure aspects of the initiative will be reviewed after which further action would be taken.

To keep the mela area clean, now under the Solid Waste Management Act a fine of ₹200 each will be imposed on street vendors who are not using dustbins, on unlicensed shops for not having dustbins and on temporary business owners for the same offence. A provision of imposing a fine of ₹1,000 for not having proper dustbins at eating joints has also been made by the board.

Divisional commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant said, "Likewise, under the City Sanitation Plan,

the Prayagraj municipal commissioner will carry out micro-management of the initiative by conducting continuous zone wise reviews to ensure proper cleanliness."

At the same time, the board resolved to ensure benefit to around 3,000 registered boatmen and labourers through Swachh Kumbh Fund under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna, Chief Minister Jan Arogya Abhiyan, Kanya Sumangala Yojna, Education Incentive Scheme for Girls of Safai Workers and boatmen and Shramyogi Maandhan Yojana.

Plastic waste for road construction



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Jan 29: Plastic waste, especially single-use plastic, along with bitumen is being used extensively in the construction and strengthening of roads in Uttar Pradesh.

This initiative has become an example for the whole country, making the roads cost-effective and at the same time, ensuring their durability.

Moreover, through this process, the proper disposal of single-use plastic waste is being promoted on the initiative of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

According to the statistics from the Public Works Department, the Yogi government has constructed and strengthened roads totalling 813 kilometres in Uttar Pradesh through this process.

In total, 466 roads and routes have been strengthened through this innovative initiative.

On average, one road is being constructed every day, a bridge being built every three days.

According to a report from the World Bank Blogs, India is leading in making roads from plastic, with more than 2,500 kilometres of roads in the country built from plastic. This process of constructing roads with plastic is being used in 15 countries, including the United States.

Besides plastic roads, the Yogi government is rapidly enhancing road connectivity in the state and prioritising the development of new infrastructure.

For the financial year 2023-24, ₹200 crore has been allocated for the removal of 567 black spots on roads. The state is completing the widening and strengthening process at an average of 9 kilometres per day, while the construction of new roads is happening at a rate of 11 kilometres per day.

Govt diverts Chenab water to expedite J&K hydel project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 29: The government Monday announced diversion of Chenab river water through diversion tunnels at Drabshalla in Kishtwar district to expedite the 850-MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

"A major milestone has been achieved at the 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project in Jammu & Kashmir with the diversion of Chenab river through diversion tunnels at Drabshalla in Kishtwar district, at 11.30 AM January 27, 2024," the power ministry said in a statement.

The diversion of river flow will enable isolation of dam area, paving way for the excavation and construction works, it said.

The move will expedite construction activities and help in minimising delays so as to facilitate all efforts to meet the scheduled commissioning deadline of May 2026, the ministry said.

Ratle Project is being executed by Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL), a joint venture of NHPC Limited and the government of J&K, with shareholding of 51:49 per cent, respectively.

Ratle HE project is situated on the Chenab river in Kishtwar district with an installed capacity of 850 MW. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs sanctioned the project in January 2021 at a cost of ₹5,281.94 crore.



Devotees stand in queue to take tea during the annual Hindu religious festival 'Magh Mela', at Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati, in Prayagraj, Monday. PTI PHOTO

Key NC leaders join BJP in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Jan 29: Several key National Conference leaders, including its Kathua district president, joined the BJP Sunday, in a jolt to the Farooq Abdullah-led party in the Jammu region.

Many supporters and district office bearers also made the switch from the National Conference to the BJP.

They joined the BJP at the party's headquarters in Jammu, with Ravinder Raina - the saffron party's Jammu and Kashmir unit chief - and other leaders welcoming the new entrants.

During the programme, Raina highlighted the BJP's commitment to the welfare of the people, irrespective of region or religion.

"The BJP's contributions and achievements in health care, education, infrastructure building and socio-economic development are historic," Rain said.

He also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, attributing the nation's unity and progress to his 'dedicated efforts'.

Snowfall in Kashmir brings cheers to tourists

TOURISM INDUSTRY WAS FEELING BATTERED OVER LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS IN ABSENCE OF A GOOD SNOWFALL, WITH MANY INTENDING TOURISTS CANCELLING THEIR BOOKINGS AND TOUR OPERATORS RECEIVING LITTLE TO NO QUERIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jan 29: Snowfall in Kashmir has brought cheers to the tourism sector, sparking joy among tourists and the local people linked with the tourism industry. The industry was feeling battered over the last couple of months in the absence of a good snowfall, with many intending tourists cancelling their bookings and tour operators receiving little to no queries.

The tourist arrivals to the valley, which usually witnesses a higher footfall, especially at resorts like Gulmarg, fell in the absence of snow - a cause of

worry for the tourism stakeholders in the valley.

However, the snowfall at the fag-end of Chilla-i-Kalan - a 40-day harsh winter period when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent - has brought cheers to both the tourists as well as the tourism players.

Hundreds of tourists, including children, have been enjoying the snowfall at Gulmarg and Sonamarg resorts.

"We had booked tickets for January 23, but we postponed our journey after checking the forecast. We arrived January 25 and were lucky to see the snowfall. We experienced snowfall



first in Sonamarg and then in Gulmarg as well. We are so thrilled to be here," Aninda and Deotima, a tourist couple from Kolkata, said at Gulmarg.

They said Kashmir really looks like a paradise after snowfall.

Mohammad Imran, a tourist from Nagpur in Maharashtra said he returned to the Gulmarg said he returned to the Gulmarg resort again after the snowfall.

"Two days back, there was nothing and the ground looked

empty. By the grace of God, now there is snow and we feel great to be here... When we heard there was snowfall in Gulmarg, we came back from Srinagar," he said.

Aryan, a young tourist from Bangalore who has come to Kashmir with his parents and sister, said it was a great feeling. "It feels so good. It looks like heaven," he said, enjoying the snowfall.

Ankit Makane, a part of a 15-member tourist group from Mumbai, enjoyed playing in the snow at Sonamarg. "It feels truly and literally like heaven. Kashmir is so beautiful and the people here are really amazing. We enjoyed a lot," he said.

It is not only the tourists who are cheered up, the snowfall has sparked joy among the local tourism players as well. "We thank God for the snow. We feel very happy because it will not only increase tourism, but it is vital for sustenance," Parvaiz Ahmad, a local tourism service provider in Gulmarg, said.

Another stakeholder, Abdul Rashid, said the livelihoods of private service providers were affected due to a prolonged dry spell over the last two months, but the snowfall has come as a blessing.

"For the past two months, there was not much work. With the snowfall, the tourist arrivals have increased and the snow-related activities have started,"

Rashid said. In the absence of snowfall at popular tourist spots like Sonamarg and Gulmarg, the tourists used to make a beeline to places like Sinthan Top connecting Anantnag district with Kishtwar - which remains covered under snow for most of the year.

Meanwhile, authorities have issued advisories to tourists and locals visiting places like Sonamarg and Gulmarg.

They have said only 4x4 vehicles and those with anti-skid chains would be allowed to travel towards Gulmarg and Sonamarg due to slippery conditions in the wake of snowfall.

The Meteorological Department has forecast a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at many places of the Union Territory with chances of heavy snowfall over a few higher reaches like Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag districts over the next two days.

national



Even children of the country are not safe in the 'any kaal (period of injustice)' of the Modi government. In the last six years, cases of child rape have doubled by 96 per cent

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

ED TEAM CAMPS AT SOREN'S DELHI HOUSE

An Enforcement Directorate (ED) team Monday visited the Delhi residence of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren to question him in connection with a money laundering investigation in an alleged land fraud case and camped there for over 12 hours



of the day quote

The Statue of Unity in Gujarat has become a major tourist destination due to the Narendra Modi government's efforts to boost tourism, which also generated jobs for local tribal youths

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's return to the NDA fold will not affect the opposition INDIA alliance

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) MP

Opportunism is at its peak and it is for power. All are opportunists, whether he is (Prime Minister) Modi ji, (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah ji or Nitish ji

DIGVIJAYA SINGH | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Woman SDM killed by husband

Dindori: A woman sub divisional magistrate (SDM) posted in Shahpura in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori district was allegedly murdered by her husband for not making him the nominee in service, insurance and bank records, a senior police official said Monday. SDM Nisha Napat (51) got married to Manish Sharma (45) through a social media site in 2020 and his demand to make him the nominee in service, insurance and bank records had created discord as the deceased was not obliging him, Superintendent of Police Akhil Patel said. Sharma suffocated her with a pillow Sunday, sat near the corpse for six hours and then took the body to the nearby community health centre, but doctors there alerted police, the SP said. Sharma had also washed her blood stained clothes as well as the pillow in the washing machine, Patel said.

SC rejects Andhra Pradesh's plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday dismissed the Andhra Pradesh government's plea challenging the anticipatory bail granted to TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in the Amaravati Inner Ring Road (IRR) scam case. A bench of Justices S Khanna and D Datta dismissed the state's appeal challenging the high court's January 10 order giving relief to Naidu. The SC noted that an appeal, arising from the same FIR involving other accused, had already been dismissed by the SC in November 2022. It said in view of the 2022 order, the SC is not inclined to entertain the state's appeal. It clarified that any observation made by it or the high court while granting anticipatory bail to Naidu will not affect the probe in the case.

JEE aspirant ends her life in Kota

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (Rajasthan) Jan 29: An 18-year-old student preparing for JEE allegedly hanged herself at her home in this coaching hub Monday, leaving behind a suicide note saying sorry to her parents and calling herself a "loser".

"Mummy, papa I can't do JEE. So I suicide," the note scrawled in English said, according to police. She was to give the JEE test in a day or two. "I am loser. I am worst daughter. Sorry mummy papa. Yahi last option he," the note found in Niharika Singh's room added. This was the second suspected suicide in Kota in less than a week.

The suicide was reported on a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi held his annual interaction with students preparing for their school board exams, asking them and their parents not to let competition get to them.

Niharika lived at her family home in Shiv Vihar Colony in the city's Borekheda police station area and was to take her JEE test January 30 or 31, circle officer DSP Dharmveer Singh said.

Niharika lived at her family home in Shiv Vihar Colony in the city's Borekheda police station area and was to take her JEE test January 30 or 31, circle officer DSP Dharmveer Singh said



The suicide note suggested she was under the stress of studies and found herself unable to tackle the exam, the officer said

The suicide note suggested she was under the stress of studies and found herself unable to tackle the exam, the officer said. The student was the eldest of three sisters. Her father is a security guard at a private bank in Kota, he said. The family hails from Akawdakhurd village in Jhalawar district and has been staying in the city for the last three years.

Her cousin said Niharika was

under severe stress over the upcoming JEE test. She had to repeat her 12th class exam because she got a low score, the relative said outside the mortuary. However, according to him, she was good at studies and devoted seven or eight hours every day to them.

Niharika's grandmother knocked at the door of her room around 10 am. When there was no response, she raised an alarm.

Friends make Delhi teenager lick shoes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 29: A 14-year-old boy was made to lick shoes and perform 'unnatural sex' on three of his friends, who also recorded the act and put its video on social media, in south Delhi's Hauz Khas area, police said Monday.

The incident came to fore Sunday night, when one of the three juvenile assailants sent the video to the mother of the boy and she approached the local police, they said.

The video, also posted on Instagram, showed the boy being made to crouch at knife point, while his 'friends' first made him lick their shoes and then forced him to perform an unnatural act, police said.

Row over removal of Hanuman flag intensifies



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mandya (Karnataka), Jan 29: The situation in Keragodu remained tense Monday and security beefed up in the village, a day after a row broke out over the removal of a 'Hanuman Dhwaja' as protests continued, demanding that the flag with a portrait of Lord Hanuman be reinstated.

The situation remained tense, but under control, even as the incident led to a political slugfest between the Congress government and opposition BJP-JD(S),

who have joined the protests. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah accused the opposition BJP and JD(S) of trying to instigate people on the issue with an eye on the coming Lok Sabha elections.

Police Sunday had resorted to mild lathi charge to disperse the crowd and bring the situation under control. The police and administration had hoisted the Tricolour replacing the 'Hanuman Dhwaja'. Monday, the protesters marched from Keragodu to the Deputy Commissioner's office in the district headquarters of Mandya holding saffron flags amid chants of "Jai Sri Ram".

Women employees can nominate children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

FAMILY PENSION

New Delhi, Jan 29: In a path-breaking decision with far-reaching socio-economic impact, the Centre has allowed women employees to nominate her son or daughter for family pension, instead of her husband, according to an official statement issued Monday.

Previously, family pension was granted to the spouse of a deceased government servant or pensioner, while other family members became eligible only after the spouse's ineligibility or demise, the statement said.

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said that the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has introduced an amendment to the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021, allowing female government employees or pensioners

child/children after their own demise, in place of their spouse. The amendment will address situations where marital discord leads to divorce proceedings or cases filed under laws such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, Dowry Prohibition Act or the Indian Penal Code, he said.

"In a path-breaking decision with far-reaching socio-economic impact and in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy to provide equitable rights to women, the government has amended the long-standing established rule, thereby granting the woman employee the right to nominate her son or daughter for family pension, instead of her husband as has been practice so far," said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

Parents shouldn't treat child's report card as visiting card: PM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday cautioned parents against treating their children's report cards as their own visiting card, while asserting that it is crucial to instill resilience in children to help them cope with pressures and parents and teachers should collectively address challenges faced by them.

Interacting with students, parents and teachers during his annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme, the Prime Minister suggested that students should compete

with themselves and not others and parents should never sow the seeds of competition and rivalry between siblings.

"It is crucial to instill resilience in our children and help them cope with pressures... We cannot just switch off and the pressure is gone. One must become capable of bearing any kind of pressure. They should believe that pressure keeps on building and one has to prepare oneself," he said during the two-hour interaction.

The PM suggested students to 'always make friends who are more intelligent and work harder'. "You must be inspired by such friends. Don't let the pressure of studies and examinations overpower you," he said.

Modi said that even though competition and challenges act as inspirations, competition must be healthy. "A lot of parents keep on giving examples of other children to their children. Parents should avoid doing these things... Never sow the seeds of rivalry and competition among students," he said.

OFFICE OF THE DHENKANAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DHENKANAL
Tender Call Notice No.298/DKLMPLTY/Date:24.01.2024

- Name of the Work : Individual Civil Construction Work Published the website.
- No. of Works put to tender : 02 Nos. individual works
- Estimated Cost : Rs.69.04 Lakhs upto 104.61 Lakhs
- Period of Completion : 90 days
- Date and Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11.00 hours of Dt.30.01.2024 to 17.30 hrs of Dt.13.02.2024
- Last date/time for receipt of bids : 17.30 hours of Dt.13.02.2024
- Date and Time of Opening of Bid : 11.00 hours of Dt.15.02.2024
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Officer, Dhenkanal Municipality, Dhenkanal

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tenderorissa.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Officer Dhenkanal Municipality
OIPR-13146/11/0047/2324

OFFICE OF THE SR. GENERAL MANAGER (ELECTRICAL) UPPER INDRAVATI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT, MUKHIGUDA
DIST: KALAHANDI-766026, E-mail:sgmel_uihep@ohpcitd.com
ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)
Regd. Office OSPI & W.C. Building, Vanivihar Chhak, Janpath, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar- 751022
Tel:91-0674-2542983, 2542802, 2545526, 2542826, Fax:2542102, E-mail:ohpc.co@gmail.com/md@ohpcitd.com
Website: www.ohpcitd.com, CIN: U40101OR1995SGC003963

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. UIHEP-57/2023-24, DATED: 29.01.2024
No.CAD-3885: Tenders are invited in sealed envelopes from the registered travel agencies/vehicle owners for providing services as mentioned below.

Description of Materials/ Services	Cost of tender paper (Non-refundable) in Rs.	EMD in shape of DD/Banker's Cheque only (Refundable) in Rs.	Period of Sale/ download of tender document	Last date & time of receipt of tender	Date & Time of opening of Techno commercial Bid
Hiring of a new 13 seater diesel run vehicle for shift duty of Power House and Switchyard of UIHEP. Mukhiguda for a period of 04 (four) years.	7,080/- (Inclusive of GST)	27,400/- (Inclusive of GST)	From 03.02.2024 to 13.02.2024 upto 12.30 Hrs.	13.02.2024 (upto 13.00 Hrs.)	16.30 PM

For details of the tender documents, terms and conditions please visit our website www.ohpcitd.com
OIPR-04008/11/0073/2324

Sd./- C&P Head, UIHEP, Mukhiguda

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BALASORE
e-Procurement Notice for Road
Bid identification No.e-Procurement Notice No.24/EERW-II/BLS/2023-24

- Name of the Work: Road Works. 2. Total No. of Works: 06 Nos. 3. Estimated Cost: As specified in column 3 of Annexure. 4. Class of Contractor: As specified in column 4 of Annexure. 5. Time of Completion: As specified in column 5 of Annexure. 6. Cost of Tender Paper through online: As specified in column 6 of Annexure. 7. Other details: As per DTCN.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o, Superintending Engineer, R.W.Divn-II, Balasore, (Single Cover)
Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Balasore	E-TCN No.24 of 2023-24	01.02.24 at 05.00 P.M. To 08.02.24 upto 5.00 PM	07.02.24 upto 04.00 PM	09.02.24 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Balasore
OIPR-25052/11/0030/2324

Office of the General Manager Drainage, WATCO, Cuttack
At-Mahanadivihar, Po-Nayabazar, Cuttack-753004
email: pedrainagct@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
Invitation for Bids (IFB) No.GM-WATCO-Drainage-04/2023-24 dtd.18.01.2024

No.C-The General Manager, Drainage, WATCO, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in single cover system in online mode from eligible contractors for the works mentioned below:

- No. of Works : 2 No. Works
- Nature of Work : Construction of Building
- Class of Contractor : 'C' & 'D'
- Paper Cost : Rs.4000.00+ GST @ 18%
- Date & Time of availability of Bid document in the Portal : 11.00 hours of dt.29.01.2024 to 17.00 hours of dt.08.02.2024
- Date and Time of opening of Bid : Dt. 09.02.2024 at 11.00 hours
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : The General Manager, Drainage WATCO, Cuttack, Odisha At: Mahanadi Vihar, Po:Nayabazar, Cuttack-753004 e-mail:pedrainagct@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.
OIPR-13248/11/0005/2324 Sd./- General Manager, Drainage, WATCO, Cuttack

Forest Department Odisha OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SAMBALPUR FOREST DIVISION
Email - dfo.sambalpur@odisha.gov.in

TENDER CALL NOTICE
Tender Call Notice No.13 of 2023-24, Dated 27.01.2024

No.MM-427-Sub-Tender Call Notice for Supply and Commissioning of Boating Service at Hirakud Reservoir of Rengali Range under CAMPAAPO 2023-24 in Sambalpur Forest Division.

Sealed Tenders are invited from reputed Manufacturer / Distributorship / Authorized dealership for supply and Commissioning of Boating Service at Hirakud Reservoir of Rengali Range under CAMPAAPO 2024-24 so as to reach in the O/o the Divisional Forest Officer, Sambalpur Forest Division on or before 07/02/2024 up to 05.00 PM. The application form of Tender containing Technical Bid & Financial Bid information and Supply and Commissioning of Boating Service at Hirakud Reservoir of Rengali Range under CAMPAAPO 2023-24 will be available from 29.01.2024 to 07.02.2024 in the website www.sambalpur.nic.in on deposit of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Six Thousand Only) only deposit in Account No. 0185101020115 of Canara Bank, Modipara Branch, IFSC Code: CNRB0001815 in favour of 'Divisional Forest Officer, Sambalpur Forest Division, Sambalpur' which is non-refundable towards Tender Paper cost in the sealed bid document should be submitted, failing which the bidding in tender process is liable for rejection. The last date of submission of sealed tender by the Registered / Speed Post / Courier Service / by hand is 07.02.2024 upto 05.00 PM. The Technical bids will be opened on 08.02.2024 at 11.00 AM & Financial Bid will be opened on 09.02.2024 at 11.00 AM in presence of the bidder or his authorized representatives in the office of the undersigned. The financial bids shall be opened after evaluation of the technical bids by the Tender Selection Committee. Final selection of the bidder shall be done on LI basis based on quality and cost of the materials. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all tender without assigning any reason therefor.

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer Sambalpur Forest Division
OIPR-08104/11/0012/2324

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BALASORE (ROADS & BUILDINGS) DIVISION-I
AT/PO-PADHUANPADA, BALASORE
Contact No.:06782262045, E-mail ID: ee_blsrb@yahoo.co.in
BID INVITATION No. SE (R and B) BLS-Divn-I-74/2023-24
No.B-1688: Letter No.812, Date:25.01.24

- The Superintending Engineer, Balasore (R&B) Division-I, Balasore on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate bids to be received in **ON-LINE MODE** only for Road and Building works.
- No. of Work : 4 Nos.
- Nature of Work : Building work of Balasore (R&B) Division-I
- Class of Contractor : "D", "C" & "B" Class Contractor
- Approx. value of Work : Rs.7.94 Lakh to 35.03 Lakh
- Tender Cost : Rs.4,000/- & 6000/-
- Availability of Bid documents in the Website : From 10.00 hours of dt.30.01.2024 to 16.00 hours of dt.08.02.2024
- Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.09.02.2024 at 11.00 Hours
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website: <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Balasore (R&B) Division-I
OIPR-34157/11/0027/2324

international

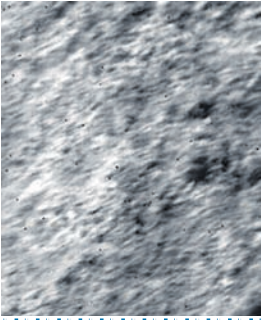


Three years ago, Iran was weak, broke, and totally under control. Thanks to my Maximum Pressure policy, the Iranian Regime could barely scrape two dollars together to fund their terrorist proxies

DONALD TRUMP | FORMER US PRESIDENT

MOON PROBE BACK TO WORK

A Japanese moon explorer is up and running Monday after several tense days without the sunlight it needs to generate power. Japan's first lunar mission hit its target in a precision touchdown January 20, but landed the wrong way up, leaving its solar panels unable to see the Sun



of the day quote

Jordan will stand firm and resolute against anyone attempting to jeopardise the kingdom's security



MUHANNAD MUBAIDIN | JORDAN'S MINISTER OF GOVT COMMUNICATIONS

We will do our best to get the International Criminal Court to punish [Israel] for this genocide



RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT TURKEY

China is using its warships, warplanes and fake news to divide Taiwan. I urge you all with your sacred votes to tell the world that Taiwan will not surrender to an authoritarian regime but will continue to choose democracy and freedom



LAI CHING-TE | VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SHORT TAKES

Poll violence rising in Karachi

Karachi: Tensions are escalating in Pakistan's largest city of Karachi as the country gears up for the general elections February 8 with several clashes already taking place between the contesting parties vying for national and provincial assembly seats. On Monday, violent clashes erupted in Nazimabad, resulting in the death of a worker from the Mutahida Qaumi Movement (MQM Pakistan) and injuries to three others during an exchange of gunfire with Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) workers.

Meloni opens Africa summit

Rome: Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni opened a summit of African leaders Monday aimed at illustrating Italy's big development plan for the continent that her government hopes will stem migration flows and forge a new relationship between Europe and Africa. Two dozen African leaders, top European Union and United Nations officials and representatives from international lending institutions were in Rome for the summit, the first major event of Italy's Group of Seven presidency.

PIO hammered to death in US

New York: A 25-year-old Indian student who recently earned an MBA degree in the US was hammered to death by a homeless drug addict whom he had been helping for the past couple of days in Georgia state's Lithonia city. The horrifying incident was caught on camera when assailant Julian Faulkner mercilessly struck Vivek Saini nearly 50 times on the head with a hammer.

China invites Hasina

Dhaka: China has invited Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for an official visit to the country as Beijing is keen to work with the new government in Dhaka to cement bilateral cooperation in all fields. "We (Dhaka) will find a suitable time for the visit," Foreign Minister Hassan Mahmud told reporters.

Iran executes four

Tehran: Iran executed Monday four men convicted of planning sabotage and alleged links with Israel's Mossad secret service, state media reported. The official IRNA news agency said the men were convicted of planning to target a factory in 2022 belonging to Iran's defense ministry and involved in missile and defense equipment in the central city of Isfahan.

Muizzu to face impeachment

The development comes a day after clashes broke out in Parliament Sunday between pro-government MPs and Opposition lawmakers over differences over the approval of four members of the pro-China President's cabinet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Male, Jan 29: The main Opposition MDP, which holds a majority in the Maldivian Parliament, Monday said it plans to submit a motion to impeach President Mohamed Muizzu, a day after clashes broke out in the House between pro-government MPs and opposition lawmakers following differences over the approval of four members of his cabinet.

The development comes on a day when the President Muizzu re-appointed three members of his cabinet, who were earlier in the day denied approval during a vote in the Parliament where the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) has the highest number of members.

On Sunday, clashes broke out in Parliament between pro-government MPs and opposition lawmakers over differences over the approval of four members of the pro-China President's cabinet. "The MDP, in partnership with the Democrats, have gathered enough signatures for an impeachment motion. However, they have yet to submit it," Sun.Com reported, quoting a lawmaker from the MDP.

The decision to submit an impeachment motion was taken unanimously in the Parliamentary group meeting of the MDP held Monday, The Edition.Mv reported.

"The Constitution, along with the Parliament's standing orders, dictates that the president can be impeached with 56 votes,"



the Sun.Com added. The Parliament had recently amended its standing orders to make it easier to submit an impeachment motion. The MDP's plan to impeach President Muizzu was opposed by the government coalition Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) and People's National Congress (PNC).

The coalition leaders said that they would not allow efforts to remove President Muizzu to proceed through parliament.

At a press conference, PPM Parliamentary Group (PG) Leader Eydhafushi constituency MP Ahmed Saleem said that the coalition would stop any efforts from MDP to remove President Muizzu from his office. "We will not allow them any opportunities to go ahead with this. They will have to kill us all first before they can even think of removing the President from office," Saleem was quoted as saying by The Edition.Mv. The Maldivian Parliament has a total of 80 members. The Maldivian Democratic

Party (MDP) has 45, followed by its ally The Democrats (DEM) with 13 members. Of the ruling coalition of PPM-PNC, the Progressive Party of the Maldives has 2 while the People's National Congress has 13 members. There are three in dependents while the Jumhooree Party and the Maldives Development Alliance (MDA) have two each.

The gathering of signatures for an impeachment motion against the President comes a day after the PPM-PNC coalition, submitted no-confidence motions against Speaker Mohamed Aslam and Deputy Speaker Ahmed Saleem - both from MDP.

Earlier in the day, Parliament voted to deny approval to Housing Minister Ali Haidar Ahmed,

Islamic Minister Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed, and Attorney General Ahmed Usham, while Economic Minister Mohamed Saeed narrowly survived the same fate himself, Sun.Com reported.

After the MDP and The Democrats' parliamentary group decided to withhold parliamentary approval for four members of President Muizzu's cabinet ahead of the voting on Sunday, the pro-government MPs from the ruling party Progressive Party of Maldives and People's National Congress (PPM/PNC) coalition initiated a protest, obstructing the parliamentary sitting. Two MPs were injured during a brawl.

On November 20 last year President Muizzu made a formal request for the approval of his cabinet, two days after his administration took office.

The Parliament had been scheduled to vote on the cabinet December 18, but the original report by the Government Oversight Committee was rejected.

The Parliament held an extraordinary sitting Sunday to take the vote on the committee's new report, which was passed on December 30, Sun.Com reported.

Muizzu, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held in September last year

ATTACK ON US TROOPS Biden faces pressure to strike Iran

Biden blamed Iran-backed militias for the first US fatalities after months of strikes by such groups against American forces across the Middle East since the start of the Israel-Hamas war



REUTERS

Washington, Jan 29: The killing of three US troops and wounding of dozens more Sunday by Iran-backed militants is piling political pressure on President Joe Biden to deal a blow directly against Iran, a move he's been reluctant to do out of fear of igniting a broader war.

Biden's response options could range anywhere from targeting Iranian forces outside to even inside Iran, or opting for a more cautious retaliatory attack solely against the Iran-backed militants responsible, experts say.

American forces in the Middle East have been attacked more than 150 times by Iran-backed forces in Iraq, Syria, Jordan and off the coast of Yemen since the Israel-Hamas war erupted in October. But until Sunday's attack on a remote outpost known as Tower 22 near Jordan's northeastern border with Syria, the strikes had not killed US troops nor wounded so many.

That allowed Biden the political space to mete out US retaliation, inflicting costs on Iran-backed forces without risking a direct war with Tehran.

Biden said the United States

would respond, without giving any more details. Republicans accused Biden of letting American forces become sitting ducks, waiting for the day when a drone or missile would evade base defenses. They say that day came Sunday, when a single one-way attack drone struck near base barracks early in the morning.

In response, they say Biden must strike Iran.

"He left our troops as sitting ducks," said Republican U.S. Senator Tom Cotton.

The Republican who leads the U.S. military oversight committee in the House of Representatives, Representative Mike Rogers, also called for action against Tehran.

Former President Donald Trump, who hopes to face off against Biden in this year's presidential election, portrayed the attack as a "consequence of Joe Biden's weakness and surrender."

The Biden administration has said that it goes to great lengths to protect US troops around the world.

One Democrat openly voiced concern that Biden's strategy of containing the Israel-Hamas conflict to Gaza was failing.

Protesting farmers encircle Paris with tractor barricades

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jossigny (France), Jan 29: Protesting farmers encircled Paris with traffic-snarling tractor barricades Monday, using hundreds of lumbering tractors and mounds of hay bales to block highways leading to France's capital to pressure the government over the future of their industry, which has been shaken by repercussions of the Ukraine war.

The blockading of major thoroughfares around Paris — host of the Summer Olympics in six months — and protests elsewhere in France promised another difficult week for new Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, less than a month into the job.

Protesters said Attal's attempts last week at pro-agriculture measures fell short of their demands that producing food should be more lucrative,



easier and fairer.

Farmers responded with the deployment Monday of convoys of tractors, trailers and even rumbling harvesters in what they described as a "siege" of Paris to gain more concessions. Some protesters came with reserves of food and water and tents to stay at barricades if the government doesn't cede ground.

"We've come to defend French agriculture," said Christophe Rossignol, a 52-year-old farmer of organic orchards and other crops. Tractors at the barricade

east of Paris were parked so they formed what looked like an ear of wheat when seen from the air. The barricades highlighted gulfs in economic and social opportunity between town and country in France. Protesters said they felt ignored by government ministers they accused of rarely venturing to farms and getting their shoes dirty.

The government announced a deployment of 15,000 police officers, mostly in the Paris region, to stop any effort by protesters to enter the capital. Officers and armored vehicles also were stationed at Paris' hub for fresh food supplies, the Rungis market. Paris region traffic authorities reported blockages on the A1 highway just north of the city's main international airport, on the A4 near the Disneyland theme park east of the capital and on other usually busy highways.

'Militants located in border areas of Pak, Iran led by third countries'

Islamabad: In an apparent reference to Taliban-led Afghanistan, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian Monday said there was "no doubt" that militants located in the border areas of Pakistan and Iran were "led and supported by third countries", days after the two neighbours conducted tit-for-tat military strikes at alleged terrorist bases in both countries. Abdollahian arrived in Pakistan late Sunday night to de-escalate the tension between the two nations following the military strikes conducted earlier this month. In a joint press conference along with Pakistan Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani, Abdollahian said: "There is no doubt that the terrorists located in the common border regions and areas of Iran and Pakistan are led and supported by third countries and they never favour any good action in line with the benefits of the Iranian and Pakistani governments and nations." On his part, Jilani said Pakistan and Iran have agreed to "establish a high-level constructive mechanism at the level of foreign ministers of the two countries".

Kwatra begins 3-day visit to Bhutan

Thimpu: Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra Monday arrived here in Bhutan on a three-day trip, in the first high-level visit from India after formation of a new government under People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Tshering Tobgay. Kwatra's visit comes against the backdrop of China and Bhutan looking at an expeditious resolution of their festering boundary row that could have implications for India's security interests. "Foreign Secretary @AmbVMKwatra was warmly welcomed on his arrival at Paro by Aum Pema Choden, Foreign Secretary of Bhutan for an official visit from 29-31 January," the Indian embassy here tweeted.

Six Lankan fishermen rescued

Colombo: All six Sri Lankan fishermen who were abducted by suspected Somali pirates last week have been rescued, a media report Monday quoted the navy spokesperson as saying. Online portal newsfirst.lk reported that the rescued fishermen, who were aboard the vessel named 'Lorenzo Putha 4', are being escorted to the capital of Seychelles. The security forces of Seychelles carried out a rescue operation following the intervention made by the Sri Lanka Navy, it said. The multi-day fishing trawler Lorenzo Putha-4 set sail from Dikowita fishing harbour in Sri Lanka January 12, marking its maiden voyage.

Kate Middleton returns home

London: Kate Middleton, the Princess of Wales, has returned home from hospital after a two-week stay following abdominal surgery, Kensington Palace said Monday. The 42-year-old Princess was admitted to The London Clinic a fortnight ago for a planned procedure. A spokesperson said Kate is "making good progress" after being admitted for the planned operation 16 January. "The Prince and Princess wish to say a huge thank you to the entire team at The London Clinic, especially the dedicated nursing staff, for the care they have provided," they added.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Is the two-state solution now dead?

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN LITERALLY EMBRACED PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU WITHIN DAYS OF HAMAS' HORRIFIC ATTACK IN SOUTHERN ISRAEL OCTOBER 7, AND THE US HAS STEADFASTLY PROTECTED ISRAEL'S INTERESTS IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

The growing rift between the Biden administration and the Netanyahu government over Israel's war in Gaza is now in the open, with public disagreement between them on the viability of a two-state solution to the conflict.

US President Joe Biden literally embraced Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu within days of Hamas' horrific attack in southern Israel October 7, and the US has steadfastly protected Israel's interests in the UN Security Council. But tensions have mounted as the civilian death toll from Israel's massive retaliation in Gaza has climbed to more than 25,000 - 70% of whom are women and children.

To put that in context, more non-combatants have been killed in less than four months in Gaza than in nearly two years of war in Ukraine, where the civilian death toll only recently exceeded 10,000.

Biden warned in December that Israel was losing international support over its "indiscriminate bombing" of Gaza. The administration has also made clear through background media briefings its concern that Netanyahu has no post-war plan for Gaza's governance. And following the preliminary order issued by the International Court of Justice in the genocide case against Israel this past weekend, White



House commentary made clear the court's orders aligned with US policy. Specifically, the court said Israel must take all possible steps to minimise civilian harm and increase the flow of humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

With criticism of Israel mounting on the global stage, the Biden administration has inserted the United States' long-standing support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Butting heads with US Presidents This rift between the two leaders should not be a sur-

prise. Netanyahu is Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister and has the self-belief that goes with 16 years in office.

This is not the first time he has butted heads with a US President. In particular, he had a poisonous relationship with Barack Obama, notably visiting Washington to address a joint sitting of Congress in 2015 without bothering to call on the President - an extraordinary breach of protocol.

Despite the fact the Oslo Accords of 1993 and 1995, signed by former Israeli Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, laid down a pathway to the creation of a Palestinian state, Netanyahu has never hidden his Opposition to the concept.

Is Biden or Netanyahu right? This leads to the current - and more important - question: who is right about the future viability of a two-state solution, Biden or Netanyahu?

Putting aside questions of equity and morality, analysis of the evidence suggests the answer is Netanyahu.

The simple fact is the number of Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank (including East Jerusalem) - now about 700,000, who live alongside three million Palestinians - means there is not much space left for a Palestinian state.

Most Israelis agree with Netanyahu The other factor is that Netanyahu's rejection of a Palestinian state reflects the current views of most Israelis.

Polling by the Pew Research Centre in March and April 2023 - well before the Hamas attack

- showed only 35% of Israelis (including both Jewish and Arab respondents) thought "a way could be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully". That was down nine percentage points from 2017 and 15 points from 2013.

Among Jewish Israelis, those who agreed with the statement dropped from 46% in 2013 to 32% last year.

The decline was even sharper among Arab Israelis, who had been more optimistic in 2013, with 74% thinking peaceful co-existence was possible. By 2023, the proportion was just 41%.

The extent to which Netanyahu, in office throughout this period, might have influenced these declines is difficult to measure. But considering the current level of hatred and distrust between Israelis and Palestinians, it's difficult to envisage any potential replacement for Netanyahu taking a different line on a Palestinian state.

THE CONVERSATION

business

of the day quote

We have made our mark in the Indian market over the past five years and will continue to strengthen our roots in the domestic market



CHASE XU | VP, REALME

We also need to build a telecom component ecosystem in India. The startup ecosystem will be a driver and enabler of employment, technology and manufacturing, going forward



NEERAJ MITTAL | TELECOM SECRETARY

With responsibility's investment and support, we will continue our mission to rapidly expand our 100 per cent EV ride-hailing service and building large EV charging infrastructure for a better, cleaner and a more sustainable future



ANMOL SINGH JAGGI | CO-FOUNDER, BLUSMART

Q3 RESULTS

GAIL jumps 10-fold

New Delhi: State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd Monday reported a 10-fold jump in its third quarter net profit as all engines of its business -- from gas transportation to marketing and petrochemicals -- fired on all cylinders. Standalone net profit of the nation's largest gas transmission and marketing firm came at ₹2,842.62 crore in October-December -- the third quarter of the current fiscal year that started in April 2023 -- as compared to ₹245.73 crore earning a year back.

BPCL profit rises

Bangalore: State-run oil marketing company Bharat Petroleum Corporation reported a 73% rise in quarterly profit Monday, helped by strong refining and marketing margins. The company's standalone net profit rose to ₹33.93 billion (\$408.24 million) in the three months ended December 31, from ₹19.60 billion a year earlier. Analysts, on average, expected the profit to jump to ₹23.14 billion.

AGEL net up 148%

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy Monday posted an over 148 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to ₹256 crore in the three months ended December 2023, mainly on the back of higher revenues. The consolidated net profit of the company was at ₹103 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to ₹2,675 crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal from ₹2,256 crore in the same period a year ago.

BPCL net rises 82%

New Delhi: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) reported an 82 per cent jump in its December quarter net profit on the back of higher-than-expected refining margins and a rise in margins on fuel sales. Its consolidated net profit of ₹3,181.42 crore in October-December -- the third quarter of the current fiscal year, stated April 1, 2023 -- compares to ₹1,747.01 crore earnings in the same period of the previous financial year.

Bajaj Fin net surges

Mumbai: Indian non-banking financial company Bajaj Finance reported a smaller-than-expected 22.4% rise in third-quarter profit, as it set aside more money for bad loans. The company's consolidated profit after tax rose to ₹3,639 crore in the three months to Dec 31, missing analysts' average estimate of ₹3,756 crore.

Gold imports jump 26.7% to \$35.95bn in April-Dec FY24

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 29: India's gold imports, which have a bearing on the country's current account deficit (CAD), increased 26.7 per cent to \$35.95 billion during the April-December of this fiscal due to healthy demand, according to government data.

The imports stood at \$28.4 billion during the same period a year ago.

In December 2023, imports of the precious metal jumped by 156.5 per cent to \$3 billion, as per the data released by the commerce ministry.

Despite the increase in gold imports, the country's trade deficit (difference between imports and exports) narrowed to \$188.02 billion in the first three-quarters of this fiscal against \$212.34 billion in April-December 2022.

India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after China. The imports mainly take care of the demand by the jewellery industry.

The gems and jewellery exports during the period dipped by 16.16 per cent to \$24.3 billion.

India's current account deficit declined sharply to 1 per cent of the GDP or \$8.3 billion in the second quarter of this financial year, mainly due to lower merchandise trade deficit and growth in services exports, according to RBI data released December 26 last year.

A current account deficit occurs when the value of goods and services imported and other payments exceeds the value of the export of goods and services and other receipts by a country in a particular period.



TURBULENT TIMES

SpiceJet gets more than ₹900cr bounty

NEW DELHI: With more than ₹900 crore funding coming in this month, SpiceJet will focus on upgradation of its fleet and cost-cutting measures, as the no-frills airline works on ways to come out of turbulent times. In an internal note to the senior staff Monday, the airline said it now has a substantial bank balance of more than ₹900 crore, including ₹160 crore received as an instalment under the government's Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme.

Evergrande told to liquidate

HONG KONG: Debt-laden Chinese property giant Evergrande has been ordered to liquidate by a court in Hong Kong, a media report said. Judge Linda Chan said "enough is enough" after the troubled developer repeatedly failed to come up with a plan to restructure its debts, BBC reported. The firm has been the poster child of China's real-estate crisis with more than \$300 billion of debt, the report said. When Evergrande defaulted two years ago, it sent shockwaves through global financial markets.

DECADE HIGH

IN 2023, \$34.3BN RAISED IN 160 DEALS, COMPARED TO \$24.1BN IN 175 DEALS YOY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 29: Global corporate funding in solar sector rose 42 per cent to \$34.3 billion in 2023, supported by "favourable policies worldwide" and focus on energy security, according to Mercom Capital.

The total corporate funding includes venture capital (VC) funding, public market, and debt financing, the research firm said in a report Monday.

The \$34.3 billion in 2023 is the highest in a decade, the 'Mercom Annual and Q4 2023 Solar

FinMin: 3rd largest economy in 3 years

TEN YEARS AGO, INDIA WAS THE 10TH LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD, WITH A GDP OF \$1.9TN. TODAY, IT IS THE 5TH LARGEST WITH A GDP OF \$3.7TN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 29: India is expected to become the third-largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$5 trillion in the next three years and touch \$7 trillion by 2030 on the back of continued reforms, the finance ministry said Monday.

Ten years ago, India was the 10th largest economy in the world, with a GDP of \$1.9 trillion at current market prices.

Today, it is the 5th largest with a GDP of \$3.7 trillion (estimate FY24), despite the pandemic and despite inheriting an economy with macro imbalances and a broken financial sector, said the ministry's January 2024 review of the economy.

"This ten-year journey is marked by several reforms, both substantive and incremental, which have significantly contributed to the country's economic progress," it said.

These reforms, it added, have also delivered an economic resilience that the country will need to deal with unanticipated global shocks in the future.

The ministry said that in the next three years, India is expected to become the third-largest economy in the world, with a GDP of \$5 trillion.

"The government has, however, set a higher goal of becoming a 'developed country' by 2047. With the journey of reforms continuing, this goal is achievable," it said.

The Nirmala Sitharaman-

The Indian domestic aftermarket, valued at \$10 billion in 2023, is poised to surge almost 1.4 times over the next five years on the back of growing vehicle demand and promising capabilities of the Indian aftermarket players

SHRADHA SURI MARWAH | PRESIDENT, ACMA



headed ministry stressed that the reforms will be more purposeful and fruitful with full participation of state governments.

The participation of states will be fuller when reforms encompass changes in governance at the district, block, and village levels, making them citizen-friendly and small business-friendly and in areas such as health, education, land and labour, in which states have a big role to play, it said.

"The strength of the domestic demand has driven the economy to a 7 per cent plus growth rate in the last three years...In FY25, real GDP growth will likely be closer to 7 per cent," said the review report, and added there is, however, considerable scope for the growth rate to rise well above 7 per cent by 2030.

The review observed that it is eminently possible for the Indian economy to grow in the coming years at a rate above 7 per cent on the strength of the financial sector and other recent and future structural reforms. Only the elevated risk of geopolitical conflicts is an area of concern.

"Furthermore, under a reasonable set of assumptions with respect to the inflation differ-

GDP OF \$5TN IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS AND TOUCH \$7TN BY 2030

GOVT ESTIMATES FY25 GDP NEAR 7% VS PROJECTED 7.3% IN FY24

India expects domestic demand, private investment to aid growth

entials and the exchange rate, India can aspire to become a \$7 trillion economy in the next six to seven years (by 2030)," it said.

The latest projection compares with the first advance estimates, where the economy was projected to expand 7.3% in the current fiscal year, after growth of 7.2% in 2022/23 and 8.7% in 2021/22.

In the preface of the review report, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said the Union government has built infrastructure at a historically unprecedented rate, and it has taken the overall public sector capital investment from ₹5.6 lakh crore in FY15 to ₹18.6 lakh crore in FY24, as per budget estimates.

He noted that the global economy is struggling to maintain its recovery post-Covid because successive shocks have buffeted it. Some of them, such as supply chain disruptions, have returned in 2024.

If they persist, they will impact trade flows, transportation costs, economic output and inflation worldwide, he said.

BENCHMARKS REBOUND 2%

Equity benchmarks surge nearly 2% boosted by rally in Reliance Industries, firm Asian markets



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 29: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply Monday, surging nearly 2 per cent, buoyed by robust buying in Reliance Industries and a rally in Asian markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,240.90 points or 1.76 per cent to settle at 71,941.57. During the day, it soared 1,309.55 points or 1.85 per cent to 72,010.22. The Nifty climbed 385 points or 1.80 per cent to 21,737.60.

Among the Sensex firms, Reliance Industries jumped nearly 7 per cent, contributing the most to the rally in markets. Tata Motors, Power Grid, Larsen and Toubro, Kotak Mahindra Bank, NTPC, Titan and UltraTech Cement were the other major gainers.

IITC, Infosys, JSW Steel, Tech Mahindra and Tata Consultancy Services were the laggards.

"The domestic market underwent an upturn as the recent sell-off and positive Asian peers provided an opportunity to accumulate quality stocks. Despite premium valuations, confidence is upheld among investors due to the optimistic environment surrounding the in-

terim budget and recent set of results aligning with forecasts. Globally, the upcoming Fed policy stands out as a crucial factor. While a rate cut by the FOMC is unlikely, investors will eagerly monitor their commentary to get cues on future rate paths," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 1.68 per cent and smallcap index rallied 1.03 per cent.

Among the indices, energy jumped 5.29 per cent, oil & gas zoomed 4.94 per cent, power (3.03 per cent), services (2.82 per cent), capital goods (2.13 per cent), industrials (2.17 per cent) and consumer durables (1.93 per cent). FMCG, IT and tech were the laggards.

A total of 2,266 stocks advanced while 1,654 declined and 141 remained unchanged.

On Thursday, the BSE benchmark declined 359.64 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 70,700.67 points while the Nifty fell 101.35 points or 0.47 per cent to 21,352.60 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹2,144.06 crore Thursday, according to exchange data.

Investors richer by ₹6 lakh crore

Investors' wealth climbed ₹6 lakh crore Monday, with the IBSE Sensex rallying nearly 2 per cent, driven by heavy buying in Reliance Industries and a rally in Asian markets. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms jumped ₹6,08,556.11 crore to ₹3,77,20,679.19 crore (\$4.53 trillion).

MFs garner ₹63,854cr via NFOs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 29: Asset management companies launched 212 new fund offerings mobilising ₹63,854 crore in 2023, marginally higher from previous year, on the back of significant uptrends in broader markets.

In comparison, Asset Management Companies (AMCs) garnered ₹62,187 crore through 228 New Fund Offerings (NFOs) in 2022. Further, they collected ₹99,704 crore in 2021 and ₹53,703 crore in 2020, according to data compiled by Morningstar India.

"The trend towards the financialisation of assets in India is unmistakable. Aligned with changing consumption behaviours and a need for a higher standard of living, investors recognise the importance of long-term investing. The Covid-19 pandemic underscored the necessity for financial planning



New fund offerings

Year	Amount (₹)
2023	₹63,854cr
2022	₹62,187cr
2021	₹99,704cr
2020	₹53,703cr

and the creation of liquid assets to address emergencies and pave the way for wealth-building," FYERS Research said in its report.

It further said that "despite indices exhibiting strength, propelled by robust economic ac-

tivity, steady GST collections, and confidence in government reforms and policies, anticipating a similar outperformance in 2024 may not be prudent. Valuations across various market capitalisations look elevated, advocating a cautious approach to direct equities in the short term".

As per the FYERS report, the January-March period of 2023 saw the highest number of NFOs at 57. However, the peak fund mobilisation occurred in the July-September period, totalling ₹22,049 crore.

Additionally, 29 thematic or sectoral funds raised an aggregate of ₹17,946 crore in 2023.

With an increased risk appetite for equities and awareness of products and offerings, retail investors opted for higher-risk products like thematic and sectoral funds compared to other products.

SAMSUNG TO START MAKING LAPTOPS IN INDIA THIS YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram, Jan 29: Korean electronics major Samsung plans to start manufacturing laptops at its Noida factory in India this year, a senior company official said Monday.

Termining India as its important manufacturing base, Samsung Electronics President and Head of Mobile eXperience (MX) Business TM Roh told reporters here that the preparation for the laptop manufacturing is in progress in India.

"We will start manufacturing laptops this year at the Noida factory. Preparations are already underway," said the official, who is on an India visit.

Roh said India is an important manufacturing base for the company, and it has received support at various levels from the state and central governments.

The company will continue to cooperate with the government to strengthen manufacturing in India, he added.

The company has recently launched its flagship Galaxy S24 series smartphone with a key focus on artificial intelligence capability in the device.

Samsung has announced that it will also manufacture Galaxy S24 at its Noida factory.

"Noida is a very important production base for Samsung. It is the second-largest base for Samsung. There may be some changes at the plant to optimise it as per the global demand, but what remains unchanged is the fact that it is an important base for us," Roh said.

The Noida plant has started making feature phones, smartphones, wearable, and tablets, and now the company will start manufacturing laptops this year.

Global corporate funding in solar spurts



There were 26 VC funding deals of \$100 million or more in 2023

the highest in a decade despite high-interest rates and challenging market conditions, Mercom Capital Group CEO Raj

Solar continues to attract significant investments driven by the Inflation Reduction Act (an act of the US), the global focus on energy security, and favorable policies worldwide.

RAJ PRABHU | CEO, MERCOM CAPITAL

Prabhu said. Debt financing also hit a decade high, and venture capital investments and public market financing recorded the second-highest amount since 2010, he said.

The global VC and private equity funding in the solar sector in 2023 came in strong at \$6.9 billion, just 1 per cent lower than the \$7 billion raised in 2022.

In India, Husk Power Systems, a solar microgrids operator, se-

cured \$43 million in the series D funding round, while Freyr Energy, a rooftop installation for residential and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) company in India raised \$7 million in series B funding.

Public market financing in 2023 totaled \$7.4 billion, 45 per cent higher than the \$5.1 billion in 2022.

In 2023, the announced debt financing stood at \$20 billion, 67 per cent higher compared to \$12 billion in 2022 and the highest amount raised since 2010.

In the debt financing segment, Husk Power Systems secured \$60 million in debt from several finance institutions, including the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in India.

RAHUL, JADEJA OUT OF SECOND TEST, WHILE LONG WAIT ENDS FOR SARFARAZ

Double blow for India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Jan 29: India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and batter KL Rahul were Monday ruled out of the second Test against England, dealing a body blow to the hosts after a shock loss in the series opener here.

Jadeja sustained a hamstring injury while going for a quick single Sunday while Rahul complained of pain in his right quadriceps. Worryingly, Rahul had also injured his right thigh while fielding in the IPL in May last year and that required a surgery, keeping him out of the game for four months.

"Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul have been ruled out of the second IDFC First Bank Test against



India slip to fifth in WTC rankings

Dubai: India have dropped to fifth behind Bangladesh in the World Test Championship standings after their shock 28-run defeat to England in the first Test in Hyderabad. India were briefly on top after drawing the two-Test series South Africa before being overtaken by Australia following their victory over Pakistan. Rohit Sharma's men have suffered in terms of accumulated percentage points, going down from 54.16 after the South Africa series to 43.33 currently. The rare defeat at home took Rohit Sharma's side down to fifth spot in the latest WTC rankings headed by Australia with 55 percentage points. India currently have 43.33 percentage points in their kitty. Australia's sensational eight-run defeat to the West Indies in Brisbane Sunday did not have much impact on them as they continued to lead the WTC rankings. South Africa, New Zealand and Bangladesh - all with 50 percentage points - are at second, third and fourth spots. Below India are Pakistan, West Indies, England and Sri Lanka.

of Rajat Patidar, who was already part of the 15, making his debut in Vizag are higher.

With Sundar being drafted into the Test, Saransh Jain has been named as his replacement in the India 'A' squad for the third and final multi-day game against England Lions starting on Thursday in Ahmedabad.

"Avesh Khan will continue to travel with his Ranji Trophy team, Madhya Pradesh and will join the Test squad if required," the released added.

Updated Squad: Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer, KS Bharat (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Avesh Khan, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Washington Sundar, Sourabh Kumar.

sure after losing only their fourth Test at home since 2013.

Both Rahul and Jadeja had made significant contributions in the first Test before England staged a remarkable comeback to win the game by 28 runs and go 1-0 up in the five-match series. Jadeja snapped up five wickets and made 87 in the first innings while Rahul scored 86.

Jadeja's all-round abilities are invaluable to the team. Off-spinner Sundar, who has shown a

lot of promise in his four-Test old career, could replace Jadeja in the playing eleven.

Ever since making his comeback from injury in the Asia Cup in September, Rahul has displayed stellar form in the ODI and Test format. Keeping wickets in the ODI World Cup and more recently in the Test series in South Africa added to his workload.

Though Sarfaraz has got a well-deserved call-up, the chances

India's loss wake-up call: Hussain



MOMENT OF RECKONING: England players begin celebrations after the dismissal of Mohammed Siraj to secure a memorable win in Hyderabad Sunday as Jasprit Bumrah looks skyward in agony

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Jan 29: The Hyderabad Test loss should serve as wake-up call for India that England's 'Bazball' strategy is effective on slow tracks as well, according to former captain Nasser Hussain.

Since embracing Bazball, England are yet to lose a Test series and they fashioned a memorable 28-run win after conceding a massive 190-run first innings lead in the opening Test against India.

"India will probably rue their first innings. They got 436 but actually they could have got a lot more if not for some sloppy dismissals. They will come back. They are a very fine side and history tells you it will be tough for England here," Hussain wrote in his column for 'Sky Sports'.

"But it is a wake-up call for India as England have shown Bazball can work in these conditions," he said, referring to England's ultra-aggressive approach under head coach Brendon McCullum.

Chasing 231 for victory, the Indian batters failed to put up a

PRESSURE ON SHUBMAN GILL

Hyderabad: Former India captain Anil Kumble feels that the embattled Shubman Gill has been given the kind of "cushion" that veteran Cheteshwar Pujara never got and the young batter needs to make it count in the second Test against England or risk being under tremendous pressure. The 24-year-old Gill has not scored a half century in his last 11 Test innings. "He (Gill) has been given the cushion perhaps even a Cheteshwar Pujara didn't get, although he (Pujara) has played over a 100 Tests," Kumble said on 'JioCinema'. "I keep coming back to him (Pujara) mainly because that was his place (No 3) not too long ago. Pujara played in that World Test Championship final and post that, it's been Shubman Gill, who's been moving from the opener's slot, and he himself wanted to bat at No.3." Kumble said the youngster needs to work on his mindset and also adjust his technique slightly for the second Test starting February 2.

fight in the fourth innings. "It shows they (England) have great self-belief. They have great belief in the way they are playing the game and do things their own way. They don't worry about outside noise, that other people would have selected other cricketers, that people thought they should have had warm-up matches.

"What I like about them is their stubbornness. If you doubt them, they'll double down on it and go even more stubborn. I think that is a good thing because if you're constantly listening to all the noise, all that's

written and said, you flicker from one theory to another," Hussain wrote.

England vice-captain Pope embodied 'Bazball' as he swept, reverse-swept and reverse-scooped deliveries with the formidable India spin trio of R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel looking clueless in the second innings.

"They faced a 190-run deficit in the first innings but, against the (high-quality) spinners in the opposition, Ollie Pope then played one of the truly remarkable innings we have ever witnessed," said the former England skipper.

SHORT TAKES India in quarters

Muscat: Maninder Singh struck four goals as India mauled Jamaica 13-0 in their third and final pool match to enter the quarterfinals of the FIH Hockey5s men's World Cup here Monday. Maninder scored twice in the second minute and once each in the 28th and 29th minutes, all field goals. Manjeet (5th, 24th), Raheel Mohammed (16th, 27th) and Mandeeep Mor (23rd, 27th) struck a brace each while Uttam Singh (5th), Rajbhar Pawan (9th) and Gurjot Singh (14th) were the other scorers. The Indian team had defeated Switzerland before losing to Egypt in their opening two Pool B matches Sunday. However, the victory against Jamaica has confirmed India's quarterfinal berth.

Win eludes Gukesh

Wijk Aan Zee (The Netherlands): Grandmaster D Gukesh endured a heartbreak in the final tie-breaker against Wei Yi of China and had to be content with a joint second place finish at the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament here. Indian Grandmaster Leon Luke Mendonca, however, won the challengers section, defeating compatriot Divya Deshmukh in the 13th and final round. Gukesh had to win the 13th round game against Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran and then prove superior in three tie-break games against last year's winner Anish Giri to qualify for the final. Once there, the Indian raised visions of winning the tournament but Wei Yi was simply better in the return game after drawing the first.

Lautaro lifts Inter

Milan: It seems as if no one can stop Inter Milan or Lautaro Martinez. The Argentina World Cup winner scored again Sunday to help Inter win 1-0 at Fiorentina, who had a penalty saved. Inter moved back to the top of Serie A and with a game in hand, after their involvement in the Italian Super Cup in Saudi Arabia. Simone Inzaghi's side leapfrogged a point above second-placed Juventus, who were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Empoli Saturday. Inter host Juventus next Sunday in a mouthwatering match at San Siro. Lazio and title holders Napoli played out a tense goalless draw in the other match.

'Head of State' security in Islamabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Jan 29: A bomb disposal squad will sanitise the Islamabad Sports Complex every morning, and two escort vehicles will shadow the Indian Davis Cup team during its travel as part of multi-layer security arrangement, which is usually accorded to the Head of State, to ensure the visiting tennis players' safety and security.

The national Indian tennis team have travelled to Pakistan for the first time in 60 years, and naturally, the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) does not want to compromise on the security aspect.

Mostly, the Indian players will be restricted to the venue and the hotel and it could well prove to be a bit stifling, though safe. The PTF is following the security plan that has been approved by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

"Since an Indian team has come to Pakistan after 60 years, we are taking extra precaution. There are four to five layers of security around the Indian team. I, as event security manager, is with them during travel," Col Gul Rehman, who is the secretary general of PTF, told PTI.



Indian team at Islamabad Sports Complex ahead of the Davis Cup tie against Pakistan in Islamabad

The Indian contingent, that has five players, two physios and two AITA officials, arrived in Islamabad on Sunday night. "Escort vans are with the team during travel time, and they enter the hotel from the VVIP entry, which is reserved for Head of State. Bomb disposal squads sanitised the venue in the morning, and no one will be allowed to enter the venue. It will be a drill that will be followed through-

out the tie," he said. "Islamabad is one of the safest cities in Asia. And since general elections are approaching, security is already tight. Then there is air surveillance, there are around 10,000 cameras deployed in the city. There will be no compromise on safety and security of the Indian players," he said.

The teams of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), Islamabad Police, traffic police, and others are on

the job. "It's an honour not just for the PTF but also for Pakistan to host the Indian team. We believe in sports diplomacy," Rehman said.

Aqeel Khan, one of the finest tennis players from Pakistan, said that his friends in the rival camp should explore the city, if they are comfortable. While the Indian team is largely relaxed, it was clear that the players would stay alert.

Sonam wins silver on ISSF World Cup debut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Jan 29: Debutant Sonam Maskar bagged a silver medal for India in the women's 10m air rifle event of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup here.

Competing in her maiden World Cup, Sonam shot 252.1 in the eight-woman final, finishing 0.9 behind Germany's Anna Janssen at the Egypt International Olympic City Shooting range late Sunday. Poland's Aneta Stankiewicz took home the bronze.

Earlier, Divyansh Singh Panwar had struck gold in the men's event with a world record score in the final. India is now firmly on the top of the season-opening World Cup stage with two gold and three silver medals



in their kitty after three days of competition.

Two Indians, Sonam and Nancy had made the final after shooting scores of 632.7 and 633.1 to finish the 60-shot qualification round in fifth and fourth spots respectively.

Dean Elgar recalls Kohli's spitting incident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cape Town, Jan 29: Former South Africa skipper Dean Elgar has claimed that star India batter Virat Kohli "spat at him" during a Test match and apologised two years later after being confronted by his Royal Challengers Bangalore teammate AB de Villiers.

Without mentioning the series in which the incident took place, speculated to be South Africa's tour of India in 2015, Elgar agreed on a podcast that he had showdowns with Kohli and R Ashwin. "All the time," Elgar said on 'Banter with The Boys' podcast sitting alongside former South African all-rounder Chris Morris and rugby player Jean de Villiers. Elgar then said, "In India... Those wickets were jokes."

"And I came into bat and I was actually like holding my own against Ashwin and what's his



name Jajeja... ja-ja-jajeja, ('Jajeja', said someone in the background) and Kohli, he like spat at me," Elgar said.

"I said to him, 'if you do that, I'll f*****g *** you with this bat,'" Elgar claimed. "Did he understand that word?" asked the podcast host referring to the beeped out word. Yes, he did because (AB) de Villiers was his teammate at RCB so he understood. I said

"if you do that, I'll absolutely knock you out," Elgar claimed.

The former South African opener said after De Villiers found out about the incident, he took up the matter with his good friend and RCB teammate. Elgar did not specify when exactly De Villiers discussed the incident with Kohli.

"Anyway, so, realised that De Villiers found out what he did and went up to him and said 'bud,

why are you spitting at my teammate bud? That's not on" and two years later, he (Kohli) calls me aside playing (in) South Africa and said 'can we go have a drink at the end of the series?'"

"I want to just apologise for my actions'. Two years later in South Africa, he says he wants to apologise for what he did. We had a drink, (the) punchline is we drank till 3 am in the morning. This is when he used to drink, now he is obviously converted a bit," Elgar added.

When asked how was his experience playing his final Test for South Africa against the likes of Kohli and Ashwin, Elgar replied, "awesome." Kohli apparently did not celebrate after taking a catch off Elgar's bat in his final Test innings at Cape Town in December 2023 and hugged the South African as he returned to the pavilion. Kohli even gave one of his Test jerseys to the Proteas player.

Rajesh fifer complements Sandeep ton as Odisha win

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 29: Rajesh Mohanty bagged his third five-wicket haul in four innings this season complementing Sandeep Pattnaik's 150-run masterclass to help Odisha register their first win in the ongoing Ranji Trophy 2024.

After setting up a 388-run target for Himachal Pradesh, courtesy Sandeep, Odisha rode on Rajesh's splendid spell (5/33) to hand Himachal Pradesh a 238-run defeat at the DRIEMS Ground in Banki, Monday.

Resuming the day at 33/1, Himachal lost one of their overnight pair - Abhishek Kumar (12) - in the first hour of play with Debabrata Pradhan (1/39) being the wicket-taker.

The other overnight batter Prashant Chopra (57, 122b, 5x4), however, played watchfully alongside his skipper Ankit Kalsi (27) to guide his team past 100. But once Kalsi was dismissed off Harshit Rathod (1/13), it all went downward for the visitors.

Prashant too followed his skipper into the pavilion shortly when he edged one to wicket-keeper Aasirwad Swain off a



Biplab Samantray (2/25) delivery. From then on, Himachal kept on losing wickets at regular intervals to be bowled out for 149 with Rajesh getting the next five wickets. Sumil Roul (1/28) dismissed experienced Rishi Dhawan to wrap up the match and seal the win for Odisha.

BRIEF SCORES
Odisha 138 & 425/8d beat Himachal Pradesh 176 & 149 (Prashant Chopra 57, Ankit Kalsi 27; Rajesh Mohanty 5/33, Biplab Samantray 2/25) by 238 runs.