



NEW LEADER
Actor Shamita Shetty has been chosen as the captain of the Bigg Boss 15 house



GREAT ACHIEVEMENT
In a medical first, US doctors transplanted a pig heart into a human patient in a last-ditch effort to save his life



VIRAT PROPS INDIA
Virat Kohli plays a captain's innings before India were bowled out for 223 in the first innings of the third SA Test

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Tata to replace Vivo as IPL title sponsor
New Delhi: One of India's largest business conglomerates, the Tata Group, will replace Chinese mobile manufacturer Vivo as the Indian Premier League's (IPL's) title sponsor from this year, the event's governing council decided in a meeting Tuesday. "Yes, Tata group is coming in as IPL title sponsor," IPL chairman Brijesh Patel confirmed the development. The money associated with the deal is yet to be known and a Tata spokesperson, while confirming the development with a "yes", didn't divulge further details. Vivo had a deal of Rs2,200 crore for title sponsorship rights from 2018-2022 but after the 2020 Galwan Valley face-off between Indian and Chinese soldiers, the brand took a break for a year with Dream11 replacing it in the IPL.

Lata Mangeshkar contracts Covid
Mumbai: Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar has tested positive for COVID-19 with mild symptoms and is undergoing treatment at a city hospital here, her niece said Tuesday. The 92-year-old, also known as the Nightingale of India, was admitted to the ICU of Breach Candy hospital two days ago. "She is mild COVID positive. Considering her age, doctors advised us that she should be in the ICU because she requires constant care. And we cannot take a chance. As a family we want the best and want to ensure she has 24x7 care," Mageshkar's niece Rachna said. "She will be fine. But she is going to take a while because of her age," she added.

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL
I'm happy that corona restrictions are back before elections. I couldn't even imagine entering my constituency without a mask!

5-phase rural polls from Feb 16

The model code of conduct throughout the state has come into force today and will remain till February 28



POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: The State Election Commission (SEC) Tuesday announced that panchayat polls will be held in five phases beginning February 16, amid strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols. Addressing a presser here, State Election Commissioner Aditya Prasad Padhi said elections will be held in five phases February 16, 18, 20, 22 and 24. Counting of votes and declaration of results will be done at the block level February 26, 27 and 28.

Padhi said indirect elections for the posts of naib sarpanch, panchayat samiti chairperson and Zilla Parishad president will be done March 11, 12 and 13, respectively. The election for panchayat samiti vice-chairperson and Zilla Parishad vice-president will be conducted March 23 and 25, he informed. The model code of conduct issued by the SEC has come into force today and will remain till February 28 throughout the state, the commissioner said. In view of Covid-19 situation, no election rally, public meeting, road show, padayatra

and procession will be allowed. Only door-to-door campaigns will be allowed with maximum participation of five persons, said Padhi.

BALLOT BASICS

- Polls will be held February 16, 18, 20, 22 and 24
- Counting at block level February 26, 27 and 28
- Over 2.79 cr voters to exercise their franchise
- No political rally or victory procession allowed
- Door-to-door campaign with 5 persons allowed

I-T returns deadline extended to March 15
New Delhi: The government has extended the deadline for filing income tax (IT) returns to March 15, according to a notification issued by the department of revenue of the finance ministry. The last date for filing returns was December 31, 2021. The IT department also tweeted about the extension of return filing deadline. The deadline has been extended due to difficulties being faced by the taxpayers because of the Coronavirus situation, the notification said, adding that it has also been done due to problems being faced while e-filing of various audit reports under the provisions of the Income Tax Act 1961.

ACTOR MIHIR DAS NO MORE 1959-2022

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar/Cuttack, Jan 11: Popular Odia film actor Mihir Das Tuesday passed away while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Cuttack, his family members said. He was 63. He was hospitalised after suffering a mild heart attack in December 2021. Das was on ventilator support over last few days. He was suffering from kidney-related ailments over past few years. In a career spanning over three decades, Das had won many awards including the best actor awards for his performance in 'Laxmi Protima' in 1998, 'Pheria Mo Suna Bhaumi' in 2005 and 'Bheje Matira Swarga' in 2019. His acting in 'Pua Mora Bholashankar' had brought him to the limelight. Das also received the best comedian award for 'Mu Tate Love Karuchi' in 2007 and the best supporting actor award for 'Prema Adhei Akhyara' in 2010. He was also a popular anchor in socially relevant programmes on TV channels. Condolences poured in from various quarters as report of his untimely demise emerged. Das will be cremated Wednesday with full state honours. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said "I am saddened to learn of the death of veteran actor Mihir Das. The impression he left behind in the Oriya art world will forever immortalise him. His demise is an irreparable loss to the Oriya art world. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wish them well. Das was born in Mayurbhanj 17 February 1959. He married singer and film artiste Sangita Das who died in 2010. She was the daughter of famous Odia singer, Chitta Jena. Mihir Das and Sangita Das have two sons. He debuted in the Odia film industry with 'Ramayan' in 1980. Obit Pg 2

SPEWING FIRE



The man portable anti-tank guided missile being flight-tested by DRDO, Tuesday

Another City vendor kills self

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Another street vendor evicted from the Market Building area following a trader-vendor tussle, Tuesday ended his life by hanging in his house in Badagada area here. The incident took place barely 48 hours after the suicide of a fellow vendor, Ajit Sahni, who sold sundry textile items at Market Building taking loans from private sources, at Tankapani area Sunday. The deceased was identified as Subash Pandit from Samastipur district of Bihar. Pandit had moved here along with his family in search of livelihood around 25 years ago. He made a living as a roadside vendor and sold plastic items before Bazar Kolkata at Market Building in Unit-II area here. Pandit had received a street vendors' card issued by the Bhubaneswar Municipality

HIGHEST NUMBER OF SUICIDES BY BIZMEN
An annual report on 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India' by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) revealed poor condition of businessmen in Odisha. The report revealed that as many as 753 persons engaged in businesses lost their lives during Covid-19-hit 2020. Odisha was among the top five states with the highest number of suicides committed by businessmen in the country in 2020. MORE P3

Govt to get 35.8% stake in Vodafone
Post stake sale, the govt will become the biggest shareholder in the firm which is reeling from a 1.95 lakh crore debt burden. Pandit had recently shifted his business to Market Building after getting evicted from Ram Mandir area. However, the clash again left him in the lurch. He had reportedly taken several loans from various sources like financial companies, women SHGs and private money lenders. He recently bought a motor cycle by taking a loan from a private company. Reeling from debt burden, Pandit Tuesday morning hanged himself with a rope from a ceiling fan in his room when his wife was in bathroom. Upon hearing the scream, his wife called locals who cut the rope and rushed Pandit to Capital Hospital where he succumbed. Notably, Sahni, who sold a variety of textile items like bed-sheets, pillow and sofa covers at Market Building area too ended his life in a similar manner. He was also under a severe debt burden.

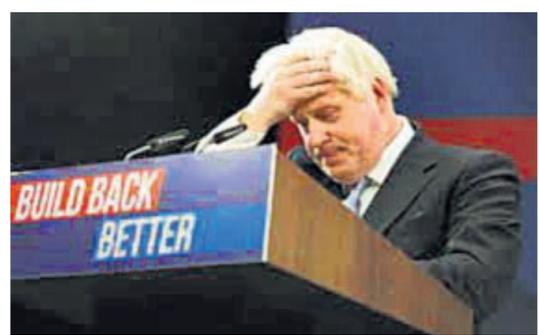
MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	60616.89	↑ 221.26
NIFTY	18055.80	↑ 52.50
DOLLAR	74.57	↓ ₹0.13
EURO	83.76	↑ ₹0.60
GOLD	₹47,539	↑ ₹84
SILVER	₹60,817	↑ ₹150

British PM under fire over 'bring your own booze' party

Downing Street party during a 2020 Christmas lockdown. Revelations about a series of parties in Downing Street have garnered popular derision, prompting quips from comedians and criticism by opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer who said Johnson lacked the moral authority to lead the country. Johnson and his partner Carrie were among those who gathered with about 40 staff in the garden of Downing Street May 20, 2020, after the PM's Principal Private Secretary Martin Reynolds sent an invite by email, ITV reported. "After what has been an incredibly busy period we thought it would be nice to make the most of the lovely weather and have some socially distanced drinks in the No10 garden this evening," Reynolds said in the email, ITV reported. "Please join us from 6pm and bring your own booze!" At the time of the gathering, schools were shut to most pupils, and pubs and restaurants were closed, with strict controls on social mixing. So strict were the rules at the time, that police prosecuted people for having parties, erected random checkpoints in some areas and in Derbyshire, central England, used drones to monitor beauty spots. Johnson's office declined to comment on the ITV report. A senior government official Sue Gray is currently investigating the allegations of at least five parties held in government departments last year during lockdown restrictions. Edward Argar, a junior health minister, said he understood the hurt that media reports about Downing Street parties would give. "I can understand the hurt that these reports, these allegations, will have caused, particularly for those who've lost loved ones," Argar told Sky News. "It wouldn't be appropriate... for me to comment on those ongoing conversations or her ongoing investigation. We've got to give a space to conclude that investigation."

Johnson, who won a landslide victory in a 2019 election, has faced intense scrutiny over the past month after a video emerged showing his staff laughing and joking about a 2020 Christmas lockdown. Johnson, who won a landslide victory in a 2019 election, has faced intense scrutiny over the past month after a video emerged showing his staff laughing and joking about a



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WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	29.0°C	28.5°C
MIN	17.4°C	16.4°C
Humidity	87%	92%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light to moderate rain

leisure



SHAMITA NEW CAPTAIN OF BB HOUSE

Shamita Shetty has been chosen as the captain of the Big Boss 15 house. She is also the new VIP contestant. The non-VIP contestants Pratik Sehajpal, Abhijeet Bichukale, Nishant Bhat, Rashami Desai and Devoleena Bhattacharjee had to decide the new captain of the house.

NUSHRRATT RETURNS IN CHHORII SEQUEL

Nushrratt Bharuccha has been locked for the sequel of Vishal Furia's Chhorii. The actress will be returning to play the lead role as Sakshi in the sequel. The first film was based on the struggles of a pregnant couple moving into a new house with a paranormal presence.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Old, fond memories will define your mood today, which will show up in the manner in which you deal with work, where your mellow side will be visible to others. You are also circumspect with money and tend towards saving it. Ganesh says people dealing in cash and money-lenders will benefit.

TAURUS
You may find yourself compromising against your will today, predicts Ganesh. Stand strong despite things going awry instead of feeling disillusioned due to poor results. Ongoing negotiations might come to a logical end and a few important decisions are likely to be delayed due to lack of proper information.

GEMINI
You have been ignoring a few problems that have been plaguing your family members for quite some time now. It's time you looked into the matter, says Ganesh. Respective of how difficult the challenges are, today you will emerge victorious.

CANCER
It is about time that you cultivated healthy eating habits. Today, you will be prone to doing everything in excess. You may overeat or get swept away by emotions. You must keep a check on your emotions, or it may lead to unwanted complications.

LEO
You sure love playing a team sport, but that does not diminish the fact that you are a tough player to compete with, says Ganesh. If only they had a rugby team at the local club! You derive a sense of completion from the fact that you have given your best effort to any endeavour.

VIRGO
Money matters will hit a major snag today, says Ganesh. Let your mind overrule your heart. Take extreme care of personal belongings, legal responsibilities and new ventures with long-term effects in mind.

LIBRA
It's a day of reaching new heights when it comes to finances. The cosmos favours moneylenders and stock marketeers. Call it the special touch that you give to all transactions monetary, but today you have the uncanny knack of raking in the moolah from all sources. Sit back and see your tenacity multiply your fortunes, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
It is more than likely that you will be in high spirits today, says Ganesh. All your energy and exuberance may not yield expected results. That is no reason to lose heart though. Keep up the effort from your end and you will eventually taste success in the days to come.

SAGITTARIUS
Your business is all set to expand with you making the most of your overseas contacts. Effective communication skills will help you sail through your tasks. And you are making all the right moves to become the leader of your pack.

CAPRICORN
Success never comes easy, but in your case, it will make an exception, says Ganesh. You will meet with success in social as well as professional life, and this will also make heavy your treasure box. At work, prepare to get loaded with new assignments and simultaneously deal with existing work pressure. But it won't be as fatiguing as it sounds; evening recreations will charge you up for the next day.

AQUARIUS
You have already fulfilled your short-term objectives. But you are ambitious, and straightaway begin setting your long-term goals. But all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, says Ganesh.

PISCES
For those in the creative fields of marketing or advertising, today is an extraordinary opportunity to tweak your marketing mix into bringing in maximum profits with bare minimum efforts. Your health interests will also take priority now, and you will find yourself spending more time in the gym, says Ganesh.

Mihir Magic lives on



The journey that began with Govind Tej's 'Ramayana' in 1980 came to an end with 'Only Pyaar' in 2018



Mihir Das, one of the most versatile actors to have graced the Odia entertainment industry, is no more. His colleagues and juniors from film, television and jatra industries who thronged his place to pay their last respects were unanimous in their views that Mihir's exit marked the end of an era. But what exactly was his era and what was that magic he wielded on the viewers for nearly four decades? In 2020, we lost some good actors like Bijoy Mohanty and Ajit Das. But how different Mihir was from his two predecessors? The answer is not quite difficult to get. It is right there in the condolence posts that haven't stopped pouring in after his death. Be it industry veteran Prashanta Nanda, young Sabyasachi Mishra or senior actress Anu Choudhury, all are of the view that he could seamlessly get into the skin of any character tasked

I consider myself unsuccessful and don't know if I can ever call myself successful. I am unable to appreciate my performances even today. I always feel something is amiss
MIHIR DAS IN AN OLD INTERVIEW

to him. Be it romance, comedy, negative or character roles, the audience used to identify with the characters he portrayed and love him in all his avatars. He was a powerhouse of talent who set the benchmark for generations to come, said a few of them. He played a simpleton in *Pua Mora Bhola Shankara*, a dreaded villain in *Abhimanyu*, a comedian in *Je Panche*



With Hindi film actor Rajpal Yadav

Para Manda and garnered viewers' acceptance in all films, he appeared in. But one key factor that etched him immense success was his hunger for excellence. Even after working in more than 150 films, he always believed that his best was yet to come.

Mihir, a couple of years ago in an interview said, "I am not really in sync with all that I have done as an actor: I consider myself unsuccessful and don't know if I can ever call myself successful. I am unable to appreciate my performances even today. I always feel something is amiss."

The Baripada-born actor was attracted to theatre when he was very young. After joining Ravenshaw University (then college), he developed an inclination towards acting when he met actor Hemanta Das. While doing his intermediate, he was selected to play a father's role to his seniors in a famous play *All My Sons*. He won an award which was handed over to him by famous film director Govind Tej who signed him for the role of Shatrughna for *Ramayana*, Mihir's first film.

He believed that the eagerness to fight with fire eventually brings success. This is perhaps the attitude that made him act in some of the memorable movies of his career in last few years of his life despite losing a kidney.

'One more pillar collapsed'
Senior actor Uttam Mohanty said his association with Mihir Das began from his first movie *Ramayan* which continued till the end. "In between we worked in Bengali movies also. I was very close to him since we belong to Baripada. After Ajit Das, Bijoy Mohanty, one more pillar of the industry has collapsed. I am short of words to describe the loss," said the *Suna Chadhei* actor.

'Big responsibility was on his shoulder'
Like many in the industry, actor-turned-politician Prashanta Nanda was also crestfallen at the loss. "Mihir was more than 10 years younger to me and used to call me 'bhaina'. But since he married to my friend Chitta Jena's daughter Ani, he was like my son-in-law. A big responsibility was on his shoulder to guide the youngsters of the Odia film industry. His colleagues and the upcoming actors will certainly miss his guidance," lamented Nanda.

'A consummate actor sans an acting degree'
Mihir Das was a consummate actor though he didn't secure a degree in acting, says co-actor Asrumochan Mohanty. "Though Mihir Das and I were of same age, I used to address him 'bhai'. But he always insisted me to treat him as a friend. He was very fond of me as I was an alumnus of Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya. He enjoyed doing acting and made his co-stars enjoy their acting too. Sharing screen with him was a kind of amusement for me. Exit of a veteran like him is an irreparable loss for Odia cine industry," said Asru.

COLLEAGUES MOURN
AKASH DAS NAYAK : One needs the blessings of god to become an actor and to become a Mihir Das an actor needs special blessings. He was one of the few actors who couldn't be tied in certain images. My heartfelt condolences to his family.
KUNA TRIPATHY: I know him from my theatre days and he always treated me as a family member. He was a versatile actor and has done many notable roles which will keep him alive in public memory for a long time
SABYASACHI MISHRA: The film industry has become poorer with the exit of Mihir Das. The biggest quality in him was his commitment. He used to work in multiple films but he has never failed in his commitment which made him one of the most-loved artistes.
JHILIK BHATTACHARJEE: I made my debut opposite his son Amlan in *Target* while he motivated my parents to let me join movies. I will cherish the moments spent with him throughout my life
BUDHADITYA MOHANTY: The industry has lost a legend and our generation lost a big brother. His name is Mihir means Sun and he will always be alive in the hearts of cine lovers like a sun.
ARCHITA SAHOO: He had something to offer to all actors irrespective of age brackets. He encouraged me a lot when I entered the industry. Be it dialogue delivery or anything related to acting, he never retreated from helping his co-stars. He will be missed dearly
PARTHA SARTHI RAY: It's extremely disturbing and disappointing news. He's a legendary actor who's irreplaceable.



Being fed by his daughter-in-law Bhoomika



Receiving the last State Film Award of his life



With family

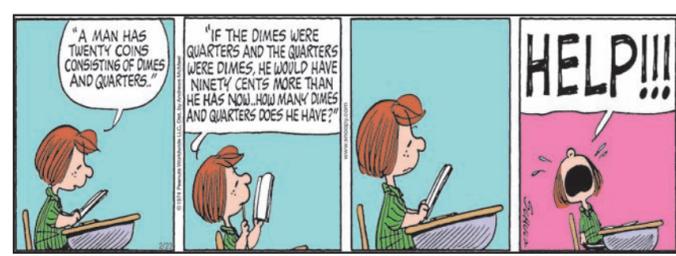


At the premier of his son Amlan's first movie *Target*



With his fans at a photo exhibition

PEANUTS



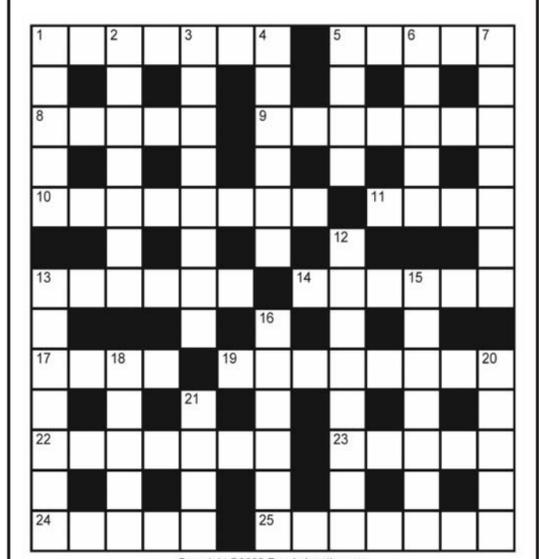
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
1 Ladies' man
5 Wizardry
8 African antelope
9 Unoriginal work
10 Explosive compound
11 Hero type
13 Meagre
14 Fingers
17 Globes
19 Temple of the gods
22 Frenzied
23 Sacrifice site
24 Piquant
25 Polliwog
Down
1 Common beet
2 Postscripts
3 Make the most of
4 Scarcity
5 Mongrel
6 Avarice
7 Pamperers
12 Type of dog or pony
13 Movies, TV, etc.
15 Musical master
16 Loud noise
18 Zingers
20 Audacity
21 Just say no

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.

2		5				8		
	1	2	9					
		8		6		7		
	4	7						
1				8		9	5	
		9						
				3	4			
		6						2
8	2							5
								6

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

M	U	T	T	V	E	N	G	E	F	U	L
U	A	A	L	I	A	I					
S	Y	N	O	N	Y	M	V	I	R	A	L
I	G	D	E		E	M	R	A	L		
C	L	O	S	E	G	R	A	I	N	E	D
I	S	A	N	R	A						
A	R	C	S	I	V	E	S	S	U	V	E
N	A	S	E	S							
E	L	E	V	E	N	T	H	O	U	R	
A	T	L	E	A	L	S					
O	T	O	L	L	M	A	R	T	I	N	I
H	U	T	U	K	V	O					
U	N	S	T	E	A	D					

SUDOKU

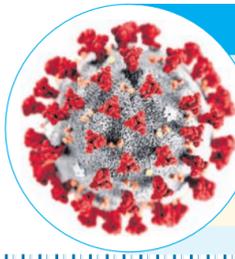
6	7	1	3	8	2	5	4	9
2	8	5	1	4	9	6	7	3
4	9	3	5	7	6	1	8	2
5	6	9	4	2	3	7	1	8
8	3	4	6	1	7	9	2	5
7	1	2	8	9	5	4	3	6
1	2	7	9	5	8	3	6	4
9	4	6	2	3	1	8	5	7
3	5	8	7	6	4	2	9	1

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



ILLEGAL PARKING

Bikes parked on a road near the Unit I market in Bhubaneswar being taken to the police station, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	31,15,68,937	26,09,11,656	55,15,406
India	3,58,75,790	3,45,70,131	4,84,213
Odisha	10,82,769	10,47,783	8,469

BILATERAL ISSUES

1st CS level talks held between Odisha, AP

THE MEETING ENDED WITH AN ENCOURAGING NOTE AS BOTH SIDES COULD UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES FROM EACH OTHER'S PERSPECTIVES THROUGH DISCUSSIONS, SAID AN OFFICIAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: The first Chief Secretary level meeting between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh was held Tuesday for mutual discussion over outstanding bilateral issues.

The meeting was held as per the decisions taken in the meeting between Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik with his Andhra Pradesh counterpart YS Jagan Mohan Reddy November 9 last year.

Odisha Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, AP Chief Secretary Sameer Sharma, and senior officials of concerned departments of both the states attended the meeting held in virtual mode.

Major problems regarding interstate transportation, road connectivity, filling of the teachers' posts in Odia and Telugu medium schools and colleges operating in both the states, and setting up of Odia language chair in BR Ambedkar University at Srikakulam and Telugu language chair in Berhampur University were mutually agreed to be carried forward.

Mahapatra highlighted the need for road communication to



UNDISPUTED BORDER AREA WILL BE DEMARCATED

Andhra Pradesh agrees to construct five roads to Swabhimana Anchal from its side

Machkund joint hydro electric project would be examined by project administration committee

Swabhimana Anchal from AP side. He said the area was well connected through Gurupriya Setu and the Maoist issues were curtailed significantly from the Odisha side. Road communication from AP side would add to ending the problem of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in the area, he said. Andhra Chief Secretary welcomed the proposal and agreed to construct five major roads from their side.

Further, Mahapatra made it clear

that the joint demarcation committee of both the states at district-level would demarcate the border area where maps were clear and not under dispute.

It was further decided at the meeting that issues relating to the Machkund joint hydro-electric project would be examined by the Project Administration Committee (PAC) under the co-chairmanship of the secretaries of Energy departments of both the states.

The PAC meeting would be convened shortly for carrying forward three small hydro-electric projects (SHEP) namely Balimela Dam Toe, Japaput SHEP, and Lower Machkund SHEP.

The matter relating to the issue of no objection certificates (NOCs) from both the states for pump storage projects taking water from the reservoirs was discussed in the meeting.

Odisha Chief Secretary further said that the certificates should be issued keeping in view the water share of each state as per the mutual agreement.

Managing Directors of Orissa State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) and APSRTC would meet shortly for finalising the terms and conditions of reciprocal transport agreement between two states.

The meeting also resolved that the technical committees of both states would deliberate the issues relating to the proposed projects under the Water Resources departments.

The meeting ended with an encouraging note as both sides could understand the issues from each other's perspectives through discussions, said an official.

Former minister & 5-time MLA Duryodhan Majhi dies at 83

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Former minister and five-time MLA Duryodhan Majhi has died here, his family said Tuesday. He was 83.

The condition of the prominent tribal leader, who was suffering from age-related ailments, worsened late Monday night and he was taken to a hospital, where doctors declared him 'brought dead', his son

Krushnasingh Majhi said. "Father's mortal remains will be taken to Nuapada district for his last rites," he said.

A five-time MLA from Khariar constituency in Nuapada district, Majhi resigned from the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in 2014 and won the seat on a BJD ticket in that year's polls. However, he did not contest the 2019 elections.

He had earlier won the seat as a Janata Dal candidate in 1990 and 1995 and on a BJD ticket in 2000 and 2004.

Condoling Majhi's demise, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik tweeted, "I am deeply saddened by the demise of former minister Duryodhan Majhi. He has rich contribution for the development of his area and the tribals. I extend my sympathies to the bereaved family members. May the departed soul rest in peace."



Body of SCB student found under Madhusudan bridge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 11: The body of a medical student, who was missing since Monday, was recovered under mysterious circumstances from beneath the Utkal Gourab Madhusudan Setu (bridge) in Cuttack Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Jagamohan Sethi, a final year post graduate (PG) student of surgery stream at the SCB Medical College and Hospital. Sethi hailed from Berhampur.

As per the initial information, Jagamohan was missing since Monday and his car was found abandoned on the bridge. Phase II police here have recovered his body and car.

The cause of Jagamohan's death is still not clear. According to sources, a forensic team found a syringe from the spot. It is suspected that he died by suicide after taking anaesthesia injection. The post-mortem report is expected to shed more light on the exact cause of his death.

Sources said that Jagmohan was staying in Mahanadi Vihar area of Cuttack along with his wife, a homemaker. Some fellow students claimed that he was under depression for the past couple of days, but said they have no clue about the reason for his depression.

It is suspected that he took the extreme step due to some family dispute. His body has been sent to SCB Medical for post-mortem.

Curbs, evictions hurt small traders

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: The death of two vendors in the city within 48 hours has exposed the worrying condition of small traders in the state due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic-induced lockdown and shut downs have left the poor small traders vulnerable.

The grim situation was also unraveled by the recently released annual report on 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India' of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The report revealed that as many as 753 persons engaged in businesses lost their lives during Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau report, Odisha was among the top five states with highest number of suicides by businessmen in the country in 2020

Odisha was among the top five states with highest number of suicides by businessmen in the country in 2020.

Compared to this, 326 traders had committed suicide for various reasons in 2018. The businessmen who

committed suicide came down significantly in 2019. As many as 5 traders had ended their lives in 2019 as compared to 326 in 2018.

The small traders usually avail loans from private lenders and local self-help groups (SHGs) at high rates of interest to run their business. The Covid-induced shut downs and lockdown forced them to close their business and forced many to end their lives due to penury.

Notably, two small vendors engaged in business at Market Building area in Bhubaneswar committed suicide after they were evicted due following a clash with local shop owners.

BMC orders closure of pvt swimming pools

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: With the surge in Covid-19 cases, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Tuesday ordered closure of swimming pools run by private operators under its jurisdiction to shut with immediate effect.

However, the civic body has allowed government-operated swimming pools, which are being used for the practice of sports persons, to operate with strict adherence to Covid protocols. The Covid-19 protocols have to be followed at the government-run swimming pools,

the BMC said in an order said.

It may be mentioned here that the state government has already issued a set of guidelines asking gymnasiums, spas, beauty parlours and saunas to operate between 5 AM and 9 PM, as fixed by the government.

Picnic in parks, nature clubs, beaches and other tourist spots are banned, according to the order. No cultural and dance programmes can be organised in hotels, parks, malls, convention centres and kalayan mandaps. Food courts and food plazas at malls have been allowed to open for 'take away' only.



Illegal sand mining is theft of govt revenue: NGT

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Jan 11: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Jajpur district administration to register a case against the persons responsible for illegal sand mining from Kharasrota river and observed that illegal sand mining is a theft of government revenue.

A bench of judicial member B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Saibal Dasgupta also asked the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) to file a compliance affidavit with regard to the computation of environmental compensation, royalty and other dues and recovery of the same from the violators.

"Mining of sand is not only a theft of government revenue inviting prosecution under the appropriate provisions of the IPC but also invites prosecution under the



TRIBUNAL ORDER

The NGT ordered for the registration of an FIR against persons involved in illegal sand mining from Kharasrota river in Jajpur as well as the beneficiaries of the illegally-mined sand

It asked the OSPCB to file a compliance affidavit on the computation of environmental compensation, royalty and other dues and recovery of the same from the violators

despite its direction for appropriate action against illegal sand miners.

Significantly, the order came in an application filed through advocate Sankar Prasad Pani alleging that some persons are carrying out illegal sand mining from Kharasrota river in Jajpur district and selling it to a company. The application also stated that transportation of the illegally-mined

sand has caused damage to the village road, river embankments and a bridge in the locality. The illegal sand mining has also led to huge revenue loss, said the application.

"Ecology of the area is stated to have been damaged and flow of the Kharasrota river is being disturbed causing threat to its embankments. Indiscriminate sand mining both in the designated places and other places in the river has already threatened the riverfront, caused soil erosion and changed the course of river," the application contended.

It further stated that illegal sand mining from Kharasrota riverbed in Vyasnagar Tehsil in Jajpur has caused serious environmental degradation and ecological impact. However, no environment impact assessment has ever taken place in areas earmarked for sand mining.

राजकी सं. डी.एल. - 33004/99 REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 17th December, 2021

S.O. 5285(E).-In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH16 in the stretch of land from Km. 117 to Km. 136.5 (Office of the Tahasildar, Bhadrak, At/Po/PS- Bhadrak, Dist- Bhadrak, Pin-756100, Odisha) in the district of BHADRAK in the state of ODISHA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Tahasildar, Bhadrak in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE
Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH16 in the stretch of land from Km. 117 to Km. 136.5 (Office of the Tahasildar, Bhadrak, At/Po/PS- Bhadrak, Dist- Bhadrak, Pin-756100, Odisha) in the district of BHADRAK in the State of ODISHA.

State: ODISHA			District: BHADRAK		
Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
Taluk: Bhadrak					
Village: Erei-141					
1	100	Private	Gharabari	0.1050000(Acre)	0.0424929
2	58	Private	Chaka	0.0250000(Acre)	0.0101174
3	59	Private	Chaka	0.0150000(Acre)	0.0060704
4	60	Private	Gharabari	0.0200000(Acre)	0.0080939
5	61	Private	Gharabari	0.0550000(Acre)	0.0222582
6	62	Government	Jalanisikasan Nala	0.0100000(Acre)	0.0040469
7	66	Private	Gharabari	0.1400000(Acre)	0.0566572
8	68	Private	Gharabari	0.0500000(Acre)	0.0202347
9	69	Private	Gharabari	0.0600000(Acre)	0.0242817
10	70	Private	Gharabari	0.0500000(Acre)	0.0202347
11	74	Private	Chaka	0.0150000(Acre)	0.0060704
12	75	Private	Gharabari	0.0500000(Acre)	0.0202347
13	76	Private	Gharabari	0.0700000(Acre)	0.0283286
14	81	Private	Gharabari	0.0060000(Acre)	0.0024282
15	87	Private	Chaka	0.0650000(Acre)	0.0263051
16	89	Private	Chaka	0.0800000(Acre)	0.0323756
Village: Jagannathpur-88					
1	803	Private	Gharabari	0.0100000(Acre)	0.0040469
2	804	Private	Sarada- II	0.0200000(Acre)	0.0080939
3	805	Private	Sarada- II	0.1000000(Acre)	0.0404695
4	822	Government	Jalasya-II	0.0400000(Acre)	0.0161878
5	823	Government	Adi	0.0200000(Acre)	0.0080939
6	824	Government	Jalasya-II	0.0300000(Acre)	0.0121408
7	826	Government	Jalasya-II	0.4900000(Acre)	0.1983003
8	832	Government	Nayanjori	0.1500000(Acre)	0.0607042
9	833	Government	Rasta	0.2500000(Acre)	0.1011736
10	834	Government	Nayanjori	0.1700000(Acre)	0.0687981
11	835	Private	Sarada- II	0.0300000(Acre)	0.0121408
Village: Kantapal-139					
1	101	Private	Sarada- I	0.0050000(Acre)	0.0020235
2	126	Private	Gharabari	0.0100000(Acre)	0.0040469
3	127	Private	Road	0.0400000(Acre)	0.0161878
4	132	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0060000(Acre)	0.0024282
5	141	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0150000(Acre)	0.0060704
6	142	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0300000(Acre)	0.0121408
7	17	Private	Gharabari	0.0800000(Acre)	0.0323756
8	17465	Private	Gharabari	0.0150000(Acre)	0.0060704
9	180	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0200000(Acre)	0.0080939
10	182	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0050000(Acre)	0.0020235
11	192	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0200000(Acre)	0.0080939
12	195	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0200000(Acre)	0.0080939
13	195/455	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0050000(Acre)	0.0020235
14	196	Government	Rasta	0.0200000(Acre)	0.0080939
15	198	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0100000(Acre)	0.0040469
16	198/441	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0050000(Acre)	0.0020235
17	26	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0200000(Acre)	0.0080939
18	27	Private	Sarada- II	0.0300000(Acre)	0.0121408
19	27/447	Private	Sarada- II	0.0040000(Acre)	0.0016188
20	33	Private	Sarada- II	0.0600000(Acre)	0.0242817
21	34	Government	Rasta	0.0300000(Acre)	0.0121408
22	35	Private	Gharabari- I	0.0100000(Acre)	0.0040469
23	35/370	Private	Gharabari	0.0100000(Acre)	0.0040469
24	5	Private	Gharabari	0.0700000(Acre)	0.0283286
25	78	Private	Sarada- I	0.0030000(Acre)	0.0012141
26	78/614	Private	Gharabari	0.0470000(Acre)	0.0190206
27	79	Private	Sarada- I	0.0300000(Acre)	0.0121408
28	79/398/620	Private	Gharabari- II	0.0300000(Acre)	0.0121408
29	79/619	Private	Sarada- I	0.0300000(Acre)	0.0121408
30	81	Private	Gharabari	0.0200000(Acre)	0.0080939
Village: Nalang-66					
1	1591	Private	Gharabari	0.0120000(Acre)	0.0048563
2	1592	Private	Sarada- II	0.1000000(Acre)	0.0404695
3	1592/2326	Private	Sarada- II	0.0750000(Acre)	0.0303521
Village: Naripur-89					
1	345	Government	Nayanjori	0.2000000(Acre)	0.0809389
2	429	Private	Gharabari	0.0300000(Acre)	0.0121408
Total				3.2430	1.3124

(F. No. NHA/BO/11012/58/2005/PL/LA/NH-16/3A)
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

ICAR-CIFA, KIIT-DU MoU for scientific knowledge extension

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) and the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, at KIIT Tuesday to make a new beginning of collaboration in science, technology and the extension of scientific knowledge from the lab to the land.

The ICAR-CIFA delegation was led by Director Saroj Kumar Swain while Vice Chancellor of KIIT-DU Sasmata Samanta was present at the event. The VC expressed her happiness over signing of the MoU with ICAR-CIFA. She reiterated that this collaboration will lead to the development of the public-private partnership (PPP) in exchanging research facilities as well as students and faculties.

Swain said that ICAR-CIFA is a premier and unique freshwater fisheries research institute under the aegis of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India. It has several cutting edge research and farm facilities in four divisions: aquaculture production and environment division, fish genetics and biotechnology division, fish health & management division, and fish nutrition and physiology division. There are 78 highly qualified and experienced scientists who are leading several national and international research projects and catering to the need of several stakeholders in the country.

Like KIIT-DU, ICAR-CIFA had previously signed MoUs with several universities and institutes of eminence within and outside Odisha to come up with the innovative ideas in solving the problems of the farmers and entrepreneurs of this country.

This collaboration will greatly benefit the MSc and PhD students as well as faculties of both institutes to access each other's facilities for their dissertation work and training. The research output will also help in enhancing the agricultural and aquacultural productivity.

Odisha sees 7,071 fresh cases in 24 hrs, highest in 7 months



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Odisha recorded 7,071 new Covid-19 cases Tuesday, a sharp rise of 46 per cent over the previous day and the biggest one-day spike in over seven months, the Health department said in a bulletin.

The tally climbed to 10.83 lakh with the latest infections, which include 707 children, a bulletin issued by the department said.

The state's daily test positivity

The state's death toll mounted to 8,469 with one more fatality reported from Bolangir district

rate jumped to 10.25 per cent from 6.5 per cent a day ago.

Odisha's death toll mounted to 8,469 with one more fatality reported from Bolangir district.

The coastal state had registered 7,395 single-day cases on June 5 last year.

It now has 27,216 active cases, while a total of 10.47 lakh patients have recovered from the disease so far. Since Monday, 69,018 samples have been tested for Covid-19, the bulletin said.



SETTING AN EXAMPLE

A motorcyclist sets example by masking up his pets and giving them a ride amid Covid scare, near Ram Mandir Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Next few weeks very crucial, says Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Amidst the resurgence of Covid in state, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday warned that next few weeks would be very crucial, while appealing people to be alert and strictly follow all Covid safety norms.

The third wave of Covid-19 is spreading rapidly across the country and in Odisha also, the infection rate is rapidly increasing, he said.

"Even though the hospitalisation rate in the third wave has remained very low, we have to be fully prepared for the future," said Naveen. Emphasising on the Covid vaccination programme, he advised the officials to expedite vaccination of those who have not been covered under the drive till now along with the second dose-due beneficiaries.

Govt bans congregations during Makar Sankranti

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: As the Covid-19 infection graph is moving up with each passing day in Odisha, the state government has prohibited congregations at riverbanks, ghats, seashore and other water bodies during Makar Sankranti or Pongal January 14.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena has issued an order in this regard, Tuesday.

A large number of people usually congregate at riverbanks, ghats, ponds, seashore and other water bodies to take holy dips and perform puja on the occasion of Makar Sankranti or Pongal. Makar Mela (fair) is also organised in some districts of Odisha. Such congregations have the high potential for spread of Covid-19 infections, Jena said.

So, the government has prohibited congregations at water bodies throughout the state. Organisation of Makar Mela is also strictly prohibited, he added.

All religious places will remain closed for the public on that day. However religious rituals are allowed with bare minimum priests, servitors and staff. Religious congregations are also strictly prohibited, Jena said.

The SRC has advised the people to perform the Makar Sankranti rituals/puja at home with family



FILE PHOTO

COVID COUNTERMEASURE

Congregations at riverbanks, ghats and seashore during Makar celebration have high potential for spread of Covid-19 infection, said the SRC

The government has prohibited congregations at water bodies throughout the state during the festival. Organisation of Makar Mela is also strictly prohibited, he added

All the district Collectors, municipal commissioners and police have been directed to strictly enforce this order

THE SRC HAS ADVISED PEOPLE TO PERFORM THE MAKAR SANKRANTI RITUALS AT HOME BY ADHERING TO THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

members only avoiding mass gatherings and adhering to the Covid-19 safety protocols.

All the district Collectors, municipal commissioners and police have been directed to strictly enforce this order.

"Any person found violating this order shall be punished under the provision of the Disaster

Management Act, 2005 and other relevant laws," warned the SRC.

The Covid-19 cases in Odisha rose to 7,071 Tuesday from 4,829 cases on the previous day. With this highest single-day spike Covid infections in 2022, the daily test positivity rate in Odisha jumped to 10.2 per cent from 6.5 per cent recorded Monday.

Chief Secy reviews mega devpt projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Tuesday, reviewed issues related to different big ticket investments and infrastructure projects in the state that are being monitored by the Central government's Cabinet Committee Investment Project Monitoring Group (CCI PMG).

In a meeting held in virtual mode under the leadership of Mahapatra, Collectors of concerned districts were asked to provide necessary support to facilitate implementation of the projects at the ground level. He also directed the project proponents to complete the projects within the scheduled time limit.

The committee reviewed the progress of 29 major projects from different sectors being undertaken a total investment of around Rs 1.29 crore. They include major railway projects like doubling of Banspani-Jakhura rail line, third lining of Rourkela-Jharsuguda rail track, third lining of Bhadrak-Nergundi track, doubling of Hatia-Bondamunda rail line, third and fourth line between Budhpank-Salegaon, third line of Vizianagaram-Titilagarh route, doubling of Sambalpur-Talcher route, Khurda-Bolangir new broad gauge rail line, Talcher-Bimilagarh rail line, Angul-Sukinda new line, Angul-Balaram-Putigaada rail link, fourth line of Bondamunda-Rourkela track, fourth line of Jharsuguda-Bilaspur rail track,

and doubling of Sambalpur-Titilagarh rail track.

Moreover, ground level issues relating to Paradeep-Hyderabad product pipeline project of IOCL, Jagdishpur-Haladia and Bokaro-Dhamara pipeline project including Barunai-Guwahati pipeline projects were discussed and resolved at the meeting. The major coal mine projects reviewed included Bhubaneswari open cast project, Gopalji-Kaniha open cast project, Belpahar open cast project, Utkal D coal mines, and Utkal E coal mines.

The major roads and highway projects reviewed included the upgradation of Tilebani-Sambalpur section of NH-6, Singara-Binjabahal section on NH-6, four laning of Angul-Sambalpur section of NH-42, six-laning of Bhardak-Balashwar section of NH-16, Six-laning of Chandikhol-Bhadrakh section of NH-5, and Corridor project road between Angul-Balaram-Putigaada-Jarpada. Other projects reviewed in the meeting included 5th stream expansion of NALCO refinery, Bhrat Net project, Kotameeta limestone block, and Dalmia DSP project.

Principal Secretary, Industry, Hemant Kumar Sharma said that all major issues raised by the project developers were attended to. He asked the project proponents to update the project status in the CCI PMG website regularly so that the emerging issues could be attended to as and when they emerged.

5 KIIT STUDENTS GET ₹52 LPA JOB OFFERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Five B.Tech students of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), a Deemed to be University here, have received job offers with an annual package of Rs 52 lakh during the current placement season, an official said Tuesday.

The varsity sources said that the premier institution has achieved a record campus placement with over 270 top-notch companies doling out more than 4,200 job offers for a batch size of 3,500 eligible B.Tech students of 2022 graduating batch. The average package offered to students (cost to company) is Rs 6.05 lakh, 30 per cent higher than the previous year. This year, 50 new companies participated in the placement process, added the sources.

KIIT-DU Vice-Chancellor Sasmata Samanta said the commencement of the campus placement season for the 2022 graduating batch has started May 2021 and KIIT is already well-poised to achieve cent per cent campus placement for yet another year.

More than 3,000 students got single placement offers, while the top 1,500 students were placed in 'Dream Companies' with an average annual package of Rs 8.10 lakh. Thirty-five companies offered package of Rs 10 lakh and above per annum, while over 130 companies offered an annual pay package of Rs 5 lakh, said KIIT-DU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Saranjit Singh.

BHARATPUR MURDER

Accused, including 'boyfriend', identified

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police has identified the accused in the murder of the 23-year-old girl who was strangled to death here Sunday night. Three persons, including the reported boyfriend of the deceased, Surekha Palei of Brahmagiri, are on the run since murder. "We have identified the accused and they will be nabbed soon. Three persons were present with the lady in her boyfriend's room where a feast was held Sunday night. The accused killed the victim and later dumped her body in her room," claimed Rajat Ray, ACP Zone-III. On the other hand, the AIIMS authorities are likely to submit the post-mortem report Wednesday. The body of Palei was found under mysterious circumstances in her room at Tarini basti under Bharatpur police limits here Monday afternoon. Palei's cousin found her lying dead inside her room.

CLASSIFIED LOST

It is hereby informed that original GPA bearing No. GPA No. 1414 Dt.04.02.2010 executed by Soma Narayan Mishra in favour of Pradeep Kumar Dash of Khata No. 725/1972, Plot No. 1662/3277/4661, Area: Ac.0.055 dec., Mouza: Kalarahanga has been lost by me on Dt.15.12.2021 on my way while coming from my residence at VIP area Nayapalli to Siva Timber Depot situated near to Ekamra Kanan Park, if found not to misuse and handover to me. Sd./- Benudhar Swain, 9861317758.

Covid +ve electorate to vote in last hour of polling: SEC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: The State Election Commission, Tuesday, issued detailed guidelines for smooth and safe conduct of the three-tier Panchayat elections with strict adherence to the Covid-19 protocols.

As per the guidelines, people with symptoms of COVID-19 will not be engaged in polling duty. Moreover, any person from containment zone or home isolation will

not be deployed for election duty. Even people who are suffering from co-morbidities and are susceptible to Covid-19 shall not be engaged in polling duty.

COVID-19 patients who are quarantined will be allowed to cast their votes during the last hour of the polling at their respective polling stations, under the supervision of health authorities strictly following COVID-19 protocols.

Moreover, large halls will be

identified and utilised to ensure social distancing. Adequate number of vehicles shall be mobilised for movement of polling personnel, security personnel and ensure compliance of COVID-19 guidelines.

"All candidates who reach the Election Officer's room within the prescribed time shall be given tokens on a first-come-first-served basis. COVID positive patients can submit nominations through his/her proposer. Candidates should

compulsorily wear face masks before entering the Election Officer's office," the SEC said.

The final list of the candidates shall be prepared constituency-wise and symbols be allotted accordingly.

"If the number of candidates is more, symbols will be allotted as per the rules. If more than one candidate opts for the same symbol, then the symbol will be allotted by lottery," the direction stated.

Poultry training prog starts at KVK-Khurda

Bhubaneswar: A three-day capacity building training programme on "Commercial poultry farming" was jointly organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)-Khurda and ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar Tuesday. ICAR-CIFA Director Saroj Kumar Swain highlighted the importance and scope of commercial poultry farming for income generation and nutrition security of the farming community. ICAR-CIFA Principal scientist P Das encouraged the trainees to adopt the technology of commercial poultry farming with new commercial layer strains coming with traits of high egg production and high feed conversion efficiency for higher profitability. AK Dash, Senior Scientist & Head (i/c), KVK-Khurda, emphasised the significance of the training programme and transfer of various technologies pertaining to agriculture and allied activities.

DESTINATION: PURI



Tourists enjoying their bath at Puri beach, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

EU economy GSG emissions down by 9 pc in 2020

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Brussels, Jan 11: Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission generated by economic activity in the European Union (EU) in 2020 decreased by 9 per cent compared to the previous year, according to data published Monday by bloc's statistics office Eurostat. The figure is 24 per cent down from the year 2008, the first available reference year, said Eurostat.

The total amount of GHG generated by EU production activities and households went down from more than 4.5 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalents in 2008 to 3.5 billion tonnes in 2020, reports Xinhua news agency.

The biggest decrease was recorded in the fields of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, which recorded a fall of 41 per cent between 2008 and 2020.

Manufacturing also recorded a sharp decrease in its GHG emissions between 2008 and 2020, with 276 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent less. In 2020, manufacturing, households as well as electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply were the biggest emitters of

GHG - all stood around the 700 million CO2 equivalents mark.

The top three countries emitting the most GHG in 2020 were Germany with almost 795 million tonnes of CO2 equivalents, France, with almost 406 million tonnes, and Italy with 393 million tonnes.

The EU has been trying to cut down its GHG emissions in order to fight climate change. The Green Deal, an ambitious program aiming at cutting carbon emissions by 55 per cent in 2030 compared to 1990 levels and to make Europe the first carbon-free continent by 2050, was launched in 2020.

The European Commission has begun consultations with the member states on a draft text of a Taxonomy Complementary Delegated Act covering certain gas and nuclear activities.

The EU Taxonomy guides and mobilises private investment in activities that are needed to achieve climate neutrality in the next 30 years.

The existing energy mix in Europe varies from one member state to another. Some parts of Europe are still heavily based on high carbon-emitting coal.

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SHORT TAKES

Murder threat to students

Bhadrak: A complaint was lodged at the Town police station here for murder threat to the students seeking reply in an RTI application on admission of students with fake disability certificates at Bhadrak (Autonomous) College. Sources said, over 200 students have allegedly taken admission in the college by submitting fake disability certificates. The matter came to the fore after some students identified as Diptiman Jena, Gyanaranjan Parida, Satyajit Rout and Abinash Ram filed an application in the college under Right to Information Act (RTI) seeking reply on the issue. The complainants have alleged that they were threatened with dire consequences as some ruling party leaders are involved in the fraud.

Under-construction Biju Setu collapses

Marshagahi: Labourers had a close shave after a bridge being constructed under the state sponsored Biju Setu Yojana on Ashrunkhala nullah in Ante panchayat under Marshagahi block of Kendrapara district collapsed, Tuesday. The under-construction bridge built at a plan outlay of ₹3 crore and on four spans was implemented by the rural development department of Kendrapara. It collapsed after second span centering of the bridge caved in and fell into the nullah. However, no casualty was reported during the mishap. The bridge after completion would have benefitted residents of over 30 villages in the area. Locals alleged use of sub-standard raw materials like rods and cement, negligence of the contractor and lack of supervision on part of the RD department to be the reasons behind the collapse of the bridge.

Man gets 20 yrs jail for raping 5-yr-old

Phulbani: A court in Kandhamal Tuesday sentenced a 25-year-old man to 20 years in prison for raping a five-year-old girl. Phulbani Special POCOS Judge Bhaskar Chandra Sahu also imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh on Prakash Chandra Kanhar, Special Public Prosecutor Banamali Behera said. On July 17, 2018, Kanhar had lured the child to a secluded place near her house and raped her.

Cop jumps off terrace as Vig raids his house

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Jan 11: A police constable Tuesday jumped off the terrace of his residence here and fled when Vigilance sleuths raided his house to conduct a probe on charge of amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The accused was identified as Nihar Ranjan Dandapatra, a constable posted at the district SP office in Baripada.

Soon after his escape, Baripada Town police launched a manhunt to nab the absconding constable but failed to trace him when reports last came in.

Acting on the direction of Baripada special Vigilance judge, 35 officers of Cuttack Vigilance directorate conducted simultaneous raids at seven places to probe his assets. He had recently applied for retirement from service before

attaining super annuity from service.

Separate teams of Vigilance sleuths raided his native place at Belpala village under Badasahi police limits in Mayurbhanj district, his in-laws' house at Chhend Colony in Rourkela, a three storied building at Unit-18 in Bhanjapur of Baripada, his official residence at Baripada police line, a cyber café at Ambika Sahi in the town and his LPG dealership Hota Enterprises at Murgabadi in Purnachandrapur of Baripada town.

During the raids, the sleuths seized 350 gas cylinders, 543 empty cylinders, three Ashok Leyland trucks, 10 goods auto rickshaws, two four-wheelers and four bikes. A total of 19 vehicles were seized during the raids. The actual disproportionate assets can be ascertained only after the probe is completed and a final report is available, Vigilance sources said.

UNSEASONAL RAIN



People are caught in unseasonal rain that lashed Sambalpur and other parts of the state, Sunday

OP PHOTO

RATHA ANUKULA RITUAL HELD; TREE CUTTING TO START TODAY

Nayagarh to provide 785 logs for making chariots



POST NEWS NETWORK

Gania, Jan 11: This year, the forest department in Nayagarh district will provide 785 logs required for the chariot construction of Lord Balabhadra, Lord Jagannath and Goddess Subhadra for the annual Rath Yatra festival in Puri. Rituals for Ratha anukula ceremony were performed as per tradition as described in Rathasamhita at Maa Badaraula peetha under Gania block in Nayagarh district Tuesday.

Chariot caretaker Sudarshan Mekap, Rathakatha amin Laxman Mohapatra and Bhoi Sardar Rabi Bhoi on behalf of the Srimandir administration took part in the ceremony at Badaraula Peetha early in the morning.

The three-member team along with agramala, khandua, aharasad, patapatani, mahardha and puja items reached Sri Sri Dadhibaman temple at Bethiasahi. They first had darshan of the deity there before they were escorted by forest officials to Badaraula Peetha. The team was taken in a procession amid sankirtan by troupes from Nayagarh and Boudh districts.

Nayagarh DFO Khyama Sarangi and Daspalla ranger Nikhilesh Mallick were present at the temple. Amid playing of Dhola and Turi, agni homa (fire ritual) and other rituals were performed at the shrine.

"Agyamala (divine ordain) was received. Thereafter, trees of asana, fasi and simili species will be chopped off in forests from

Wednesday for chariot construction," an official of the forest department said.

It was learnt that there is need for 865 pieces of timber for chariot construction for this year's Rath Yatra in Puri. Nearly 80 logs are in stock at Rath Khala (chariot making yard). The rest 785 logs including 322 asana logs, 388 khandadharua logs, 72 fasi logs and three simili logs - will be provided by the Nayagarh forest division to the temple administration. The trees have been identified.

The temple administration has stated that 363 pieces of timber will be sent to Ratha Khala in Puri while 422 timbers will be sent to the Khapurja sawmill in Cuttack. In the afternoon, Gupta puja was solemnised at Maa Badaraula peetha. It is pertinent to mention here that erstwhile Nayagarh King Chakradhar Bhanj used to provide logs for Rath Yatra since 1653 from Daspalla area. Since then, this tradition is being followed.

According to the forest department, the tree species meant for chariot construction has been dwindling in Daspalla forest. For the last few years, logs are being provided from both Nayagarh and Boudh forests, it said.

Sulia Yatra held amid Covid curbs



POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogaon, Jan 11: The annual Sulia Yatra was solemnised in adherence with Covid protocols in Bolangir district, but two shrines were stained with blood of scores of goats, sheep and fowls which were sacrificed according to the tradition Tuesday.

According to reports, like every year, hundreds of birds and animals were sacrificed amid tight security arrangements at Bada Khala in Khairguda and Sana Khala in Kummuria village under Deogaon block.

Sulia Yatra is based on the culture and tradition of Kondh tribals. At midnight of Monday, 'nisi puja' was solemnised. Tuesday morning, priest Jhankar Barua and Kondh tribals armed with their traditional weapons took out a 'he-goat' called Pata Boda in a procession amid beating of drums and other musical instruments to the shrine.

Khairguda is the main hub of the

celebration where at the altar of Sulia Budha, the presiding deity is situated. The rituals started in the morning hours. Traditional weapons were also worshipped on the occasion.

As per tradition, Pata Boda was sacrificed at the altar. Then, hundreds of animals and fowls donated by devotees from the district and outside were sacrificed. The shrine was splattered with sacrificial blood.

Similar scene was witnessed at Sana Khala shrine.

However, this year, due to Covid restrictions, the administration did not allow shops and marketing platforms around the shrines.

Priests and members of Sulia Puja Committee had under gone Covid tests to ensure their participation in the Jatra.

Similarly, Sulia yatra was organised at Chandrapur shrine in Jarasingh panchayat amid Covid guidelines. Police forces were deployed at these shrines to keep the law and order.

Litterateur Manglu Charan Biswal departs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 11: Eminent writer, lyricist and academian Manglu Charan Biswal (87) passed away at his residence in Baradunguri under Rengali block of Sambalpur district Monday night following prolonged illness.

Biswal had penned the famous Sambalpuri play 'Bhukha', which was later made the first Sambalpuri film directed and produced by Sabyasachi Mohapatra in 1989. It is the first film from Odisha to get an International Jury Award at the Gijon International Film



Festival in Spain. The movie portrays the plight of the 'Bajnas' or 'Ganda' tribe of Odisha who are traditionally drummers by profession and the negative impact of cultural dominance by dominant class of people. He carved a niche for himself in the field of Odia and Sambalpuri-Koshli literature over the past several decades. He wrote many short stories, plays, novels and poems.

Croc population rises in Bhitarkanika



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Jan 11: The estuarine crocodile population has increased in Bhitarkanika National Park, which has re-established itself as an ideal habitation corridor for the reptiles, according to the census figures released by the forest department Tuesday.

In the latest headcount this year, at least 1,784 saltwater crocodiles were found in the water bodies of Bhitarkanika river system and Mahanadi deltaic region in Kendrapara district compared to 1,768 in 2020, divisional forest officer of Rajnagar mangrove (wildlife) forest division, Jagnyadatta Pati said.

Estuarine crocodiles are also found in the Sundarbans in West Bengal, which has the country's largest mangrove cover, besides in the mangrove wetlands of the Andaman Islands.

But the population density of crocodiles in their wild habitat here is more pronounced, he said.

The census was conducted both in day and night hours. The exercise went off smoothly due to the favourable climatic conditions such as clear and sunny weather; low day and night temperatures in the water and favourable tide conditions, Pati said.

The census breakup of the crocodiles is 564 hatchlings (32%), 378 yearlings (21%),

The census breakup of the crocodiles is 564 hatchlings (32%), 378 yearlings (21%), 338 juveniles (19%), 158 sub-adults (9%) and 346 adults (19%). The number of crocodiles went up to 1,784 from 1,768 in 2020 census

338 juveniles (19%), 158 sub-adults (9%) and 346 adults (19%).

The maximum number of 1,409 crocodiles were spotted in Kanika wildlife range, which includes forest blocks and rivers from Khola to the confluence of Bhitarkanika and Pathasala and beyond in Brahmani-Baitarani river systems. A total of 265 crocodiles were found in Rajnagar wildlife Range.

In Mahanadi delta, 76 crocodiles were counted in Mahakalapara wildlife range and in Gahirmatha wildlife range 34 of the reptiles were seen.

The death of four crocodiles was recorded after the last census.

The national park is crisscrossed by innumerable water inlets, creeks and nullahs of the Bhitarkanika river system providing a suitable habitat to the amphibious reptiles.

Bird census begins today

Rajnagar: The annual bird census for migratory birds in Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary and wetland will start from January 12, a report said. Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary is bustling with the cacophony of the avian visitors as forest officials launched a training programme for the enumerators, Tuesday. This was stated here by Jagnyadatt Pati, divisional forest officer of Rajnagar wildlife division to mediapersons, Tuesday. The forest department has formed 16 teams to count the birds visiting the sanctuary. The teams will be sent to various parts of the sanctuary and count the birds visiting Raipatia, Satabhaya gheri, Satabhaya wetland, Jambu, Batighar, Barunei river mouth, Praharajpur, Kansariapatia, Khola, Nalipatapia, Durgapur sea mouth, Lakshmiprasad Dian, Kalibhanjadian, Magarkanda, Chinchiri mouth, Chitaukola, Bhitarkanika mouth, Ekamania and Rajgarh areas inside the sanctuary. Each team has been provided with a walkie-talkie, binoculars, GPS and VHF set for smooth conduct of the bird census. Students of Kendrapara Autonomous College, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology and Centurion University have been included for the first time in the bird census following the request of the respective colleges.

No. C.140173/2016-Vig.
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Vigilance Division

Inviting panel of officers to be nominated for appointment of Inquiry Officer for conducting disciplinary proceedings on the vigilance matters for Vigilance Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The issue of utilizing the services of retired officers for conducting departmental inquiries has been under consideration. It has been decided that panels of retired officers from the Ministries/Departments/Autonomous Organisations under Government of India would be created and maintained for conducting Departmental Inquiries on vigilance matters against the delinquent officers in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

2. It is proposed to maintain a panel of retired officers not below the rank of Deputy Secretary or equivalent in Central Government and in autonomous organization to be appointed as the Inquiry Officer for the purpose of conducting departmental inquiries at the following places:-

(i) New Delhi (ii) Pune (iii) Hyderabad (iv) Mumbai
(v) Chennai (vi) Bengaluru (vii) Kolkata (viii) Goa
(ix) Lucknow (x) Guwahati (xi) Thiruvananthapuram (xii) Bhopal
(xiii) Kochi (xiv) Patna (xv) Ahmedabad (xvi) Bhubaneswar

3. The application forms may be sent to Under Secretary (Vigilance), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Room No.414 A, D Wing, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110108 so as to reach on or before 17.01.2022.

4. Eligibility criteria and other conditions may be seen from website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare mohfw.gov.in/vacancies.php.

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Advertisement Value ₹ 18,29,511.40, EMD: ₹ 36,600/-, Tender Document Cost : ₹ 2,360/-, Period of Completion : 730 Days.

Bidding Start Date : 14.01.2022
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Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

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2.	Pankaj Kumar	PIAGGIO APE AUTO	BHARAT STAGE IV	OD 33 X 9312	MBX0003MF WH706432	A8H1229087	2019	1,08,000/-	27,000/-	SAMIL
3.	Tophan Gochhikar	BAJAJ RE COMPACT AUTO	BAJAJ AUTO LTD.	OD 02 AP 9834	MD2A96AY4 HWF18359	BAYWHF52543	2017	25,000/-	6,250/-	Bank's Parking Area
4.	Srinibas Naik	PIAGGIO APE AUTO	BHARAT STAGE IV	OD 33 Q 5254	MBX0003CF VJ515288	S7J8750667	2017	25,000/-	6,250/-	Bank's Parking Area

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For further information & clarification contact at Mobile No.: 8249273250/9437570026/8895387276.

Date: 11.01.2022, Place: Bhubaneswar **Sd/- Asst. General Manager, SBI, SMEC, Bhubaneswar**

FOCUS GLOBAL ECONOMY

INFLATION HERESIES



Orthodox remedies for inflation often have costly side effects (such as bankruptcies and rising unemployment) and have not always produced the desired effects quickly enough. Price controls have sometimes worked, during wartime for example. Moreover, when high inflation is driven predominantly by expectations rather than 'fundamentals,' temporary wage-price controls can help coordinate price-setters to move to a low-inflation equilibrium

legion and have been building up for quite some time. Even when an argument cannot be settled beforehand, facts eventually allow us to distinguish among theories that do and do not make sense in a given place. In Turkey's case, the evidence that has accumulated since policymakers embarked on Erdo an's experiment speaks loudly and clearly. In particular, despite the lowering of the Turkish central bank's policy rate – the interest rate that the monetary authorities control directly – market interest rates have continued to rise. Depositors and savers have demanded higher rates, driving up the price of credit for borrowers.

This undermines the argument that lower policy rates could effectively reduce production costs for firms. It indicates that the rise in interest rates reflects more fundamental problems with the economy, uncertainty about the conduct of economic policy, and higher inflation expectations for the future.

Sometimes, as in Turkey's case, the orthodox economic argument is indeed the correct one. Experiments that depart from conventional policy can be costly. But this does not mean that there are universal rules in economics or that the prevailing view among mainstream economists should determine policy. Otherwise, some of the most important policy innovations in history – think of the New Deal in the US or industrial policy in post-World War II East Asia – would never have occurred.

In fact, today's dominant monetary policy framework, inflation targeting, is itself a product of the peculiar political and economic circumstances that prevailed in New Zealand during the 1980s. It sat uncomfortably with the theory of monetary policy of the time. Economists should be humble when they recommend (or dismiss) various inflation-fighting strategies. And while policymakers must pay attention to economic evidence and arguments, they should be skeptical when the economists who advise them display excessive confidence.

The writer, Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, is President of the International Economic Association.

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The spectre of inflation is once again stalking the world, after a long period of dormancy during which policymakers were more likely to be preoccupied by price deflation. Now, old debates have resurfaced on how best to restore price stability.

Should policymakers step on the monetary and fiscal brakes, by reducing spending and raising interest rates – the orthodox approach to fighting inflation? Should they instead move in the opposite direction by lowering interest rates, a route followed by Turkey's central bank under the direction of President Recep Tayyip Erdo an? Or should policymakers perhaps try to intervene more directly, through price controls or by clamping down on large firms with price-setting power, as some economists and historians in the United States have argued.

If you have a knee-jerk reaction to these policies – immediately endorsing one remedy while rejecting others out of hand – think again. Economics is not a science with fixed rules. Varying conditions call for different policies. The only valid answer to policy questions in economics is: 'It depends.'

Orthodox remedies for inflation often have costly side effects (such as bankruptcies and rising unemployment) and have not always produced the desired effects quickly enough. Price controls have sometimes worked, during wartime for example.

Moreover, when high inflation is driven predominantly by expectations rather than 'fundamentals,' temporary wage-price controls can help coordinate price-setters to move to a low-inflation equilibrium. Such 'heterodox' programmes were successful during the 1980s in Israel and in a number of Latin American countries.

Even the idea that lower interest rates reduce inflation is not necessarily outlandish. There is a school of thought within economics – dismissed by most mainstream economists today – which associates inflation with cost-push factors, such as high interest rates (which boost the costs of working capital).

The inflation-producing effects of high interest rates is called the 'Cavallo effect,' after former Argentine finance minister Domingo Cavallo, who discussed it in his 1977 Harvard doctoral

thesis. (Ironically, Cavallo would resort to a very different inflation-fighting strategy – based on a fixed exchange rate and full currency convertibility – when he assumed office in perennially high-inflation Argentina during the 1990s.) The theory has even received some empirical support in particular cases.

That is why ridiculing currently unfashionable ideas on inflation as 'science denial' akin to rejecting COVID-19 vaccines, as some prominent economists have done, is so misplaced. In fact, when a particular claim about the real world appears inconsistent with existing theories, this is often an invitation for a young, smart economist to demonstrate that the claim can indeed be justified, under certain specific conditions. The true science of economics is contextual, not universal. What might a contextual approach to inflation imply today?

Current inflation in the US and many other advanced economies differs significantly from the inflation of the late 1970s. It is neither chronic (so far), nor driven by wage-price spirals and backward indexation. Inflationary pressure seems to derive largely from a

transitory set of factors, such as the pandemic-related reallocation of spending from services to goods, and supply-chain and other disruptions to production. While expansionary monetary and fiscal policies have boosted incomes, these policies, too, are temporary. The alternative would have been a dramatic collapse in employment and living standards.

Under current circumstances, then, policymakers in developed countries should not over-react to the spike in inflation. As the historian Adam Tooze has argued, transitory inflation calls for a restrained response, whether through regulation or monetary policy.

The best argument against price controls is not that they are 'incompatible with science' but that nothing so radical needs to be considered for now. The same caution would apply to orthodox policy as well: central banks should be patient before raising interest rates.

What about Erdo an's continued insistence that high inflation is the result rather than the cause of high interest rates? The validity of his argument has always been in doubt, given that Turkey's macroeconomic imbalances are



Dani Rodrik

INFLATIONARY PRESSURE SEEMS TO DERIVE LARGELY FROM A TRANSITORY SET OF FACTORS, SUCH AS THE PANDEMIC-RELATED REALLOCATION OF SPENDING FROM SERVICES TO GOODS, AND SUPPLY-CHAIN AND OTHER DISRUPTIONS TO PRODUCTION

CoVID-hit Economy

India is now in the grip of the third wave of the CoVID-19 pandemic. The official data just released by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation offer a grim picture of the country's economy ravaged by the pandemic. As projected by government statistics, India's economy contracted by 7.3% in the April-June quarter of this fiscal year. This is the worst decline ever observed since the ministry had started compiling GDP statistics quarterly in 1996. Last year, the government strategy to deal with the pandemic was guided by the slogan of 'life over livelihoods.' The initial lower intensity of the scourge emboldened the government to go as far as to declare, in January 2021, that victory over CoVID-19 had been achieved. This betrayed immature and misplaced optimism. Now, again the third wave consisting primarily of the Delta variant coupled with the Omicron variety is spreading its tentacles and sweeping over the country. Many Indian states, which were caught unprepared last year, have already started imposing restrictions and partial lockdowns posing a threat to economic recovery. The second threat to economic revival is the vaccination rates. If a major portion of the labour force is not inoculated, coronavirus is in all likelihood going to disrupt real economy. The current lockdowns have scared the immigrant labour force and due to their terrible past experience many have already started heading home. This is bound to affect national productivity.

The second wave brutally exposed the vulnerabilities of India's \$2.9 trillion economy which remained shuttered during the lockdown period, except for some essential services and activities. As shops, eateries, factories, malls, transport services, business establishments were closed, the lockdown alarmingly slowed down the economy. The informal sectors of the economy, already crippled by Demonetization in November 2016, have been worst hit by the pandemic. India's GDP contraction during April-June could well be above 10% if the informal sectors are considered. The country's economic growth is largely driven by private consumption and investments. All the major sectors of the economy were hit except agriculture. The Indian economy was facing headwinds even before the arrival of the second wave. As statistics suggest, the contraction of the economy would continue in the next four quarters and a recession appears to be inevitable. The surveys conducted by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy show a steep rise in unemployment rates, in the range of 7.9% to 12% during the same April-June quarter of 2021. The economy is having a knock-on effect with MSMEs closing down their businesses. Millions of jobs have been lost permanently and this has dampened consumption. The government need to spend billions of dollars to fight the health crisis and help fast economic recovery from the pandemic-induced recession. Whether the government is capable to foresee the catastrophe building up and whether it has deep enough pockets to handle it is debatable.

The GDP growth had crashed 23.9% in response to the Centre's no notice lockdown. As of now, India's GDP growth rate is likely to be below 10 per cent. The Controller General of Accounts data for the Centre's fiscal collection indicate a gross-tax revenue (GTR) of Rs 20 lakh crore and the net tax revenue of Rs 14 lakh crore for 2020-21. The tax revenue growth will be 12 per cent, which would mean the projected gross and the net tax revenues for 2020-21 would be Rs 22.7 lakh crore and Rs 15.8 lakh crore respectively.

This is no solace at all. With many states resorting to localised lockdowns to hide their incompetence to build the health infrastructure to cope up with the pandemic, the hospitality sector is facing a repeat of 2020. This sector that includes businesses such as travel agencies, restaurants, hotels, bars, clubs and more has contributed to a large portion of India's annual GDP. But it has been hit hard by restrictions and curfews imposed by the states. Some of the sectors such as tourism that normally contributes 7 per cent to the GDP, the automobile industry and real estate that contribute immensely to employment opportunities are in equally bad shape. Aviation is also taking a hit as people are scared to step out of their homes in the second and third waves.

The pandemic has, however, not affected India's fiscal deficit and disinvestment target much. Union Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a fiscal deficit target of 6.8% for 2021 to 2022. India's fiscal deficit for 2020-21 rose to 9.5% of GDP as against 3.5% projected earlier. The finance minister has pegged fiscal deficit at 4.5% of GDP by 2025-26 by increasing tax revenues through greater tax compliance and monetisation over the years. All these figures are, undoubtedly, government manufactured and must not be taken as projecting complete honesty.

The upshot of all the statistics and projections is that if the outbreak worsens over time, or if the case numbers are very high, India's economic and fiscal recovery will not be possible any time soon. The government need to seriously ramp up vaccination, build up health infrastructure on a war footing and refrain from simply increasing taxation to fill up its coffers.

Taking shortcuts like imposing frequent restrictions and partial lockdowns that throw normal life out of gear may not be the only solution to this mega problem.

WISDOM CORNER

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all. EMILY DICKINSON

It is fatal to be a man or woman pure and simple: one must be a woman manly, or a man womanly. VIRGINIA WOOLF

There are two sides to every issue: one side is right and the other is wrong, but the middle is always evil. AYN RAND

WORDSWORTH

Regender

There have been several examples in the London theatre of what show business calls cross-casting: men playing female roles or women men's, the latter being much more common to offset the much larger proportion of male parts in plays -- we have had Kathryn Hunter playing King Lear and Fiona Shaw as Richard II. More fundamentally, there has been a call by Helen Alexander in Equity Journal (the magazine of the British actors' union) for plays to be regendered to provide more female parts, by which she means the rewriting of texts to convert male parts into female ones. This is a specific use of a term with broader application in the field of feminism and gender studies, in which it refers to a conscious or unconscious change in the sexual perception of some cultural or social activity, such as the implications of women taking on work that is traditionally considered a male preserve, or shifts in the sexual interpretation of historical events. In common with related words like genderless, genderquake, ungendered, and transgendered it takes gender to mean "sex", a usage designed to stress the social and cultural distinctions between the sexes rather than the biological ones. This annoys traditionalists, for whom gender can only refer to constructions in grammar, never to living things. But it is now well established, and increasingly appears in more general writing as an euphemism that avoids confusion with the use of sex to imply sexual activity.

LOL

Doc at a bar

A doctor made it his regular habit to stop off at a bar for a hazelnut daiquiri on his way home. The bartender knew of his habit, and would always have the drink waiting at precisely 5:03 pm. One afternoon, as the end of the work day approached, the bartender was



dismayed to find that he was out of hazelnut extract. Thinking quickly, he threw together a daiquiri made with hickory nuts and set it on the bar. The doctor came in at his regular time, took one sip of the drink and exclaimed, "This isn't a hazelnut daiquiri!" "No, I'm sorry," replied the bartender, "it's a hickory daiquiri, doc."

IN JEST THIS

Leave your cellphone behind, improve your life

The Guardian newspaper in Britain recently printed a list called "100 ways to slightly improve your life without really trying."

Some of these tips made a lot of sense. For example: "Eat meat once a week, max. Ideally less." This is good advice. If everyone in the world ate less meat, prices would drop and I'd be able to eat more.

But other tips were somewhat questionable, such as this: "Buy a plant. Think you'll kill it? Buy a fake one." I do not like fake plants. Even if they look real, you cannot have any meaningful conversations with them.

What I found most interesting about the tips is that several of them pertained to cellphones, those devices that have become such necessities to many of us. We spend more time touching our cellphones than anything else, even when the lights are out in the bedroom.

Here's the first cellphone-related

tip: "Send a voice note instead of a text; they sound like personal mini podcasts." I've never sent a voice note, but if I did, I would say this: "Please leave a good review for my mini podcast."

The second phone-related tip is to "set time limits for your apps." This is good advice, especially for people who spend too much time on a single app, such as Facebook or Twitter. Putting a time limit on Facebook is the next best thing to deleting it completely.

The third tip is to "go for a walk without your phone." This tip is related to a fourth tip: "Take out your headphones when walking – listen to the world." Most people who use headphones or earphones are listening to something on their cellphones. This isn't an easy tip to follow, because many of us have fallen into the habit of taking our phones everywhere, even to the bathroom. We believe that mobiles should always be mobile.

When I go for a walk or run, I take

my phone with me, just in case there's an emergency at home and someone needs to reach me. But from now on, I'm just going to make an announcement before I leave: "I'm going out without my phone. If there's an emergency, please save your own lives."

The fifth tip is to "sleep with your phone in a different room (and buy an alarm clock)." This tip can be easily misunderstood. I can picture a husband saying to his wife, "Sweetheart, have a good night! I'm going to sleep with my phone in a different room."

This is not a tip for young people. After they've spent years using their cellphones as alarm clocks, it's unrealistic to expect them to go out and buy one of those old-style alarm clocks that their parents used. You might as well ask them to listen to Lata Mangeshkar on a cassette player.

The sixth tip is related to the fifth: "Go to bed earlier – but don't take your phone with you." This is

good advice, but very hard to follow, especially for me. Not only do I use my cellphone as an alarm clock, I often fall asleep while listening to a podcast on my phone. So many people are producing podcasts these days, and many of them are extremely good, even excellent, at putting me to sleep. I highly recommend them.

The seventh tip is to "switch your phone off on holiday (or at least delete your work email app)." Indeed, you don't want your boss calling or emailing you while you're enjoying your well-deserved time off. Just make sure you don't get a voice note that says, "I've decided to give you even more time off. No need to return to work."

The final tip is one that's especially important for people who eat with friends or family members: "Don't look at your phone at dinner." When you have company at the dining table, it's considered disrespectful to look at a phone until they do.



Melvin Durai

WHEN YOU HAVE COMPANY AT THE DINING TABLE, IT'S CONSIDERED DISRESPECTFUL TO LOOK AT A PHONE UNTIL THEY DO

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

A bold initiative

Sir, The reintroduction of African cheetahs into Indian jungles under the "Action Plan for the introduction of Cheetah in India" is a bold initiative taken by the government for their conservation which itself is a boon to the forest ecosystem. This is probably the first time in the world that a large carnivore will be relocated from one continent to another for conservation. The country's last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh (then Madhya Pradesh) in 1947 and the species was declared extinct in 1952. Nearly 70 years after its extinction, India will receive its first batch of cheetahs from South Africa under new conservation plans by the end of this year. It is evident that cheetahs globally face extinction pressure and are declared as critically endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list of threatened species. The government has taken up this crucial project as a part of wildlife conservation in a big way. It is being described as the world's largest intercontinental animal translocation. The relocation attempt began in 2009. It was only in the last year that the Supreme Court gave its green signal to the Centre. This drastic step paves the way for other endangered species to be conserved in the future to protect the natural heritage.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Freebies galore

Sir, Promises of freebies in the manifestos of political parties facing elections are common. As per a report, commonly promised freebies have been listed as laptops/tablets, grinders/mixers, fans, gold coins, cash transfer, land, constructed houses, cash for unemployed youngsters and livestock. Of course, election manifesto is a document of promises. Taxpayers' money should be utilised to provide free healthcare, uninterrupted water and power supply, laying of good roads, construction of bridges and for such other purposes which are meant for public good. Akhilesh Yadav has recently promised 300 units of free electricity to all households and laptops to youths and students if his party is voted to power. The Supreme Court had observed in 2018 that distribution of freebies of any kind undoubtedly influences people. It shakes the root of free and fair elections to a great extent. Further, political parties promise waiver of loans. Freebies and waiver of loans are damaging the economy.

KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE

of the day quote

The secretaries in various state government departments must set targets for themselves by not competing with other state governments within the country, but with developed South Asian nations as well as other countries

MK STALIN | TN CM

People have trust in double-engine government and it will be a tough fight in the ensuing elections

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

The state government is ready to face any situation in view of the current surge in Covid-19 cases

K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CM

SHORT TAKES

7 arrested for smuggling liquor

Patna: Patna police Monday arrested seven persons for smuggling in liquor from neighbouring Jharkhand. The police said that the kingpin of the smuggling racket is the son of a former block president of Raghuraj in Vaishali district, who is still at large. The accused kept the liquor consignment under tomatoes in a pick-up van which was escorted by a Mahindra Scorpio and Maruti Alto. The pick-up van was intercepted near Supan Chak under Fatuha police station in Patna, located on NH-30.

5 students drown

Vijayawada: In a tragic incident, five school students drowned in a rivulet in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district. Rescue workers on Tuesday recovered bodies of all the five students, aged between 11 and 14 years. They were missing since Monday afternoon when they were trying to learn swimming in the Munneru rivulet near Eteru. The deceased were identified as Maguluri Sunny (12), Karla Bala Yesu (12), Jetty Ajay Babu (12), Maila Rajesh (11) and Garijala Charan (14). They were all studying at the Eteru Zilla Parishad High School. The students who were at home due to Sankranti holidays went to the rivulet on Monday afternoon. Their parents had gone to work in agricultural fields.

Third Covid wave in India: Omicron or Delta?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 11: While the recent surge in Covid cases seen in India is largely due to Omicron, it does not mean that Delta has weakened, experts contended Tuesday. India Tuesday recorded 1,68,063 new Covid cases, taking the total tally to 8,21,446. Although the fresh infections were 6.4 per cent less than Monday when the country logged 1,79,723, the weekly positivity rate has climbed to 8.85 per cent and the daily positivity rate has declined to 10.64 per cent. On the other hand, 4,461 Omicron cases were recorded from 28 states.

So can we say this is an Omicron wave? While it is relatively easy to test for Covid-19 through a RT-PCR or RAT test, figuring out which variant is responsible requires genome sequencing. Data sent to the open access GISAID genomic surveillance showed that more than 30 per cent of the sequenced samples from India were Omicron during the month of December.

Health experts noted that going by the trend, the majority of the positive cases are likely to be Omicron but confirmation is pending. "Currently we can sequence only a small fraction of daily cases, so the question is what percentage of those viruses that are sequenced turn out to be Omicron. That's how we know that we are in an Omicron wave, since most of the sequences have turned out to be those of Omicron," Gautam I. Menon, Professor at



India Tuesday recorded 1,68,063 new Covid cases, taking the total tally to 8,21,446

Medics take care of patients at the Jumbo Covid Care Centre in Vashi, Navi Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

THE HEALTH EXPERTS SAID THE SURGE IN CASES MAY ALSO BE REINFECTIONS, OR BREAKTHROUGH INFECTIONS AS SEEN IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Departments of Physics and Biology Ashoka University, said.

Global data, particularly from South Africa, the UK and the US show that over time as new variants emerge, the one which has better transmissibility and immune evasion takes over the preceding variant. "The same happened with Omicron which is now causing more than 90 per cent of new cases in the US and the UK, India is soon set to follow suit," Dr Dipu T.S., Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases Amrita Hospital, Kochi, said.

"This just means that there is a variant with better survival advantage and immune evasion abil-

ity compared to the previous variant i.e. Delta. But it doesn't mean that Delta has become weak, rather it gave way to a better evolved variant in time," he said.

However, Menon disagreed, saying: "Because Omicron is much more transmissible than Delta, it has effectively displaced Delta while spreading. Delta was largely on the decline in the country anyway, so this was not a surprise."

Further, the health experts said the surge in cases may also be reinfections, or breakthrough infections as seen in other countries. A recent study showed that the risk of reinfection with Omicron is 5.4 times greater than

India is on track to achieve the Paris Accord and COP 26 commitments in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "LIFE mantra"

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

MANDAVIYA MEETS DOCS

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya interacted with specialist doctors from across the country to discuss the Covid-19 situation and listened to their suggestions



MAHA BJP MLAs' ONE YEAR SUSPENSION

'Worse than expulsion'

The MLAs have termed their suspension as politically motivated to whittle down the number of the opposition party

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 11: The Supreme Court Tuesday orally observed that suspension of 12 BJP MLAs from Maharashtra Assembly in July, for a year, for misbehaving with the presiding officer in the chair, both inside and outside the Assembly, was "worse than expulsion".

A bench, headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar was hearing a petition filed by MLAs challenging their suspension. On December 14, last year, the top court had issued notice to the Maharashtra Assembly through its Secretary.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C.T. Rajkumar, expressed an inclination to interfere with the resolution passed by the Assembly suspending the BJP MLAs, on July 5, last year.

During the hearing, the bench orally observed that the suspension for one year was "worse than expulsion" as the constituency would remain unrepresented in the House. It added that one-year suspension will amount to a punishment on the constituency of



these elected representatives. Citing constitutional provisions, the bench said a constituency cannot go unrepresented for beyond six months.

Citing relevant rules, the top court pointed out that the Assembly lacks power to suspend a member beyond 60 days. It referred to Article 190(4) of the Constitution which says a seat will be deemed to have become vacant if a member remains absent in the House without its permission for a period of 60 days.

A battery of senior advocates - Mahesh Jethmalani, Mukul Rohatgi, Neeraj Kishan Kaul, and Siddharth Bhatnagar - argued for the suspended legislators. They were assisted by advocates Siddharth Dharmadhikari and Abhikalp Pratap Singh.

Jethmalani argued that Rajya Sabha recently suspended 12 members for disorderly behaviour, and the suspension was operated only for the duration of the session. It was argued in the top court that the principle of natural justice was violated by the House by suspending MLAs for a year.

Molnupiravir not to be included in treatment protocol

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: The ICMR's National Task Force for COVID-19 has decided against including antiviral drug Molnupiravir in the Clinical Management Protocol for COVID-19 as of now, official sources said Tuesday.

The experts of the task force cited safety concerns and argued that Molnupiravir was not of much benefit in Covid treatment to arrive at the decision in a meeting held on Monday. According to the Health Ministry, Molnupiravir is an antiviral drug that inhibits SARS-CoV-2 replication by viral mutagenesis.

This anti-Covid pill got the Drug Regulator General of India's approval on December 28 for restricted use in emergencies.

"Members of the National Task Force for COVID-19 were not in favour of including the drug in the national treatment guidelines citing that it does not have much benefit in the treatment of coronavirus infection and that there were safety concerns," an official source said.

SEA OF DEVOTEES



Devotees arrive on boats to take a holy dip at Sangam amid pandemic in Prayagraj

PTI PHOTO

Delhi riots: Cops oppose Khalid's bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: Delhi Police opposed the bail plea of former JNU student leader Umar Khalid on Tuesday, saying that the "ultimate objective" of the riots conspiracy was to bring the government of India to its knees and destabilize the foundation of democracy.

Khalid and several others have been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), a stringent anti-terror law, and are accused of being the "masterminds" of the riots which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured in 2020.

The arguments on their bail pleas have been going on for more than five months.

Opposing his bail plea before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat, Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Amit Prasad contested the claims of former JNU student leader Umar Khalid that the investigating agency was communal and the charge sheet in the riots conspiracy case was a "figment of imagination".

A million to throng Ganges despite Covid

The Calcutta High Court, responding to a plea from doctors who are worried the festival could become a virus "super spreader" event, ruled Tuesday that all pilgrims must be tested for COVID-19

REUTERS

Kolkata, Jan 11: Nearly one million Hindu worshippers are expected to gather on the banks of the Ganges river this Friday and Saturday for a holy bathe despite galloping COVID-19 infections across the country, an official said Tuesday.

India reported 168,063 new COVID-19 infections Tuesday, a 20-fold rise in a month. Most infected people have recovered at home and the level of hospitalisations has been less than half of that seen during the last major wave of infections in April and May. Many states have announced night curfews while the capital Delhi has also imposed a weekend lockdown, closed private offices as well as restaurants and bars in a bid to rein in the fast-spreading Omicron variant.

But tens of thousands of pilgrims have already reached the site of the annual Ganges ritual



IMAGE SOURCE: REUTERS

on an island in the eastern state of West Bengal, which is reporting the most number of cases in the country after Maharashtra state in the west. "The crowd may swell to anywhere between 800,000 to one million. We are trying to implement all COVID protocols," Bankim Chandra Hazra, a West Bengal minister in charge of organising the festival known as the Gangesagar Mela, told Reuters.

"We have also arranged for sprinkling of the holy water from drones so that there is no crowding... but the sadhus (Hindu holy men) are bent on taking the dip. We can't prevent them." A similar big religious

festival in the north of India last year helped spread the Delta variant that infected millions of people and killed tens of thousands.

The Calcutta High Court, responding to a plea from doctors who are worried the festival could become a virus "super spreader" event, ruled on Tuesday that all pilgrims must be tested for COVID-19. It was not immediately clear how so many pilgrims could be tested over the next few days or if the ruling would be enforced.

Doctors had appealed to the court to reverse the decision to allow the festival this year. Bhramar Mukherjee, professor of epidemiology at the University of Michigan,

has said the gathering could be "disastrous". Every year on January 14, on the important Hindu day of Makar Sankranti, pilgrims visit Gangesagar village for a dip at the confluence of the Ganges and the Bay of Bengal. They believe doing so washes away their sins and those of their ancestors.

India has reported a total of 35.88 million COVID-19 infections, the world's biggest tally after the United States. Deaths rose by 277 to 484,213 on Monday. India conducted 1.6 million COVID-19 tests on Monday, while the capacity is more than 2 million. It has dropped the need for all close contacts of confirmed patients to get tested.

Over 33,000 litres of liquor seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Jan 11: Authorities in Uttar Pradesh have seized over 33,000 litres of liquor worth over Rs 82 lakh after the imposition of the model code of conduct for the upcoming assembly polls, Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla said Tuesday.

The model code is a set of guidelines, issued by the Election Commission, for political parties, candidates, government and the party in power during elections concerning speeches, announcements, election manifestos and general conduct.

Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa will be held between February 10 and March 7 in seven phases with the counting of votes on March 10, the Election Commission announced on Saturday. With the announcement of the schedule, the Model Code of Conduct for governments, candidates and political parties has come into force.

Registered unrecognised parties increased: ADR

In a new report, the ADR said from 112 parties in 2010, the number spiked to 2,301 in 2019 and now in 2021, the number rose to 2,858

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: The number of registered unrecognised political parties increased more than twice between 2010 and 2021 and disproportionately during the year of parliamentary elections, poll rights group Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said.

Either newly registered parties or those which have not secured enough percentage of votes in assembly or general elections to become a state party, or those which have never contested elections since being registered are considered unrecognised parties.

In a new report, the ADR said from 112 parties in 2010, the number spiked to 2,301 in 2019 and now in 2021, the number rose to 2,858. "It is important to note that the number of such parties increases disproportionately during the year of Parliamentary elections especially. Between 2018 and 2019, it increased by over 9.8 per cent while between 2013 and 2014, it increased by 18 per cent," the report said.

registered unrecognised parties and the annual contribution reports of only 160 or 5.72 per cent of the total 2,796 registered unrecognised parties are available in the public domain for 2019-20.

Of the 889 registered unrecognised parties analysed belonging to five states going for polls in 2022, the annual audit reports are available on the state CEO websites for only 90 or 10.12 per cent of such parties belonging to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand while they are unavailable for the unrecognised parties of Manipur and Goa for 2019-20.

"The annual audit reports of 10.69 per cent or 82 out of 767 parties of UP, 9.09 per cent or 6 out of 66 parties of Punjab and 5.41 per cent or 2 parties of 37 parties of Uttarakhand are available in the public domain," it said.

During 2019-20, only 25 of these 90 registered unrecognised parties submitted their audit reports without any delay, while the remaining 65 parties submitted their audit reports after the due date, with a delay ranging from 1 day to 318 days, the report said.

COVID SURGE

One in every four tests +ve in Delhi

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 11: One in every four persons tested in Delhi was found to be Covid-19 positive as the infection rate climbed to 25.65 per cent in the city Tuesday. As per the health department, the city had recorded a 26.36 per cent Covid infection rate May 5.

The city has also recorded 23 Covid deaths which is the highest in the last eight months, taking the death toll to 25,200. The city has recorded the highest deaths after June 13 when the same numbers of fatalities were recorded.

Meanwhile, 21,159 fresh Covid cases reported in the last 24 hours pushed the tally to 15,90,155 in the city. The number of active Covid cases have jumped to 74,881, the highest since May 13. According to the Health Department, Delhi had recorded the highest 77,717 active Covid cases May 13.

With a 93.70 per cent Covid recovery rate, the active Covid cases rate in Delhi has gone up to 4.70 per cent while the death rate stands at 1.58 per cent.

With 12,161 patients recovering in the last 24 hours, the total number of recoveries has gone up to 14,90,074. A total of 50,796 Covid patients are being treated in home isolation at present.

The number of Covid containment zones has risen to 17,269. Meanwhile, a total of 82,884 new tests - 61,060 RT-PCR and 21,824 Rapid Antigen - were conducted in the last 24 hours, taking the total to 3,36,43,906. Out of 1,97,617 vaccines administered in the last 24 hours,



A health official takes swab sample of a passenger for Covid-19 test at New Delhi Railway station

Covid cases are rapidly rising throughout the country. Delhi too is witnessing a rise but we have noticed a trend that the speed of the spread of the virus has slowed down. I hope that this trend will continue for the near future and the Covid spread comes down

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

1,12,940 were first doses and 65, 819 second doses. The total number of cumulative beneficiaries vaccinated so far stands at 2,77,19,689 according to the health bulletin.

'Ensure timely management of hosp admissions': The Delhi government Tuesday directed all hospitals to ensure timely management of hospital admissions as per the protocol amid the surge in Covid cases and deaths in the capital city.

Delhi has so far reported 70 Covid deaths this month including 17 deaths consecutively for two days.

"Medical directors and medical superintendents of all the hospitals

are directed to issue necessary directions to all the concerned to put in place prompt and appropriate systems in their hospitals to ensure compliance of timely management of hospital admission as per the protocol, proper treatment protocol, satisfactory levels of patient care and analysis of Covid 19 deaths", reads the order from the Director General of Health Services, Delhi government.

The Delhi government has also directed that all Covid-19 positive patients admitted with comorbidities or patients admitted with other serious diseases who turned out to be Covid positive are

Private firms to work from home

New Delhi: In the wake of spike in Covid-19 cases, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has directed all private offices, barring those under exempted categories in the national capital, to send their employees to work from home. "All private offices, except those which are falling under the 'Exempted Category' as prescribed in DDMA's GRAP order dated 08.08.21. The practice of work from home shall be followed," the order read. Till now, offices were asked to function with half their employees in office and the rest at home. Government offices in the national capital are already working with 50 per cent capacity. Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal after chairing the DDMA meet Monday afternoon had announced that restaurants in the national capital have been closed for dine-in options amid a surge in the Covid-19 cases and only takeaways will be allowed. Besides, only one weekly market per day per zone will be allowed to operate. The governor also said that the health department has been advised to make adequate arrangements for the additional manpower in hospitals and to scale up the vaccination efforts, including those in the population between 15 and 18 years.

duly attended to by the concerned specialist and due attention is given to them.

New Delhi, Jan 11: Delhi Police have denied reports of exodus of migrant labourers from the national capital over the fear of imposition of another lockdown in the city, an official said here Tuesday.

"Labourers are not migrating from the city. These are all rumours," the official said. DCP (East district) Priyanka Kashyap also shared a similar message stating: "No such mass movement of labourers has been reported or is happening".

Most of the people who work in Delhi come from other states. If Covid situation does not improve, the national capital could re-witness the problems faced during the previous lockdowns

IANS had January 9 reported that migrant labourers, who during the previous coronavirus-induced lockdown ran out of food, struggled to access healthcare and faced acute livelihood problems, were once again returning to their home states fearing that the weekly curfew

AGENCIES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 11: The Delhi government will launch online yoga and pranayam classes for Covid-19 patients in home isolation from January 12, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Tuesday.

He also said that this initiative will be the first of its kind in the world. There will be eight classes of one hour each from 6 am to 11 am and 4 pm to 7 pm under the 'Dilli ki Yogshala' programme, the chief minister said during an online briefing.

"To help patients who are recovering at home, the Delhi government has brought forward a one of a kind programme. The programme will be unique in itself throughout the globe. In my understanding, we are the first to design something like this," he said during an online briefing.

Kejriwal said registration links will be sent to patients in home isolation and they can register

for the classes according to their convenience. "Classes will be held in batches of 15 and we have sufficient instructors to look after 40,000 patients," he said. Kejriwal said that COVID-19 cases are rapidly rising throughout the country. "I hope that this trend will continue for the near future and the Covid spread comes down. At present, barely 1,500-2,000 hospital beds have been occupied by Covid patients and the rest are in home isolation," he added. Kejriwal said that instructors have been given specific training for yoga asanas and practices related to Covid-19 recovery. "Yoga and pranayam greatly add on to one's immunity. I would not claim that they offer complete protection against the virus but they definitely help one cope and recover more efficiently," he said. The Chief Minister said they do not want this to be "some large scale broadcast that the masses follow".



RESTAURANTS OWNERS UNHAPPY

Owners of restaurants and bars in Delhi Tuesday expressed dismay over the DDMA's decision to suspend dine-in facilities in the city and said many businesses may have to shut shop as takeaway services alone cannot cover expenses like rent and staff salaries. They said it is an "injustice" that restaurants and bars in the city are being closed when roadside eateries are open and Metro trains and buses are running at full capacity. They also urged the Delhi Disaster Management Authority to review its decision.

may be converted into a lockdown as the surge in the cases of novel coronavirus continued unabated.

However, the weekend curfew was not extended beyond January 9.

Delhi Monday recorded 19,166 fresh cases, raising the infection rate to 25 per cent, highest since May 5. According to an earlier IANS report, several migrant labourers have already left for their home states fearing lockdown in the national capital.

"Last time, I got stuck in the

national capital with my family. Duration of lockdown was extended gradually and I faced a lot of hardship. That's why when this time I heard of curfew, I left the national capital," said a migrant labourer Hemant Maurya.

He further said: "If the curfew is not extended, we will come back. Fearing lockdown, I left for home January 6. We will face problems due to unemployment, but if life is saved, we will find some work. This time I was accompanied by four fellow labourers."

ASI ARRESTED IN KUPWARA WHILE ACCEPTING BRIBE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jan 11: Anti Corruption Bureau sleuths Tuesday arrested a police officer in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir for demanding and accepting a bribe from a driver for getting his vehicle released from the court.

The ACB received a complaint on its helpline alleging therein that Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Mohammad Sultan Mir of Police Station Kupwara is demanding bribe for providing report to the court on an application moved by him, a spokesman of the ACB said.



The complainant had made an application through his counsel before the court for release of his truck and its documents which were seized by the police in an accident case, the spokesman said. The complainant alleged that his truck met with an accident November 29 last year near Heri, Kupwara, he said.

A case was registered against the police officer at Police Station, Kupwara. The complainant approached ASI Mohammad Sultan Mir, Investigating Officer of the case for providing report to the court. ASI Sultan Mir demanded from bribe from him for providing report to the court.



MAJESTIC VIEW: A boatman stands near his shikara during sunset on the outskirts of Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

IGP Kashmir zone reviews security situation in Valley

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jan 11: Inspector General of Police Kash1/11/2022 6:47:56 PMmir zone Vijay Kumar Tuesday reviewed the general security situation in the valley ahead of the Republic Day celebrations later this month.

Kumar chaired a security review meeting at Police Control

Room Kashmir through video conferencing with deputy inspectors general of the various ranges, Senior Superintendents of Police and other officers. A police spokesman said the IGP was briefed by the officers about the overall security scenarios in their respective areas and the security measures being adopted to counter the challenges.

The IGP was also briefed about the security measures and preparations put in place in connection with upcoming Republic Day besides, the measures taken in view of the third Covid-19 wave. The IGP discussed the initiatives taken for the maintenance of law and order besides anti-terrorist operations in the valley. Kumar also appreciated them for their com-

mitment towards their duties and contribution in maintenance of law and order and in conducting successful anti-terror operations with no collateral damage.

He emphasized upon them that such efforts and coordination with other forces working on ground should continue to ensure a peaceful atmosphere in the valley.

J&K panel to decide on Maharaja Hari Singh's b'day commemoration

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Jan 11: In a significant development, Jammu and Kashmir government Tuesday constituted a committee of senior officers regarding the issue of commemoration of Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday and its observance as a public holiday.

An order issued by the J&K administrative department said a 4-member committee headed by the principal Secretary General administration department will go into the issue of commemoration of late Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday and its observance as a general/public holiday under the



Late Maharaja Hari Singh is seen as an icon of the Dogra pride and valour although the end of his rule in 1947 is observed as the Independence Day of Jammu and Kashmir

negotiable instruments act 1881. Maharaja Hari Singh was born September 23, 1895 in Jammu city and he died on April 26, 1961 in Mumbai. There has been a growing demand by the residents of

Jammu, especially the Dogra Rajput community, to observe the late Dogra Maharaja's birthday on an official scale and declare it as a public holiday. Late Maharaja Hari Singh is

seen as an icon of the Dogra pride and valour although the end of his rule in 1947 is observed as the Independence Day of Jammu and Kashmir. The late Maharaja was negotiating a standstill agreement with India and Pakistan in 1947 when the Afridi tribals invaded the state and started looting and plunder with the support of Pakistan.

The decision to encourage and support the tribal invasion of J&K in 1947 by Pakistan is believed to have been prompted by the efforts of late Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah who was negotiating the accession of the Muslim majority state with India against the doctrine of the Two Nation Theory.

Sub-zero temperatures grip Kashmir

THE MET OFFICE SAID THE WEATHER IS LIKELY TO STAY MAINLY DRY OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jan 11: Sub-zero temperatures returned to the Kashmir Valley as the mercury plunged with Gulmarg and Pahalgam witnessing extreme cold conditions, officials said Tuesday.

Gulmarg, the famous ski resort in Baramulla district, recorded a low of minus 10.6 degrees Celsius. This is for the third straight night that the minimum temperature in Gulmarg has fallen to minus 10 degrees Celsius or below, meteorological officials said. South Kashmir's Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 10.4 de-

grees Celsius, a drop of nearly eight degrees, they said. Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, was the only place where the minimum temperature was above the freezing point at 0.2 degrees Celsius last night, the officials said.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, recorded a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.7 degrees Celsius, they said. The mercury settled at a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius in north Kashmir's Kupwara. The Kashmir Valley is currently under the grip of the 40-day harshest winter period

known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' that began December 21.

During 'Chilla-i-Kalan', a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the famous Dal Lake here, and the water supply lines in several parts of the Valley. The chances of snowfall are the maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy to very heavy snowfall.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end January 31, but the cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).



Representational image

of the day quote

I requested Chairman of the Rajya Sabha on the last day of the Winter Session to allow online meetings of Standing Committees. And yet again this was disallowed. Now, important committee meetings are being put off. I simply cannot understand why online meetings cannot be held

Only two percent of the active Covid patients in Himachal Pradesh are currently in hospitals, while the rest 98 percent are in home quarantine

Congress and corruption are synonymous with each other. In fact it is the fountainhead of corruption. Uttarakhnd has seen their government which gave protection to the mafias. People have to choose between our work and their wrongdoings in these elections

SHORT TAKES

Nine arrested

Chennai: Tamil Nadu police has arrested nine persons, including a 77-year-old man, at Gingee in Villupuram district for sexually abusing a 16-year-old girl. The Gingee All Woman Police arrested nine people which included the girl's male cousin (36) and aunt (50). Besides, Mannakkattai alias Venkatesan (77), R. Iyalaraja (28), M.Venkatesan (24), R. Prabhu (37), K. Babu (22), P.Ezhumalai (26) and A. Satyaraj (28) were the others to be arrested. The accused were charged under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act.

Gold seized

Hyderabad: The Customs officials at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) have seized 970 gram of gold in paste form from a passenger who had concealed it in the bandages tied to calves of both the legs. The gold valued at Rs 47.55 lakh was seized from a male passenger who arrived from Sharjah Sunday. A case of gold smuggling has been booked against the passenger. Monday, the Customs officials booked a case of gold smuggling against another passenger who arrived from Dubai.

Man held

Gurugram: A man has been arrested for allegedly selling activated mobile SIM cards to foreign nationals and others without required documents in Sector-51 of Gurugram, police said Tuesday. Ravinder Singh alias Sameer (38) from Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar and currently residing in village Wazirabad of Gurugram, was apprehended by the chief minister flying squad. According to the CM flying squad sleuths, on Monday, they received credible information that a man standing in front of Artemis Hospital, in Sector-51 was selling activated mobile SIM cards to foreign nationals and other people for just Rs 600 to 800 without required documents.

Inmate dies

Srinagar: An accused lodged in district jail Kupwara died around midnight, police sources said Tuesday. Thirty-three-year-old Khurshid Ahmad of Seadpora, Sopore, who was lodged in district jail Kupwara since October 5, 2021, fell ill and was rushed to a hospital in Kupwara town where doctors declared him dead on arrival.



Only half of India's population is fully vaccinated. Isn't it a big failure of the Modi government. We are witnessing an increase in cases in the 3rd wave. PM Modi is now telling officials to speed up vaccination on 'mission mode'. Why weren't we on this mission since Day 1?

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS LEADER

ED HEADQUARTERS TO BE INAUGURATED SOON

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will now have a posh new headquarters in Delhi's Lutyens' zone, which is now ready to be occupied by the probe agency



TEAM YOGI LOSES KEY MINISTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Jan 11: In a jolt to the BJP in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh Tuesday, OBC leader Swami Prasad Maurya resigned from the state cabinet and three other MLAs announced they are quitting the party.

Maurya is widely expected to join the Samajwadi Party but has not made a formal declaration. The SP, however, welcomed him to their fold, even sharing a picture that showed him with party president Akhilesh Yadav. Tindwari MLA Brajesh Prajapati, Tilhar's Roshan Lal Varma and Bilhaur's Bhagwati Sagar announced that they are leaving the BJP in Maurya's support, amid speculation that others could follow them.

The setback to the ruling party came on a day when a key BJP meeting to discuss the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, now just a month away, was taking place in Delhi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya and state party chief Swatantra Dev Singh attended the meeting, as the party begins shortlisting its candidates.

Party president J.P. Nadda, down with Covid, joined them virtually. Maurya said he has resigned as Labour Minister in the Adityanath cabinet due to "gross neglect" towards Dalits, the backwards, farmers, unemployed youth and small traders.

There was no immediate word



SETBACK FOR BJP

Maurya, who is expected to join the Samajwadi Party, said he resigning from the Yogi Adityanath cabinet "due to the attitude of gross neglect" towards Dalits, backwards, farmers, unemployed youth and small traders

The setback to the ruling party came on a day when a key BJP meeting to discuss the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, now just a month away, was taking place in Delhi

On the resignations being accepted. On Twitter, Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya urged the leader to reconsider his move. "I don't know for what reasons respected Swami Prasad Maurya has tendered his resignation. I appeal to him to sit down for a talk. Decisions taken in a hurry often prove wrong," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

In his resignation letter to Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Maurya said, "I discharged

my responsibilities as the minister for labour, employment, and coordination in the council of ministers headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, despite adverse circumstances and ideology." "Due to the attitude of gross neglect towards Dalits, backwards, farmers, unemployed youth and small and medium-sized traders, I am resigning from the Yogi ministry of Uttar Pradesh," he tweeted in Hindi.

BIRLA INSPECTS PARLIAMENT HOUSE COMPLEX

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: Amid a growing number of Covid cases in the country, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Tuesday said necessary arrangements for the upcoming Budget session of Parliament are being made to enable members of Parliament perform their constitutional responsibilities.

He also asserted that the "situation is under control" and all steps are being taken to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. According to a statement issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Birla inspected the Parliament House complex during the day to take stock of the health safety related measures and other preparations put in place in light of the recent spike in Covid cases in the country.

Sources said 65 employees of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, 200 of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and 133 of allied services tested positive for COVID-19 between January 4 and 8 during regular tests.

Birla visited the Covid testing facility set up in Parliament House Annex for the MPs, officers and staff of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha secretariats and reviewed the preparations there.

Reviewing the testing and medical facilities at the Parliament House complex, Birla directed the officials to immediately address any requirements of members and officials that were felt necessary. He also directed officials concerned to put in place all precautionary measures to check the pandemic and keep track of positive cases.

Speaking to doctors at the medical centre, Birla took stock of facilities available and directed that all additional resources may be made available on priority.

PARADE PRACTICE



Security personnel participate in a rehearsal for the Republic Day parade at Gandhi Maidan in Patna

PTI PHOTO

NCP to tie up with SP in UP polls: Pawar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 11: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar Tuesday said his party would contest the ensuing Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh as part of the Samajwadi Party-led alliance.

He also said 13 members of the Legislative Assembly in Uttar Pradesh will be joining the Samajwadi Party. Talking to reporters here, Pawar said people of Uttar Pradesh are looking for parivartan (change) in the northern state, adding it will happen.

"Voters will give a befitting reply to the communal polarization being done in UP ahead of the polls," he said.



Pawar said people of Uttar Pradesh are looking for change in the northern state, adding it will happen

NCP will also contest the ensuing Assembly elections Goa and Manipur; he said. In Manipur, NCP will have an understanding with the Congress, while in Goa, it is in talks with the Congress and the Trinamool Congress, he added. Pawar slammed UP CM Yogi

Adityanath over the latter's "80:20" remarks. Yogi Adityanath has called the UP election an "80 versus 20 battle", in a highly controversial comment seen to imply a religious divide. The numbers cited by him roughly correspond to the ratio

Mayawati not to contest UP polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Jan 11: Bahuujan Samaj Party president Mayawati will not contest the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, party general secretary S C Misra said here Tuesday.

Misra said he will also not contest the state elections, which will be held in seven phases starting February 10. Since elections are being held in five states, including Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh, the BSP president will not contest the polls and help party candidates win, he said.

Later, he said, "The decision of the party for now is that Mayawati ji and I will not fight Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. However, future decisions will be taken by Mayawati ji herself." Mayawati is neither a legislator nor an MP. Misra is a Rajya Sabha member. The BSP has decided to contest all 403 seats in Uttar Pradesh alone. It has entered into an alliance with the Shromani Akali Dal in Punjab.

Over poll surveys claiming that the BSP is already "out of the race" for power in Uttar Pradesh, Misra claimed his party will form government in the state and Mayawati will take over as chief minister for the fifth time. Mayawati had served as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh in 1995, 1997, 2002 and 2007. She was a member of the legisla-



tive council in 2007. The BSP is trying to revive its 2007 winning formula of Dalits-Brahmins combination in the state. As part of their time-tested social engineering, Misra has been crisscrossing Uttar Pradesh to promote "bhaichara" (brotherhood) among the Dalits and Brahmins. Addressing a 'Brahmins sammelan' in Lucknow last year, Mayawati had said her party would work for the development of Uttar Pradesh and improve its law and order if voted to power in the Assembly elections.

Though neither the BJP nor the Samajwadi Party talking much against the BSP during their campaign, the Mayawati-led party with a strong support base among Dalits in the state, has the potential of upsetting their apple carts.

TMC-MGP alliance promises 50K homes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, Jan 11: In a major pre-poll promise, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) combine on Tuesday, promised subsidised housing to 50,000 homeless native families and an expeditious process for clear land title to long-staying tenants, defined under the twin legislations, namely 'The Goa Daman and Diu Agricultural Tenancy Act, 1964' and 'The Goa Daman & Diu Mundkars (Protection from eviction) Act, 1975'.

According to TMC national vice president Luizinho Faleiro, if the party comes to power, it will begin implementation of the two promises within 250 days, adding that the total budgetary implication of the housing initiative would amount to only 0.6 per cent of the state's expenditure.

"Today, in the history of the state of Goa we are moving a very important step. This step will affect the lives of 60 per cent of the population of Goa. It will affect 2.1 lakh families in Goa," Faleiro told the joint press conference along with leaders of the MGP.

Both parties announced a pre-poll alliance last month for the upcoming state assembly polls. "Griha laxmi card represents eight per cent of the budget, Yuva Shakti card represents four per cent of our budget and subsidised houses represent 0.6 per cent of our budget. In other words, if anyone wants to know, the various schemes which TMC will bring hardly affects 13.2 per cent of the budget," Faleiro said, while explaining the financial implications of the party's schemes, which the political outfit's critics have described as populist and unreasonable.

Cong has to win to be relevant as principal party against BJP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 11: After the announcement of the poll dates in five states, the challenges before the grand old party are how to remain relevant in the states as principal opposition party.

Except in Uttar Pradesh, Congress is a major force in other four states but the two parties who have disturbed the equation in three states are the AAP in Punjab and Uttarakhand and Trinamool Congress in Goa, which means Congress has to retain at least Punjab and win two other states to be relevant in the national politics as principal opposition party - the space which is being threatened by the TMC and AAP.

Apart from Uttar Pradesh, the party is in direct contest with the BJP in three states, while in Punjab, it faces the Akali Dal-BSP and Aam Aadmi Party.

The Congress national status is being challenged by the AAP and TMC as AAP is contesting in Uttarakhand, Punjab and Goa. In Punjab, it's a force and it can cut votes in Goa and Uttarakhand.

Though it is not the main challenger in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress wants to be ahead of the BSP in the contest. The Congress is faced with a crisis in Goa, where almost all the MLAs have deserted the party, except for two former Chief Ministers. It faces somewhat similar problem in Punjab, where party MLAs have left while many



others have lined up to join the Punjab Lok Congress, the outfit floated by former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and the BJP.

The party is in a better position in Uttarakhand, where some BJP MLAs have joined the party. In Manipur too, the Congress has

The Congress national status is being challenged by the AAP and TMC as AAP is contesting in Uttarakhand, Punjab and Goa. In Punjab, it's a force and it can cut votes in Goa and Uttarakhand

faced an exodus ahead of the polls. The party is paying special attention to the northeastern state and has appointed Jairam Ramesh as the senior observer. In the last elections in Manipur, the Congress could not form the government

despite emerging as the single largest party.

The same thing happened in Goa, where around 13 MLAs have joined the BJP in the past five years while two have jumped ship to the Trinamool Congress. The grand old party has now appointed veteran leader P. Chidambaram as senior observer in the coastal state.

The toughest challenge is in Uttar Pradesh where Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is in-charge with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel as senior observer. Priyanka Gandhi started her virtual campaign Saturday with direct dialogue to people on social media platforms. She is also scheduled to address party rallies in other states as well.



We still have a huge amount of uncertainty and a virus that is evolving quite quickly, imposing new challenges. We are certainly not at the point where we are able to call it endemic
CATHERINE SMALLWOOD | WHO'S SENIOR EMERGENCY OFFICER FOR EUROPE

BUSHFIRE RAGES IN WESTERN AUS

Emergency authorities in Western Australia have issued warnings to residents on the state's southwest as a bushfire continues to rage Tuesday



of the day quote

The economy has rapidly gained strength despite the ongoing pandemic, giving rise to persistent supply and demand imbalances and bottlenecks, and thus to elevated inflation
JEROME POWELL | CHAIR OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE OF THE US

The infection situations regarding Omicron are clearly different at home (and) from abroad, so the framework of the current border controls will be maintained until the end of February
FUMIO KISHIDA | JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

Taiwan will launch a \$1 billion credit programme to help fund joint projects between Lithuanian and Taiwanese companies in six business categories
KUNG MING-HSIN | TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

79% Afghan scribes gave up profession

Kabul: The Journalists Foundation of Afghanistan said that mediapersons in the country are going through the worst economic situation as 79 per cent of them have lost their jobs and resorted to other professions to make money and survive, Khaama Press reported. The Foundation has assessed the lives of Afghan journalists in the past one and a half months and found that they are living the worst life due to the fragile economic situation.

Kazakhstan garners support

Nur-Sultan: Several countries and groups have voiced support for Kazakhstan in cracking down on riots and bringing back normal life as an externally-stoked "terrorist attack" has caused great losses to the Central Asian country. The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), a Moscow-led military alliance, held an extraordinary session via video link Monday, when leaders of the member states showed solidarity with the Kazakh authorities, reports xinhua news agency.

Nicaraguan Prez sworn in

Managua: Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has been sworn in for a new five-year term. Ortega and Vice President Rosario Murillo were re-elected in November 2021 general elections, reports Xinhua news agency. The swearing-in ceremony took place Monday at the Plaza de la Revolucion here.

Kenya hit with power outage

Nairobi: Kenya's only electricity distribution company is reporting a widespread power cut in East Africa's economic hub after towers collapsed on a major transmission line. Kenya Power in a statement Tuesday said engineers were working to restore supply after the collapse on the Kiambere-Embakasi power line.

6 missing in SK building collapse

Seoul: South Korean emergency officials on Tuesday said that at least six people were missing and more than 100 households were forced to evacuate following the partial collapse of a high-rise apartment building that was under construction in the city of Gwangju.

Current situation on Sino-India border 'generally stable': China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Jan 11: China said Tuesday that the current situation on the border areas with India was "generally stable" as it confirmed that the 14th round of Corps Commander-level talks to discuss the disengagement process in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh will be held Wednesday.

The remarks by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin came a day after sources in the security establishment in New Delhi said that India is looking forward to "constructive" dialogue with China to resolve issues in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh, ahead of the 14th round of military talks between the two sides on the 20-month row.

"The China-India border situation is generally stable at the moment," he said in a statement.

"The two countries are maintaining dialogue and communication through diplomatic and military channels. We hope the Indian side can work with China, and strive to switch from emergency response to normalised management and control in the border area as soon as possible," Wang said in statement.

According to the sources in New Delhi, the 'Senior Highest Military Commander Level' talks between India and China will take place January 12 at the Chushul-Moldo meeting point, on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC)



As agreed by both sides, China and India will hold the 14th round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting on the Chinese side of the Moldo meeting point January 12

WANG WENBIN | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

in eastern Ladakh.

India is looking forward to "constructive" dialogue with China to resolve issues in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh, they said, adding that major focus of the talks will be on disengagement in the Hot Springs area.

The Indian side is expected to press for disengagement as soon as possible in all the remaining friction points including resolution of issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok. The 13th round of military talks took place October 10, 2021 and they ended in a stalemate. Both sides failed to

make any headway in the talks with the Indian Army saying after the dialogue that the "constructive suggestions" made by it were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor it could provide any "forward-looking" proposals.

In their virtual diplomatic talks November 18, India and China agreed to hold the 14th round of military talks at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the sensitive sector.

Kremlin: Not much optimism after Russia-US talks on Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Jan 11: The Kremlin said Tuesday the security talks with the US amid tensions over Ukraine have given little reason for optimism, adding that Russia would wait for the outcome of other meetings this week before deciding whether it's worth to continue negotiations.

The leader of the US delegation at Monday's talks briefed allies in Brussels about the session and stressed the security crisis was "caused by Russia" and its troop buildup near Ukraine.

At the Geneva talks, Moscow insisted on guarantees to halt NATO's eastward expansion and even roll back the military alliance's deployments in Eastern Europe, while Washington firmly rejected the demands as a nonstarter.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov noted that while the talks were "open, comprehensive and direct," he emphasised that it's the result that matters.

"So far, let's say we see no significant reason for optimism," he said in a conference call with reporters. The Geneva talks are being followed by a round of Russia-NATO talks in Brussels Wednesday and a meeting of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna Thursday.

"There are still several rounds (of talks) ahead of us, which will allow us to work out a clearer understanding, a clearer picture of where we stand with the Americans," Peskov said in a statement.

N Korea fires 2nd ballistic missile in less than a week



AGENCIES

Seoul, Jan 11: North Korea Tuesday fired what appeared to be a ballistic missile into its eastern sea, its second launch in a week, following leader Kim Jong Un's calls to expand its nuclear weapons program in defiance of international opposition.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said North Korea fired what likely was a ballistic missile from the area of its northern Jagang province. It said the weapon flew 700 km (434 miles) at a maximum speed of around Mach 10 before landing in waters off its eastern coast.

It said the launch was a "clear violation" of UN Security Council resolutions and demonstrated a more advanced capability than North Korea's previous launch last week.

The North's state media described that launch as a successful test of a hypersonic missile, a type of weaponry it claimed to have

first tested in September. South Korean officials didn't provide a specific assessment of the missile type, but some experts said North Korea may have tested its purported hypersonic missile again in response to the South Korean military playing down its previous test. North Korea didn't immediately comment Tuesday's test.

Japan's Defence Ministry said the suspected ballistic missile landed outside the country's exclusive economic zone.

The Security Council held closed-door consultations Monday on last week's launch, but took no action. Ahead of the talks, the US and five allies issued a statement urging North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

South Korea's presidential office said Tuesday's launch was discussed at an emergency National Security Council meeting, which expressed "strong regret" over North Korea's continuing tests and urged it to return to talks.

Smart guns finally arriving in US



REUTERS

New York, Jan 11: Personalised smart guns, which can be fired only by verified users, may finally become available to US consumers after two decades of questions about reliability and concerns they will usher in a new wave of government regulation.

Four-year-old LodeStar Works Friday unveiled its 9mm smart handgun for shareholders and investors in Boise, Idaho. And a Kansas company, SmartGunz LLC, says law enforcement agents are beta testing its product, a similar but simpler model.

Both companies hope to have a product commercially available this year. LodeStar co-founder Gareth Glaser said he was inspired after hearing one too many stories about children shot while playing with an unattended gun.

Smart guns could stop such tragedies by using technology to authenticate a user's identity and disable the gun should anyone else try to fire it. They should also reduce suicides, render lost or stolen guns

useless, and offer safety for police officers and jail guards who fear gun grabs. But attempts to develop smart guns have stalled: Smith & Wesson (SWBLO) got hit with a boycott, a German company's product was hacked, and a New Jersey law aimed at promoting smart guns has raised the wrath of defenders of the Second Amendment.

The LodeStar gun, aimed at first-time buyers, would retail for \$895. The test-firing of the LodeStar gun before Reuters cameras has not been reported elsewhere. A range officer fired the weapon, a third-generation prototype, in its different settings without issue.

Glaser acknowledged there will be additional challenges to large-scale manufacturing, but expressed confidence that after years of trial and error the technology was advanced enough and the microelectronics inside the gun are well-protected.

Most early smart gun prototypes used either fingerprint unlocking or radio frequency identification technology that enables the gun to fire only when a chip in the gun communicates with another chip worn by the user in a ring or bracelet. The fingerprint reader unlocks the gun in micro-seconds, but since it may not work when wet or in other adverse conditions, the PIN pad is there as a backup.



A 3-years-old female wild Sumatran tiger is seen inside a cage after it was rescued and evacuated by West Sumatra Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) in Agam district, West Sumatra, Indonesia

UNI PHOTO

EU Parl President David Sassoli dies at 65

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Jan 11: David Sassoli, an Italian journalist who worked his way up in politics while defending the downtrodden and repressed to become President of the European Union's parliament, died at a hospital in Italy early Tuesday. He was 65.

European Council President Charles Michel called Sassoli a "sincere and passionate European. We already miss his human warmth, his generosity, his friend-



ness and his smile." Sassoli, a socialist, had been hospitalised since December 26 because of abnor-

mal functioning of his immune system, Cuillo said in a statement released the day before Sassoli's death.

Sassoli had been struggling for months with poor health after he suffered pneumonia caused by the legionella bacteria in September. His health steadily declined afterward and he was forced to miss several important legislative meetings. European unity was his benchmark, just as much as justice among all Europeans was.

US surgeons transplant pig heart into human patient

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Jan 11: In a rare medical feat, the US doctors have successfully transplanted a genetically-modified pig heart to a 57-year-old patient with terminal heart disease.

The patient, David Bennett, a Maryland resident, who had been hospitalised and bedridden for the past few months, is doing well three days after a first-of-its-kind surgery, said doctors at University of Maryland Medicine (UMMC) in a statement.

The organ transplant demonstrated for the first time that a genetically-modified animal heart can function like a human heart without immediate rejection by the body, it added.

Bennett was deemed unfit for conventional heart transplant or an artificial heart pump due to a life-threatening arrhythmia -- an irregular heartbeat condition that can lead to cardiac arrest or stroke. He was also connected to a heart-lung bypass machine, called extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), to remain alive.

The US Food and Drug Administration had granted an emergency authorisation for the surgery December 31 "in the hope of saving the patient's life".



And then six human genes -- responsible for immune acceptance of the pig heart -- were inserted into the genome. One additional gene in the pig was also knocked out to prevent excessive growth

of the pig heart tissue, which totaled 10 unique gene edits made in the donor pig.

While the process could potentially save thousands of lives, it carries a unique set of risks, including the possibility of triggering a dangerous immune response. These responses can trigger an immediate rejection of the organ with a potentially deadly outcome to the patient, the doctors said.

Thus, the physician-scientists also developed a new drug along with conventional anti-rejection drugs, which are designed to suppress the immune system and prevent the

body from rejecting the foreign organ. "This was a breakthrough surgery and brings us one step closer to solving the organ shortage crisis. There are simply not enough donor human hearts available to meet the long list of potential recipients," said Bartley P. Griffith, who surgically transplanted the pig heart into the patient.

"We are proceeding cautiously, but we are also optimistic that this first-in-the-world surgery will provide an important new option for patients in the future," added Griffith, who is also a Professor in Transplant Surgery and Director at UMMC.

This was a breakthrough surgery and brings us one step closer to solving the organ shortage crisis. There are simply not enough donor human hearts available to meet the long list of potential recipients
BARTLEY P. GRIFFITH SURGEON



Digital technology is a powerful deflationary force in an inflationary economy
SATYA NADELLA | MICROSOFT CEO

VIRUS, BOTTLENECKS TO SLOW GLOBAL GROWTH

The World Bank is downgrading its outlook for the global economy, blaming continuing outbreaks of COVID-19, a reduction in government economic support and ongoing bottlenecks in global supply chains. The 189-country, anti-poverty agency forecasts worldwide economic growth of 4.1% this year, down from the 4.3% growth it was forecasting last June.



of the day quote

I'll be so bold to say that the number one challenge for the industry is just talent. Companies who win the war on talent, win the game at some level, there is such a huge mismatch today between demand and availability of supply



Data is only going to be critical, in our view. Now how you use, analyse and act upon it, is going to distinguish between great companies to good companies and average companies



My view is that your policy regime should be pro-innovation, light touch and progressive. You should benchmark against the world's best and even better than the world's best



Curbs on Chinese investments may be eased by govt

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 11: India is considering easing curbs on some Chinese investments, Bloomberg News reported Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Currently, investments from an entity in a country that shares a land border with India require government approval, meaning they cannot go through a so-called automatic route.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is now considering exempting proposals from companies where the foreign ownership is less than 10%, the Bloomberg report said.

Bloomberg reported the move was being considered after proposals worth \$6 billion were stuck in red tape, adding the proposal could be approved as early as next month. Political tensions between India and China escalated in 2020 after their soldiers clashed on the disputed Himalayan border. Since then, India has sought to limit Chinese investment in sensitive companies and sectors, banned a raft of Chinese mobile apps and subjected imports of Chinese goods to extra scrutiny.

The government had imposed curbs on such investments also to avert risks of opportunistic



takeovers. The move slowed down the approval process with proposals from the neighbouring nations including China and Hong Kong piling up. Apart from delaying, the restriction had also complicated deal-making for investors. Relaxing the rules will broaden the pool of investors that capital-hungry Indian firms can tap, as local firms increasingly turn to large global investors to fund their growth. As of November 2021, over 100 proposals are awaiting clearance from the government, with around a quarter of them of over \$10 million each.

Future says it will sink if Reliance deal fails; SC reserves verdict

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 11: The Future Group Tuesday submitted before the Supreme Court that Future Retail Ltd will sink with its 30,000 employees, if its over ₹24,000 crore deal with Reliance Retail fails to reach fruition.

The Future Group also sought permission from a bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana to proceed with the deal to sell its retail assets to Reliance Retail.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, representing Future Retail, submitted that company is in a precarious financial situation due to the Covid pandemic, and if its deal with Reliance is obstructed, then 30,000 employees may lose their jobs. He added that his client should be allowed to secure shareholder approval, and seek nod from the CCI and the NCLT.

"Let us get to that final stage... Amazon's interests aren't hurt," he argued.

Senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, representing Amazon, submitted his client has been offering to help the Future Group. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Future Coupons, submitted the assets of the promoters of the Future Group are hypothecated, and if the deal with Reliance fails to go through, then everybody will sink, pointing at thousands of employees.

Citing Indian laws, Salve said Amazon cannot give money to his client, as the law does not permit them to invest in multi-brand retail.



"We first sank because of a lockdown when people wouldn't go to shops. We are in this financially precarious situation. Fortunately banks are willing to wait and say that if a transaction goes through Reliance deal will pay off the banks. The Reliance deal is close to ₹26,000 crores, and Amazon's stake is ₹14,000 crores. Around 30,000 jobs will be saved. If you put this all together, let us get to that final stage. Let that final stage does not go through. Amazon's interests are not hurt," Salve said.

After a detailed hearing in the matter, the bench, also comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna and Hima Kohli reserved the judgment in the matter.

The Future Coupons and Future Retail have moved the top court challenging the Delhi High Court's single bench March 2021 order, directing attachment of assets of Future group companies and its pro-

motors for breach of Emergency Award by Singapore Tribunal. Both sides have so far filed several cases at various forums, which include the apex court, Delhi High Court, and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

In 2020, Amazon invoked arbitration after Future Retail announced its asset sale deal with Reliance Industries Ltd wholly-owned subsidiary, Reliance Retail.

In December last year, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had imposed a penalty of ₹202 crore on Amazon and suspended its approval for the e-tailer's deal with Future Coupons, a promoter firm of the group's public listed company Future Retail Ltd, seeking more information. The US e-commerce giant has challenged the CCI order at the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

TTML to convert interest amount on AGR dues into equity

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 11: After Vodafone Idea, Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Tuesday said it will opt for conversion of the interest amount on AGR dues into equity and post conversion, the government's holding in the company is expected to be around 9.5 per cent.

The announcement of Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) came within hours of Voda Idea also deciding to opt for converting the interest amount on AGR dues into government equity.

In a filing to the BSE, Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) said Net Present Value or NPV of interest is expected to be nearly ₹850 crore as per the company's estimates, subject to confirmation by the Department of Telecom (DoT).

"... Pursuant to the Empowered Committee of the Board of Directors, at its meeting held on January 11, 2022, the company is expressing its desire for the conversion of the full amount of such interest related to AGR dues into equity subject to mutual agreement on the terms and conditions," the filing said.

The conditions include those related to the governance of the company post conversion of the interest amount into equity shares and various regulatory/legal provisions, it added. The company will communicate the decision to the DoT.

"Following conversion, it is expected that the government will hold approximately 9.5 per cent of the total outstanding shares of the company," it said.

The average price of the company's shares at the relevant date of August 14, 2021 as per the calculation method provided in the DoT communication works out to be about ₹41.50 per share, subject to final confirmation by the DoT, as per the filing.

SHORT TAKES

Bol organises training camp

Bhubaneswar: On the occasion of World Hindi Day, a training programme on the publication of official language magazine with latest technology was organised in the Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Zonal office. On this occasion, Zonal Manager Priyabrata Pattanaik emphasised on the promotion of Hindi language and said that Hindi is our official language and we can enhance our paperless knowledge by publishing e-magazine in the official language. Several officers from banks and insurance companies benefited from this training of new technical information. Deputy Zonal Manager Kamal Lochan Sethi was also present on this occasion. Sonia Sawant, Senior Manager, Rajabhasha coordinated the programme.

M-cap of BSE-listed cos at lifetime high

New Delhi: The market capitalisation of the BSE-listed companies reached a fresh lifetime high of over ₹275.20 lakh crore Tuesday, driven by a continuous rally in the equity market. The 30-share BSE benchmark continued its winning run for the third consecutive session Tuesday. It gained 221.26 points or 0.37 per cent to settle at 60,616.89 Tuesday. In three days, the benchmark has gained 1,015.05 points. Helped by the optimism in equities, the market capitalisation of the BSE-listed companies reached ₹2,75,20,698.50 crore Tuesday. Investors' wealth also jumped ₹4,05,806.62 crore in three days.

ACMA for lower GST on auto parts

New Delhi: Auto components industry body ACMA Tuesday said it has urged the government for a uniform GST rate of 18 per cent on all auto parts to curb the impact of counterfeit parts in the aftermarket operations. In its pre-Budget recommendations, the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) also asked the government to consider upward revision of RODTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products) rates as the rate notified for the sector at 1 per cent or lower is inadequate to cover the incidence of unrefunded taxes and duties borne on export products. "The auto component industry, being an intermediary, has recommended for a uniform GST rate of 18 per cent on all auto components," ACMA President Sunjay Kapur said.

Shares gain for third day on IT boost ahead of earnings

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Jan 11: Continuing its winning run for the third consecutive session, the BSE benchmark Sensex added another 221 points to revisit the 60,500-level Tuesday, propped up by buying mainly in IT and financial shares.

After early hiccups, the 30-share benchmark remained poised throughout the session and went on to hit the day's high of 60,689.25. It finally ended 221.26 points or 0.37 per cent higher at 60,616.89.

Likewise, the NSE Nifty gained 52.45 points or 0.29 per cent to finish at 18,055.75.

HCL Tech topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a leap of 4.30 per cent, followed by HDFC, Tech Mahindra, TCS, RIL, Sun Pharma and SBI.

On the other hand, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, ITC, Asian Paints, Kotak Bank, Dr Reddy's and IndusInd Bank were among the laggards, dropping up to 3.32 per cent. "Domestic benchmark indices showcased a flattish trend with positive bias as the market weighed the expectations of a strong quarter amid concerns over rising cases, supply issue and inflationary pressure. Global market was on the edge as Fed meeting minutes hinted at rate hikes, elevated US inflation and the awaited release of US CPI inflation data. Domestic inflation levels are also likely to be significant due to unfavourable base effect though food prices have declined during



December," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd said initially, weak global cues were weighing on sentiments, however resilience in IT majors boosted the bench-

marks. "We're in the fourth week of rebound and now all eyes are on the earnings of three IT majors - Infosys, TCS and Wipro for cues. We reiterate our positive yet cautious view on markets and suggest focusing more on sector/stock selection," he added.

NABARD pegs Odisha's credit potential for 2022-23 at ₹1.34L cr

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has projected Odisha's credit potential for the financial year 2022-23 at ₹1,34,665 crore, officials said here Tuesday.

The credit projection for 2022-23 is 21.61 per cent higher than the previous year's ₹1,10,735 crore. This was known from the NABARD's State Focus Paper for Odisha for the year 2022-23 released here Tuesday.

Out of the total credit potential for the priority sector, the highest amount of ₹52,050.78 crore (38.65%) has been assessed under the agriculture sector. Under the agriculture sector, credit flow of ₹48,221.10 crore (92.64%) is estimated under farm credit, which comprises both crop loans and term loans for agriculture and allied activities. Besides, credit potential under agriculture infrastructure and ancillary activities has been estimated at ₹1,824.33 crore and ₹2,005.34 crore, respectively.

Credit potential under MSME sector has been assessed at ₹60,001.27 crore, constituting around 44.56 per cent of the total priority

sector. Other sectors consisting of export credit, education, housing, renewable energy, others and social infrastructure have around 16.79 per cent share in the total credit potential under priority sector.

Releasing the paper, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari emphasised upon the need for increasing bank credit for priority sector in Odisha as government has been pushing lot of support through various schemes like Balaram, Kalia, Samrudhi, Millet Mission, FPOs and it's time for banks to increase the credit flow for private capital formation substantially.

Principal Secretary Finance, Vishal Kumar Dev said that the state's economy could withstand the negative impact of Covid and proved its resilience. Dev indicated that a five year long term planning exercise has been commenced for a structured development of the state.

Chief General Manager of NABARD, C. Udayabaskar said that concerted efforts need to be made for achieving the set targets for the current year and increase the credit flow to the priority sector.



India's fuel consumption shows almost no growth in Dec

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: India's fuel consumption showed flattish growth in December 2021 ahead of fresh restrictions kicking in to control the surge of a new variant of coronavirus that is likely to further dampen demand, according to official data released Tuesday.

Total petroleum product consumption in December 2021 stood at 18.43 million tonnes, compared with 18.36 million tonnes in the same month last year. This after a rise in demand for transport fuel was negated by a fall in industrial fuel.

The consumption was 7.6 per cent higher month-on-month but was still 2.7 per cent lower than



pre-COVID-19 levels of 2019, according to the data released by the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).

As the economy continued to rebound from the deep impact of the second wave, transport fuel demand rose in December.

Diesel, the most used fuel in the country accounting for almost 40 per cent of all petroleum product consumption, rose 1.5 per cent year-on-year to 7.305 million tonnes and was near pre-COVID-19 demand of 7.387 million tonnes in December 2019.

Petrol sales, which crossed the pre-COVID-19 level a few months ago, climbed four per cent to 2.81 million tonnes in December 2021. The demand for fuel, most used in cars and two-wheelers, stood at 2.47 million tonnes in December 2019. Increased travel during the holiday season is said to have contributed to the rise. With increased air travel, aviation turbine fuel (ATF) posted a 29 per cent growth in consumption to 5,52,000 tonnes

but it was lower than 7.29,000 tonnes

Cooking gas LPG consumption fell almost two per cent to 2.4 million tonnes. This is largely because consumption in December 2020 was higher on the back of the free cylinders that the government gave to the poor to tide over the hardships of the pandemic.

Yet, the demand in December 2020 was higher than the pre-COVID-19 level as LPG sales in December 2019 was 2.35 million tonnes, the data showed.

Consumption of naphtha, which is used as a fuel in industries, fell two per cent to 1.18 million tonnes, while petcoke demand fell 14.8 per cent. The sale of bitumen, used in road construction, was down 19 per cent to 6.95,000 tonnes.

MCL offers 22.5LT coal to power consumers via road, rail routes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: State-owned CIL arm Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd Tuesday said it has offered 22.5 lakh tonnes of coal to power consumers via the road-cum-rail mode as the stock of fossil fuel rises above 12.5 million tonnes at the mines with a gradual increase in output in the last quarter of FY22.

MCL is looking for opportunities to maximise despatch as the company's coal stock is slated to increase further with an increase in production from its mines in Odisha, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) said in a statement.

The offer of 22.5 lakh tonne coal through the road-cum-rail (RCR) mode to consumers was made after this new initiative. A coal allocation of 18 lakh tonnes to state/central power generation companies in November and December last year successfully helped MCL liquidate stocks.

Till date, more than 8.5 lakh tonnes of coal, equivalent to about 225 rakes, has already been lifted by the state and central power gencos to build up stocks at their power plants. They are lifting coal from various mines of MCL and transporting the same to their plants through nearby goods-shed sidings, like Nirgundi, Rajatgarh, Hindol Road, and Laikera Siding.

MCL had 12.2 million tonnes of coal stock at its mines as on January 1. The same is increasing with the gradual increase in coal production. The leading subsidiary of Coal India, which alone contributes more than one-fourth to the total coal production, has produced 123 million tonnes as on date, with a growth of 15 per cent over the last financial year.

Similarly, record overburden removal of 156 million cubic meters to date, at the growth of about 20 per cent over FY21, has ensured the availability of sufficient coal to further accelerate coal production to achieve the highest-ever coal production in FY22.

The company is aggressively implementing first-mile connectivity projects with a capital outlay of ₹3,600 crore by 2024 for the rapid movement of coal to the consumers.

KOHLI LONE RANGER

Skipper's fighting knock helps India post 223 in their first innings of the third Test against South Africa before the hosts reach 17/1 at stumps on Day 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cape Town, Jan 11: India skipper Virat Kohli (79, 201b, 12x4, 1x6) was a picture of patience and perseverance in his well-crafted knock but South Africa gained the upper hand by bowling out the visitors for an underwhelming 223 on day one of the series-deciding third and final Test here Tuesday.

Reaching 141/4 at tea, India looked good for a 250 plus first innings score before losing six wickets for 82 runs in the final session.

Kohli, back to lead the side after missing the second Test due to a back spasm, worked extremely hard for his first half century of the series but eventually ran out of partners. Cheteshwar Pujara (43, 77b, 7x4) was the other batter who came with up a substantial contribution.

Lead South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada (4/73), playing his 50th Test, was the standout bowler of the day. Tall left-arm pacer Marco Jansen (3/55) ably supported Rabada.

India got the important wicket of South African skipper Dean Elgar (3) towards close of play with Jasprit Bumrah (1/0) getting him caught at first slip. At stumps,



LEADING FROM FRONT: Virat Kohli roars out a call after playing a shot during his fighting innings in Cape Town

known for, he just picked the right balls to go for his strokes and did not play recklessly around the off-stump.

However, for the major part of his innings, Kohli was all grit and gumption as South African bowlers, especially Rabada, kept attacking the off-stump corridor in favourable conditions.

The Indian lower-order failed to contribute this time, leaving Kohli stranded. Rishabh Pant (27) was the first to be dismissed in the final session as he tried to cut a ball too close to his body and ended up giving a simple catch to gully.

Jansen had Ashwin (2) caught behind by getting one to angle away and Shardul Thakur (12) was caught at short cover for spinner Keshav Maharaj's first wicket of the series. In the afternoon session that yielded 66 runs, Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane (9) were dismissed.

Pujara once again showed positive intent but was undone by a beauty from Jansen that angled in from round the wicket and straightened just enough to take the outside edge.

Rahane, who has shown sublime touch all through the series but has not been able to convert the starts, was caught behind after Rabada got one to straighten from good length.

India fought their way to 75/2 at lunch after losing their openers early with the score reading 33/2. Kohli opted to bat on a pitch with decent amount of grass and clouds hovering over the spectacular Newlands ground.

BRIEF SCORES

India 223
(Virat Kohli 79, Cheteshwar Pujara 43, Rishabh Pant 27, Kagiso Rabada 4/73, Marco Jansen 3/55);
South Africa 17/1
(Aiden Markram 8 batting; Jasprit Bumrah 1/0).
Match to continue.

the hosts were 17/1 in eight overs with Aiden Markram (8 batting) and night watchman Keshav Maharaj (6 batting) in the middle.

Earlier, Rabada and Kohli were engaged in a fascinating battle throughout the day before the South African removed the opposition captain who was looking for boundaries towards the end of the innings.

The hallmark of Kohli's special knock was how he dealt with balls in the off-stump channel, something he had struggled with heading into the series-decider.

What was remarkable was that he did not shy away from playing those glorious drives he is



RIGHT ON THE MONEY: Jasprit Bumrah reacts after dismissing Dean Elgar, Tuesday

Djoko back into swing despite visa concerns



Novak Djokovic with his team members at the at Melbourne Park

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Jan 11: Tennis star Novak Djokovic held a practice session at Melbourne Park Tuesday, his second day out of detention, focusing on his Australian Open title defense while still facing the prospect of deportation because he's not vaccinated for COVID-19.

The top-ranked Djokovic hit the show courts within hours of winning a legal battle Monday against the cancellation of his visa, based on procedural grounds. He returned Tuesday afternoon for a closed practice, with doors locked and only his support team allowed into Rod Laver Arena.

Aerial images taken by Australian TV networks from a helicopter showed the nine-time Australian Open winner back at work, less than a week before the first Grand Slam tournament of the year is due to start.

Video showed Djokovic hitting shots from behind the baseline, taking feedback from his coach, and stretching beside the court with a trainer on a sunny but mild summer afternoon. Soon after, organizers released the seedings for the Australian Open tournament, and Djokovic was listed at No.1 for the men's singles draw.

While he's trying to make up time after spending four days confined to an immigration detention hotel, Djokovic is conscious he could again have his visa revoked.

Immigration Minister Alex Hawke is considering exercising his power to deport the 34-year-old Serbian under separate legislation, assessing a medical exemption that the unvaccinated Djokovic relied on to fly into Melbourne and

the information supplied in the visa application.

The Australian Associated Press reported the decision was not expected Tuesday, after Hawke's office issued a statement saying the matter was still under consideration 'in line with due process'.

The prime ministers of Australia and Serbia discussed Djokovic's precarious visa earlier Tuesday. The deportation drama has polarized opinions and elicited strong support for the 20-time Grand Slam winner in his native Serbia.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his Serbian counterpart, Ana Brnabic, agreed in their telephone conversation to keep in touch over the disputed visa, Morrison's office said. Brnabic asked Morrison to ensure Djokovic was treated with dignity, public broadcaster Radio Television of Serbia reported.

Djokovic posted an image of himself and three members of his team at Melbourne Park in the very early hours of Tuesday on social media.

"I'm pleased and grateful that the Judge overturned my visa cancellation. Despite all that has happened, I want to stay and try to compete @AustralianOpen. I remain focused on that," Djokovic tweeted. "I flew here to play at one of the most important events we have in front of the amazing fans."

A border official cancelled Djokovic's visa at Melbourne's airport last Thursday hours after he arrived in Australia from Marbella, Spain to compete in the tournament. A judge restored his visa and ordered Djokovic be released from detention Monday, citing procedural errors by the border officials at the airport.

Pyari, Manisa in for eves' Asian Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: Odisha stars - forward Pyari Xaxa and defender Manisha Panna - have been named in the 23-member squad for the upcoming AFC Women's Asian Cup football tournament as host nation India included four youngsters from the team that finished runners-up in the U-19 SAFF Championships in Dhaka last month.

While the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has not named a captain yet, the experienced Ashalata Devi is likely to lead the side in the continental tournament, which will be held in three venues across Maharashtra from January 20 to February 6.

There are no surprises in the team announced Tuesday as 27 players had been camping in Kochi, Kerala since last month, out of which 23 had been picked.

The four players who had participated in the SAFF meet and are also part of this squad are Hemam Shikya Devi (defender), Mariyammal Balamurugan (forward), Sumati Kumari (forward) and Naorem Priyangka Devi (defender).

India will however miss the services of seasoned striker Bala Devi, who continues to recover from an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) surgery performed last September.



PYARI XAXA



MANISA PANNA

It can take a minimum of six months to fully recover after the operation.

India have been drawn alongside Iran (January 20), Chinese Taipei (January 23) and China (January 26) in Group A of the competition that consists of 12 teams.

With as many as 15 players under the age of 25 in the relatively young squad, Dennerby believes that "the youngsters and the experienced bunch can help each other out, both on and off the pitch." India is hosting the continent's highest competition for the first time since 1980 and at stake is a possible berth in the 2023 FIFA World Cup.

For automatic qualification to the quadrennial showpiece in Australia and New Zealand, India, ranked 55th in the world, must be among the top five teams. The tourna-

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS: Aditi Chauhan, Maibam Linthoingambi Devi, Sowmyia Narayanasamy;
DEFENDERS: Dalima Chhibber, Sweety Devi Nangbam, Ritu Rani, Loitongbam Ashalata Devi, Manisha Panna, Hemam Shikya Devi, Sanju Yadav;
MIDFIELDERS: Yumnam Kamala Devi, Anju Tamang, Karthika Angamuthu, Nongmeithem Ratanbala Devi, Naorem Priyangka Devi, Indumathi Kathiresan;
FORWARDS: Manisha Kalyan, Grace Dangmei, Pyari Xaxa, Renu, Sumati Kumari, Sandhiya Ranganathan, Mariyammal Balamurugan.
HEAD COACH: Thomas Dennerby.

TROPHY UNVEILED

Mumbai: A dazzling trophy, weighing 5.5 kilograms of hallmark sterling silver bullion, will be presented to the winners of the upcoming AFC Asian Women's Cup. The tournament, which has got special exemption from the Maharashtra government, kicks off in three venues across the state - Pune, Mumbai and Navi Mumbai January 20. According to a media statement issued here, the trophy was crafted by world-renowned silversmiths Thomas Lyte of London. "While the trophy incorporates a modern design, there are discrete elements that honour the competition's long history. The striking handles, which have been cast from six solid silver bars, point to the six participants that played in the first tournament in 1975," the release said.



United labour to FA Cup win over Aston Villa

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Jan 11: Without the injured Cristiano Ronaldo, Manchester United labored to a 1-0 win over Aston Villa in the third round of the FA Cup thanks to Scott McTominay's early goal.

McTominay met a curling cross from fellow midfielder Fred with a glancing header in the eighth minute to seal a home match against second-tier Middlesbrough in the fourth round next month.

Yet the victory will do little to inspire confidence among United's fans that Ralf Rangnick, the interim manager until the end of the season, is close to getting the best out of the fallen giant of English soccer.

Ronaldo was absent because of a hip injury that Rangnick described as 'minor', and United was fairly lackluster as an attacking force at Old Trafford, especially in the second half as Villa launched a wave of attacks.

The visitors had two goals disallowed - both for offside - and United goalkeeper David De Gea was again his team's most impressive performer with a string of diving saves. Ollie Watkins also struck the crossbar in the first half after an error by United defender Victor Lindelof.

ODISHA FACE IN-FORM KERALA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vasco, Jan 11: A resurgent Odisha FC will have their task cut out against in-form Kerala Blasters when the two sides face each other in an Indian Super League (ISL) match here Wednesday.

Odisha beat Mumbai City FC in their last outing to get back to winning ways after a spell of underwhelming performances.

The Kiko Ramirez-coached side looked sharp in attack and also held firm at the back in the high-scoring encounter. They now find themselves in the eighth spot in the points table with 13 points from nine games.

In Kerala Blasters, Odisha will have an opponent who are brimming with confidence after making it to the top of the table for the first time in seven years.



Odisha FC players go through their training drills ahead of their match against Kerala Blasters, Wednesday

SINDHU, SRIKANTH SAIL INTO SECOND ROUND AT INDIA OPEN BADMINTON

Chaliha stuns 5th seed Kosetskaya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: Young Indian shuttler Ashmita Chaliha recorded the first upset of the India Open when she stunned fifth seed Evgeniya Kosetskaya while top seed PV Sindhu sailed into the women's singles second round of the tournament here Tuesday.

Reigning World Champion Loh Kean Yew was stretched to three games while home favourite Kidambi Srikanth registered a convincing win in their respective men's singles first round matches of the World Tour 500 tournament series event.

Loh defeated Canada's Xiaodong Sheng 16-21, 21-4, 21-13 while Srikanth packed off former junior world No. 1 Siril Verma 21-17, 21-10 to advance to the second round.

Earlier in day, unseeded Chaliha took just 31 minutes to get the better of World No.23 Russian 24-22, 21-16, while double Olympic medallist Sindhu cruised past compatriot Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli 21-

5 21-16 in her opening round.

However, it was curtains for Chirag Sen as he lost 8-21, 7-21 to Soong Joo Ven of Malaysia in the men's singles opening round.

In her opener, Chaliha began strongly by employing her down-the-line smashes to open up an 11-5 lead. However, the Indian made a lot of errors after the break and Kosetskaya pounced on the opportunity to first level the score at 14-14 and then fight back from 16-19 to earn her first game point.

But the girl from Guwahati, who had lost to the Russian in their earlier contest back in 2019, managed to regroup and forced her opponent to make an unforced error and then saved two more game points before clinching the opener with a smash.

The second game followed a similar trajectory as Chaliha opened up an 11-4 lead, only for the Russian to close in to 19-16. However, the Indian was more in control this time around and kept her cool under pressure to finish off the

match in 31 minutes.

Chaliha will next face France's Yaelle Hoyaux, who defeated India's Riya Mookerjee 14-21, 13-21. Sindhu will play the winner of the match between Egypt's Hany Doha and India's Ira Sharma.

Srikanth will face Denmark's Kim Brunn, who defeated India's Subhankar Dey 21-19, 18-21, 21-14 in one hour and 15 minutes.

The easy win notwithstanding, Sindhu said polishing one's skill set during the off-season is key to success in a competitive sport like badminton.

In the other matches of the opening session, the mixed doubles pair of K Sai Prateekh and Gayatri Gopichand defeated Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Castro 21-16, 16-21, 21-17.

The men's doubles top seeds Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan of Indonesia got their campaign off to a winning start by beating India's Prem Singh Chouhan and Rajesh Verma 21-18, 21-10.

