



FLIP SIDE

Actor Mouni Roy has been brutally trolled and body shamed over her latest pictures on social media

LEISURE P2



TRUMP'S TAX RETURNS

Democrats in Congress release 6 years of former President Donald Trump's tax returns to the public

INTERNATIONAL P10



HUMPY SECURES SILVER

Chess star Koneru Humpy becomes the first Indian to claim a medal - silver - at the World Blitz Championships

SPORTS P12

PM Modi's mother Hiraben dies at 99



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

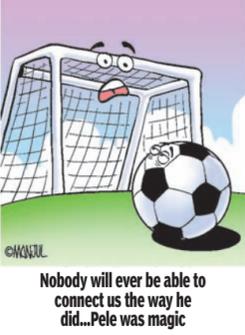
Ahmedabad, Dec 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother Hiraben passed away at a hospital in Ahmedabad early Friday. She was 99.

A bulletin from the UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre, where she was admitted Wednesday after her health deteriorated, shared the news of her demise. "Hiraben Modi passed away on 30/12/2022 at 3:30 am during the treatment at U N Mehta Heart Hospital," the medical bulletin said. She is survived by her five sons - PM Modi and his brothers Somabhai, Amrutbhai, Prahladbhai and Pankajbhai - and daughter Vasantiben.

Her last rites were performed at a crematorium in Gandhinagar around 9:30am in the presence of PM Modi, his brothers and other family members. Following her death in the early hours, the Prime Minister reached the residence of his brother Pankaj Modi at Raysan village on the outskirts of Gandhinagar, where the mortal remains of their mother were kept.

Meanwhile, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik condoled the demise of Hiraben. "Deeply saddened to hear about the demise of #HirabenModi, mother of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family members and friends during this hour of grief, #OmShanti," he tweeted. Patnaik asked Labour and Employees Minister Srikanta Sahu to attend the funeral of Hiraben on his behalf.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Nobody will ever be able to connect us the way he did...Pele was magic



BOOST TO HEALTH INFRA: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurates the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) at Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar, Friday, as Health Minister Naba Kishore Das, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra and Health Secretary Shalini Pandit look on (Report P3)

11 dists get new SPs in major IPS rejig

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30: In a major reshuffle among Indian Police Service (IPS) officers ahead of the New Year, the state government Friday reshuffled superintendents of police (SPs) in 11 districts.

As per a notification issued by the Home department to this effect, Sudhanshu Shekhar Mishra has been appointed SP of Bhadrak, Sagarika Nath SP of Balasore, Gundala Reddy RSP of Nuapada and Suwendu Patra SP of Kandhamal.

Further, Abhinav Sonkar and Gyana Ranjan Mohapatra have been posted as the new SPs of Koraput and Dhenkanal districts respectively. IPS officer L Divya has been appointed as SP, Vigilance. After being promoted to the DIG rank, Akhilesh Singh, Brijesh Kumar Rai and Charansingh Meena have been posted as DIG of State Armed Police (SAP) and DIG fire service & home guards and DIG Angul respectively.



Sudhanshu Shekhar Mishra has been appointed SP of Angul while Rahul PR is the new SP of Jagatsinghpur

Jagmohan Meena has been posted as the SP of Ganjam while Pratyush Diwakar has been appointed as the SP of Sundargarh and Vinit Agarwal as SP of Jajpur

Akhilesh Singh, Brijesh Kumar Rai and Charansingh Meena have been promoted to DIG rank

19K mishaps due to rash driving

Altogether **4,12,432** road accidents occurred in 2021, which claimed **1,53,972** lives while **3,84,448** people sustained injuries, as per a report by MoRTH

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 30: A total of 19,478 road accidents occurred in 2021 due to loss of control by driver due to inappropriate speed, distraction or misjudging a curve, which claimed 9,150 lives and injured 19,077 people, according to a report released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

The report titled 'Road accidents in India-2021', said the nature of accident or collision types at aggregate national-level data shows an increase in 2021 as compared to 2020.

A total of 4,12,432 road accidents occurred in 2021, which claimed 1,53,972 lives while 3,84,448 people were injured. According to the report, hit from the rear (21.2 per cent) accounted for the largest share in total accidents and the total number of persons killed (18.6 per cent) during 2021 followed by 'head on collision' (18.5 per cent) and (17.7 per

cent), respectively. Head-on collisions are known to occur on roads with narrow lanes, sharp curves, unseparated lanes for two-way traffic and also busy stretches. According to the report, the other major types of collision which caused death are 'hit & run' (16.8 per cent) and 'hit from the side' (11.9 per cent).

A hit from the back or a rear-end collision occurs when a vehicle crashes into the one in front of it.

Common factors contributing to rear-end collisions include the driver's lack of attention or distraction, tailgating (back to back) at junctions, panic stops and reduced traction due to wet weather or worn pavement.

India's star cricketer Rishabh Pant had a miraculous escape after his luxury car crashed into a road divider and caught fire after he dozed off at the wheel on the Delhi-Dehradun highway in the early hours Friday.

Car crash: Pant's miraculous escape

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Dehradun, Dec 30: India's star cricketer Rishabh Pant had a miraculous escape after his luxury car crashed into a road divider and caught fire after he dozed off at the wheel on Delhi-Dehradun highway in the early hours of Friday.

The 25-year-old suffered injuries on his head, back and feet but is in a stable condition, Haridwar Senior Superintendent of Police Ajai Singh said.

Pant, who was driving to his hometown Roorkee, dozed off, and the vehicle hit the divider before bursting into flames, he said.

The driver and other staff of a Haryana Roadways bus passing by helped the cricketer get out of the burning car, he said, adding the car was completely charred in the accident. "Pant met with an accident in



Pant, who was driving to his hometown Roorkee, dozed off, and the vehicle hit the divider before bursting into flames

Manglaur in Haridwar district when his car hit a divider at 5:30am Friday. He was rushed to Saksham hospital from where he was referred later to Max Hospital, Dehradun," he added.

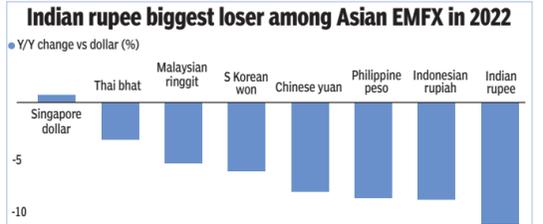
Sushil Nagar, who treated Pant in emergency, said the cricketer didn't suffer any fracture but there was a ligament injury on his knee

which would require further investigation.

"When he was brought to our hospital, he was fully conscious and I spoke to him. He wanted to surprise his mother and was going back home," Dr Nagar told PTL.

"He had two lacerations (blunt trauma) on his head but I didn't put stitches. I have recommended him to Max Hospital where a plastic surgeon might see him. **Continued on P5**

₹ WORST PERFORMER IN ASIA AS 2022 ENDS



AGENCIES

Mumbai, Dec 30: The Indian rupee ended 2022 as the worst-performing Asian currency with a fall of 11.20 per cent - its biggest annual decline since 2013, as the dollar rocketed on the US Federal Reserve's aggressive monetary policy stance to tame inflation.

The rupee finished the year at 82.61 to the US dollar, down from 74.29 at the end of 2021, while the dollar index was headed for its biggest yearly gain since 2015.

The rupee was also a victim of a rally in oil prices sparked by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which pushed India's current account

deficit to a record high in the September quarter in absolute terms.

Heading into 2023, market participants believe the rupee would trade with an appreciation bias, finding relief from easing commodity prices and hopeful of foreign investors continuing to buy Indian equities.

"The Fed could keep rates higher for longer than anticipated and if the slowdown in developed economies turns into a prolonged recession, India's exports could be hit severely, which are two key risks for the rupee," said Raj Deepak Singh, head of derivatives research at ICICI Securities.

India's 1st underwater tunnel by '23

The tunnel - the Indian version of Eurostar's London-Paris corridor - is 13 metres below the riverbed and 33 metres below ground level

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Howrah/Kolkata, Dec 30: India's first underwater tunnel, being built under Hooghly River in West Bengal at a cost of around ₹120 crore as part of the East West Metro Corridor, will be a blink-and-you-miss-it experience for passengers as trains will cross the 520-metre stretch in just 45 seconds.

The tunnel - the Indian version of Eurostar's London-Paris corridor - is 13 metre below the riverbed and 33 metre below ground level.

The 520-metre tunnel is part of the East West Metro Corridor of Kolkata - from the IT hub of Salt Lake Sector V in the east to Howrah Maidan in the west across the river.

The tunnel's construction is complete and is likely to be commissioned in December 2023 after



The tunnel, which is being built under Hooghly River of West Bengal, is likely to be commissioned in December 2023

the completion of a 2.5-km stretch between Esplanade and Sealdah on the corridor.

"The tunnel is essential for the East West Corridor and it was key. The under-the-river-alignment was the only alignment possible with residential areas and other technical issues involved," said Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation General Manager (Civil) Sailesh Kumar.

"This metro route between Howrah and Sealdah cuts down the commute time to 40 minutes as against 1.5 hours by road. It will also ease congestion at both ends," he said.

The East West Corridor of the metro rail has been marred by delays and resultant cost escalations. It was approved in 2009 at a cost of

₹4,875 crore and a completion date of August 2015. According to officials, the cost has now increased to ₹8,475 crore out of which ₹8,383 crore has already been spent.

The tunnel will have an internal diameter of 5.55 metre and an external diameter of 6.1 metre. The spacing between the up and down tunnels will be 16.1 metre centre-to-centre.

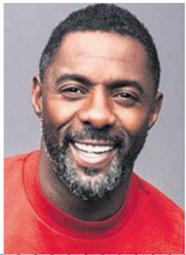
The inner walls of the tunnel are being made with high quality M50 grade, reinforced concrete segments with a thickness of 275mm each. Six of these segments will complete a circular lining of the tunnel's diameter. The segments are being pre-cast in specialised moulds imported from Korea.

Several protective measures have been taken to prevent water inflow and leakages in the tunnel. Concrete mixes composed of fly ash and micro silica have been used for the segments to minimise water permeability. The segments are being sealed using a complex grouting process that will fill the space between the segments and the shield of the tunnel boring machine (TBM).

A two-component grout mix, including a slurry made of water, cement and bentonite and sodium silicate, is being used to fill the gaps. The liner segments are fitted with German-made neoprene and hydrophilic auxiliary gaskets, which expand when in contact with water to prevent inflow through segmental joints.

Two German-made tunnel boring machines (TBMs), named Prerna and Rachna, were deployed for the process. Emergency evacuation shafts up to 760 metre in length are being provided inside the tunnel in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines.

leisure

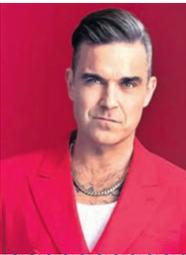


IT WOULD BE 'NATURAL PROGRESSION' TO MOVE INTO DIRECTING: IDRIS ELBA

While still passionate about his career in front of the camera, Hollywood star Idris Elba believes it would be a 'natural progression' to move into directing.

ROBBIE WILLIAMS SEES A LOT OF HIMSELF IN HARRY STYLES

Singer Robbie Williams said that he can see a lot of similarities between himself and Harry Styles when it comes to their careers as he opens up about the 'lonely' side of fame.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
The day sparkles with opportunities and pleasures, you just have to look in the right place. If you've been looking to seal a relationship, today is the day to propose, says Ganesh! Be careful while driving, and be subtle in suggestion.

TAURUS
Expect the confetti to pour and the music to blaze as you indulge in festivity and merry-making today, says Ganesh. Success might knock on your door this afternoon. Your thoughts will drip with optimism and your day might end with partying late into the night.

GEMINI
You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of the decisions you take today, as well as proceed on all matters with caution. You will attempt to dispose off matters casually today. You will worry more about your own interests in the later half of the day.

CANCER
It will be a profitable day for realtors. Accidental gains are likely. Fame and prestige will increase. Your dedication and efficiency will stun people. They will just emu-late you, without any reservations.

LEO
You will open your heart to someone special today, and spill all your hidden desires and feelings. You will say everything you feel truthfully. Your love and attention is likely to be reciprocated. It is a good day, for romance is in the air, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Your ability to keenly focus on things will reach its zenith today, says Ganesh. You will enjoy your work and complete your tasks proficiently and quickly. An unexpected turn of events may take place later today, but it will not give you too much cause for worry. Ganesh says physical intimacy will only enhance your love for your beloved.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today is a favorable day and you will gain more than the efforts put in by you. You may want to go in for a new wardrobe change or a different hairstyle to change your outward appearance. Towards evening you will start reminiscing about past memories.

SCORPIO
It's a bright and beautiful day for you, foresees Ganesh. You will be surrounded by family and friends today. You feel blessed as you realise that your loving husband has some special plans for you, along with showering lots of love and affection.

SAGITTARIUS
Come what may, you are all set to win the heart of your beloved today. Roses, romantic songs and gifts sum up the expressions of your love of him/her. However, work is always on your mind, even when you are shopping for your sweetheart. Have a lovely day!

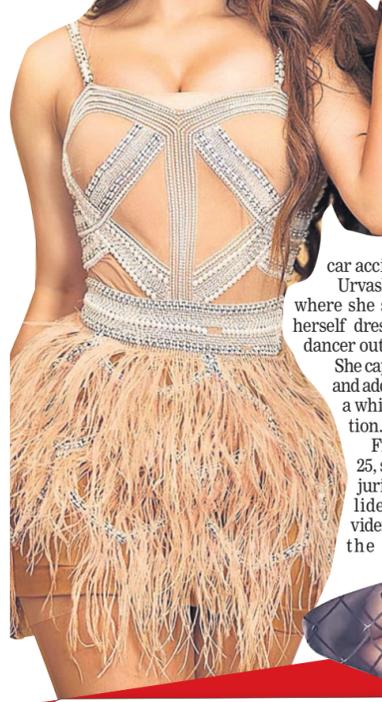
CAPRICORN
Your smile works like charm for you. If you want to start a new venture, the beginning of the day seems to be a favourable time for you. This doesn't mean that everything will fall into your lap without you making efforts, says Ganesh. It will be an exhausting day for sure. Spend some good amount of time with your loved ones so that you feel relaxed and get ready for the next day.

AQUARIUS
Your family and friends are the pillars of strength for you. Today, they will make plans for leisure and recreation for you, and Ganesh advises you to go along with the flow. They want you to be happy and relaxed. You will realise how lucky you are to have them in your life.

PISCES
The day will begin with you moving towards clarity as your doubts and problems begin to clear. You will feel active and enthusiastic today and tackle your problems by the horns. Not only will you be able to find tangible solutions to your problems but you will also begin to implement them.

PANT'S CAR CRASH

Urvashi shares cryptic post



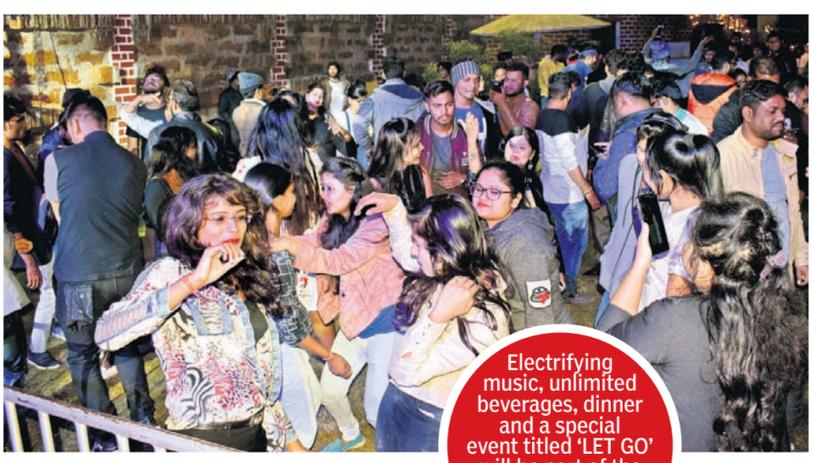
Mumbai: Actress Urvashi Rautela has shared a cryptic post after learning about Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant's horrific car accident. Urvashi took to Instagram, where she shared a picture of herself dressed in an all white dancer outfit. She captioned it: "Praying" and added a white heart and a white pigeon in the caption. Friday morning, Pant, 25, suffered multiple injuries when his car collided with a road divider and caught fire on the Delhi-Dehradun highway. He has been admitted to Max Hospital in Dehradun after being initially taken to Saksham Hospital Multispecialty and Trauma Centre. Pant was on his way to his hometown Roorkee in the state of Uttarakhand from New Delhi. Pant has suffered two cuts on his forehead, apart from a ligament tear in his right knee, abrasion injuries on back, and hurt his right wrist, ankle, and toe, said Jay Shah, the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), in an official statement Friday. It was in 2018, when dating rumours about Pant and Urvashi started going the rounds. The two were spotted entering and leaving restaurants. However, a year later, Pant dismissed all rumours and shared that he is in a relationship with girlfriend Isha Negi. **IANS**

Mouni body shamed over vacation pics

Mumbai: Actress Mouni Roy, who is currently holidaying in the UAE for the New Years, has been brutally trolled and body shamed over her latest picture on social media. Mouni took to Instagram, where she shared a photograph of herself dressed in a black bikini with the ocean in the backdrop. She captioned the image: "ME TO THE SEA x." Social media users took to the comment section and trolled her. One said: "Can someone feed her some food plz." "Trust me mam... You are looking so weird... Itna bhi maat diet Koro... Lag tahe Hawa se ur jayogi," another wrote. One even compared Mouni to

a video game character. The user wrote: "Animated pubg girl." A netizen called her a skeleton. "Skelton lag rahi hai isse acha to common ladki achi lagti h." On the work front, Mouni was last seen on screen in Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt-starrer *Brahmastra Part One: Shiva*. She will next be seen in Sanjay Dutt's *The Virgin Tree*. She was also seen in a music video titled *Gatvidhi* with Yo Yo Honey Singh. **IANS**

Cities gear up to celebrate zero night



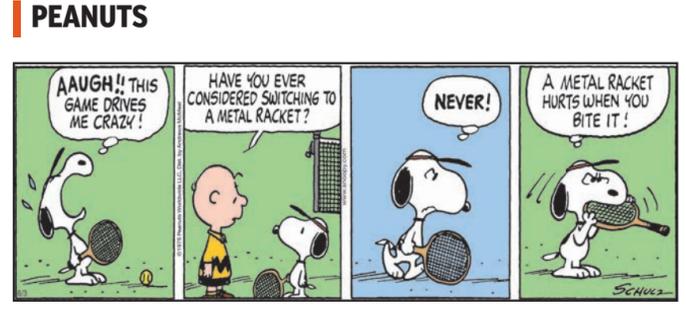
ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar: The Temple City along with Holy City Puri and Silver City Cuttak is all set to ring in New Year and say farewell to the outgoing year with all laughter and smiles at the zero hour. The Commissionerate of Police has made elaborate security arrangements to ensure a safe and hassle-free zero night and New Year celebrations in the Capital. Speaking to media persons, DCP Prateek Singh said, "We expect large gathering of people after a gap of two years. We have issued advisories to all the hotels organising zero night celebrations asking them to honour the guidelines." DCP pressed that, "The city police will deploy extra forces at the hotels and banquets for zero night celebrations. The hotels have been permitted to organise the celebrations till 12pm."

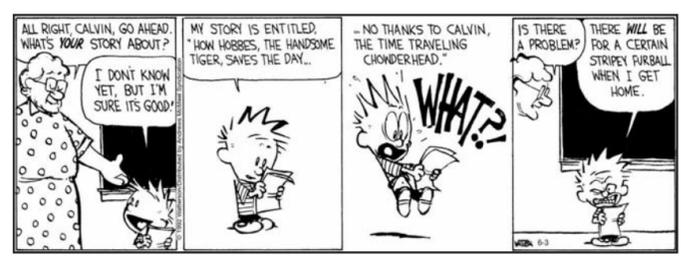
is also booting up with many star performers including singer Sagar Tripathy, 'Swagger King'- a dance group from Kolkata and DJ Waseem. Sweta Sinha of HHI had the same to say about welcoming this year with a bang. Empires Hotel is also ready with their star studded list for bidding adieu to 2022. To enthral audience they have arranged multiple artists that include singer Asit Tripathy and Smruti Mohapatra. This apart fashion and comedy shows have also been arranged for gala. Grand Bazaar, one of the largest commercial hub of eastern India, will be flooding with Fashion Fiesta, Food Carnival and Musical Extravaganza. Artists including actress Prakruti Mishra, Rapper Big Deal, Singer Shreya Jain, Prince Dance Group and master chef Smruti Shree Singh will be adorning the eve. Cuttack and Puri are equally prepping up for New Years' eve.

Toshali Group of Hotels and Resorts in Puri has lined up entertainment shows which include international belly dance artist from Russia, Jeni and popular singers Trisha and DJ Cheena. Similarly, Wonder World Water Park has also roped in Russian belly dancers and Brazilian carnival dancers, singers Antara Chakraborty and Swayam Padhi and DJ Azex will also grace the event. Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) club has also arranged events featuring singers Rituraj Mohanty, Pratibha Singh Baghel, Sonam Dash, dancer Harihar Dash, Professional belly dancers from Russia, said Anil Kumar Saha, general manager of OCA Club. To welcome the New Year and enjoy the its eve people can also plan to visit Eco Retreat in Konark, Satkosha, Bhitarkanika, Daringbadi, Sonapur, Putsil & Hirakud.

PEANUTS



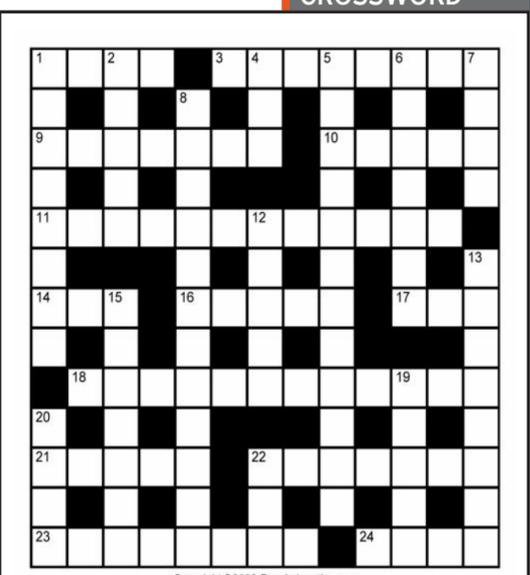
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



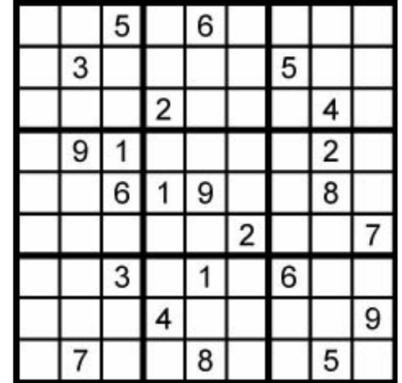
FUN post CROSSWORD



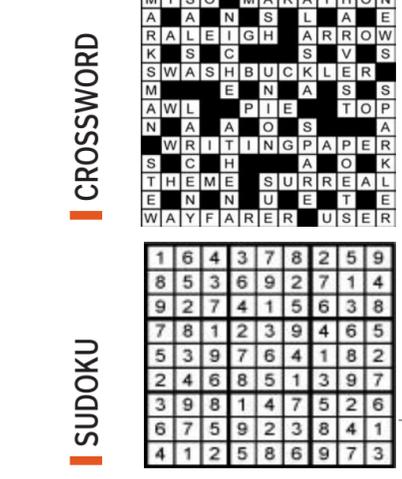
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Position
 - 3 Bird measurement
 - 9 Widget
 - 10 Images
 - 11 Between noon and midnight (4,8)
 - 14 Hopkins or McCartney
 - 16 Authority (3-2)
 - 17 Tear
 - 18 Dandy
 - 21 Having some resemblance
 - 22 Large city in Israel (3,4)
 - 23 Prowess
 - 24 Ring
 - 4 Sort
 - 5 Bog down (5,2,1,4)
 - 6 Trailblazer
 - 7 A light meal
 - 8 Conjoined (7,5)
 - 12 Verse
 - 13 Agitation
 - 15 Dependent
 - 19 Variety show
 - 20 Greenish blue
 - 22 Sea dog
- Down**
- 1 Shows the way
 - 2 Casts aside

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

₹12.96cr lost to cybercriminals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30: As many as 3,246 people in the City have lost around Rs 13 crore to cybercriminals between January 1 and December 29, 2022, according to the annual report of the Cyber Crime and Economic Offence (CC & EO) police station here released Friday.

The Cyber Crime police received as many as 3,811 calls between January 1 and December 29, 2022. Out of which, around 3,246 persons lodged complaints with the police alleging various cybercrime related financial frauds involving Rs 12,96,35,781.

Meanwhile, the police managed to recover Rs 1, 23, 02,804 of the total amount withdrawn by the fraudsters. This apart, police with the help of bank officials and other stake holders succeeded in blocking Rs 1,46,02,319 which the fraudsters failed to transfer to



their accounts. Around 565 persons contacted the cyber crime police help desk in connection various social media crimes between January 1 and December 29, 2022.

The Commissionerate Police had lodged 53 cases in connection various cybercrimes between January 1 and December 29, 2022.

The CC & EO help desk received 294 phone calls in December alone this year. Unknown cyber criminals duped the gullible denizens of the capital city of Rs 1, 17, 35,167 in December so far.

The cops managed to block and retrieve a total Rs 26, 14,235 siphoned off by the accused crooks in December.

Govt extends date for registration for millet procurement

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30: The state government Friday extended the last date for registration of farmers for millet procurement up to January 31, 2023.

Earlier, the last date for registration of farmers was December 31, 2022. Keeping in view the large number of millet farmers coming for fresh registration of their names, the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department has extended the deadline for online registration of farmers through the M-Pass system, the release said.

"The move is aimed at facilitating the registration of more number of millet farmers. Registered farmers can sell their millet in the mandis at the minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the government," informed a department official. Agriculture and Food Production director Prem Chandra Choudhary has written a letter to the collectors of 19 districts in this regard.



HITTING THE STREETS: Members of 'Primary Teachers' (ex-cadre) Mahasangha' clash with police personnel during their protest at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Friday, to press for fulfilment of their eight-point charter of demands

Car crash: Rishabh Pant's miraculous escape

Continued from P1

"However reports of X Rays conducted at our hospital suggest that there are no bone injuries. Yes, there is a ligament tear on his right knee. How serious it is can only be detected after further investigation and detailed MRI done."

Ligament injuries have various grades and it can take two to six months to regain complete fitness.

"The injuries happened because he jumped out of car by breaking the window as soon as it caught fire. As he landed on the side of the road on his rear, the skin was peeled off. But those are not burn injuries and not very serious," Nagar said.

Ashish Yagnik, medical superintendent at Max Hospital,

Dehradun said Pant is being evaluated by a team of orthopaedists and plastic surgeons in the emergency ward.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said his government will bear the entire expense of Pant's treatment. Dhami spoke to the cricketer's mother and assured her that the state government will provide all necessary support.

He also spoke to officials and asked them to make all arrangements for his treatment. Arrangement for an air ambulance should also be made, if required, he said.

However, Pant is a centrally contracted player and the BCCI will take full care of all his medical expenses.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who lost his mother Hiraben Friday, prayed for the good health of Pant.

"Distressed by the accident of noted cricketer Rishabh Pant. I pray for his good health and well-being," Modi tweeted.

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar and his former teammates also joined him in posting their messages for the dashing keeper-batter. "Wishing you a very speedy recovery. My prayers are with you," tweeted Tendulkar.

Former India batter and National Cricket Academy chief VVS Laxman said: "Praying for Rishabh Pant. Thankfully he is out of danger. Wishing

@RishabhPant17 a very speedy recovery. Get well soon Champ."

"Wishing dear Pant a super speedy recovery. Bahut hi Jald swasth ho jao," tweeted former India opener Virender Sehwag.

The Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) said they are ensuring best possible medical care for Pant to come out of this "traumatic phase".

"The Board will see to it that Rishabh receives the best possible medical care and gets all the support he needs to come out of this traumatic phase," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

"The BCCI is in constant touch with Rishabh's family while the Medical Team is in close contact with the doctors currently treating Rishabh."



Our mission has to be to ensure that the whole colonial model of people seeking justice is replaced by a new justice delivery system where we reach out to our citizens. Providing certified copies online is just one step in the process

BY CHANDRACHUD | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

According to him, remedies must be provided by the district judiciary itself as they affect the poorest of the country.

Justice Chandrachud said there is also a brooding sense of fear among the courts of the first instance, on how the grant of anticipatory bail or a normal bail will be perceived at the higher level and that fear is not purely irrational.

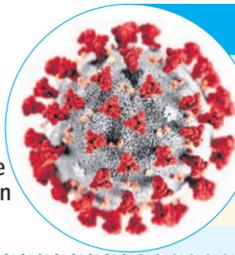
"There have been multiple cases where trial court judges have been

pulled up for grant of bail in certain High Courts. The performance of judges has been analysed on the basis of their conviction rate. At the chief justices' conference, I have specifically called upon the chief justices to ensure that such practices are done away with," he said.

The CJ said as part of the 'Digital India' mission, common service centres are being set up all over the country down to the level of every Gram Panchayat and the

IN SYNC

Artistes from Kolkata's Malashree perform during the International Odissi Dance Festival at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	66,36,59,031	63,57,34,177	66,92,494
India	4,46,77,915	4,41,43,665	5,30,698
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

Naveen dedicates PGIMER at Capital Hosp

THE CHIEF MINISTER SAYS THE POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH WILL BE CRUCIAL IN PROVIDING QUALITY MEDICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE TO PEOPLE OF THE CITY AND THE STATE AS A WHOLE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the new Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) at Capital Hospital here Friday.

Inaugurating the institute, the Chief Minister said that it will play a significant role in providing quality medical education and expert healthcare to people of the City and the state as a whole.

"Studies in post graduate courses have started at the institute in six disciplines, namely general surgery, medicine, orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology, pulmonary medicine, and pediatrics. In the first phase, approval of National Medical Commission (NMC) has been obtained for opening six departments from the academic session 2022-23 with admission of 24 postgraduate students," informed a PGIMER official.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik interacts with students on Capital Hospital premises in Bhubaneswar, Friday

On the occasion, the CM interacted with few students from places such as Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Sikkim, who expressed satisfaction with the state-of-the-art facilities at the new institute.

"The students appreciated provisions and mechanisms in the

state for providing quality healthcare to people and the CM advised them to work for the welfare of the people following 5T principles and wished them the best for their future careers," added the official. It should be noted here that a new academic block

meant for the PG institute, which is imparting postgraduate education in different clinical and non-clinical disciplines, is being built at a cost of Rs 284 crore and the construction is expected to be completed in 2023.

Health and Family Welfare

commissioner-cum-secretary Shalini Pandit briefed the Chief Minister on the facilities at the institute, while Minister Naba Kishore Das, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra and the PGIMER director were present at the event.

State invites Kerala, Tripura CMs to hockey World Cup

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 30: Ahead of the Hockey Men's World Cup, being the hosts for the event, several ministers of the state government have presented invitations to CMs of other states on behalf of the Chief Minister to attend the tournament in the state, beginning January 13, 2023.

Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain invited Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Friday to visit Odisha for Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Kourkela. Swain met Vijayan at the State Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram, and handed over the invitation of the Odisha CM asking him to visit the state for the World Cup.

Similarly, Women and Child Development Minister Basanti Hembram met Tripura CM Manik Saha and invited him to attend the World Cup and Handlooms, Textiles

'HOCKEY HAI DIL MERA' LAUNCHED

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Hockey Hai Dil Mera,' the song for the Hockey World Cup 2023 composed by the music director Pritam, Friday. Through his Twitter account the CM said, "Glad to launch Hockey World Cup 2023 song which encapsulates the spirit of hockey. Thanks Pritam for making it so peppy that reflects the vivacious spirit of the game. I am sure it will touch the hearts of sports lovers." The song, which mixes both Odia and Hindi, is sung by Pritam, Neeti Mohan, Amit Mishra, Benny Dayal, Lisa Mishra, Antara Mitra, Sreerama Chandra, Nakash Aziz, Shalmali, Namita and Charan. The duration of the song is 4:21 and it's available for download on JioSaavn. Pritam and the other singers will perform this song at the opening ceremony in Barabati Stadium January 11, 2023.

and Handicrafts Minister Rita Sahu invited Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel.

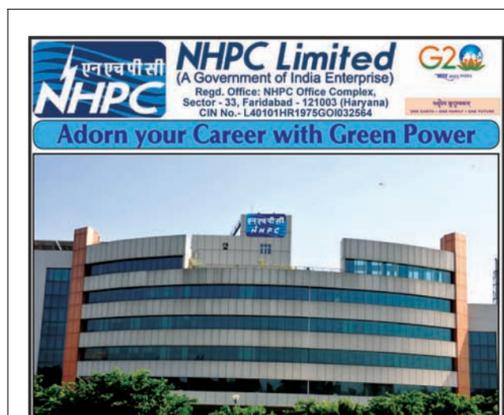
Earlier, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallick had met Haryana CM Manohar Lal and had invited him to attend the tournament while the School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash had

met Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and had given him invitation for the event.

While presiding over an all-party meeting on preparations for the tournament, Naveen had shared with the minister the thought to invite CMs of all the states to witness the upcoming Hockey Men's World Cup in the state.

Wedding bells for former hockey stars

Sundargarh: Former international hockey players from Odisha Lilima Minz and Stanli Victor Minz tied the nuptial knot, Friday. The wedding ceremony was held at a church in Raigangpur, Sundargarh in the presence of the family members of the bride and the groom. Hockey stars Namita Toppo, Sunita Lakra and coach Sylvester Toppo attended the wedding. While tribal dance on the premises of the church marked the event, a feast was organised at the parental house of Lilima at Tanatoli. She was engaged to Stanli, coach of the East Coast Railway hockey team, November 5. In January this year, the former midfielder of Indian women's hockey team had announced her retirement, ending her decade-long stint in the sport.



NHPCL Limited, a premier Schedule -A, 'Mini Ratna' Company of Government of India with 7071.2 MW installed capacity is looking for bright, energetic young Graduate Engineers and Professionals. NHPCL is involved in construction and operation of Hydro, Solar and Wind Power Plants across the country especially amidst the beautiful surroundings and breathtaking views of mountainous region including the region of Devbhoomi Himalayas.

NHPCL, the biggest hydropower company in India and a leader in design, construction and operation of Hydropower Plants, offers exciting opportunities and challenges to learn and grow. The total annual emoluments for the new joinee shall be approx. Rs.15 lakh. The vacancy details are as below.

Sl. No.	Post	No. of Posts
1	Trainee Engineer (Civil)/(E2)/ ₹50,000 - 3% - 1,60,000 (IDA)	136
2	Trainee Engineer (Electrical)/(E2)/ ₹50,000 - 3% - 1,60,000 (IDA)	41
3	Trainee Engineer (Mechanical)/(E2)/ ₹50,000 - 3% - 1,60,000 (IDA)	108
4	Trainee Officer (Finance)/(E2)/ ₹50,000 - 3% - 1,60,000 (IDA)	99
5	Trainee Officer (HR)/(E2)/ ₹50,000 - 3% - 1,60,000 (IDA)	14
6	Trainee Officer (LAW)/(E2)/ ₹50,000 - 3% - 1,60,000 (IDA)	03

Date of Opening of Online portal: 05.01.2023 (10.00 AM)
Last date of Closing of Online Portal: 25.01.2023 (11.55 PM)

For complete details please visit our website: <https://www.nhpcindia.com/career.htm>.
Only Online mode of application is accepted.
<https://www.nhpcindia.com> join us:

CBC-34128/12/0008/2223

63L cases delayed due to non-availability of counsels: CJI

AGENCIES

Amaravati, Dec 30: Over 63 lakh cases across the country have been considered to be delayed due to non-availability of counsel and over 14 lakh cases are delayed as they await some kind of document or record, Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud said here Friday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy, Justice Chandrachud said people must get rid of the colonial mindset of referring to and treating the district courts as subordinate judiciary in hierarchy and in practice. They are not only the backbone of the judiciary but also the first interaction with the judicial institution for many.

"Bail, but not jail, is one of the most fundamental rules of the criminal justice system. Yet, in practice the number of under-trials languishing in prisons in India reflects a paradoxical situation. Deprivation of liberty, even for a single day, is a day

too many," he further said.

"Across the country, according to the NJDG (National Judicial Data Grid) statistics, almost 14 lakh cases have been delayed as some kind of record or document is being awaited which is beyond the control of the court," he said.

"Similarly, across the country over 63 lakh cases have been considered to be delayed, as per NJDG, due to non-availability of counsel. We really need the support of the Bar to ensure that our courts are functioning at optimum capacity," the CJI said.

He, however, said it may be much higher or lesser as more data is yet to be received from all courts.

Speaking about district courts, he asserted that Section 438 of the CrPC (bail) and Section 439 (cancellation of bail) must not be meaningless, mechanical, procedural remedies which are perceived at the grassroots level, at the district judiciary, only to get a rejection and then move to a higher court.

FOCUS SOCIETY

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



A study using the database of the National Family Health Survey-4 indicated that intimate partner violence, including physical and sexual violence, has increased manifold during and after cyclones and droughts in India

The qualitative and quantitative findings from developing countries have shown that women and girls from poor households suffered increased levels of physical and verbal abuse in rural and urban areas during and after floods. In most cases VAWG appears to be associated with male members' inability to feed the family, loss of employment opportunities, or alcoholism. The climatic shocks led to significant income drops and a doubling of murders of elderly women in the name of "witch killings" in Tanzania. These murders were prevalent for six months during the so-called "hungry season" when the majority of food stocks from the previous harvest had already finished. Similarly, in Pakistan, it was observed that immediately after flood season, the cases of honour killing reported were threefold as compared to pre disaster period. A study using the database of the National Family Health Survey-4 indicated that intimate partner violence, including physical and sexual violence, has increased manifold during and after cyclones and droughts in India.

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Rita depicted enhanced rapes and sexual assault cases against women in the USA. The sexual assault cases registered post-hurricane increased up

to 60 per cent, and 95 percent of these cases were "disaster victims." The location of the assault was mainly shelter homes or perpetrators' homes and most of the perpetrators are known to the victims.

Psychological and economic violence against women has grown enormously during and post climatic extremes, mainly in the form of verbal abuse in developed and developing countries. Due to floods, a high unemployment rate was found, especially for women. Women had to compromise on their security to find employment, and lower wages were received than men, along with overloaded work. Studies from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and African countries observed that, in few cases, after climatic disasters, women and girls are promised employment in big cities, but they end up being betrayed and forced into begging and prostitution by professional gangs.

Furthermore, forced or early marriages also increased tremendously during and post disasters because of insecurities such as reducing household burden, reduction of dowry, and crime against adolescent girls such as rape or sexual assault. Most households use early marriage of their girls as a coping mechanism in African countries. This raises their in-

change by having payment in exchange for the bride and reducing the dependents of household members. Uganda's NAPA described this as "famine marriages." It was also observed that during drought season, the age of first sexual intercourse for girls had been reduced from 16 to 11 or 12 years. The reason behind this downturn was girls were befriending older men as they went out for water collection. The men lure young girls for unprotected sex in exchange for rewards in these countries.

The studies have shown some common causes that are responsible for such instances. Male dominance in the family, lack of decision making, and limited control over financial resources by women make them more disempowered. The research revealed that women are living at risk of assault and abuse during and after such disasters. There is a need to examine such linkages and an effort to be made to build sufficient resources to reduce and eliminate such cases. One such measure could be the inclusion of front-line workers. The disaster management team must be trained in gender-sensitive programs. The interventions must be socially and culturally accepted. International campaigns that promote the role of women in the family as decision-makers, financial asset managers, and support seekers must run on a time-to-time basis. Also, ensure the optimum participation of women in different climate change forums. This will support society in breaking gender asymmetries and build a future for more equitable gender status. These issues and remedies should be highlighted and communicated for better Gender sensitisation of policymakers so that women can lead climate-resilient lives. It's time to unite and take action to end violence against women and girls.

Rishika Tomar is Senior Research Scholar, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Roorkee and Pratap Mohanty is Associate Professor, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Roorkee. Views are personal and derived from the present work on women empowerment.

An international campaign runs every year for 16 days against each type of Gender-based Violence, starting from November 25 to December 10. This has been observed since Feb 2000. This year the global theme of the campaign is "UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls." Focusing on the causes, a comprehensive view is required to end violence against women and girls (VAWG) globally. Recently the cases of VAWG have been multiplied due to climate change. This demands the attention of commoners as well as policymakers. On this 22nd anniversary of the international day for the elimination of violence against women, the focus here is on climate change and its repercussions on women and girls in the context of violence in India and worldwide.

Climate change has been an important issue accompanied by increasing mean temperatures resulting in melting glaciers, rising sea levels, frequent floods, droughts, cyclones, hurricanes, bushfires, and conflicts over natural resources. Climate change affects all sections of the population, but women have to bear the major brunt of its negative impacts, especially in developing countries. This is because of their gender-based roles and socio-economic-cultural factors, which restrict their mobility, level of education, and skill development. This gives them a secondary status and thus exacerbates gender-based inequalities. Global estimates by WHO indicate that about one in every three women across the world experiences some kind of violence in their lifetime. In the wake of climatic stresses and extremes, women face increased physical, psychological, sexual, verbal, or economic violence. A few studies have been conducted on changes in the level of violence women face in the event of climatic stresses or extremes. Most of these VAWG cases remain underreported and unnoticed during climatic disasters. It may be due to the lack of a concerned agency or support-seeking system, the perpetrators being mostly family members, or stigma or shame attached to it.

CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS ALL SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION, BUT WOMEN HAVE TO BEAR THE MAJOR BRUNT OF ITS NEGATIVE IMPACTS, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Would 2023 show the way?

India is striving to be a fifth, third or one of the largest economies as 2022 comes to a close amid an uneasy global or local economic situation and politically warming up to a swash-buckling preparation to a year beyond 2024 General Elections.

At least that is what the Opposition wants, though it does not even appear to be prepared for the nine scheduled state elections in 2023 and a possible tenth in Jammu and Kashmir. The Opposition is in disarray against the ruling BJP keeping up its ante and sharp barbs leaving its rivals far behind. Will the Opposition further crumble as its strongholds in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh seemingly severely challenged? Is economic change possible?

Two decades back it was believed that India was edging out MNCs. There was apprehension among Indian companies as droves of the MNCs acquired significant businesses. Several MNCs like Ford, Holcim, Cairn, Daiichi, Sankyo, Carrefour, Metro AG and others aggressively entered even the commodities market. They had hopes of dynamically changing Indian business and economic patterns.

Now with shifting priorities, global slowdown, local competition, and losses most have either walked out or are venturing to move out.

What was then threatened to be swept by the foreign companies is now apparently going back to Indian tortoise, apt at pushing the difficult rivals out through careful moves. Carrefour, Walmart and Metro exited as their models did not conform to their usual global model.

Slow and steady Indian corporate is taking charge once again. An aspect that escaped notice is their aggressive political roles in setting the country's agenda as per their possible business plan. It is no secret how a business leader walked into the residence of a prime minister, the morning after his swearing-in about 12 years back ushering in junking the stated aim of politics keeping away from commerce, possibly a Nehruvian legacy.

It would be naïve to believe that the MNCs did not try that through their clout on their home governments. Western political access paved many of their entry to India. Now they are getting it back in their coin. India too has giants now, some are aggressive players and others quiet functionaries. The economy is now moving out from

the government. It may be good or not, but India shifts off discussing the major shift. The struggling political parties live in oblivion! Road construction and infra investment or growing insurance biz are becoming huge burdens and money guzzlers. Nobody discusses.

The government is being squeezed by trade bodies to dole out more, not subsidies, as they call it PLI - productivity-linked incentives. In the last week of December itself, over Rs 4000 crore is decided to be released to cash-rich pharma, telecom and food companies as a year-end gift. The new FICCI President Shubhrakant Panda wants PLI to be extended to 14 sectors already listed. The play is that a host of companies are moving out of China and with tax concessions, can come to India. He has a point. The Indian tax system needs streamlining and not selective treatment. The country has not yet discussed how an economy could have a benevolent edge without the public sector. India aviation is not known to have faced airport chaos ever as it is happening now with gradual withdrawal of Airports Authority (AAI) or CISP being replaced with private players. The Opposition is eloquently silent or is it selling itself out?

The government's role in deciding economic parameters is shrinking. Prices are at a high despite the fall in inflation stats. The Reserve Bank of India monetary policy committee is divided on the necessary steps of 35 basis points, 0.35 percent, repo (interest) rate hike. Corporate do not want it even as RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das says it would be a costly error.

So would crypto be allowed or checked remains a dilemma as RBI says it could usher in the next financial crisis. Das says, "It is a 100% speculative activity. They (crypto proponents) do not believe in the regulated financial system." Sadly, politicians do not discuss it.

The clamour for jobs in a shrinking economy is right. Strangely enough jobs are to be given by the government and vanishing PSUs. India does not yet know whether demolition of the PSUs is good even for profits and sustainability of the private sector. An all-encompassing parley may unfold the path to come out of the political morass to turn the Indian economy. Would 2023 show the way?

The writer is Professor, Indian Institute of Mass Communication.



Rishika Tomar & Pratap Mohanty

Vision 2047

The Modi sarkar is devoting a lot of thought to the 100 years of independence in 2047, with several task forces charged with drawing up a roadmap for the future. Among these, the Group of Secretaries on Governance headed by I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra is currently studying a draft VisionIndia@2047 prepared by a group of brainstormers, including 30 IAS officers, 10 non-IAS officials, 40 academicians and 80 entrepreneurs, all aged 40 years or less. The focus of their deliberations is office automation, the use of data analytics, AI and machine learning. If the ideas of this group pass the approval of the Council of Ministers headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, these will be included in the VisionIndia@2047 document on governance being prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

The members of this group were selected by the DARPG. Besides the officers, 40 young faculty members from premier institutions such as IITs and IIMs were picked. Also added to the group were entrepreneurs from 80 start-ups (40 seed-stage start-ups and 40 advanced start-ups) were also identified. Sources have informed DKB that these members met for three days earlier this year and presented their recommendations, which have now been shared with senior officials in different ministries. Governance is reportedly one of the nine sectors identified for this initiative.

Whatever else happens, if their ideas on automation and data analytics can help government files move faster than currently, we will consider it a job well done.

Rail Board gets new team

The much-awaited Railway Board-level appointments have finally come through and ended the much-hyped speculation over a likely extension to VK. Tripathi, the current Chairman and CEO of the Board. Tripathi has been replaced by Anil Kumar Lahoti who will occupy the top office until August 31, 2023. Lahoti had been named as Member Infrastructure of the Railway Board barely a few days ago.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

Many observers were surprised at the government's decision to deny giving an extension to Tripathi. They feel that this endorses the old speculation that Tripathi was brought in as Chairman and CEO of the Board for a period of one year, merely six months ahead of retirement, simply to oversee the rollout of the new Indian Railways Management Service (IRMS). Now that the IRMS is done, Tripathi has been allowed to hang his boots and hand over the charge to Lahoti.

The new Chairman and CEO will get a new team, with the recent empanelment of six officers for holding Level 17 posts under IRMS. They include Roop N Sunkar, Mohit Sinha, Satish Kumar and Braj Mohan Agarwal, besides Lahoti.

Interestingly, the empanelment of two officers Anjali Goyal and Jaya Varma Sinha was deferred for late filing of the Annual Immovable Property Return and denial of vigilance clearance. Presently, Goyal is the general manager of Banaras rail locomotive factory while Sinha is an additional member (Traffic), Railway Board.

Defying EC order, Karnataka govt reinstates two babus

Despite an Election Commission order, the Karnataka government has reinstated two IAS officers K Srinivas and S Rangappa, less than a month after they were suspended in the voter data theft case. Srinivas has been posted as Managing Director of Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation and Ragappa has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Karnataka State Minerals Corporation. Their reinstatement is likely to intensify the Opposition's attacks on the BJP government.

After receiving complaints against an NGO which has been accused of collecting personal information about voters, with its members posing as government officials in some instances. The Election Commission had ordered the suspension of the two officers and directed a 100% check of the deletions and additions in the electoral rolls after January 1, 2022, in the three constituencies of Shivajinagar, Chickpet and Mahadevapura, under the charge of these babus. It had also ordered a departmental enquiry against Rangappa, who was also serving as an additional district election officer, BBMP (central) in charge of Shivajinagar and Chickpet assembly constituencies and K Srinivas, who was also serving as an additional district election officer in charge of Mahadevapura Assembly.

The Basavaraj Bommai government's action is likely to provoke the Opposition parties who have been calling for stern action against officials and other employees who are allegedly involved in the scam.

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

WISDOM CORNER

- Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark.** RABINDRANATH TAGORE
- The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others** MAHATMA GANDHI
- The more we come out and do good to others, the more our hearts will be purified, and God will be in them.** SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

WORDSWORTH

Analemmatic

I almost literally bumped into this word recently. My local council has laid out a sundial in a patch of grass in front of the parish church. The accompanying panel explains that the sundial is of the analemmatic type. This word is in few of my dictionaries (and the panel's author, naughtily, does not explain it), but it turns out to be a well-known technical term among those skilled in the mathematics needed to design sundials. It refers to a scale that shows the seasonal difference between time as shown by clocks and by the sun. The more common sort of sundial has an angled post (usually called the gnomon, or sometimes the style) which casts a shadow on a circular dial. Its analemmatic cousin, on the other hand, has a vertical gnomon, which casts a shadow on an elliptical scale. For it to tell the time with adequate accuracy (you may recall Hilaire Belloc's verse complaint: "I am a sundial, and I make a botch, of what is done much better by a watch"), the gnomon must first be moved to the correct position along a north-south axis according to the season. Though a small sundial of this type is rather fiddly to make and use, large ones laid out on a flat area permit a person to act as the gnomon (my local one is of this sort). Earnest enquirers after chronological intelligence then need only position themselves at the appropriate spot along the axis for the time of year and - weather permitting - they can then read off the time by noting where their shadow falls on the scale. The word is the adjective derived from analemma. One sense of this is a scale shaped like a figure 8, giving the declination of the sun and the equation of time for each day of the year. This shows how clock time differs from that given by the sun (which varies a little season by season because the Earth's orbit isn't exactly circular). It derives from Latin analemma for the pedestal of a sundial (and hence the sundial itself), which comes from the Greek word for a prop or support.



Shivaji Sarkar

THE ECONOMY IS NOW MOVING OUT FROM THE GOVERNMENT. IT MAY BE GOOD OR NOT, BUT INDIA SHIES OFF DISCUSSING THE MAJOR SHIFT

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, Rasulpur Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Synonym for football

Sir, 'O Rei' Pele is definitely an incarnation that took birth on earth to show the world that no game on earth is as beautiful as football. Leaving millions of soccer fans around the world in complete gloom, the 'black pearl' of football has left for his heavenly abode. The football legend is truly an encyclopedia, a dictionary and the Bible of football which shall be referred, revered and studied at present and the future when it comes to the beautiful game called football. Pele will remain Pele, the only synonym for football.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

GOAT in actual sense

Sir, A legend from a different generation of Brazilian football greats, spoke highly about the great Pele and that is a great tribute to a great football player. "What a great privilege to have him in Brazil and win three world cup trophies. His talent is the school which every footballer should go through. He is a legend and his legacy transcends generations. One of the most famous stories about Pelé's influence on not just the sports world, but the entire world took place in 1968, while he was playing for Santos FC. The Brazilian side are said to have stopped the civil war in Nigeria for a few moments when they visited the country to play a friendly. The legacy of this champion will live forever. Growing up to stories of his class, dominating football and conquering the world. Then comes genius Maradona who succeeded in No-10 from Pele, we were privileged to witness the greatness from them. This teenager burst into the football world in WC 1958 winning 3 football world cups for Brazil, through his 'ginga' style football and inspired generations of footballers from Brazil to dominate world football for decades. GOAT in actual sense! Rest in peace sir. Heaven is rich today.

C.K. Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Love for India

Sir, Pele known as 'Black Pearl', scored 1,281 goals in 1,363 games. His love for India was demonstrated by his visit to Kolkata the homeland of Indian football where he played a friendly match with Mohun Bagan. His life was an inspiration to many upcoming footballers like Roger Banister's 4 minute mile story. He will remain the King of football forever. May his noble soul rest in peace.

TS Karthik, CHENNAI

DHANU YATRA

SIMILIPAL SANCTUARY

Kansa orders DRM to run direct trains from Delhi, Puri to Mathura

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Dec 30: Demon King Kansa has ordered Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Sambalpur Vineet Singh to run direct trains from New Delhi and Puri to Mathura Nagari (Bargarh) on the third day of the 75th Dhanu Yatra, Thursday.

Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Rita Sahu and Singh attended the 'Kansa Darbar' as royal guests.

The third day also witnessed the birth Lord Krishna. The famous folklore of Lord Krishna's birth to his imprisoned parents Devaki and Vasudeva in King Kansa's cell in Mathura-turned Bargarh was enacted Thursday.

The lore says Krishna's birth is followed by Vasudeva being woken up by a divine voice that guides him to take little Krishna across the Yamuna river (Jeera river in Bargarh) to Nandraj in nearby Ambapali which becomes Gopapura during these 11 festive days.



Hrushikesh Bhoi who plays King Kansa said, "I rushed to the dungeon to kill the eighth child of Devaki just like I killed the rest seven, but the child was a girl and not a boy as predicted. The 'Bijuli Kanya' flew into the sky and turned out to be Goddess Durga."

While Ambapali had a colourful 'Nandotsav' Thursday, King Kansa will be sending Putana and other demons one by one to kill Lord Krishna.

The 11-day festival will end with the killing of Kansa in the hands of Krishna.

What happens to funds allotted for safety of animals?



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Dec 30: Repeated poaching of wild animals and menace of timber mafia in the Similipal sanctuary, the second largest biosphere reserve in Asia, has triggered concern among environmentalists and wildlife activists.

The recent case of elephant poaching by hunters and subsequent burning of its carcass by some forest officials in the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) to hide the crime has raised question marks on the safety of animals. Three forest officials have been suspended and arrested in this connection.

What is alarming is that forest officials seized a Royal Bengal Tiger (RBT) hide from a person just a few days after the burning of the jumbo carcass.

It was alleged that the Forest department is not serious about the safety of wild animals while wildlife activists alleged that funds being provided for safety of the wild animals are misappropriated.

Reports said, the state and Central governments have been providing crores of rupees to check poaching and ensure safety of wildlife in Similipal. Funds are being allocated to the Forest department to pay some amounts as remuneration to informers who keep a close watch on movement of poachers and hunters in the area. The names of the informers are kept confidential.

They are on the watch at markets and other crowded places and gather intelligence inputs about the potential poachers and their activities.

Forest officials get advance information from these informers and prevent the poachers from carrying out their evil designs in the sanctuary.

On the other hand, lighting facilities and movement of vehicles are prohibited in the STR area so as to maintain a tranquil atmosphere for undisturbed movement of tigers and other wild animals.

But the beat house inside the STR is an exception. Cell phones and TV sets are run in the beat house with help of solar power. Light forces tigers and other animals to divert their ways, thus leaving them prone to dangers. While straying off their usual routes due to lighting, tigers and elephants often fall prey to poachers.

Another problem is that some CCTVs in the core area have been stolen by poachers making it difficult for forest officials to monitor the wild animals' movement. In cases of CCTV theft, the department files a complaint or two and keeps quiet. Poachers are taking advantages of such lapses.

"In the past, forest officials have arrested poachers and seized guns from them. But there is no investigation to find out how and where the poachers get guns. There is dire need for applying stringent Arms Act against the gun users (poachers). If poaching is not contained, a day will come when the sanctuary will be bereft of wild animals. The existence of Similipal will be confined only to hills and rocks," lamented Bhanumitra Acharya, former honorary wildlife warden.



TRIBUTES TO MARTYRS: Artists took rest in the shade of a tree after taking part in a cultural programme organised at Kudopali's Saheed Gram in Sambalpur to pay tributes to martyrs, Friday

Tribals of Malkangiri oppose Ch'garh dam on Saberi river

Chhattisgarh government is constructing Kokral dam at Bhimasen ghat of Saberi river

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri/Mathili, Dec 30: Construction of a dam by neighbouring Chhattisgarh government on Saberi river bordering Malkangiri district has drawn the ire of the tribals in this part of the state.

The tribals residing in Mathili block of Malkangiri district have strongly opposed the construction of the dam. They claimed that the

dam, when it turns functional, will severely affect six panchayats of Mathili block namely Kamarpali, Mahupadar, Salimi, Temrupali, Katapali and Kartanpali. As many as 48 villages in these six panchayats will submerge in the river displacing scores of families from their homeland.

The matter came to the fore after hundreds of tribals in Mathili block conducted a 'Praja Meli' and took to the streets to voice their opposition to construction of the dam.

Notably, Chhattisgarh government is constructing Kokral dam at Bhimasen ghat of Saberi river. However, such oppositions by the local tribals have failed to deter the neighbouring state from going ahead with its plan for dam

construction.

As the dam work has not been stopped, the tribals launched a 'Praja Meli' and took a pledge that they will prefer to die rather than leaving their homeland for construction of the dam. They warned that they will intensify their agitation in the coming days if the Chhattisgarh government does not withdraw from the construction of the dam.

After reports surfaced, senior administrative officials from Odisha rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation. Notably, the Chhattisgarh government is constructing the dam to store the overflowing water in the Saberi river and use it to provide irrigation facilities to some of its villages.

Guv Ganeshi Lal visits Kalahandi University

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Dec 30: Governor Ganeshi Lal, during his visit to Kalahandi district Thursday, inaugurated new academics and library buildings of Kalahandi University.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor dwelt on the significance of Kalahandi's name - Kala (black) handi (cooking pot). He said that the pot in which prasad



is cooked for Lord Jagannath is called Kalahandi.

He spoke on preceptor-disciple tradition and called upon students to be inspired by the great Jagannath culture. "Odisha has carved out a special place in the country. A woman from a tribal community of the state has ascended to the highest constitutional post - President of the country - while the Union Education Minister, RBI governor and the CAG are from Odisha," he added.

Vice Chancellor of Kalahandi University Sanjay Satpathy, Collector P Anvesha Reddy, SP Avilash G and registrar Pitambar Bhoi were present on the occasion. Students also performed in a cultural programme marking his visit to the varsity.

CB team starts probe into death of Russian tourists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Dec 30: A 12-member team of the state Crime Branch reached Rayagada Friday to look into the mysterious deaths of two Russian tourists - Vladimir Bydanov (61) and his fellow traveller Antov Pavel (65), a Russian deputy (lawmaker) from the regional parliament of Vladimir Oblast provinces and a multi-millionaire tycoon.

The team led by DSP Saroj Kant Mahanto first reached the Rayagada Town police station and questioned the inspector in-charge (IIC) and the SDPO.

Later, the team examined rooms 203 and 305 of Hotel Sai International, where the tourists were staying and also the spot where Pavel allegedly fell and died. They questioned the hotel staff and later checked the CCTVs. The CB sleuths also met officials of the Investigation Bureau (IB) team which is already there since Thursday.

The CB team is trying to ascertain the exact sequence of events that took place.

They clicked photos and did videography of the hotel room and the surroundings and later seized some articles there, it was learnt.

"All possible angles of the deaths are being examined," said the DSP. The state Crime Branch is investigating the matter with help of



forensic experts and an identical number of photographers.

The CB team collected all the evidence including slippers, latent finger prints from glass and other surfaces during the search in room-309 where Antov Pavel was staying alone on December 22 night. Incriminating material like drinking glass and water bottles were collected.

The CB sleuths are trying to collect the medical health records of the deceased persons. Meanwhile, security has been tightened at the Hotel Sai International since Thursday after probe was stepped up. Notably, Bydanov was found unconscious in the hotel room December 22.

He was later declared dead by doctors at the district headquarters hospital. His roommate Antov died after allegedly falling from the hotel's third-floor terrace on December 24.



YOUTH FEST: Artistes performed 'Mughal Tansa', a folklore, on the 5th evening of Agarpada Yuva Mahotsav in Bhadrak to foster communal harmony

Cutting a hill, farmers bring stream water to farmlands



land. Despite a slump in vegetable business, they are now earning anything between ₹5,000 and ₹7,000 per month from the cultivation.

Farmers said, they had repeatedly demanded irrigation for their farmlands, but soil conservation department had failed to alleviate their sufferings. Left with no option, the members of 10 farming families decided to cut the hill and carve a path to provide irrigation facilities to their farmlands. They spent from their own pockets and toiled to achieve what was once thought to be impossible.

They dug up the hill and cleared the jungle road to bring stream water for a stretch of two kilometre to their farmlands.

Reports said, Ladi and Girliguda villages are located on the downhill side of the Ladi Bhalujhar Gadgada



hill. A stream flows out of the crevice of the hill throughout the year. After their persistent demands, the soil conservation department promised to construct a check dam on the hill and use the stored water to provide irrigation facilities to the farmlands downhill. The project work began but was abruptly terminated halfway through.

The farmlands downhill, on the other hand, used to remain uncultivated due to lack of irrigation facilities. The farmers informed the agriculture and irrigation officials about their plight and urged them

to do the needful. The concerned officials informed them that borewells could be dug to solve their problem, but that they would have to deposit ₹20,000 with the irrigation department for each bore well. The farmers were left distraught as they could not afford so much money for the borewells owing to their poor financial condition.

The farmers united after resolving to bring the stream water from the hilltop to the valley. They cut the hill, connected a plastic pipe to the stream and dug a channel all the way downhill for two kilometre to bring the water to their farmland. A farmer named Prakash said they spent around ₹50,000 to build a cement drain and connected pipes at various points to ensure a smooth flow of water down the hill.

Farmers like Tularam Harijan, Ishwar Chandra Takri, Kamal Lochan Goud, Daya Jani, Shantikumar Harijan, Bhadar Jani, Samaru Goud and Bhuban Goud of Girliguda village, as well as Ajay Takri and Siddhi Prakash Garada of Ladi village benefited greatly after the water reached their farmlands downhill. After reaping success, they now plan to undertake cultivation of other crops even during the summer season.

After persistent demands, the soil conservation department promised to construct a check dam on the hill to provide irrigation facilities but the project was abruptly terminated halfway through

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Dec 30: Farmers in Ladi and Girliguda villages under Majhiguda panchayat of Papadahandi block in Nabarangpur district have done the impossible when the administration failed to resolve their problem.

They have carved a path through a hill and jungle road to bring the stream water downhill to irrigate their farmlands and become an example for others to emulate. They have shown that nothing is impossible if one has the resilience, perseverance, and determination. People like them without money or power have been able to cut through the mighty hill to alleviate their sufferings in watering their farmlands.

This has brought about a turnaround in their lives. They are now able to earn their livelihood by growing vegetables like cabbage, cauliflower, brinjals, peas, tomatoes, and chilli on around 25 acre of farm-

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
WATCO DIVISION, PURI, ODISHA
Phone : 06752-223447 / e-Mail: eephpuri@gmail.com
No.C-2171
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Government of Odisha 'e' Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.38 of 2022-23 Dated 28.12.2022

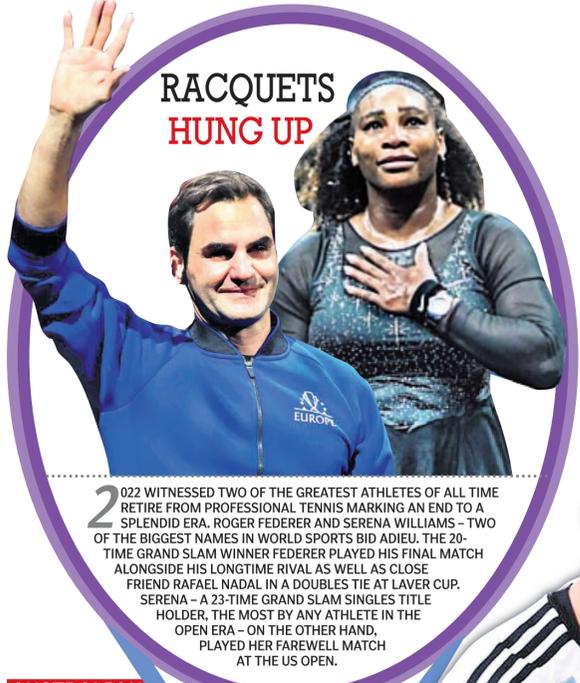
- Name of the work: Providing Power supply supply to 3ph 40 KW, PWW load to the PHD Pump house at Dibya Jiban Sangha, Nimapara in connection to the work " Improvement of water supply to Nimapara NAC under State Plan.
- Estimated cost: Rs.13.21 Lakhs.
- Period of completion: 2 (Two) months.
- Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal: 05.01.2023 (11.00 A.M.) to 16.01.2023 (5.00 P.M.)
- Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal: 5.00 P.M. of 09.01.2023.
- Date and time of opening of bids: 12.30 P.M. of 17.01.2023.
- Name and address of the officer inviting bid: General Manager, WATCO Division, Puri, Phone: 06752- 223447, Fax: 06752-223447, E-mail: eephpuri@gmail.com.
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
Sd./- General Manager (WATCO, PURI)
OIPR-13206/11/0006/2223

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. -Saran), Bihar 841221
E-Open Tender Notice No.-S/RWP/E/42/2022-23, Dated : 29.12.2022
Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites online "e-Open Tender", through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website www.ireps.gov.in for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. SN.-1. Tender No.: 01221025, Short Description of item : Fused Silica Powder, Quantity : 44373.00 Kg, Date of Tender Closing/Opening : 02.01.2023 at 14:00 Hrs. 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is www.ireps.gov.in. 2.The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender. However, this information will also be invariably published in the all concerned newspapers. **PCMM/RWP/Bela RWP/CPRO/Adv/2022-23/98**

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/363-2022, Date: 23.12.2022
1.Tender No. etender-HQ-KUR-363-2022, Date: 23.12.2022
Description: PROVISION OF ONE BASKET BALL COURT AND ONE TENNIS COURT AROUND RAILWAY STADIUM COMPLEX AT KHURDA ROAD.
Approx cost of the work: ₹32.02 lakhs, EMD: ₹64,100/-
2.Tender No. etender-HQ-KUR-364-2022, Date: 23.12.2022
Description: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 8 UNITS TYPE-IV QUARTERS AT KHURDA ROAD AND ONE UNIT TYPE IV/SPL AT DHENKANAL.
Approx cost of the work: ₹349.42 lakhs, EMD: ₹3,24,700/-
Completion Period of the work: 04 (Four) Months (For sl. no. 1) & 12 (Twelve) Months (For sl. no. 2).
Date & time of Tender Closing: 13.01.2023, 15:00 hrs (For both tenders).
1500 hrs (For both tenders).
No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and considered in time. All such manual offers shall be received invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenders are advised to visit the website 10 (ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./V) Khurda Road PR-862/22-23

WAX NOSTALGIA

They say, "Determination and persistence lead to success." And 2022 proved it in many ways... be it Lionel Messi's FIFA World Cup triumph, long-deserved recognition for Karim Benzema or even Virat Kohli ending his multi-year century draught. Some of the sporting greats breathed their last, while some decided to call time on their legendary careers. Let's walk down the memory lane with OrissaPOST and revisit some of the memorable events throughout the year...



RACQUETS HUNG UP

2022 WITNESSED TWO OF THE GREATEST ATHLETES OF ALL TIME RETIRE FROM PROFESSIONAL TENNIS MARKING AN END TO A SPLENDID ERA. ROGER FEDERER AND SERENA WILLIAMS - TWO OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN WORLD SPORTS BID ADIEU. THE 20-TIME GRAND SLAM WINNER FEDERER PLAYED HIS FINAL MATCH ALONGSIDE HIS LONGTIME RIVAL AS WELL AS CLOSE FRIEND RAFAEL NADAL IN A DOUBLES TIE AT LAVER CUP. SERENA - A 23-TIME GRAND SLAM SINGLES TITLE HOLDER, THE MOST BY ANY ATHLETE IN THE OPEN ERA - ON THE OTHER HAND, PLAYED HER FAREWELL MATCH AT THE US OPEN.



AUSTRALIAN OPEN, FRENCH OPEN, WIMBLEDON, US OPEN. RAFAEL NADAL, ASHLEIGH BARTY, ELENA RYBAKINA, NOVAK DJOKOVIC, CARLOS ALCAZAR, IGA SWIATEK.



'GOAT' debate over!

There had been debates, arguments and excuses over who is the 'Greatest of all time' (GOAT) among Brazilian great Pele, Argentine legend Diego Maradona, Portuguese maestro Cristiano Ronaldo and the iconic Lionel Messi. The biggest counterpoint to deny Messi as the 'GOAT' was that he never led Argentina to World Cup glory. However, Messi had his last laugh when he achieved his most awaited dream - lifting the WC. Now with this feat, he completed his trophy collection as well as his legacy. So what distinguishes Messi from the other three? Pele never played in European leagues. Maradona never won a Copa America, while Ronaldo doesn't have a WC. Not only this, Messi has much more than only trophies to show for. The FIFA World Cup's Twitter account has hailed Messi as the GOAT after the final against France. "The GOAT debate is settled. The ultimate prize is now part of the collection. The legacy is complete," FIFA wrote in its tweet. Now it's up to the fans to decide whether they agree with FIFA, or not.

Argentina reign supreme. Argentina finally ended their 36-year wait for a FIFA World Cup title. In 1986, it was Maradona, and in 2022 it was Messi. To end the 36-year wait, the Albiceleste came to Qatar with a 36-match unbeaten streak. However, Saudi Arabia stunned the world with a 2-1 win over Messi & Co. The defeat, perhaps, woke them up and they started to play like champions after then. They defeated Mexico and Poland in the group stage to set up round of 16 clash with Australia. Argentina beat Australia, the Netherlands and Croatia, respectively, to set up a title battle with France. It was a thrilling encounter, leading the experts to call it 'the best WC final ever'. Argentina broke French hearts sealing the win via penalty shootout as Kylian Mbappe's hat-trick went in vain.

Notable mention. Morocco and Japan stunned the world with their performances. Morocco defeated Belgium and Canada to seal the knockout berth. Morocco beat Spain via penalty shootout in the quarterfinal. France round of 16, before breaking the hearts of Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal in the quarterfinal. France became the first African and Arab team to reach WC semifinals. Japan, meanwhile, stunned Germany and Spain to top the group, eliminating the 2014 champions in the process. Croatia ended Japan's run in the round of 16 in penalty shootout.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS. European League winners: Manchester City (Premier League, England), Real Madrid (La Liga, Spain), AC Milan (Serie A, Italy), Bayern Munich (Bundesliga, Germany) & PSG (Ligue 1, France). Real Madrid beat Liverpool for their 14th Champions League title. Hyderabad FC claimed their maiden Indian Super League (ISL) title. Spain won the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India, where Bhubaneswar was one of the three venues for the event.

Karim Benzema and Alexia Putellas won the Ballon d'Or in men's and women's segments respectively. Robert Lewandowski won the Cerd Muller Trophy for best striker, while Gavi won the Kopa Trophy for best U-21 player and Thibaut Courtois bagged the Yashin Trophy as best goalkeeper. Manchester City was awarded the best club.



'CHAK DE' MOMENT FOR EVES

The Indian hockey team beat Spain 1-0 in the Women's FIH Nations Cup 2022 final and earned themselves a place in the FIH Pro League 2023-24. This was the inaugural season of the Women's FIH Nations Cup, with a promotion to next year's Women's Pro League hockey up for grabs for the winner. India were out of the FIH Pro League 2023-24 race following the return of Australia and New Zealand - the teams whose withdrawals FIH Pro League 2021-22 season due to COVID-19 presented the Indian eves a chance to fight for the FIH Pro League 2022-23 title. In their debut campaign, India put off a commendable showing, giving big guns like Argentina a tough time, and finished a commendable third. However, when Australia and NZ returned to the fold, India were left disappointed, until FIH presented them an opportunity to relish their dream of playing the 2022-23 season when the global hockey body (FIH) introduced the FIH Nations Cup.

THE INDIAN CORNER

- Woman weightlifter Mirabai Chanu retained her CWG world with a lift of 201kg (snatch: 88kg, clean & jerk 113 kg) to set the new Commonwealth Games record. Later in the year, she settled for a silver at World Weightlifting Championship. Antim Panghal became the first Indian to win U-20 World Championships gold medal. Shuttler Lakshya Sen defied all expectations to reach the prestigious All England Championship final in Birmingham and eventually settled for silver. Woman paddler Manika Batra became the first Indian woman to win the individual bronze medal at the Asian Cup. Legendary athlete PT Usha, December 10, was elected as the first woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The 58-year-old was declared elected unopposed for the top post in the polls. Young shooter Rudranksh Patil bagged gold medal on his ISSF World Championships debut in the men's 10m air rifle event in Egypt.



'ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS'

Indian men's badminton had their moment under the sun as they won the historic Thomas Cup dismantling Indonesia 3-0 in the final

A GLIMPSE AT INDIAN CRICKET

Virat Kohli ended his multi-year century draught, when he scored his maiden ton in T20is against Afghanistan in the Asia Cup, equalling Ricky Ponting's record of 71 international centuries. Later, he scored his 4th ODI ton against Bangladesh to surpass the Australian great in the list. Ishan Kishan became the first batter to convert his maiden ODI century into a double ton, when he scored 210 off 131 balls against Bangladesh, reaching the 200-run mark in 126 deliveries. It was the fastest double century in the history of ODI cricket. He also became the fourth Indian batter to score an ODI double century. He is first Indian to score a double ton away from home. Madhya Pradesh defeated Mumbai for the Ranji Trophy title.

NOTABLE CRICKET MOMENTS

- Australia Women clinched their 7th 50-over World Cup title beating England in the final. Sri Lanka won the Asia Cup beating Pakistan in the final. India women claimed the women's Asia Cup title for the 7th time after defeating Sri Lanka. Hardik Pandya-led Gujarat Titans won IPL in their debut season beating Rajasthan Royals in the final.



AN ENGLISH HISTORY

England became the first team to hold the 50-over World Cup and T20 World Cup trophies simultaneously. The Jos Buttler-led English side beat Pakistan in the final to win the World T20 title in Australia. Notably, England had won the last ODI WC - in 2019 - under the leadership of Eoin Morgan.



BEATING ALL ODDS

India claimed their 3rd consecutive T20 Cricket World Cup for Blind title beating Bangladesh in the final

REST IN PEACE

Australian cricket great Shane Warne breathed his last, aged 52, March 4 in Koh Samui, Thailand. The leg-spinner, who had 708 Test wickets to his name, died soon after ordering a new suit and calling two Thai masseuses to his holiday villa.



Relation rekindled

After a long wait, cricket finally joined other sports at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games (CWG). The last time cricket played a part of CWG was in 1998. Now after 24 years the sport was reintroduced in 2022. Women's T20 made its debut in this edition as 1998 had witnessed men's 50-over competition. Australia women claimed the historic gold, while Indians settled for silver medal.



Sharath's hat-trick

Indian paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal was at his very best at the CWG as he bagged three gold medals - men's team event, mixed doubles with Sreeja Akula and men's singles. He also bagged a silver in the men's doubles alongside G Sathyan.

India bagged 61 medals in total - 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze, fourth in the standing after Australia (178 medals), England (176) and Canada (92)

STUNNER OF THE YEAR

Indian women's team of Rupa Rani Tirkey, Nayanmoni Saikia, Lovely Choubey and Pinki Singh scripted history when they secured a first ever medal in lawn bowls event - a gold in women's fours event. They were followed by the men's fours team - Sunil Bahadur, Navneet Singh, Chandan Singh and Dimesh Kumar, who missed out on the yellow metal and eventually settled for silver medal.



Odisha FC claimed the Odisha Women's League (OWL) title, becoming the second team from the state after Sports Odisha to be part of upcoming Indian Women's League (IWL). GOKULAM KERALA CLINCHED THE INDIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE 2021-22 TITLE

PUNCHING TO GLORY

Nikhil Zareen - a name that was unknown to many even a year ago - has now become a household figure. And it could be said that her 2022 exploits opened a new door of hopes for Indian boxing at the global stage. She began 2022 with a gold in 52kg category at the Strandja Memorial boxing tournament - one of Europe's oldest boxing competitions and features high quality boxers from across the world - in Sofia. It was her second gold at the prestigious tournament after her triumph in 2019. Few months later, the Nizamabad ev created history by winning a gold medal in the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship in Istanbul, becoming only the fifth Indian woman to win the yellow metal in the event. Six-time world champion Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL and Lekha KC are the only other Indian women to achieve the feat. Zareen also became the only one besides Mary Kom to become a World Champion abroad. The 26-year-old completed her hat-trick of gold in 2022 with a stunning show at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, marking a successful year for the Indian pugilist.

MAN WITH GOLDEN ARM

Neeraj Chopra continued to conjure up history-scripting performances, inspiring the likes of Avinash Sable and Murali Sreeshankar in their quest for global success. But the age-old dope menace raised its ugly head again and shamed the nation at the global stage. The 24-year-old Chopra, the poster-boy of Indian athletics, continued his exploits after his historic javelin throw gold in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. And keeping that dream run intact in 2022 would have always been a tall ask for the Panipat lad. The Indian men's javelin throw ace, however, rose up to the challenge and in style. Having missed the first half of the 2022 season in order to regain his fitness following a 10-month-long layoff post his Tokyo exploits, Neeraj stormed back into the international circuit to win a silver medal and create a national record at the Paavo Nurmi Games. That set the stage for the fans to hope for even better year than the previous. He secured a silver in the World Championships in the USA in July to become only the second Indian after legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George - who won a bronze in 2003 Paris edition - to win a medal at the showpiece. "I didn't feel pressured by the fact that I am an Olympic champion. I believed in myself even after the third throw. I made a comeback and won silver; it felt good. I will try to change the colour of the medal next time," he reacted following his Worlds silver. In September, he became the Diamond League champion by winning the Finals of the prestigious meeting series, adding another 'first' to his name. Chopra, however, could not defend his Commonwealth Games gold at Birmingham due to the minor groin injury he sustained during the World Championships. It was another eventful year for Chopra but he could not reach the 90m mark. He came agonisingly close with his 89.94m throw when he finished second in the Stockholm leg of the prestigious Diamond League.



of the day quote

The benefits of technology should reach the remote areas and poorest of the poor. It should be used as an instrument of social justice

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

Now is the do or die moment for Kannadigas. If we have to receive the rightful share of our taxes, if our children have to secure jobs, if we have to safeguard our language and culture from outsiders, if border row has to be solved, Kannadigas should not compromise our identity and realise the truth that only our own people can understand our pain, and strengthen the Kannada regional party

H D DEVE GOWDA | JD(S) PATRIARCH

Every year, during this time, a large number of people visit Bodhi Gaya where they offer prayers and listen to the preachings. The age-old tradition could not be followed for the last two years because of the pandemic. Thankfully, it has resumed, although we are alert because of the fresh spike in COVID cases reported from other parts of the world

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

Form special units to facilitate motor accident claims: SC

Issuing a slew of directions, the top court said on receiving intimation about a road accident by a motor vehicle at a public place, the SHO concerned shall take steps as per Section 159 of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act under which an Accident Information Report is to be filed to the Claims Tribunal within three months by the police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: The Supreme Court has directed the states to constitute a special unit in police stations within three months to investigate and facilitate motor accident claim cases.

Issuing a slew of directions, the top court said on receiving intimation about a road accident by a motor vehicle at a public place, the SHO concerned shall take steps as per Section 159 of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act under which an Accident Information Report is to be filed to the Claims Tribunal within three months by the police.

"In our view, the head of the Home Department of the State and the Director General of Police in all States/Union Territories shall ensure the compliance of the Rules by constituting a special unit in the police stations or at least at town level to investigate and facilitate the motor accident claim cases. The said action must be ensured within a period of three months," a bench of Justices S A Nazeer and J K Maheshwari said.

The top court said after registering the FIR, the Investigating Officer shall act as specified in the Motor Vehicles Amendment Rules, 2022 and submit the First Accident Report within 48 hours to the Claims Tribunal.

"The registering officer is duty bound to verify the registration of the vehicle, driving licence, fitness of vehicle, permit and other ancillary issues and submit the report in coordination to the police officer before the Claims Tribunal." The flow chart and all other documents, as specified

in the rules, shall either be in vernacular language or in English language, as the case may be and shall be supplied as per Rules," the bench said in a recent order.

Observing that the role of the IO is very important, it said the officer shall inform the victim or the legal representative, driver, owner, insurance companies and other stakeholders with respect to the action taken while following the Motor Vehicles Amendment Rules.

"In case the claimant or legal representative of the deceased have filed separate claim petition in the territorial jurisdiction of different High Courts, the first claim petition filed by the claimant/legal representative(s) shall be maintained and the subsequent claim petition shall stand transferred to the Claims Tribunal where the first claim petition was filed and (is) pending. "It is made clear here that the claimant are not required to apply before this Court seeking transfer of other claim petition though filed in the territorial jurisdiction of different High Courts," the bench said.

The apex court also directed the state authorities to take appropriate steps to develop a joint web portal/platform to coordinate with and facilitate the stakeholders for carrying out the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act and the Rules in coordination with any technical agency and be notified to public. The top court's order came on a plea challenging an order passed by the Allahabad High Court which dismissed the appeal filed against the award passed by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT).



People warm themselves around a fire during a cold and foggy morning in Lucknow

PTI PHOTO

'Rahul Oppn PM face in 2024 polls'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: Senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath Friday said Rahul Gandhi will be the opposition's prime minister candidate for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Nath lauded Gandhi for leading the Congress' countrywide Bharat Jodo Yatra, saying he is not doing politics for power but for the common people of the country. "As far as the 2024 Lok Sabha election is concerned, Rahul Gandhi will not just be the face of the opposition but will be its prime ministerial candidate too," he said.

Nath also said that no one in the history of the world has undertaken such a long 'padayatra'. No family other than the Gandhi family has given so many sacrifices for the country, the Congress leader said. "Rahul Gandhi does not do pol-



Kamal Nath said that the BJP may change any Chief Minister but it would not matter as people have made up their minds to elect the Congress in Madhya Pradesh

itics for power, but for the people of the country who make anyone sit in power," he said.

The Madhya Pradesh chief minister is the lone leader to have come forward in favour of Rahul Gandhi's candidature for the 2024 polls. The 76-year-old Congress chief of Madhya Pradesh also said there was no place for "traitors" in the party after they betrayed the organisation.

Asked if there was any chance of Jyotiraditya Scindia's return to the party in the future, Nath said, "I would not comment on any individual, but those 'traitors' who betrayed the party and broke the trust of its workers, there is no place for them in the organisation."

He further said that the old pension scheme would be implemented in the state soon after the Congress assumes power in Madhya Pradesh. Nath said that the BJP may change any chief minister but it would not matter as people have made up their minds to elect the Congress in Madhya Pradesh.

BJP's Bihar vice president sacked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Dec 30: The BJP in Bihar Friday said it has sacked one of its vice presidents, Rajib Ranjan, for indiscipline, in a sign of the disarray into which the party may have fallen after being robbed of power in the state.

The party shared a letter to the effect issued by state unit chief Sanjay Jaiswal, dated December 29, shortly after Ranjan claimed that he has "resigned" from the primary membership. In his letter, Jaiswal admonished Ranjan for "continuing with giving statements that went contrary to the party line, ignoring warnings given orally". "Your utterances have been unbecoming of a state vice president and also adversely affect the party's reputation. You are hereby relieved of your post and suspended from the party for six years", said Jaiswal.

SHORT TAKES

Woman tests +ve

Jabalpur: A woman who had come from the United States of America to Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh has tested positive for COVID-19, a senior official said Friday. The 38-year-old woman, her husband and daughter had arrived in India to meet kin on December 23 and came to Jabalpur via New Delhi and Agra, Joint Director of Health Services Dr Sanjay Mishra said.

Murder accused nabbed at airport

Thane: A man accused in a murder case, who had been on the run for 28 years, was apprehended at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in neighbouring Mumbai, police said Friday. The police Thursday nabbed the accused who was wanted in connection with the killing of five members of a family in Kashmir in November, 1994, senior inspector Aviraj Kurade of MBVV police said. Jagranidevi Prajapati (27) and her four children, in the age group of three months to five years, were killed in their house by three men, he said.



Actress Riya cremated, family demands probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hazaribag (Jharkhand), Dec 30: The body of Jharkhand actress Riya Kumari, who was shot dead while going to Kolkata in a car with her husband and two-year-old daughter, was cremated in the state Friday in presence of relatives and local artists.

Her family demanded a thorough probe into the case. The actresses' uncle Ajay Kumar Rana brought her body and her daughter from Kolkata to her sister's res-

idence at Singhani in Hazaribagh district earlier in the day.

West Bengal police arrested her husband Prakash Kumar on the charge of murdering her.

Riya Kumari, who goes by the screen name of Isha Aliya, was shot dead on National Highway 16 in West Bengal's Howrah district in the early hours on December 28.

Prakash had told the police that she was killed by a group of highway robbers who attacked them when he stopped the car to relieve



himself near Mahishrekha in Bagan police station area. The police arrested him after

interrogation and following a complaint lodged by Riya Kumari's family on Wednesday night.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

My correct name is Sarthak Kumar Tripathy, which stood wrongly recorded as Sarthak Tripathy in my Passport. Hence affidavit sworn in before Notary in Bhubaneswar Court subject to further affirmations.

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Kakatpur, I, Sheikh Atikuraheiman my passport was lost from Astaranga. Passport No.H2681002, issue Bhubaneswar.

A UNIQUE INITIATIVE TO CHECK INFILTRATION

This year, till December 25, the BSF has downed 22 drones and the reward of Rs 1 lakh each has been handed out to more than a dozen 'hit' or shooting teams deployed on the front, till now

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Amritsar, Dec 30: A cash prize of Rs 1 lakh to its 'hit' team, an assortment of jammers and spoofers and multi-layered patrols by security personnel are some of the measures taken by the Border Security Force (BSF) to check the increasing infiltration of drones carrying drugs and arms

from Pakistan into India.

The well-fortified and fenced border along the two neighbouring countries is witnessing an "onslaught" of drones, the most being in Punjab, with sightings more than tripled and shooting of the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) gone up multiple times in 2022 as compared to the last year, official data showed.

Each BSF 'hit' team at the border that brings down a drone through rifle firing or use of jamming technology is being rewarded with a cash incentive of Rs 1 lakh, according to latest policy decision taken by the force sometime back to motivate the troops in battling the drones menace, a senior BSF officer said.

A similar amount of reward was announced by the Jalandhar-based Punjab frontier of the force in April



for the locals or the public who inform the BSF about those elements who use drones to get drugs and

arms from Pakistan, he said. This year, till December 25, the BSF has downed 22 drones and the

reward of Rs 1 lakh each has been handed out to more than a dozen 'hit' or shooting teams deployed on the front, till now. An awardee could be a single trooper or more than one on a case-by-case basis, he said.

All the 22 drone kills, this year, have taken place along the Punjab border. Only one drone each was shot down by the BSF in 2020 and last year (in Jammu in 2020 and in Punjab in 2021), the data said.

According to official data, drone sightings along the 2,289-km-long India-Pakistan International Border (IB) running along Jammu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat has increased from 77 in 2020 to 104 last year and 311 this year (till December 23). Almost 75 per cent of these sightings have been made in Punjab, where drones have been majorly used by the other side to push in and drop drugs.

The border guarding force has also deployed an assortment of electronic jammers and spoofers to block the frequencies and navigation path of these narcotics and arms carrying drones leading to their immobilisation.

Jammers and spoofers are gadgets that emit electromagnetic waves and send fake GPS (global positioning system) signals respectively to cripple a flying drone and they are subsequently taken down either by controlled piloting of the device called 'soft kill' or just by firing at it using a gun, also called a 'hard kill'.

"There have been few instances where the electronic devices deployed by the force in the border areas jammed the drones originating from Pakistan and once the device gets stationary in the air, it was shot down," a senior officer said refusing to disclose further details.

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Narendra Modi ji, in one year, gas cylinder became costlier by ₹200. The price of milk has increased by an average of ₹10. Tur/Arhar pulses ₹10 costlier. Edible oil became costlier by ₹15-20. The price of atta (flour) increased by 25 per cent. Not a 'wonderful year', it has been a 'distressful year' for the common man's kitchen

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

JOY IN THE AIR

Rain and snow lashed J&K during the last 24 hours as Srinagar received the season's first snowfall Friday bringing joy to New Year revellers preparing to welcome 2023 at Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonmarg tourist resorts



of the day quote

The Congress government at the Centre did not allow the implementation of the Mandal Commission report on reservation for backward castes. Along with this, SC/ST reservation was also made ineffective, and now BJP is also following the footsteps of Congress in this matter. Very worrying

MAYAWATI | BSP PRESIDENT

Rahul Gandhi is supposed to go to J&K as part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra. Is he going there to spread love or vitiate the atmosphere? He must tell if he is in favour of revocation of Article 370 and Article 35A or not

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will hold a public meeting in Haryana's Panipat on January 6, a day after the Bharat Jodo Yatra will re-enter the state

BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Woman killed

Mysuru (Karnataka): A woman was killed while three others including her husband were injured in a wild elephant attack Thursday in Chikkabechanahalli village near Bilikere in Mysuru district of Karnataka. The deceased was identified as 55-year-old Chikkamma, a resident of Beechanahalli. According to authorities, she was attacked by the elephant while she worked at her farm with her husband Sidde Gowda. Chikkamma died on the spot while Sidde Gowda managed to escape with minor injuries. The elephant also attacked Ranju with its trunk and trampled another person Ravi. Both were working at their farm. The injured had been shifted to a private hospital in Mysuru.

Judge attacked

Navsari (Gujarat): It was a narrow escape for Navsari Additional District Judge on Friday when a convict attacked him with a stone while he was hearing a case in the courtroom. Condemning the incident, the Navsari District Bar Association has demanded an inquiry into it. Advocate Pratapsinh Mahida told the local media that the incident took place in the Additional District judge R.R. Desai's courtroom. Accused Dharmesh Rathod threw a stone at the female judge who had a narrow escape. Immediately, the police on duty rounded up the accused and took him out of the courtroom. The accused had carried stone from the jail premises.

Two dead in blast

Chandauli: Two people were killed in a gas cylinder blast outside a private hospital in Chandauli district Friday. The impact of the explosion was so intense that it shattered glasses in the hospital and houses nearby, and the two bodies were badly mangled. Visuals showed them lying on the road amid chaos in the area. A truck carrying several oxygen cylinders is also seen parked in the middle of the road. The police took the dead bodies into custody, and sent them for autopsy.

Raj MP robbed

Jaipur: Thieves barged into the residence of Rashtriya Loktantrik Party supreme and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal located in Jaipur and fled with many valuables, including cash, gold and silver jewellery. Beniwal himself shared the information on his Twitter handle and said that an FIR was lodged at the Jalupura police station on Friday morning.

High drama at PM's Bengal event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 30: Sloganeering at Howrah Station Friday snowballed into a major controversy as a visibly annoyed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee refused to get up on the dais from where the Vande Bharat express to New Jalpaiguri was flagged off.

Banerjee seemed upset by the loud sloganeering of 'Jai Shri Ram' by BJP workers present at the railway station. Attempts by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Governor C V Ananda Bose to pacify her did not bear fruit, as the chief minister chose to sit on a chair below the dais along with the audience.

Banerjee greeted the PM who appeared through a video conferencing link with a short speech from her seat and condoned the death of his mother Hiraben earlier in the day by stating, "Your mother is our mother too."

The Vande Bharat Express connecting Howrah and New Jalpaiguri, the gateway to the northeast, as well as several development projects, was virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. However, the chants stirred up a political controversy with TMC taking exception to the mouthing of what they termed as a party slogan in a Government program made more solemn by the death of a family member of the Prime Minister and the BJP stating it was normal for their workers to be excited by an event which would inaugurate by the PM.



MAMATA BANERJEE GREETED THE PM WHO APPEARED THROUGH A VIDEO CONFERENCING LINK WITH A SHORT SPEECH FROM HER SEAT AND CONDOLED THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER HIRABEN EARLIER IN THE DAY BY STATING, "YOUR MOTHER IS OUR MOTHER TOO"

THE VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS CONNECTING HOWRAH AND NEW JALPAIGURI, THE GATEWAY TO THE NORTHEAST, AS WELL AS SEVERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, WAS VIRTUALLY INAUGURATED BY PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Later, after a metro rail ride, Railway minister Vaishaw downplayed the incident while speaking with newsmen at Taratala and said the chief minister had been invited with "aadar" (affection) and "samman" (respect). He said "aise koi baat nahi hui ke naraaz hone ki baat ho. Karyakarta naare lagate hai (Nothing occurred to cause any angst. Workers often mouth slogans)".

However, the TMC did not accept the excuse and a grim faced Chandrima Mukherjee, TMC leader and West Bengal's minister of state for finance said, "The chief minister maintained her dignity especially at a difficult hour when the prime minister of the nation has been bereaved, but BJP workers kept leaping up and

shouting forgetting the solemnity of the occasion."

BJP MP Locket Chatterjee too tried to play down the sloganeering which erupted when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appeared at Howrah station, stating it "was not meant to hurt her (chief minister). It was general sloganeering by the saffron party supporters in support of Prime Minister Modi."

Last year, Banerjee had similarly taken umbrage at a similar incident of sloganeering by BJP supporters at a Central Government function to celebrate Netaji Subhas Bose's birth anniversary on January 23, at the Victoria Memorial hall here, protesting that the solemnity of the function was insulted by partisan slogans.

Tourists in over 400 vehicles rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Dec 30: A large number of tourists stranded in over 400 vehicles near South Portal of the Atal Tunnel in Rohtang Pass following snowfall have been rescued, officials said on Friday.

The vehicles were stuck as slippery conditions prevailed after snowfall at the tunnel on the Manali-Leh highway and adjoining areas on Thursday.

Police teams from Keylong and Manali jointly launched a rescue operation, which took 10-12 hours and concluded around 4 am on Friday, and the vehicles moved to their respective destinations, the officials said. However, the tourists said they were thrilled to see and enjoy the snow.

All the vehicles that were struck due to bad weather conditions have safely crossed the South Portal. Food arrangements were made for the stranded tourists and locals, Deputy Commissioner, Lahual and Spiti, Sumit Khimta said.

Tourists have been advised to drive cautiously, Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, Ashutosh Garg. A large number of tourists are thronging Kullu and Manali to celebrate New Year and the football is expected to rise after snowfall.

"Too many vehicles on the road has led to frequent traffic jams but the occupancy of registered rooms is not as per the vehicular traffic and it seems many tourists are staying in unauthorised properties," president of Manali Hoteliers' Association Mukesh Thakur said.

COUGH SYRUP-LINKED DEATHS

Marion Biotech halts all production



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: All manufacturing activities at Marion Biotech's Noida unit have been stopped in view of reports of contamination of its cough syrup, Dok-1 Max, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said Friday.

Further investigation in connection with the death of 18 children in Uzbekistan allegedly linked to the cough syrup is going on, the minister said in a tweet. "Following inspection by @CDSCO_INDIA_INF team in view of reports of contamination in cough syrup Dok1 Max, all manufacturing activities of Marion Biotech at NOIDA unit have been stopped yesterday night, while further investigation is ongoing," Mandaviya said.

Government sources said Uzbek officials reached out to India on Thursday night regarding the cough syrup-linked deaths and seeking a thorough probe in the matter. A legal representative of the company had said on Thursday that the manufacturing of Dok-1 Max has stopped "for now".

Marion Biotech does not sell Dok-1 Max in India and its only export has been to Uzbekistan, an Uttar Pradesh government official had said.

Samples of the cough syrup have been taken from the company's manufacturing unit premises in Noida and sent to the Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory (RDTL) in Chandigarh, Mandaviya had said on Thursday.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has been in regular touch with Uzbekistan's drug regulator regarding the matter since December 27. The Ministry of External Affairs

Government sources said Uzbek officials reached out to India Thursday night regarding the cough syrup-linked deaths and seeking a thorough probe into the matter

(MEA) had said India is in touch with the Uzbek authorities and has sought the details of their investigation into the matter. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had also said consular assistance is being provided to some people linked to the company who are facing legal action in the central Asian country.

Noting that the Uzbek authorities have not formally taken up the matter with New Delhi, Bagchi had said, "Nevertheless, our embassy has contacted the Uzbek side and is seeking further details of their investigation."

Marion Biotech is a licensed manufacturer and holds the licence for manufacturing the Dok-1 Max syrup and tablets for export purpose granted by the Drugs Controller, Uttar Pradesh, the health ministry had said in a statement.

The governments of both countries are looking into the matter, said Hasan Harris, a legal representative of the Noida-based company. "There is no problem from our end and no issue in testing. We have been there for the past 10 years. Once the government report comes, we will look into it. For now, the manufacturing has stopped," Harris had said.

Stray dogs kill 21 deer

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), Dec 30: Stray dogs mauled to death 21 spotted deer and one chinkara at a private guest house in the Chhatnag area of Prayagraj.

The incident took place earlier this week, but the authorities kept it under wraps for two days, conducted the autopsy of the deer killed and confirmed only when the media came to know about it. A case has been filed against the private firm looking after the deer under provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act.

The deer were being reared on the 70-acre guest house on the banks of the Ganga. Reports said the private firm, Universal Cable Company Limited, got the permission to rear deer at the private property in 1988. The entire responsibility of looking after the deer was given to the firm.

Three persons, including the security officer and deer keeper, have been detained by the officials of the forest department for interrogation and a detailed inquest has been ordered.

Investigations also revealed two small drain opening points on the campus offered a suitable entry to the stray dogs. It was also assumed that the dogs might have jumped the boundary wall.

Prayagraj district forest officer Mahaveer Kauljagi said, "Three persons, including Awadhesh Kumar (security Officer), Lal Chandra Yadav (deer keeper) and Jung Bahadur (security guard), have been detained by forest department for interrogation."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi carries mortal remains of his mother during her funeral procession in Gandhinagar

Sheezan tried to convert Tunisha: Mother

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, Dec 30: Vanita Sharma, mother of actor Tunisha Sharma who allegedly committed suicide on a television show set in neighbouring Palghar last week, Friday said her death could be a case of murder, and also accused co-actor Sheezan Khan and his family of trying to force her daughter into religious conversion.

She also claimed that her daughter had checked the mobile phone of Khan, with whom she was in a relationship but broke up recently, and found his WhatsApp chats with some other woman, and when Tunisha confronted Khan about it, he slapped her, stating that she

was free to do whatever she wanted. Tunisha, 21, who acted in the show 'Ali Baba: Dastaan-E-Kabul', was found hanging in the washroom on the set of the serial near Vasai in Palghar on December 24.

Khan was arrested on Sunday on the charge of abetting her suicide. He is currently in police custody. "Tunisha was not someone who could commit suicide. On the day she died, she had told me that she wanted to go to Chandigarh to celebrate Christmas for two days," her mother said at her residence at Bhayandar in Thane district.

"It can be a case of murder. The act of Sheezan Khan getting Tunisha's (body) down and taking it to a hospital is doubt-



ful. What happened in that 15 minutes needs to be probed," she said. According to her, when Tunisha first told her that she liked Khan and wanted to marry him, she had asked her to focus on her career and decide about it later.

"Sheezan demanded costly gifts from Tunisha. She used to give such expensive gifts to him. Both of them would frequently stay at the residence of each other's families. However, they broke up later," Sharma said. "Once, when Tunisha checked the mobile phone

of Sheezan, she found his WhatsApp chats with some other woman. When she sought explanation from him about it, Sheezan slapped her said she can do whatever she wants," she claimed.

The deceased actor's mother said when she personally asked Khan about it, he told her that he cannot do anything about it. "A day before her death, I found that Tunisha was disturbed and depressed. I advised her to take things easy," she added. She was very sensitive, Sharma said, adding that over the last couple of months her behaviour had started changing and she was getting closer to Khan's family and also following their customs.

In 2022, Delhi breathed better air but Yamuna still gasps for life

A government report showed that the pollutant load in the Yamuna has increased substantially over the last five years. The Delhi government had promised to clean the river to bathing standards by 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: Delhi breathed comparatively less polluted air in 2022 thanks to proactive implementation of anti-pollution plans and favourable meteorology but the city government's shambolic efforts failed to improve the water quality of the Yamuna, often referred to as the capital's lifeline.

Bold efforts of conservationists and the forest and wildlife department saw several wildlife species recover, including the striped hyena and leopards, in the urban jungles. A dip in the incidents of

stubble burning, few delayed spells of rains, an early Diwali and favourable meteorology prevented the capital from turning into a gas chamber following the festival.

Delhi saw its second-best air quality (average AQI 210) in October since 2015, when the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) started maintaining AQI data. The average AQI in November stood at 320, the second best after 2019 when it was 312. The PM2.5 level this October-November has been 38 per cent lower compared to October-November of 2016 which was the worst in the last eight years.



Stubble burning, a major reason behind hazardous pollution levels in Delhi-NCR in October-November, reduced by 30 per cent in Punjab and 48 per cent in Haryana this year. The year also saw the Centre and Punjab squabble over the use of Pusa bio-decomposer, a microbial solution to de-

compose paddy straw, with Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav alleging that the AAP sprayed it in the capital but not in the border state.

The Yamuna, one of the main sources of raw water in Delhi, struggled to survive the ecological assault of sewage and industrial

effluents. A government report showed that the pollutant load in the Yamuna has increased substantially over the last five years. The Delhi government had promised to clean the river to bathing standards by 2025.

Dramatic scenes played out on the banks of the Yamuna in October: BJP MP Parvesh Verma threatened a DJB official over the use of a chemical to dissipate foam in the river, a result of heavy pollution, ahead of Chhath Puja. Challenged in the presence of TV cameras, the DJB official bathed in the water taken from a stretch of the Yamuna where the utility sprayed the chemical.

The Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, the only protected wildlife habitat in Delhi, saw an increase in animal population. A year-long study by the wildlife de-

partment and the Bombay Natural History Society confirmed the presence of eight leopards in the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, with enough evidence to suggest the large carnivore is making the urban forest its permanent home. The sanctuary did not record any leopard sighting for many decades after 1940, as per the Gazetteer of Delhi.

Officials have also confirmed the presence of other mammals such as striped hyena, jungle cat, golden jackal, Indian hare, Indian boar black buck, sambar deer, spotted deer, and hog deer among others.

The forest and wildlife department also thwarted attempts to dump inert civic waste in the abandoned Bhatti mines, which are now part of the Asola Wildlife Sanctuary.



The Cambodian economy has returned to normal after the kingdom has successfully controlled the spread of Covid-19 pandemic and fully reopened its border since November 2021
HUN SEN | PM, CAMBODIA

STRICT RULE

Japan Friday started seeking Covid-19 tests for all passengers arriving from China as an emergency measure against surging infections there and as Japan faces rising case numbers and record-level deaths at home



of the day quote

I'm deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of Smt. Heeraba Modi, loving mother of Prime Minister @PMOIndia. At this hour of grief, I express heart felt condolences to PM Modi ji and the family members and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul
PUSHPA KAMAL DAHAL 'PRACHANDA' | PM, NEPAL

US restrictions are now our new normal, and we're back to business as usual
ERIC XU | HUAWAI'S CURRENT CHAIRMAN

Nature is under threat; in fact, it's under attack. The job we're doing as a world is just not good enough
JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM, CANADA

Trump's tax returns released

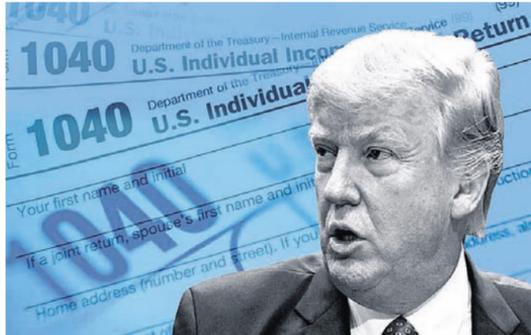
Release of Trump's redacted returns for 2015 through 2020 caps a multi-year battle between the Republican former President and Democratic lawmakers that was settled only last month by the US Supreme Court

AGENCIES

Washington, Dec 30: Democrats in Congress released six years' worth of former President Donald Trump's tax returns Friday, the culmination of a years long effort to learn about the finances of a one-time business mogul who broke decades of political norms when he refused to voluntarily release the information as he sought the White House.

The returns, which include redactions of some personal sensitive information such as Social Security and bank account numbers, are from 2015 to 2020. Their release follows a party-line vote in the House Ways and Means Committee last week to make the returns public. Committee Democrats argued that transparency and the rule of law were at stake, while Republicans countered that the release would set a dangerous precedent with regard to the loss of privacy protections.

Trump had refused to release his returns when he ran for president and had waged a legal battle to keep them secret while he was in the White House. But the Supreme Court ruled last month that he had to turn them over to the tax-writing



Ways and Means Committee.

The release, just days before Trump's fellow Republicans retake control of the House from the Democrats, raises the potential of new revelations about Trump's finances, which have been shrouded in mystery and intrigue since his days as an up-and-coming Manhattan real estate developer in the 1980s. The returns could take on added significance now that Trump has launched a campaign for the White House in 2024. They are likely to offer the clear-

est picture yet of his finances during his time in office.

Trump, known for building skyscrapers and hosting a reality TV show before winning the White House, did give some limited details about his holdings and income on mandatory disclosure forms. He has promoted his wealth in the annual financial statements he provides to banks to secure loans and to financial magazines to justify his place on rankings of the world's billionaires.

Trump's longtime accounting

firm has since disavowed the statements, and New York Attorney General Letitia James has filed a lawsuit alleging Trump and his Trump Organisation inflated asset values on the statements as part of a yearslong fraud.

Trump and his company have denied wrongdoing. It will not be the first time Trump's tax returns have been under scrutiny.

Trump's lawyers were repeatedly denied in their quest to keep his tax returns from the House committee. A three-judge federal appeals court panel in August upheld a lower-court ruling granting the committee access.

Trump's lawyers also tried and failed to block the Manhattan district attorney's office from getting Trump's tax records as part of its investigation into his business practices, losing twice in the Supreme Court.

Trump's longtime accountant, Donald Bender, testified at the Trump Organisation's recent Manhattan criminal trial that Trump reported losses on his tax returns every year for a decade, including nearly \$700 million in 2009 and \$200 million in 2010.

US envoy Qin Gang to replace Wang Yi: China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Dec 30: China has appointed its envoy to the US Qin Gang as the new foreign minister to succeed incumbent Wang Yi, who has been elevated to the Political Bureau -- the ruling Communist Party's top policy body.

It is, however, not clear whether Qin, 56, will take over the post immediately. Wang, 69, has been elevated to the high-power Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

"Congratulations to HE Qin Gang @AmbQinGang for his appointment as China's new Foreign Minister! Looking forward to a splendid new chapter in China's diplomacy," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson and Assistant Foreign Minister Hua Chunying tweeted.

The announcement was a surprise as the new administration is scheduled to take over during the annual Parliament session slated to be held from March 5 next year.

A new central cabinet called the State Council, replacing the present one headed by Premier Li Keqiang, will take charge during the annual session of the coun-



try's parliament -- the National People's Congress (NPC) -- scheduled to be held from March 5. Except President Xi Jinping, all top officials and ministers will be replaced during the Parliament session.

Li, 67, will formally retire after completing his 10-year stint. Li Keqiang is widely expected to be replaced by Li Qiang, 63, a close associate of President Xi who has been elected for an unprecedented third five-year term in the once-in-a-five-year CPC congress held in October.

Xi is the only leader after Mao to continue in power after a 10-year tenure as all his predecessors retired to promote new leadership in the party.

Li Qiang is ranked second after Xi in the all-powerful new seven-member Standing Committee.

SHORT TAKES

4 Indian students die in car accident

New Delhi: Four Indian medical students died on the spot after the car they were travelling in crashed into a tree in Simferopol, Crimea, the media reported. While two students were in their third year of college, two others were in the fourth year, according to Russian news agency RIA Novosti.

Iran holds military drill

Dubai: Iran's military Friday kicked off its annual drill in the coastal area of the Gulf of Oman and near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, state TV reported, even as the authorities continue their crackdown on anti-government protests that have been underway for over three months. The strait is located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf and is crucial to global energy supplies, with about a fifth of all oil traded at sea passing through it.

7 dead in gas canister blast

Istanbul: A gas canister explosion at a restaurant in western Turkey killed seven people Friday. The blast injured five others in the Nazilli district of Aydin province, Gov. Huseyin Aksoy tweeted. One of the injured was in critical condition and intubated, with burns over 80 per cent of the person's body, and was being transferred to western Izmir province for treatment, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted.

Four missing in helicopter crash

Baton Rouge (US): The US Coast Guard spent hours searching the waters off Louisiana for four people on board a helicopter that crashed Thursday while departing an oil platform. The helicopter's pilot and three oil workers went down in the Gulf of Mexico at about 8:40 a.m. CST, said Petty Officer Jose Hernandez, a spokesperson for the Coast Guard's 8th District, which is headquartered in New Orleans.

Indiana blocks TikTok

Indianapolis: Indiana has blocked the Chinese-owned social media app TikTok from state devices, its technology office said Thursday. The Indiana Office of Technology "blocked TikTok from being used in our state system and on our state devices" as of Dec. 7, office spokesman Graig Lubsen told The Journal Gazette. The Office of Technology "is constantly testing the state system and making sure that the integrity is intact," Lubsen said in an email to the newspaper.

RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

Evidence of war crimes mounts

AGENCIES

Kyiv, Dec 30: Ten months into Russia's latest invasion of Ukraine, overwhelming evidence shows the Kremlin's troops have waged total war, with disregard for international laws governing the treatment of civilians and conduct on the battlefield.

Some of the attacks were massacres that killed dozens or hundreds of civilians and as a totality it could account for thousands of individual war crimes.

The reasons are manifold, experts say. Ukrainian authorities face serious challenges in gathering air-tight evidence in a war zone. And the vast majority of alleged war criminals have evaded capture and are safely behind Russian lines.

Even in successful prosecutions, the limits of justice so far are glaring. Take the case of Vadim Shishmarin, a baby-faced 21-year-old tank commander who was the first Russian tried on war crimes charges. He surrendered in March and pleaded guilty in a Kyiv courtroom in May to shooting a 62-year-

Putin, Xi vow closer ties

Kyiv: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping vowed Friday to deepen their bilateral cooperation against the backdrop of Moscow's 10-month war in Ukraine, which weathered another night of drone and rocket attacks following a massive missile bombardment. Putin and Xi made no direct mention of Ukraine in their opening remarks via video conference, before going into private talks.

old Ukrainian civilian in the head. The desire for some combination of justice and vengeance was palpable in that courtroom.

"Do you consider yourself a murderer?" a woman shouted at the Russian as he stood bent forward with his head resting against the glass of the cage he was locked in.

Since March, Ukraine has named more than 600 Russians, many of them high-ranking political and military officials, as suspects, including Minister of Defence Sergei Shoigu.



A branch which snapped under heavy weight lies on a vehicle after a winter storm swept over the intermountain West and dropped up to eight inches of snow in Denver. Some locations in the mountains were forecasted to receive up to two feet of snow from the storm, which swept in from the Pacific Coast. PTI PHOTO

Suu Kyi to spend 33 yrs in jail with fresh 7-yr sentence

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Dec 30: A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi of corruption Friday, sentencing her to seven years in prison in the last of a string of criminal cases against her, a legal official said.

The court's action leaves her with a total of 33 years to serve in



prison after a series of politically tinged prosecutions since the army toppled her elected government in February 2021.

The case that ended Friday involved five offenses under the anti-corruption law and followed earlier convictions on

seven other corruption counts, each of which was punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine.

The 77-year-old Suu Kyi has also been convicted of several other offenses, including illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies, violating coronavirus restrictions, breaching the country's official secrets act, sedition and election fraud.

CAMBODIAN HOTEL FIRE

26 BODIES FOUND AS SEARCH ENDS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Poipet, Dec 30: The search for bodies in the wreckage of a burned-out casino hotel complex in western Cambodia has concluded with 26 people confirmed dead, a senior official said late Friday.

Banteay Meanchey province Governor Um Reatrey told The Associated Press by phone that after 39 hours of rescue and search operations, there were also 57 injured survivors from the Wednesday night fire at the Grand Diamond City casino and hotel in the town of Poipet.

Seventeen of the dead were from Thailand, one each from Nepal, Malaysia and China, and six bodies were yet to be identified, he said in a statement.

The Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office of Thailand's Sa Kaew province, just across the border from Poipet, said there had been 27 deaths -- 26 in Cambodia and one in a Thai hospital. It said of the 112 people injured, 27 remained in hospitals and 85 had returned to their homes.

Thailand, which provided firefighting and rescue assistance, was where many of the injured were taken for treatment.

Thais made up a large proportion of the guests and employees at the casino complex.

Searchers failed to find new bodies Friday afternoon at the disaster site, although more dead had been expected to be found.

The sky isn't just blue--airglow makes it colourful

Look up on a clear sunny day and you will see a blue sky. But is this the true colour of the sky? Or is it the only colour of the sky?

The answers are a little complicated, but they involve the nature of light, atoms and molecules and some quirky parts of Earth's atmosphere. And big lasers too -- for science!

Blue skies?

So first things first: when we see a blue sky on a sunny day, what are we seeing? Are we seeing blue nitrogen or blue Oxygen? The simple answer is no. Instead the blue light we see is scattered sunlight. The Sun produces a broad spectrum of visible light, which we see as white but it includes all the colours of the rainbow.

At sunset we can see this effect dialled up, because sunlight has to pass through more air to reach us. When the Sun is close to the horizon, almost all the blue light is scattered (or absorbed by dust), so we end up with a red Sun with

bluer colours surrounding it.

But if all we are seeing is scattered sunlight, what is the true colour of the sky? Perhaps we can get an answer at night.

The colour of dark skies

If you look at the night sky, it is obviously dark, but it isn't perfectly black. Yes, there are the stars, but the night sky itself glows. This isn't light pollution, but the atmosphere glowing naturally.

On a dark moonless night in the countryside, away from city lights, you can see the trees and hills silhouetted against the sky.

This glow, called airglow, is produced by atoms and molecules in the atmosphere. In visible light, oxygen produces green and red light, hydroxyl (OH) molecules produce red light, and sodium produces a sickly yellow. Nitrogen, while far more abundant in the air than sodium, does not contribute much to airglow.

The distinct colours of airglow are the result of atoms and molecules



releasing particular amounts of energy (quanta) in the form of light.

For example, at high altitudes ultraviolet light can split Oxygen molecules (O₂) into pairs of Oxygen atoms, and when these atoms later recombine into Oxygen molecules they produce a distinct green light.

Yellow light, shooting stars

Sodium atoms make up a minuscule fraction of our atmosphere, but they make up a big part of airglow, and have a very unusual origin -- shooting stars.

You can see shooting stars on any clear dark night, if you're willing to wait. They are teeny tiny meteors, produced by grains of dust

heating up and vaporising in the upper atmosphere as they travel at over 11 kilometres per second.

As shooting stars blaze across the sky, at roughly 100 kilometres altitude, they leave behind a trail of atoms and molecules.

Sometimes you can see shooting stars with distinct colours, resulting from the atoms and molecules they contain.

Very bright shooting stars can even leave visible smoke trails. And among those atoms and molecules is a smattering of sodium.

This high layer of sodium atoms is actually useful to astronomers. Our atmosphere is perpetually in motion, it's turbulent, and it blurs images of planets, stars and galaxies.

Think of the shimmering you see when you look along a long road on a summer's afternoon.

To compensate for the turbulence, astronomers take quick images of bright stars and measure how the stars' images are distorted.

of the day quote

Customs duty cut on gold and a progressive repair policy for jewellery will help the sector immensely. We are also very hopeful that there will be presumptive taxation on our special notified zones for rough diamonds and abolition of duty on the seed used for lab-grown production

COLIN SHAH | FORMER CHAIRMAN, GIPEC

Upon being listed on the stock exchanges, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd is back to enrich our vision in expanding the network pan-India. The bank has opened its 510th and 511th new branches in Tamil Nadu

S KRISHNAM | MD AND CEO, TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK

Our vision with VIDA is to establish future oriented mobility trends that will benefit the customers as well as the planet. With the commencement of customer deliveries, we are beginning to realise our vision

PAWAN MUNJAL | CHAIRMAN AND CEO, HERO MOTOCORP



It has been an exciting year because of the launch of 5G, a much-awaited technology for 4-5 years. This is a big step forward. We look forward to a robust rollout of 5G next year because this year is just the beginning

K RAJARAMAN | TELECOM SECRETARY

HERO DELIVERS FIRST VIDA V1 EV

Hero MotoCorp Friday said it has commenced customer deliveries of its first electric scooter VIDA V1. The first electric vehicle of the brand was delivered in Bangalore. Deliveries in Jaipur and Delhi will follow, the company said



SEE-SAW RIDE

D-St ends '22 with gain of over 4% YoY

The indexes extended gains for a seventh consecutive year in 2022, but also advanced the least since 2018

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

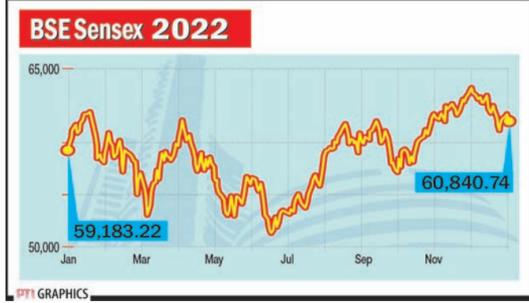
Mumbai, Dec 30: Benchmark BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty closed on a bearish note on the last trading day of 2022 due to fag-end selling in select banking, IT and capital goods shares.

The key indices, however, posted annual gains of over 4 per cent in 2022 to emerge as the world's best-performing large market indices.

Stock markets opened on a bullish note on the last session of the year and traded in green in the most part of the day. Gains in Asian markets also supported the local equities. Sensex rose by 258.8 points or 0.42 per cent to an intra-day high of 61,892.68 while Nifty touched a high of 18,265.25 points.

The market lost steam after weak opening in European stocks with the indices paring all gains.

The 30-share BSE Sensex closed



On the last day of a tumultuous year, domestic indices shed their early gains as negative signals from global peers pushed indices lower. Investors remained concerned over the economic outlook for the new year, underpinned by growing fears of recession

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

down 293.14 points or 0.48 per cent to 60,840.74. The broader NSE Nifty declined 85.70 points or 0.47 per cent to end at 18,105.30.

The BSE barometer closed 2022 with an annual gain of 4.44 per cent or 2,586.92 points while the Nifty ended the year higher by 4.32 per cent or 751.25 points.

Sensex touched its all-time high of 63,583.07 points December 1 after hitting its 52-week low of 50,921.22 points June 17. In 2022, five months

saw Sensex making overall monthly gains while it was a fall in the remaining seven months. Sensex jumped 10,502.49 points or 21.99 per cent last year.

The rupee spurred by the US dollar on the last trading session of 2022. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers as they offloaded shares worth ₹2,950.89 crore.

From the Sensex pack, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC, ITC,

Investors richer by ₹16.38L-cr this year

Dalal Street investors became richer by more than ₹16.38 lakh crore this year as the equity market scaled new highs despite persistent geopolitical uncertainties and inflation worries. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reached an all-time high of ₹290.46 lakh crore. July turned out to be the most rewarding month for equity investors as the BSE benchmark jumped 4,662.32 points or 8.81 per cent in that month. In 2021, equity investors reaped handsome rewards as their wealth grew nearly ₹78 lakh crore while Sensex gained 10,502.49 points or 21.99 per cent.

SENSEX, NIFTY WORLD'S BEST-PERFORMING LARGE MARKET INDICES

BSE SENSEX RISES 4.44% WHILE NIFTY SURGES 4.32%

SENSEX JUMPED 21.99% LAST YEAR

Nestle, Larsen & Toubro, Asian Paints, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid and IndusInd Bank were the major laggards on Friday.

In contrast, Bajaj Finserv, Titan, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Wipro, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries and State Bank of India were the major winners.

The broader market, however, ended in the green, with BSE small-cap gauge climbing 0.76 per cent and midcap index gaining 0.37 per cent. Among sectoral indices, FMCG dipped 0.59 per cent, utilities de-

clined 0.52 per cent, power (0.46 per cent), teck (0.43 per cent), financial services (0.36 per cent) and capital goods (0.28 per cent). Commodities, consumer discretionary energy, consumer durables, metal and realty were among the winners.

Analysts attributed better macroeconomic fundamentals, the confidence of retail investors and foreign investors investing again in the domestic equities towards the latter half of 2022 as the key factors that led to the outperformance of the Indian market in comparison to many other stock markets worldwide.

SHORT TAKES

Wheat exports up 30% in April-Nov

New Delhi: Wheat exports rose 29.29 per cent to \$1.50 billion during April-November this fiscal from \$1.17 billion in the same period the previous year, the commerce ministry said Friday. Though the government banned wheat exports in May, some shipments are allowed to meet the food security needs of the countries that request it. The ministry said that Basmati rice exports too increased by 39.26 per cent to \$2.87 billion during April-November 2022, while that of non-basmati rice registered a growth of 5 per to \$4.2 billion in the same period.

IRFC pays ₹903cr as dividend

New Delhi: The Central government has received ₹903 crore and ₹78 crore from the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd (IRFC) and RITES Ltd respectively as dividend tranches. It was further reported that ₹503 crore and ₹66 crore have also been received from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd (RCFL) respectively as dividend tranches.

Govt hikes interest on post office savings schemes by up to 1.1 bps

THIS IS THE SECOND QUARTER OF AN INCREASE IN A ROW IN INTEREST RATES FOR SOME SCHEMES. THIS FOLLOWS A STATUS QUO OR UNCHANGED RATES FOR NINE STRAIGHT QUARTERS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: The government Friday raised interest rates on most post office savings schemes that do not get income tax benefits in line with the firming of interest rates in the economy.

While the interest rate for popular PPF and girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samridhi were retained, rates for deposits up to 5 per cent as well as NSC, senior citizen savings scheme and Kisan

Vikas Patra (KVP) where income accruing is taxable have been hiked by up to 1.1 percentage points, according to a finance ministry notification.

Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified on a quarterly basis. With the revision, a one-year term deposit with post offices would earn 6.6 per cent, for two years (6.8 per cent), three years (6.9 per cent) and five years (7 per cent). Senior Citizen Savings scheme

will earn 40 basis points more at 8 per cent during the January-March period, the notification said. With regard to KVP, the government has hiked the interest rates to 7.2 per cent, thereby maturing in 120 months. Currently KVP yields 7 per cent rate with a maturity period of 123 months.

Monthly Income Scheme would earn 40 basis points more at 7.1 per cent, while National Savings Certificate (NSC) has been raised by 20 basis points to 7 per cent.

The interest rate on girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samridhi Yojana was retained at 7.6 per cent, and that for Public Provident Fund (PPF) it has been kept unchanged at 7.1 per cent. Savings deposits will continue to earn 4 per cent per annum.

The Reserve Bank since May has raised the benchmark lending rate by 2.25 per cent to 6.25 per cent, prompting banks to raise interest rates on deposits as well.

RBI raised repo rate or short-term lending rate by 35 basis points earlier this month. This was the fifth consecutive rate hike after a 40 basis points increase in May and 50 basis points hike each in June, August and September. In all, the RBI has raised the benchmark rate by 2.25 per cent since May this year.

Nov core sector output rises 5.4%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: Production of eight infrastructure sectors increased by 5.4 per cent in November against a 3.2 per cent growth in the same month last year on a better show by coal, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity segments, according to the official data released Friday.

Crude oil, natural gas and refinery products, however, recorded negative growth in November this year. The production growth of eight key sectors slowed down to 0.9 per cent in October.

The growth rate of eight infrastructure sectors - coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity - stood at 8 per cent in April-November this fiscal as against 13.9 per cent during the same period last fiscal.

The production of coal rose by 12.3 per cent, fertiliser by 6.4 per cent, steel by 10.8 per cent, cement by 28.6 per cent and electricity by 12.1 per cent in November 2022 compared to a year ago.

Core sectors industries, which have 40.27 per cent weight in the overall index of industrial production (IIP), would also have a bearing on industrial production data.

The IIP data for November is expected to be released by the government in the second week of January 2023.

Banks' credit to services up 21.3% in November

Most banks expect double-digit credit growth for the current financial year ending in March 2023



REUTERS

Mumbai, Dec 30: Indian banking services' outstanding credit to the services sector jumped by 21.3 per cent year-on-year in November as compared to 3.2 per cent a year ago, data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed Friday.

The jump was led by a 33 per cent rise in the credit given to non-banking finance companies, including housing finance companies and public finance institutions, the data showed.

India's economy is recovering following the Covid-19 pandemic and credit offtake has improved. Credit to agriculture and allied activities rose by 13.8 per cent on a year-on-year basis in November, as compared with 10.9 per cent a year ago.

Similarly, credit growth to industry accelerated to 13.1 per cent from 3.4 per cent in November last year. Size-wise, credit to large industry in-

creased by 10.5 per cent, compared to a contraction of 0.6 per cent a year ago. Banks' personal loans grew by 19.7 per cent in November compared to 12.6 per cent, largely driven by a 16.2 per cent jump in housing and a 22.5 per cent rise in vehicle loans, the data showed.

The RBI, in its report on the Trend and Progress of Banking in India released Tuesday, had said that there was evidence to suggest that a build-up of concentration in retail loans may become a source of systemic risk.

"In recent years, Indian banks appear to have displayed 'herding behaviour' in diverting lending away from the industrial sector towards retail loans," the RBI said in the report, adding that the decline was evident across bank groups. However, the RBI is equipped with its policy toolkit to handle any systemic risk that may arise, it added.

Adani takes full control of NDTV

The price paid to NDTV founders, which translates into ₹602 crore, is almost 17 per cent premium to ₹294 a share Adani Group had offered in an open offer to minority shareholders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: Adani group Friday gained full control of news broadcaster NDTV after it acquired most of founders - Pranjoy Roy and Radhika Roy - stake at a premium of almost 17 per cent over the rate it paid to minority shareholders of the firm.

Adani group now holds 64.71 per cent of New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV), according to a regulatory filing.

The group run by Asia's richest man Gautam Adani used RRPR Holdings Private Limited, a company that was founded by the Roys and bear their initials in its name, to buy 27.26 per cent shares from Pranjoy Roy and Radhika Roy at a price of ₹342.65 per share, it said.

The price paid to Roys, which translates into ₹602 crore, is almost 17 per cent premium to ₹294



Following the change of ownership, NDTV founders Pranjoy Roy and Radhika Roy along with four other directors have resigned from the board

a share Adani Group had offered in an open offer to minority shareholders after taking control of RRPR Holdings.

Pranjoy Roy held 15.94 per cent stake in NDTV, of which, he has sold all but 2.5 per cent stake. His wife Radhika Roy sold all but 2.5 per cent of the 16.32 per cent stake she had in NDTV.

On December 23, Pranjoy Roy and Radhika Roy announced to sell 27.26 per cent out of their remain-

ing 32.26 per cent shareholding in the NDTV to the Adani Group. Adani Group acquired Roys' shares at the price of ₹342.65 per share. Based on this price, the sale of 1.75 crore shares would have fetched the Roys up to ₹602.30 crore.

"The acquisition was completed on December 30, 2022 on the block deal window of NSE," it added.

Adani Group first acquired Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Limited, a little-known company that had given ₹403 crore of an interest-free loan to RRPR Holdings in 2009-10 in exchange for warrants that allowed it to buy a stake in the newsgroup at any time. Adani group exercised those rights in August this year, which NDTV said was done without its consent.

By virtue of that, the Adani group took control of RRPR Holdings, which held a 29.18 per cent stake in NDTV. Thereafter, it made an open offer to acquire an additional 26 per cent from public shareholders. That open offer found investors willing to sell over 53 lakh shares of NDTV despite the deep discount on the stock's trading price.

Also, Adani group announced the share purchase from Roys a full 18 days after the close of the open offer - a timeframe that allows the takeover code not to kick in.

Fiscal deficit touches 59% of full-year target

Centre's total receipts, including non-tax revenue, stood at 64 per cent of the current year's BE. In the year-ago period, the total receipts had touched 69.8 per cent of BE 2021-22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 30: The government's fiscal deficit in end-November touched 59 per cent of the full year Budget Estimate on increased capital expenditure and slow growth in non-tax revenue, according to Finance Ministry data released Friday.

In actual terms, the fiscal deficit, which is the difference between expenditure and revenue, was ₹9.78 lakh crore during the April-November period of 2022-23. In the corresponding period last year, the deficit was 46.2 per cent of the Budget Estimates of 2021-22.

The government has budgeted fiscal deficit to be ₹16.61 lakh crore or 6.4 per cent of the GDP in the current year ending March 2023. The deficit is funded by market borrowings.

As per the Controller General of



Accounts (CGA) data, the net tax revenue at ₹12.24 lakh crore was 63.3 per cent of BE 2022-23. During the corresponding period of 2021-22, the net tax revenue was 73.5 per cent of that year's BE.

Non-tax revenue was at ₹1.98 lakh crore or 73.5 per cent of BE. In the last fiscal, the collection was 91.8 per cent of BE.

The central government's total expenditure during April-November works out to be 61.9 per cent of BE 2022-23, higher than 59.6 per cent of

BE in the year-ago period. Capital expenditure was at ₹4.47 lakh crore or 59.6 per cent of BE between April-November. In the last fiscal, capex was 49.4 per cent of BE.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said in April-November FY2023, the fiscal deficit widened considerably to ₹9.8 lakh crore, with net tax revenues reporting a moderate growth of 8 per cent, amidst an 11 per cent contraction in non-tax revenues, 11 per cent rise in revenue

expenditure, and high 63 per cent expansion in capex. ICRA expects the GoI's gross tax revenues in FY2023 to exceed the BE by a considerable ₹3.1 lakh crore and the total expenditure to exceed the BE by ₹2.3 lakh crore.

As per the CGA data, the central government's total receipts, including non-tax revenue, stood at ₹14.64 lakh crore or 64 per cent of the current year's BE. In the year-ago period, the total receipts had touched 69.8 per cent of BE 2021-22.

DEFICIT STANDS AT ₹9.78 LAKH CRORE DURING THE APRIL-NOV PERIOD OF 2022-23

GOVT HAS BUDGETED DEFICIT TO BE RS 16.61 LAKH CRORE IN CURRENT YEAR

FISCAL DEFICIT WAS 46.2% OF THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 2021-22

We expect the total receipts of the GoI in FY2023 to exceed the BE by an aggregate of ₹1.5 lakh crore. Based on this, we estimate the extent of overshoot in the fiscal deficit at around ₹0.8 lakh crore for FY2023. As a proportion of GDP, the fiscal deficit in FY2023 is unlikely to exceed the FY2023 BE of 6.4 per cent

ADITI NAYAR | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

Adios 'O Rei'

THREE-TIME WORLD CUP WINNING BRAZILIAN FOOTBALL WIZARD PELE BREATHS HIS LAST THURSDAY NIGHT AFTER LOSING BATTLE WITH CANCER



Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps in Beijing, London and Rio.

All rolled into one, many times over; through a glittering career headlined by three World Cup title triumphs, and more than 1200 goals, though only 784 of them are recognised by FIFA.

He was one of the first global sporting superstars who transcended continents, admired for his wizardry with football and sometimes vilified for his political stance, or the lack of it.

Born Edson Arantes do Nascimento in 1940, Pele was the embodiment of the commercialization football underwent since the first world Cup television broadcasts in the 1950s, something – besides his extraordinary skills – that played a part in taking him to all corners of the world, including India's Kolkata (then Calcutta) in 1977, when Mohun Bagan pulled off a coup of sorts. That would be his first of the three visits to the country, the latter two coming in 2015 and 2018.

Born in a country battling corruption, military coups, censorship, and repressive and regressive governments, 17-year-old Pele transformed Brazil's image with his stunning show in his very first World Cup, in 1958.

In the tournament in Sweden, he scored six goals in four games,

including two in the final, to lead Brazil to a 5-2 win over the hosts and give more than a peek into what was to come over the next decade and a half. Labelled the 'greatest' by world football governing body FIFA, he was also the apolitical who seemed happy to appease anyone in power.

Ahead of the 1970 World Cup, Pele was also the man who was seen sharing the stage with President Emilio Garrastazu Médici, one of the most ruthless members of the country's authoritarian regime.

This was after the military took over Brazil following a bloodless coup in 1964. Brazil won the 1970 tournament with Pele leading one of the greatest teams of all time to their third World Cup triumphs, climaxing the black person of working-class background's spectacular rise to fame against the backdrop of Brazil's politics, which was dominated by the military regime from 1960s to the 1980s.

He was the national treasure who once managed to bring about a 48-hour ceasefire between two warring factions during the Nigerian civil war in the 1960s, just so they could watch Pele play in an exhibition game in Lagos.

"Unfortunately, you never made it to the Olympic Games, but nev-

ertheless, you are an Olympic athlete because you have been living the Olympic values in all your career," Thomas Bach, the president of the International Olympic Committee, had said about the Brazilian on his 80th birthday.

He was also the legend whose later years were marked by some outlandish remarks.

"How can you make a comparison between a guy who heads the ball well, shoots with the left, shoots with the right and another who only shoots with one leg, only has one skill and doesn't head the ball well?" he was once quoted as saying by Folha de Sao Paulo on Lionel Messi.

The tone though would change as he started to appreciate, and later admire, Messi's game. "For the national team, he's just an ordinary player," Pele, who never got his world cup winners prediction right, had said of Neymar.

Pele, whose sorcery with football was a welcome distraction from the brutal realities of the dictatorial regime in his country back in the day, dies a little over two years after Diego Maradona's death and less than two weeks since Messi's epic World Cup triumph.

He was a mortal after all. Adios 'O Rei' of the beautiful game, a titan of the 20th century.

Tributes pour in for Pele

Reactions poured in from around the world to the death of Brazilian football legend Pele. He died of cancer in Brazil at age 82. His grace, athleticism and mesmerising moves transfixed players and fans...



CRISTIANO RONALDO: A simple goodbye to the eternal King Pele will never be enough to express the pain that hits the entire world of football at this moment. An inspiration for so many millions, a reference of yesterday, today, always. The affection he has always shown for me was reciprocal in every moment we shared, even at distance. He will never be forgotten and his memory will last forever in each and everyone of us football lovers. Rest in peace, King Pele

ROBERTO RIVELLINO: Your place is on God's side. My eternal king. Rest in peace

NEYMAR: Before Pele, '10' was just a number. I read that somewhere at some point in my life. But that line, beautiful, is incomplete. I would say that before Pele football was just a sport. Pele changed everything. He transformed football into art, entertainment. He gave voice to the poor, to the Black and above all he gave Brazil visibility. Football and Brazil elevated their standing thanks to the King! He is gone, but his magic will endure. Pele is eternal!

FRANZ BECKENBAUER: Football lost the greatest in its history today – and I a unique friend. Born in Três Corações, Pele had three hearts: for football, for his family, for all people. One who played with the stars and always remained grounded. In 1977, I went to the United States. Because I really wanted to play in a team with Pele at the New York Cosmos. That time by his side was one of the greatest moments of my career. We became US champions together straight away, and Pele called me his brother from that moment. It was an unimaginable honor for me

BOBBY CHARLTON: Pele was a truly magical footballer and a wonderful human being. It was an honour to have shared a pitch with him and I send my sincerest condolences to his family, friends and the Brazilian people

GARY LINEKER: Pele has died. The most divine of footballers and joyous of men. He played a game only a few chosen ones have come close to. 3 times he lifted the most coveted gold trophy in that beautiful yellow shirt. He may have left us but he'll always have footballing immortality. RIP Pele

DIDIER DESCHAMPS: With the death of Pele, soccer has lost one of its greatest legends, if not the greatest. Like all legends, the King seemed immortal. He made people dream and continued to do that with generations and generations of lovers of our sport. Who, as a child, didn't dream of being Pele? The King will remain the King, forever.

KYLIAN MBAPPE: The king of football has left us but his legacy will never be forgotten. RIP KING

GIANNI INFANTINO: Pele had a magnetic presence and, when you were with him, the rest of the world stopped. His life is about more than football. He changed perceptions for the better in Brazil, in South America and across the world. His legacy is impossible to summarise in words. Today, we all mourn the loss of the physical presence of our dear Pele, but he achieved immortality a long time ago and therefore he will be with us for eternity

From India...

BHAICHUNG BHUTIA: He was a true king and God for us. He was such a humble, soft person. Definitely, it's a big, big loss for football and the fraternity. He is one of the greatest players cum administrators we had. He was such a great role model on and off the field. He inspired millions and millions

SACHIN TENDULKAR: A great loss to not just football but to the whole world of sports. There will never be another! Your legacy will live on forever. Rest in Peace Pele!

SHYAM THAPA: I'm completely devastated. I am so lucky to have played with him, I cannot forget that evening at Eden Gardens. He had a charisma about him. At the felicitation ceremony in the evening (of Mohun Bagan's friendly against Pele's New York Cosmos), while my name was called Pele refused to shake hands with me. "You're my enemy, you scored the goal against us," Pele told me in a lighter vein. He distinctly remembered my jersey No.22. Later, he pulled me and hugged me and said you "played well, keep it up"

GURPREET SINGH SANDHU: He's an icon – not just of our sport, but of our world – has gone. Rest easy, King Pele, and thank you for all that you've done for our game

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

'the King', was that and more.

New Delhi, Dec 30: They say Ali was arguably the greatest sports personality of all time. Pele, who was nicknamed 'O Rei' which means

In his pomp, Pele was Muhammad Ali from the 'Rumble in the Jungle', Jesse Owens in Hitler's Olympics. He was Rafael Nadal at Roland Garros, Tiger Woods at Augusta,

When Sarkar ruled over Pele in Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 30: Much before Diego Maradona's 'Hand of God' moment stirred the football passion in the region, it was the Brazilian maestro Pele who began Bengal's tryst with the 'beautiful game'.

Playing against Mohun Bagan on a slushy and jam-packed Eden Gardens September 24, 1977 in the twilight of his career, the three-time World Cup winner was overwhelmed by the depth of talent a 'little known' Indian club possessed.

Desperately seeking a revival after the dominance of arch-rivals East Bengal, the PK Banerjee-coached Mariners not only stopped the 'King of Football' from scoring a goal, but almost won 2-1 before a controversial penalty made it a 2-2 draw against the star-studded New York Cosmos.

PK had given midfielder

Gautam Sarkar the big task of man-marking Pele and playing in the dream match of his life, he had given it all, something that was later acknowledged by the legend himself.

In the evening, Mohun Bagan had organised a felicitation ceremony for Pele where he was to be handed a diamond ring but the 'Black Pearl' was more interested in meeting the players first. Goalkeeper Shibaji Banerjee was the first one in the list.

When the name of the sixth player was announced, Pele, surrounded by a galaxy of people, came out of the barricade and hugged the player.

"Sporting a wry smile he told me, 'So, you are that No.14 who did not allow me to move... I was left awestruck.'" Sarkar remembered that evening vividly, even after 45 years. "Chunida (Chuni Goswami)



Pele (in white) and Gautam Sarkar vie for the ball during the match

was there standing beside me on the dias and heard all this. He soon told me: 'Gautam you now

give up football – what's there to achieve after hearing this compliment'. Indeed, this was the biggest achievement of my football career.

"I don't want to boast about myself, but according to a newspaper report my photo is still hanging in the New York Cosmos club. He was so overwhelmed by our play that he wanted to meet the players first. Never thought a club team from a country like India would play like this."

The exhibition match could see the light of the day because of the initiative of Dhiren Dey, a revered football administrator in Kolkata Maidan, then at the helm of Mohun Bagan as the general secretary.

The best chance for Pele to score came off a free-kick from the top of the box. The ball rose and spun in towards the left upright before being saved by a diving Shibaji Banerjee. Pele revisited the city

seven years back during the festive season of Durga Puja, this time with a walking stick but his aura had left everyone mesmerised, including the city's cricket icon Sourav Ganguly; a self-proclaimed Brazil fan.

Pele also reunited with the Mohun Bagan batch of 1977 including the legendary PK, Subhash Bhowmick and Shibaji Banerjee who are no more.

"I accepted to come here in India because I love the people here," Pele said. The King of Football also had his sense of humour intact and gave a cheeky reply when someone in the dias asked him if there could be another Pele.

"Listen, I'm sorry. My father and my mother closed the machine. There will be no other Pele." His last words before signing off were: "If I can help somehow, I'll be here again."

PELE'S DELHI VISIT

New Delhi: "It's an honour for me to celebrate the world's greatest sport with the children of India," these words from Pele seven years ago will ring forever in the ears of football fans in Delhi. It was the first time in October 2015, Pele, considered by many as the greatest footballer of all time, set foot on Delhi and he simply won the hearts of football fans of the capital city, not by his dazzling skills on the field but as a true ambassador of the 'beautiful game'. His two-day visit of Delhi was the last time he interacted with Indian football fans and public at large. He was the chief guest at the boys U-17 final of Subroto Cup inter-school football tournament at the Ambedkar stadium here October 17, 2015. "You need to build the base. India is a very special country...the fans were fantastic. I hope my visit will inspire these champions of tomorrow," he had said in a video message. "Of course, it (football) has improved a lot, not only in India but in many countries." Delhi repaid and took inspiration from the iconic Brazilian three-time World Cup winner. Last year, Football Delhi announced that October 23, his birthday, would be celebrated as 'grassroots development day'. Just a few days ahead of his 75th birthday, Pele sent the 20000-capacity Ambedkar stadium into frenzy as he made a round trip of the ground on an open top Indian Air Force jeep ahead of the Subroto Cup final October 16. Everyone who witnessed "the God of football" on that October 16 evening in 2015 at Ambedkar Stadium will perhaps agree to what Dutch legend Johan Cruyff had once said: "Pele was the only footballer who surpassed the boundaries of logic." Not without reason the Hungarian great Ferenc Puskas once said: "I refuse to classify Pele as a player. He was above that."



Pele waves to the crowd before the start of the Subroto Cup U-17 final in New Delhi

ODISHA BAG THREE POINTS AFTER DRAW WITH HARYANA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Dec 30: Odisha's first innings lead came in handy as they managed to bag valuable three points compared to Haryana's one as the Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match between the sides at the DRIEMS Ground in Tangi ended in a draw, Friday.

Resuming the play at an overnight total of 119/1, Haryana declared their innings on 384/4, setting up a 309-run target for Odisha. However, it was nearly impossible task for the home team considering they didn't have enough overs to go for a win.

Odisha opted for cautious approach as they went at 3.54 runs per over reaching 110/1 before the captains – Subhranshu Senapati and Yuzvendra Chahal – decided to share the spoils before time.

Odisha openers – Anurag Sarangi (53 n o, 96b, 6x4, 1x6) and Shantanu Mishra (20) – added 54 runs to the

total before Jayant Yadav (1/20) dismissed Shantanu. However, Anurag, along with his skipper Subhranshu (30), held their nerves and remained unperturbed during their unbroken 56-run partnership for the second wicket.

Earlier, Haryana's overnight batters – Ankit Kumar (172 n o, 243b, 17x4, 5x6) and Himanshu Rana (98, 133b, 12x4, 1x6) – continued their touch guiding their side past 250. Himanshu missed out on a well-deserved century by just two runs. Govind Poddar (1/61) got the wicket of Rana and broke the 190-run second wicket stand.

First innings centurion Nishant Sindhu (22) joined Ankit at the middle and went for some quick runs. The duo took the Haryana total past 300 before Jayanta Behera (2/134) peg back Sindhu. New batter Anshul Kamboz played a superb 15-ball cameo, scoring 29 runs (2x4, 3x6) before Behera got rid of him as the visitors were reduced to 372/4.

Historic silver for Humpy at Blitz Chess Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Almaty (Kazakhstan), Dec 30: Indian ace Koneru Humpy came up with a superb performance after a modest run in the initial phase to claim a historic silver medal in the women's section of the FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship here Friday.

She finished strongly, beating Zhongyi Tan, who won the World Rapid title a couple of days ago, in the 17th and final round. She became only the second Indian after legendary Viswanathan Anand and first woman from the country to win a medal in the prestigious Blitz event.

After posting only four wins from the first nine rounds on Thursday and being placed in the mid-40s, the 35-year old Humpy was in top form on day two of the competition, registering seven impressive wins and drawing with compatriot Dronavalli Harika in the 14th round. She finished on 12.5 points, just



half a point behind the winner Bibisara Balabayeva of Kazakhstan.

One of the highlights of Humpy's performance on the day was a defeat of China's Zhongyi Tan in the 17th and final round to dent her opponent's chances of adding to the gold medal in the World Rapid tournament.

Humpy had finished sixth in the Rapid championship which preceded the Blitz competition. She is a former winner of the World Rapid title.

"It was a perfect day for me with 7.5 points out of 8 games, fetching the first ever silver medal in the women world Blitz chess champi-

onship!" Humpy wrote on Twitter.

Harika, who finished with 10.5 points had to settle for 13th spot while Padmini Rout was 17th. Tania Sachdev ended up 21st and B Savitha Shri, winner of a bronze in the Rapid championship was placed 33rd with 9.5 points in a strong field.

In the Open event, won by World No.1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway with 16 points, no Indian player could manage a top-10 finish. Carlsen added the Blitz title to the world rapid title he won Wednesday.

The experienced P Harikrishna was the best Indian in the Open section, taking a 17th place finish with 13 points with Nihal Sarin a spot behind with an equal number of points.

Despite suffering reversals at the hands of Russian players Ian Nepomniatchi in the 15th round and Alexey Sarana, the Norwegian won his games in the 20th and 21st rounds against Aleksandr Shimanov and Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov to finish a point clear of Hikaru Nakamura (15 points).

Mandhana only Indian in race for top ICC honour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Dec 30: Stylish opener Smriti Mandhana is the only Indian across women and men category to feature among the ICC nominees for the Cricketer of the Year honour. Mandhana will be competing for the top honours alongside England's Nat Sciver; New Zealand's Amelia Kerr and Australia opener Beth Mooney.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, England Test captain Ben Stokes, Zimbabwe all-rounder Sikandar Raza and New Zealand Test captain Tim Southee are the nominees for the Men's Cricketer of the Year award.

Mandhana, who is the winner of the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021, is in the running once again to bag the coveted price in 2022.