



Launching of

Flight services for 'ROURKELA'



Inauguration by

Shri Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha



7th January 2023 | 10:45 AM

Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar



The Rourkela Airport has been licensed for scheduled commercial flight operations with collaborated efforts of Government of Odisha, SAIL, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt. of India and Airports Authority of India under UDAN Scheme. The Alliance Air shall operate scheduled flights between Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. This will reduce the travel time between the State Capital and the Steel City to one hour.

ରାଉରକେଲା ବିମାନ ବନ୍ଦର
राउरकेला हवाई अड्डा
ROURKELA AIRPORT



Commerce & Transport Department

leisure



An event under ChakDe Bhubaneswar campaign



Road side trees being cleaned



A freshly laid pavement of Shikharhandi Road

The Capital city is all set to host the sporting extravaganza. Construction of 12 mini parks in strategic locations of the city are nearing end. Besides, city roads are being developed under state government's Smart Urban Road Execution (Sure) project. A host of events are also being organised under the ChakDe Bhubaneswar campaign for the hockey World Cup.

SULOCHANA DAS | BMC MAYOR

The state government's initiative to upgrade and beautify Bhubaneswar ahead of the hockey World Cup is definitely praiseworthy. However, such development works should not be event specific. Moreover, the administration should also ensure its upkeep in the days to come.

JAYAKRUSHNA PANIGRAHI | ENVIRONMENTALIST

The beautification drive in Bhubaneswar, one of the host cities of hockey World Cup, is providing seasonal employment to many, especially artists, who have suffered a lot during the Covid-19 pandemic. It would certainly be a boon for them if they could also be roped in to maintain these development works.

UMI DANIEL | MIGRATION EXPERT

There is nothing new in the City spruce up efforts this season if compared to the previous one in 2018. The latest beautification will undoubtedly fizzle out within a few months now.

PIYUSH RANJAN ROUT | URBAN PLANNER

The Temple City is looking beautiful than ever, thanks to the latest makeover ahead of the hockey World Cup.

SUJIT MOHAPATRA | BAKUL FOUNDATION

Decked up City ready for WC



Not just the capital city Bhubaneswar, the entire state is in high spirits to host the Hockey World Cup for the second time in a row. Preparation to give the Temple City one more facelift is in the last leg. With less than a week to go before the global event, Orissa POST takes a walk around the City

RASULGARH: UNION POINT OF THREE CITIES

Visitors will be greeted at Rasulgarh Square with myriad wall murals showcasing it as a union point of three cities - Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Puri ahead of Hockey World Cup 2023. Notably, the paint works are carried out under the Street Art and Murals Project (STAMP) with themes including food, cuisines, culture, and important structures

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

With the countdown beginning for the Hockey World Cup 2023, preparation in Capital city Bhubaneswar is in full swing to make the mega sporting event a grand success. From illuminated billboards to stylish wall graffiti to newly laid murals, the City is being decorated like never before.

In a bid to make it memorable, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has joined hands with Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi to install some wonderful sculptures at strategic locations. As many as 50 sculptors of India and from other countries were assigned to do the job. Carved out of stone, scrap and other materials, some of the models

have the Hockey World Cup as theme while others depict Odisha's rich art, culture, tradition and tourist destinations.

The Odisha government deputed half a dozen of its ministers to reach out to the chief ministers of all states to invite them to attend the forthcoming Hockey Men's World Cup, 2023

Also, the Odisha Forest Development Corporation has also started planting different decorative plants at the joint and under the flyover spaces at the square that was once littered with trash. For the WC's public promotion the state government has sanctioned special budgets to all districts to conduct promotional activities at district headquarters, key market places, prominent locations situated along the route of trophy tour in various districts.



An artist busy beautifying a wall



A sculpture ready to be installed



Another work of art celebrating the game

.FEST to be star-studded affair

Guru Randhawa, actor Disha Patani, K-pop group 'Blackswan' led by Odia girl Sriya Lenka to perform on day one



The City will also host the second edition of the much-awaited .Fest (dot fest) from January 15 to 29 simultaneously with the World Cup which is being organised by Bhubaneswar Development Authority. The event will be a star-studded affair.

The celebs to be part of the event include singer Guru Randhawa, actor Disha Patani, K-pop group 'Blackswan' led by Odia girl Sriya Lenka. They will perform on the inaugural day. Besides, playback singers Udit Narayan, Alka Yagnik, Neet Mohan, Divya Kumar, Lisa Mishra, Rituraj Mohanty, Big Deal, Amit Trivedi, Shivam

Mahadevan, Sukhwinder Singh, comic Sunil Grover and legendary flautist Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia will also perform. The event has been designed to highlight Bhubaneswar as an urban tourism destination. The fest shall have components like Bhubaneswar Live, City trails, Bhufesto, Heritage Walks, International Food festival, Food Truck Carnival, flea night market and photo exhibition to bring the festive vibe in the city for 15 days. This apart, storytellers from India and abroad will also perform in the fest. The main .Fest event will be held at the Exhibition Ground while the Bhufesto will be organised at different parks of the City.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today will be a difficult day full of action. You may not agree with your friends about trifling matters, but you will love it. You will complete all work that has been pending, which will give you relief. Ganesha says it is an optimistic day.

TAURUS

Be careful, says Ganesha. All your calculations and conclusions, plans and moves are likely to go haywire. Time and again, you could fail and, ultimately, get frustrated. Even simple and obvious things are likely to get you worked up.

GEMINI

You know where you are headed, and will redouble your efforts to reach your goals today. You are full of energy and enthusiasm, which helps you to achieve all your targets. You will receive unexpected gains owing to your hard work. Bountiful success will be yours at the end of a hard day's labour, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Sentimentalism will be hinder your path of success. So, says Ganesha, give up too much sentimentalism. It can be quite a hazard in the future. You will over people with the force of speech and polite approach.

LEO

You will be able to influence people with your co-operative and accommodating attitude today. You will have discussions on various topics with people who come into contact with you. You will also come into contact with people who share the same mental wavelength as you do, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Today you may understand the utter uselessness of your dogged efforts and feel extremely anxious about success eluding you constantly. However, Ganesha advises you not to lose hope, but to re-emerge your mind, give a boost to your curiosity and pay attention to long-term goals.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that today you will get worried over petty matters and be tense. To get mental peace keep yourself occupied with religious or spiritual activity. Along with that if you go to some religious place you will gain mental peace, which will stay with you for a long time.

SCORPIO

You may be in a mood to build castles in the air today, says Ganesha. You may be caught up in a whirlpool of thoughts and nostalgia. However, you will soon realise that the time once gone, never comes back and so, you make up for the lost time by beginning the new chapter of your life from today itself.

SAGITTARIUS

You rule your heart today, predicts Ganesha. You are likely to become an expert in reading people's mind. Everything is fair in love and war, is what you believe! Win over your sweetheart and set out on a journey toward destination unknown, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You are busy as a beaver. It is extremely difficult for you to think for yourself as you are all tied up by the demands of your work. You want to be creative, but again, the workload will not let you have that freedom, says Ganesha. You have learnt the art of time management. So, you have properly lined up your priorities and success is waiting for you.

AQUARIUS

You will hit the bull's eye, today. From the smallest to the biggest, all of your plans will turn into reality. Don't get disheartened if there are some obstacles on your path; you are fully armed to face the challenges and come out triumphant. Get yourself in the top gear, you will surely succeed, says Ganesha.

PISCES

For those looking for a promotion at the work-place, now is the time to ask for it. Freelancers could find interesting projects falling into their laps. Businesses are likely to see a surge in profits. No conflicts in personal life are indicated.

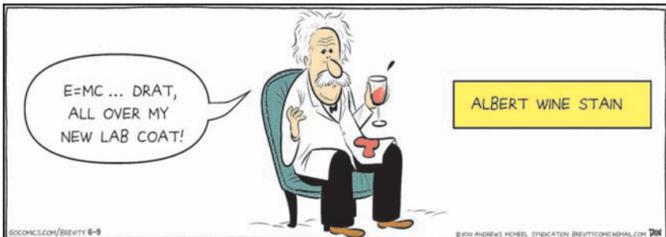
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

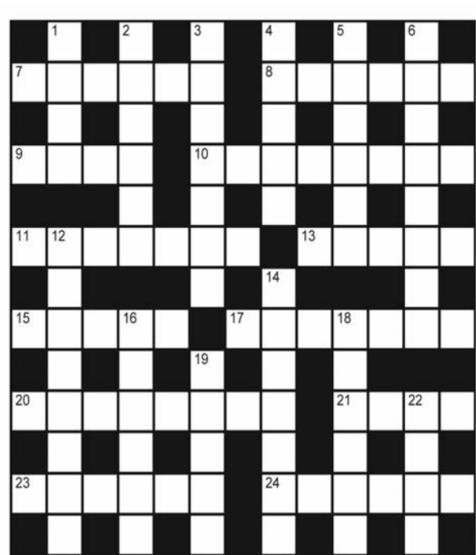


BREVITY



FUN post

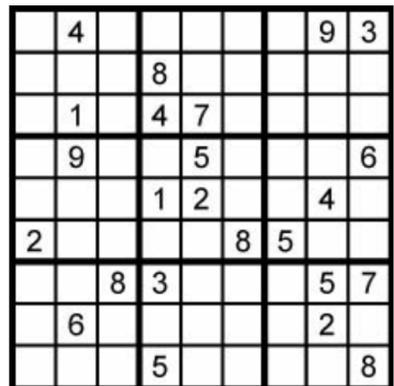
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Garment part
 - 8 Light source
 - 9 Big bovines
 - 10 Henry Fielding character (3,5)
 - 11 Put down, as a riot
 - 13 Wrinkled fruit
 - 15 Flower holder
 - 17 South African oryx
 - 20 Splendour
 - 21 Sail holder
 - 23 Common allergen
 - 24 It has an eye
- Down
- 1 Bend
 - 2 Dog house
 - 3 Jacket material
 - 4 Rascal
 - 5 Vessel lynchpin
 - 6 Pink wading bird
 - 12 Motive type
 - 14 Kipper
 - 16 Devoid of friends
 - 18 Boil slowly
 - 19 Redhead's dye
 - 22 Aria, e.g.

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



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Leave that and take this. We are going for a peaceful protest!

GDP MAY SLIP TO 7% IN 2022-23: GOVT DATA

New Delhi: The Indian economy is estimated to grow at 7 per cent in the 2022-23 fiscal, down from 8.7 per cent a year ago, mainly due poor performance of mining and manufacturing sectors. As per the first advance estimates of national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) Friday, the manufacturing sector output is estimated to decelerate to 1.6 per cent in the current fiscal from 9.9 per cent in 2021-22. Similarly, mining sector growth is estimated at 2.4 per cent in the current fiscal as against 11.5 per cent in 2021-22.

WELLS FARGO SACKS 'PEE GATE' ACCUSED

New Delhi: US financial services company Wells Fargo Friday said it has sacked Shankar Mishra, who allegedly urinated on a female co-passenger on an Air India flight from New York, saying that the allegations were "deeply disturbing". "This individual has been terminated from Wells Fargo," the firm said in a statement. In a shocking incident, an inebriated man allegedly urinated on his female co-passenger, a senior citizen in her seventies, in the business class of an Air India flight.

Autonomy to foreign varsities draws flak

Top 500 universities can apply for setting up their campuses in India

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: The draft norms issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) allowing foreign universities to decide the fee structure, admission process and repatriation of funds to their home countries after opening the campuses in India have come in for flak from several quarters. As per the draft norms of the UGC issued in line with National Education Policy-2020, foreign universities will be able to set up their campuses in India for the first time and they can decide on the admission process, fee structure and repatriate its funds back home.

Although a section of academicians and students in Odisha welcomed the move, some others criticised it saying that the Union government will lose control over the foreign universities due to the autonomy it would grant to them. Many grew sceptical about campus man-



Attempts made in the past, including by the UPA govt, faced resistance, including from the BJP which was in Opposition then

agement by foreign universities in compliance with UGC norms.

Further, the move will have dampening impact on the Indian higher education institutions, which fail to find a place in international rankings. Some educationists said that the Centre is pushing the future of the students into uncertainties.

Assistant Professor at the Economics department of Utkal

University Atal Bihari Das said, "This is a welcome step as it will give students opportunities to study in the best foreign university by staying here and access their technology and knowledge. Very few students from India are able to go abroad." About the fee structure, Das said imparting education should be the priority and not business. "Without proper education, economic growth would be a far cry. So, the government must provide subsidy or benefits to such establishments so that the fees would be less," he added.

Earlier, noting that foreign universities with campuses in the country can only offer full-time programmes in offline mode and not online or distance learning, UGC chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar said the foreign universities and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will need a nod from the UGC to set up their campuses in India.

Continued on P2



FOR A HIGH-DECIBEL FIGHT: Defending champions Belgium arrived at Bhubaneswar Airport Friday for the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup to be played in Capital city and Rourkela from January 13

CB to probe Soumya's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Miffed over the probe by the Commissionerate Police, the Orissa High Court Friday directed the state Crime Branch (CB) to take up the investigation of model Soumya Ranjan Panigrahi's death in Capital city January 31, 2022. The CB has been asked to complete the probe within three months.

Soumya was found hanging in his room at Nandan Vihar under

Infocity police limits here on the fateful day. The HC had February 23, 2022 directed the Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) to take appropriate steps based on the complaint lodged by Soumya's family members within three weeks. However, the city police did not pay any heed to the court's order following which the complainants filed a contempt petition before the HC March 25, 2022 seeking action against police. **Continued on P2**

Aska police station in India's top three

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Jan 6: Aska police station in Ganjam district has been selected as one of the three best police stations in the country for the year 2022 by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), official sources said. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will hand over the trophy to the inspector-in-charge of the police station in a function to be held in New Delhi later this month.

Joint director intelligence bureau of the MHA, Tarun Kumar has written a letter to SK Bansal, state's Director General of Police about the selection of Aska as among the three best police stations. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in a tweet congratulated Aska police station as it has been selected as best police station in the country. Aska has also been declared as the best police station in CCTNS dashboard for 2022.

The ranking of police stations is an annual exercise by the MHA, with the stations judged on the basis of 165 different parameters like crime rate, investigation and disposal of cases, infrastructure, and delivery of public service. **Continued on P2**

Wait over: Koraput village finally gets a road

About 100 families of Kharikana will no longer face the difficulties of shifting critical patients to hospitals and bringing ration home during rains

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput/Narayanpatna, Jan 6: Residents of Kharikana village under Narayanpatna block in Koraput district are on cloud nine as the commuting woes they have been facing for at least seven decades now will come to an end soon. Following media reports about

the communication difficulties of the tribal-inhabited village, the block administration has started building a road to the village by cutting a hilly terrain. About 80 per cent of the work has been completed while the remaining work is going on in full swing, said sources.

"During monsoon, we have to go through a lot of hardships. In emer-



OP PHOTO

gencies, patients are carried on cots across the river to help them reach the embankment on the other side of the river where the ambulance waits.

Pregnant women with labour pain face a lot of difficulties when they keep on waiting for hours to be taken to a hospital. Absence of a bridge and a road to the village had made our lives miserable," some villagers lamented. They also said that there are instances of woman patients succumbing to labour pain before reaching the hospital.

During monsoon, it becomes a Herculean task for the people of the village to cross the river and carry out farming activities or bring ration from another village. "The road work will be completed within a few days and communication to the village will be easy," said junior engineer Akshaya Sahu.

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- | THE BODY SHOP
- | health & glow
- | CARATLANE A TANISHQ Partnership
- | Mia by TANISHQ
- | BLUESTONE
- | MELORRA Everyday Fine Jewellery
- | KWC ESTD. 1969

Naveen inaugurates Deloitte's CEC

NHRC seeks reports from Centre, Odisha, rly board on 'trafficking'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, along with Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the Capability Enhancement Centre (CEC) of Deloitte, a leading global professional service firm, at ICOMC Tower here Friday.

Speaking at the function, Patnaik reiterated the state's commitment to facilitate Deloitte's expansion in Odisha.

The CEC will enhance employment opportunities for the state's youth in IT, he said, adding, "We will support Deloitte's expansion and plans for the state through all possible means."

Pradhan said the development of Eastern India is the pre-requisite for a developed India. Deloitte's centre will act as a role model for other major companies to also establish their centres in the state, he said.

Odisha's IT Minister TK Behera said that Bhubaneswar is already eastern India's pre-eminent IT Hub and Deloitte's presence will further increase the state's capabilities in IT sector.

Among others, advisor to E&IT department Anubhav Pattnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian, IT secretary Manoj Mishra, MD of Smart City Balwant Singh, CEO of Smart City Bijay Kumar Kulange, Deloitte India CEO, N Venkatram, CEO designate Deloitte Romal Shetty and



The CEC will enhance employment opportunities for the state's youth in IT. We will support Deloitte's expansion and plans for the state through all possible means

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

The development of Eastern India is the pre-requisite for a developed India. Deloitte's centre will act as a role model for other major companies to also establish their centres in the state

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | UNION EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

In Odisha, we feel like a part of a family because of the professionalism and warmth with which we have been received in the state. Odisha is central to our plans and Deloitte will considerably expand the scope of its operations in the state

ROMAL SHETTY | DELOITTE INDIA CEO DESIGNATE

Partner Deloitte Debasish Mishra, and others were present on the occasion.

With this inauguration, Bhubaneswar has now become the fourth Indian city after Thane-Mumbai, Gurugram, and Coimbatore to have Deloitte's CEC, the company's flagship office which delivers outstanding value through adoption of best practices, usage of latest technologies, and deployment of a diverse

and skilled workforce. An official statement said that the CEC in Bhubaneswar will expand to 1,500 professionals in over 18 months and focus on areas such as analytics, artificial intelligence, digitalization, machine learning, cloud, and cyber security.

Shetty said, "In Odisha, we feel like a part of a family because of the professionalism and warmth with which we have been received in the state. Odisha is central to

our plans and Deloitte will considerably expand the scope of its operations in the state."

Coming close on the heels of the just concluded and immensely successful Make in Odisha Conclave 2022, inauguration of the CEC will provide yet another illustration of the kind of major investments attracted by the state in the run-up to and during the investment summit, said an official.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Taking suo motu cognizance of a media report that Berhampur railway station in Ganjam has turned into a major transit point for human trafficking from Bihar to Andhra Pradesh, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to three states, Centre and railway board.

The NHRC took seriously the media report that said during the year 2022, a total of 343 children were rescued from Berhampur station but neither they nor their families were provided with benefits of various government welfare schemes for rehabilitation.

The Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) rescued them but the persons behind their plight evaded arrest, the NHRC report said.

In its observation, the NHRC said if true, it amounts to a violation of the human rights of the victims. Accordingly, it has issued notices calling for reports within six weeks from the Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police of Bihar, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, the Secretary of Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and Chairman of Railway Board.

The incidents of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour or other exploitations in the form of begging, sexual exploitation, and



criminal activities continue unabated due to lack of monitoring mechanisms and insufficient deterrence against perpetrators of crimes, a statement issued by the commission said.

Therefore, in light of the incidents as carried in the media report January 2, 2023, the reports of the chief secretaries of the three states are expected to include preventive mechanism as per the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking for commercial and sexual exploitation of children and rehabilitation of the rescued children by uniting them with their families by making them available the benefits of various welfare schemes initiated by Centre and state government, the commission said.

The reports of the Director Generals of Police of the three states are also expected to include the status of the implementation of SOP issued by the NHRC, how many cases have been registered for child trafficking during the last 3 years, the outcome of the investigation, and the conviction, if any. "The DGP Odisha must also spec-

ify in the report whether any arrest has been made in the incidents mentioned in the media report, and if not what steps have been taken to this effect," the statement said.

The Secretary, Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, has to submit a report about the mechanism that has already been adopted or is likely to be adopted to eradicate completely child trafficking in view of the constitutional provision, and the law in force.

The report from the Centre should also mention the steps being taken or likely to be taken with regard to the implementation of the Central Advisory Committee recommendations for the prevention of the trafficking of a child, starting from the pre-rescue stage to the post-rescue operations, and the rehabilitation as well as the other measures, it said.

The Chairman of the Railway Board was asked to submit an action-taken report specifying how railway personnel should be more proactive and vigilant like the incident referred in Berhampur railway station across the country to rescue more such trafficked children and to act in coordination with the respective state governments for the purpose of not only reuniting the children with the family but also insisting the state governments for rehabilitation of those rescued children.

CB to probe...

Continued from P1

Following the court directions, the Infocity police registered a case (100/22) under Section 306 (abetment of suicide) of IPC against the estranged girlfriend of the deceased, Sonali Nanda and her mother. However, the Infocity police did not take further action in the case. Notably, police had recovered a suicide note from Soumya's room during search. He had blamed his girlfriend for his taking the extreme step. His family members have since been running pillar to post seeking action against Sonali and her mother.

Aska police station...

Continued from P1

About 20 per cent of the total points are also based on feedback about the police station from citizens, sources said.

The main objective of the ranking was to improve the quality of policing and make the police stations friendly, they added.

"We are very happy as our PS stood first in the country. It could be possible due to the team work and guidance of the SP (Ganjam) and Inspector General of Police, southern range from time to time," said Prasant Kumar Sahoo, inspector-in-charge, Aska police station.

It is for the second consecutive year that a police station in Ganjam district has featured among the top three police stations in the country. Gangapur police station was adjudged as the second best police station in the country in 2021.

In LS, state MPs asked 1,043 questions

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Jan 6: In 2022, the Lok Sabha MPs from the state were quite active during the Parliament sessions as they raised plenty of national as well as state issues during the parliamentary sessions.

These MPs posed as many as 1,043 starred and unstarred questions to various Central Ministries during the three sessions of the Parliament in 2022. However, only 33 per cent of these questions addressed the issues relevant to Odisha, while the rest were on national issues.

The state has 21 MPs in Lok Sabha - 12 from the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD), eight from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and one from Congress. Out of the 1,043 questions asked, 354 questions were particularly on issues pertinent to Odisha such as flight connectivity, railway connectivity and road network in the tribal belt of the state. There were also ques-

OUT OF THE 1,043 QUESTIONS, 354 QUESTIONS WERE ON ISSUES PERTINENT TO ODISHA SUCH AS FLIGHT AND RAILWAY CONNECTIVITY

THE BJD MPS ASKED 620 QUESTIONS, 183 OF THEM ON ISSUES SPECIFIC TO THE STATE LIKE RELEASE OF PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BEEMA YOJNA CLAIMS TO FARMERS

THE BJP MPS POSED 379 QUESTIONS, 144 ON STATE ISSUES LIKE THE EXPANSION OF BIJU PATNAIK AIRPORT AND SETTING UP OF AIIMS IN SUNDERGARH

tions on farmers' issues, water connections to households and on setting up of new educational institutions and hospitals in state.

The BJD MPs asked a total of 620 questions. Out of them, 183 were issues specific to the state like release of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojna claims to farmers. Some questions were also focused on constituencies of MPs, such as opening of fishing harbour in

Jagatsinghpur, trade through Paradip Port, opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas in the state, prospective of eco-tourism in Odisha, and setting up of new Central University.

Among other issues, the party MPs asked questions on the impact on Indo-US relations in the backdrop of Russia-Ukraine war and about trade disruptions between India and Nepal, impact of Chinese applications on Indian citizens and questions related to cryptocurrency. The BJD MPs also sought details regarding the impact of Covid-19 on handloom and MSME sectors. Some questions also centred on the evacuation of students from Ukraine, on the survey on unemployment, issues related to Delhi and on carbon emission reduction.

The BJD MPs posed a total of 379 questions. Out of that, 144 questions addressed the issues of state. The MPs asked about the expansion of Biju Patnaik airport, setting up of AIIMS in Sundergarh, opening

of new Adarsh Vidyalayas and about the future of people displaced in the state due to mining. They also asked about network connectivity in Maoist areas and expansion of railway and road network in tribal areas of the state. They also asked questions on policy framed to monitor carbon emission control by industries.

The lone Congress MP from the state, Saptagiri Shankar Ulaka, also made his existence felt in the lower house of the Parliament with 44 starred and unstarred questions. Ulaka asked 27 questions on state issues. He asked the Union government about the highway projects in Koraput and Rayagada areas. He asked the Union Railway ministry about the creation of Rayagada railway division. The Congress MP also asked about establishment of HC bench in Koraput.

Significantly, there were several questions repeatedly asked by MPs and some questions were asked by two or more MPs.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	59900.37 ↓ 452.90
NIFTY	17859.45 ↓ 132.70
DOLLAR	82.76 ↑ ₹0.05
EURO	87.6120 ↑ ₹0.75
GOLD	₹55730 ↑ ₹440
SILVER	₹69075 ↑ ₹997

WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
MAX 27.4°C	27.5°C
MIN 14.9°C	14.4°C
Humidity 51%	57%
Rainfall Nil	Nil
Forecast: Shallow to moderate fog likely	

Autonomy to foreign varsities...

Continued from P1

The initial approval will be for 10 years and will be renewed in the ninth year subject to the meeting of certain conditions, he added and clarified that these institutions shall not offer any such study programme which jeopardises the national interest of India or the standards of higher education here.

The UGC announced the draft regulations for 'Setting up and

Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India' and the final norms will be notified by the end of the month after considering feedback from all stakeholders. As per the decision, top 500 universities with good ranks can apply for setting up of their campuses in India. Although this is a step in line with the National Education Policy, 2020, which envisages a legislative framework to allow top global universities to operate in India.



DRAMA FEST: A scene from Odia play 'Adrushya Nata', based on the life of Bhakta Kabi Dinakrushna Das, staged at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday

In a miracle, docs save second twin 52 days after first stillbirth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6: Pravati Beura, a 31-year-old mother from Kendupatna in Odisha's Cuttack district is perhaps the happiest woman on Earth. Thanks to the untiring efforts of the experts at the Obstetrics and Gynecology department of Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), Pravati is now a proud mother, even though one of her twin pregnancies resulted in stillbirth October 29. As after 52 days the second foetus was delivered safely by the doctors of the institute.

This is perhaps the first of its kind accomplishment in Odisha and "a rarest of the rare case" in which after the expulsion of first



twin at 23 weeks of gestation the pregnancy continued with the second twin up to 31 weeks and two days. This distinction has brought KIMS to the limelight for its handling of high-risk pregnancies, backed by a competent and able neonatal infrastructure.

Pravati lost her first foetus October 29th, a female child of 550 grams as she was admitted with some complications following her IVF pregnancy. Still, though she was having uncontrolled diabetes,

obesity and hypothyroidism, the gynecologists took a huge challenge to save the other twin and kept the mother under strict antiseptic regimen, constant supervision and monitoring till she delivered the second foetus, a male child, December 19 with 1,370 grams weight. Still in NICU the baby however is doing exceptionally well along with the mother.

From medical literature world over and India, it has been found that in India such high-risk twin pregnancies have been managed only in two or three cases and there have not been a single instance from Odisha.

"The two gestational sacs in the mother's womb in Pravati's case was an added advantage for us, due to

a twin foetus and following the birth of still-born baby girl we took the risk with all precautions and wanted to monitor the mother, the foetus and her param-

PRAVATI LOST HER FIRST FOETUS OCTOBER 29TH, AN UNDERWEIGHT FEMALE CHILD OF 550 GRAMS, AS SHE WAS ADMITTED WITH COMPLICATIONS FOLLOWING HER IVF PREGNANCY

more as the mother had come from an outside IVF centre with a hope that we are the best managers during such cases in Odisha," said Jyotshnamayee Panda, O&G HoD.

"Another greater challenge was the placenta of the first delivery did not come out and some other complications occurred and still we did not give up and were successful in having the success natural delivery of the second foetus," said Pramila Jena, a leading faculty member.

"Just after the childbirth December 19 the baby had some mild respiratory distress as it was only 1,370 grams. After oxygenation of 48 hours the baby is fed through the nasal route. However, once it reaches 1,750 gram it can feed through its mouth and following observation both the mother-child can be released," said neonatologist Manas Nayak.

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Delay in municipality status irks Chhatrapur residents

LOCALS SAY NAC MEETS ALL CRITERIA TO BE CALLED 'MUNICIPALITY'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Jan 6: Chhatrapur Notified Area Council (NAC) is the headquarters of Ganjam district. Residents have long been demanding municipality status to Chhatrapur. However, till date the state government is yet to fulfil the demand and is sitting on the proposal. This has created resentment among the locals.

In the civic body polls held last year, the BJD lost the chairperson's post (reserved for women) to the BJP. This was the outcome of the resentment against the state government, locals pointed out. They added that despite the reversal, the government is yet to take any action to grant municipality status to Chhatrapur.

Before the civic body polls, the MP and the then district collector had assured people that the state government would grant municipality status to the Chhatrapur NAC. The collector and the NAC officials had sent a proposal with

The Orissa High Court had asked August 8, 2019 the state government to take a decision on granting municipality status to Aska, Bhanjanagar and Chhatrapur NACs

documents as proof of eligibility criteria for municipality status to the state government for consideration.

Chhatrapur NAC was formed in 1955. As per the 2011 census, the population of the NAC stood at 22,027. Rules state that any civic body area with a population of more than 25,000 will be considered for municipality status. Locals said that since 2011, the population of Chhatrapur has increased manifold and is more than 25,000 now. Yet it is not being granted

municipality status.

They also pointed out that some villages in nearby panchayats have agreed to come under the Chhatrapur NAC when it is awarded municipality status. Residents of Jain Palam village (Agastinuaogaon panchayat) and Purunachhatrapur (Kanamana panchayat) have given their consent for merger with Chhatrapur.

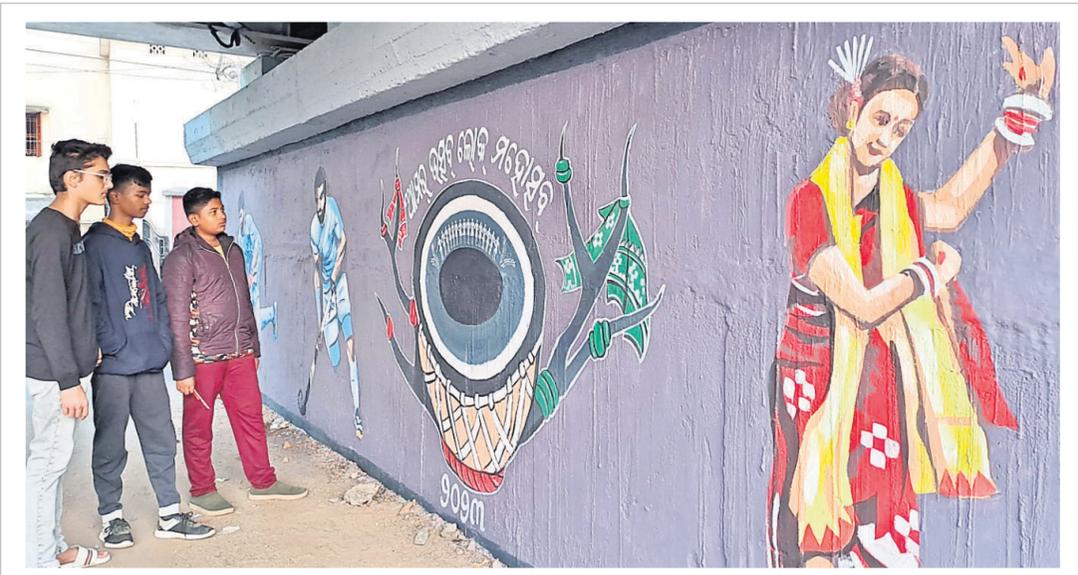
The Orissa High Court had asked August 8, 2019 the state government to take a decision on granting municipality status to Aska, Bhanjanagar and Chhatrapur NACs in Ganjam district.

Disposing of a PIL filed by Surendra Panigrahi, president of Berhampur-based outfit Bharatiya Bikhsh Parishad, a division bench of Chief Justice KS Jhaveri and Justice KR Mohapatra had directed the state government to take a decision on the representation submitted by the petitioner for declaration of the three NACs as municipalities within three months.

The petitioner had also said that a proposal to declare Aska, Chhatrapur and Bhanjanagar as municipalities had been submitted to the chief minister's office May 8, 2018. It had been pointed out that all the three municipalities had populations of over 25,000 each.

In the proposal, the outfit had proposed the inclusion of five neighbouring areas in Aska NAC, nine in Bhanjanagar NAC and four in Chhatrapur NAC.

It had been pointed out that these areas were being deprived of communication and transport, water supply, electricity, education and health facilities due to non-inclusion in urban local body areas.



GRABBING ATTENTION: Youths admire paintings on the upcoming FIH World Cup Hockey and folk art drawn on the walls of a flyover in front of the district collectorate office in Sambalpur

Housing projects suffer due to lack of sand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur, Jan 6: Scarcity of sand in Anandapur area of Keonjhar district has reportedly affected construction of housing projects. This development comes amid the administration laying stress on increasing the pace of work to meet deadlines.

Scores of beneficiaries have got work orders to build houses under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana' in the NAC. However, work has been caught in a stalemate for the last four months as they are unable to get sand.

A few days ago, NAC officials informed the beneficiaries through public notifications to speed up

BENEFICIARIES FRET OVER DEADLINES



their work to meet the deadlines. However, construction materials like sand and bricks made of fly ash are not available in Anandapur to meet their requirement, some beneficiaries said.

Sources said, since mines on various river ghats in Anandapur, Kodapada, Tukuna, Belbahali,

line," said Buddhadev Ram and Niranjan Mishra among the beneficiaries. They demanded that NAC authorities should take note of the sand scarcity and extend the deadline.

The beneficiaries want to finish construction as soon as possible, because they have to suffer for lack of accommodation after dismantling of their old houses.

Sand mines on the Baitarani river are still not operational even though they have been leased out one-and-a-half-years back. Public hearing by the SPCCB on environmental clearance for some sand quarries is over, but lease holders are still waiting for formalities to be completed.

3 more held for Ganjam murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aska, Jan 6: Three more persons have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder of Amar Raut at a locality under Gangapur police station in Ganjam district, police said Friday. The three had accompanied Amar of Kaliaguda village and hacked him to death on Badaborsingi-Khariguda road December 14, 2022.

Following a complaint in this regard, police had been investigating the case. They arrested Bikash Bisoyi, Rohit Swain and Jagannath Swain for their involvement in the incident. The three were produced in court Friday and remanded to judicial custody, police said.

Gangapur IIC Subhendu Kumar Sahu informed that three others namely Soumyaranjan Mohapatra, Suresh Kumar Bhola and Dipak Kumar Pradhan had been arrested earlier in this connection.

However, police did not reveal the reasons behind the dastardly act. They added that further investigation into the matter is on.

Bird count inside PPL premises exceeds 42K

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, Jan 6: In a great news for bird watchers and environmentalists, the arrival of winged guests inside Paradeep Phosphate Limited's plant site has increased this year. As per the latest census by DFO Rajnagar, the final bird count this year on the PPL premises stands at plus-42,000 which is much more than last year's figures.

The census states that 46 types of birds have been found this year in PPL area. A rare bird known as 'Common Ringed Plover' was also spotted. The PPL management has expressed its happiness over the rise of bird count. "Happy to note that birds are coming in large numbers every year and their numbers are increasing," officials said.



The development bears testimony to the fact that pollution has decreased at the plant site, otherwise there wouldn't have been an increase in the number of winged guests. The census team was led by Kujang Range Officer Ranjan Kumar Mishra. Forest department officials also expressed satisfaction over PPL's ecological equilibrium.

2 students rusticated, arrested for ragging girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aska, Jan 6: Two students of Aska Science College in Ganjam district were rusticated Friday after they were found guilty of ragging. They had harassed a girl student of the same institution. The decision to rusticate the two was taken Wednesday.

Both the accused were arrested Friday. The accused have been identified as Debasish Swain and Kailash Swain.

The two accused had allegedly ragged the girl in front of the college gate January 3 when she was leaving. According to the complaint, the

The girl had filed complaints about ragging to the principal and police. Acting on the complaint, police registered a case and arrested two of the accused

girl was returning home at 2.00pm when Debasish, Kailash and two others stopped her at the gate. The four asked her a barrage of questions that were objectionable apart from indecently gesturing at her.

When the girl informed his

brother, the latter arrived at the spot. However, the four also threatened him.

The girl however, filed complaints against the four to the principal and police. Acting on the complaint, police registered a case and arrested two of the accused from K Lachman village, IIC Prashant Kumar Sahu informed.

The disciplinary committee and the anti-ragging cell of the college had earlier conducted a meeting Wednesday to look into the allegations. It found Debasish and Kailash guilty of ragging and it was decided to rusticate both.

Man arrested for murder bid on wife

Berhampur: A man has been arrested on charges of attempting to murder his wife in this city of Ganjam district, police said Friday. The accused identified as Sanjay Palai (27) hails from Hinjilicut area. He was staying in a rented house in the city with his wife Mamata. Sanjay married Mamata after courtship a few years ago. However, it has been alleged that Sanjay was physically and mentally torturing her. The couple had an argument January 3 which an infuriated Sanjay brutally attacked Mamata with a stick. She suffered serious injuries and had to be hospitalised. Following a complaint lodged by Mamata the next day, police arrested Sanjay Friday.

DFO unhappy over use of JICA funds



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Jan 6: Delay in utilisation of funds provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for development work in Bhanjanagar North Ghumusar forest division in Ganjam district has irked some officials. Sources informed Friday that a major portion of the funds earmarked for various projects has not been utilised within the prescribed deadline.

This fact came to the fore at a review meeting presided over by DFO Sudarshan Behera on utilisation of JICA funds recently. He expressed displeasure over slow pace of fund utilisation and directed rangers to ensure timely completion of projects.

The objective of JICA projects is to enhance forest ecosystem along with providing livelihood to local people. This can be done by improving sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and community development. If the projects are successfully handled they will contribute to

the socio-economic development of Odisha, the sources said. Various projects linked to forest protection and livelihood promotion of people are in progress in the Central range, the Mujagarh and Jagannathprasad range and Tarsingh range.

JICA has provided over ₹1,000 crore for the purpose. The second phase of work in Ghumusar range is in progress and has to be completed within a time span of 10 years.

Sources said NGOs are involved in the projects. They added that work where Vana Surakshya Samitis are working in coordination with forest officials, has been quite successful.

The meeting also focused on bird census and measures to prevent forest fires in these ranges. Counting of birds will start in various ranges January 10. The Forest department has formed 24 teams for this purpose in Bhanjanagar North Ghumusar division.

The DFO also directed the officials to start awareness drives in rural areas so that people can be sensitised against forest fires.



RALLY FOR RIGHTS: Cooks and assistants engaged in mid-day meal scheme in schools staged protests in Keonjhar over multiple demands including remuneration hike, Friday

Kandhamal farmer 'innovates' to brave all odds

DESPITE LACK OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, SURANJAN FACES ALL HIS PROBLEMS HEAD ON

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, Jan 6: Braving all odds is probably the best way to describe Suranjan Pradhan, a farmer living in Padmapali village under Badabanga panchayat of Daringbadi block in Kandhamal district. Despite not getting any assistance from the Odisha government for farming, he has gone ahead and constructed a tiller by using abandoned bicycle parts and scrap iron. And with it he is working on his farmlands. Earlier, he had tried to get government aid. However, when that did not materialise, he decided to fight his battles alone.

The state government has ini-

tiated various welfare schemes for benefit of farmers through the Agriculture and Horticulture departments. There are programmes like training the farmers and teaching them the proper use of fertilizers and manure. These however, have stayed out of bounds for Suranjan. However, that did not deter him from realising his goals.

To fulfil the requirement of water for his farmlands, Suranjan has also dug up a pond. The equipment he needs for farming, he has made them on his own. Now he produces peas, cauliflowers, cabbages and tomatoes on his farmlands.

However, despite digging up a pond, there is always a shortage of water due to the lack of irrigation



Suranjan informed that if he gets some help from the Agriculture, Soil Conservation and Horticulture departments he can increase vegetable production manifold

facilities. Suranjan lamented that if he had sufficient water for his farmlands, he could have produced quantities that would give him substantial profits. Now, due to the lack of water, at times, his crops go to waste and he suffers losses. However, now he has managed to

obtain a power tiller at government subsidised rates and he said this would go a long way in increasing the production on his farmlands.

Suranjan informed that if he gets some help from the Agriculture, Soil Conservation and Horticulture departments he can increase vegetable production manifold.

When contacted and informed about Suranjan's plight, Assistant Horticulture Officer, Nilachal Panda assured of all support. Daringbadi BDO Gadadhar Patra said he will take steps to help Suranjan dig up a pond or well for his farmlands under Centre-sponsored Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

FOCUS ENVIRONMENT

FILLIP TO CLIMATE ACTION



Around the world, communities, towns, cities, and regions are experimenting with creative climate solutions. We must identify the ones that work, mobilise support for them, and scale them up

But setting targets is merely the first step. We must move at an unprecedented pace to restore biodiversity and halt global warming. That means remaining alert to vested interests' efforts to block progress and pushing back against false solutions – such as carbon offsetting, nuclear energy, and hydraulic fracking. Restoring nature must not come at the expense of local communities. To create and nurture a healthier relationship with the environment, we should take our cues from indigenous peoples.

Outside of UN conferences and corporate boardrooms, a quiet revolution is gathering speed. Those demanding more financing for locally owned renewable-energy systems are piercing through the longstanding barriers and refusing to be marginalized. They are building a new consensus, and making clear that matters of climate justice are non-negotiable.

I consider this quiet revolution to be one of the most exciting things that has happened over the past decade. The cyclical interplay of progress and retrogression is an enduring feature of policymaking – and of nature itself. The inevitable slumps must be met not with despair but with hope for the next upswing. While the 2022 energy crisis created a new pretext for those advocating greater investment in fossil fuels, such investments are rapidly becoming financial losers, because renewables are becoming cheaper than fossil fuels.

Around the world, communities, towns, cities, and regions are experimenting with creative climate solutions. We must identify the ones that work, mobilise support for them, and scale them up. That is how we will launch the decisive next phase of the decades-long fight against climate change and environmental destruction.

The writer is Executive Director of 350.org.
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This year was a tumultuous one in many ways. While climate-related shocks became even more prevalent and severe, Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered a global energy crisis that continues to affect millions of peoples' lives and livelihoods. Following that shock, unprecedented heatwaves across Europe, Asia, and North America, and then devastating flooding in Pakistan, highlighted the urgency of reducing our fossil-fuel dependency and reshaping our energy systems.

Fortunately, other big developments in 2022 offered grounds for hope. The passage of the US Inflation Reduction Act – the largest emissions-reduction investment in the country's history – is a landmark achievement. Historically, the United States has been the world's biggest carbon polluter and one of the biggest laggards in international fora. But now, the IRA should put it on a course to reduce its own emissions sharply, which will help drive down prices of renewable energy around the world. Many emerging markets and developing countries will have a chance to leapfrog past coal-fired power plants.

Yes, fossil-fuel lobbyists are pushing governments in Africa and elsewhere to invest in natural-gas development in response to the energy crisis. Many newly planned projects would be "carbon bombs" that would emit more than one billion tons of carbon dioxide over their lifetimes. But the climate movement has wasted no time in calling out these efforts, and in denouncing the "dash for gas" in Africa.

As a result, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) has suffered setback after setback. With 22 commercial banks and insurers pulling out of the project, the StopEACOP campaign was gaining momentum ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in November, where it drove the message home. COP27 was a major moment for the climate movement in 2022.

Although the host country, Egypt, offered little civic space to mobilise, organisations adapted by working through existing global networks and coalitions to push for more meaningful decarbonisation commitments, human-rights protections, and financing.

In the end, the conference produced an agreement to establish a separate global fund to compensate vulnerable countries for climate-related "loss and damage." Given that advanced economies had long refused even to discuss the issue, this is a huge win – one driven by frontline activists and spokespeople from across the Global South. But the summit's final agreement did not include any specific language about the need to phase out fossil fuels.

Finally, other positive climate-policy developments in 2022 included the launch of Just Energy Transition Partnerships in Indonesia, South Africa, and Vietnam. With the goal of helping countries leapfrog past fossil fuels, JETPs – if done right – could be game changers in the global transition to renewable energy.

The international community also did more to protect nature in 2022. As the year drew to a close, governments at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15)

adopted the Kunming-Montreal Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – a deal that many observers are likening to the landmark 2015 Paris climate agreement. With a commitment to protect 30% of all land and sea areas by 2030, the framework opens a new chapter, following the collective failure to meet any of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020.

Governments and other stakeholders are finally recognising that climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked. Rainforests and mangroves are not just habitats for millions of species. They are also crucial for slowing the pace of global heating, because they absorb and store vast amounts of CO2. Scientists have shown that conservation, ecosystem restoration, and better management of natural areas could contribute over one-third of the emissions reductions that we need by 2030. More to the point, there simply is no way to keep temperatures within 1.5° Celsius without reversing the decline of nature.

The COP15 deal also explicitly recognises that indigenous peoples are central to protecting nature, and it calls on rich countries to mobilise \$30 billion per year in biodiversity financing for developing countries by 2030.



May Boeve

RESTORING NATURE MUST NOT COME AT THE EXPENSE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES. TO CREATE AND NURTURE A HEALTHIER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ENVIRONMENT, WE SHOULD TAKE OUR CUES FROM INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

When mind is still, then truth gets her chance to be heard in the purity of the silence.

SRI AUROBINDO



HP's New CS

Parabodh Saxena has emerged as Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu's choice as the state's new chief secretary, following the retirement of Ram Dass Dhiman, who has been named as the state Chief Information Commissioner. Saxena, a 1990-cadre HP cadre IAS officer, will have tenure until March 2025.

As it so often happens with top-level appointments, there were several claimants to the post. Sources have informed DKB that several senior babus were trying hard to win the coveted position. These included Ram Subhag Singh and his wife Nisha Singh, 1988-batch IAS officer Sanjay Gupta and Saxena. All these babus had been superseded by Dhiman, the outgoing chief secretary.

Out of these Saxena was the strongest candidate who had adequate tenure left in service and had an excellent track record. It is this factor apparently that swung the scales in his favour. CM Sukhu, who led the Congress party to a historic victory in the recent state assembly elections, will need a skilled and experienced hand to run his government. Saxena was the one who was the most suitable and acceptable choice.

Ex-babus return to advise Gujarat CM

Though this is not the first time that a chief minister in Gujarat has appointed advisors, the former finance secretary Has Mukh Adhia's new job as chief advisor to CM Bhupendra Patel has created a stir in babu circles. Adhia's nomination makes sense when you consider that he was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's principal secretary when the latter was chief minister of the state. Later, Modi brought him to Delhi as revenue and then finance secretary, where Adhia managed the Centre's implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Adhia went on to hold a string of distinguished roles after retiring in 2018, positions including non-executive chairman of the Bank of Baroda and Chancellor of the Central University of Gujarat. He is also vice-chairman of the boards of Pandit Deendayal Energy University and Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI) as well as a member of the Board of Governors, IIM Bangalore. He also headed a task force that prepared a report on Gujarat's road map to make India a five-trillion economy.

Sources have informed DKB that Adhia will assist Patel on matters like finance, economic affairs, education, energy, renewable energy and investment, among others.

Aside from Adhia, the Gujarat government has appointed another ex-babu, SS Rathore, a Modi supporter, as Patel's advisor. Rathore is the current managing director of Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation Limited (GMRC) and is well-known for overseeing major state infrastructure projects. Rathore will assist the CM on issues related to roads and buildings, civil aviation, metro rail project, railways, water resources, and Narmada and Kalpasar projects. It is obvious that Modi wants his home state to prioritise finance, investments and infrastructure.

What is less clear is whether regular babus in the Gujarat government will happily accept directions from retired babus. Perhaps the name 'Modi' will act as a magic charm.

CCI chief appointment delayed

The appointment of the new chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has got delayed, sources have informed DKB. Only last month some sections of the media were reporting that the selection process had entered the last leg, with Smita Jingran, Yogender Choudhry and Injeti Srinivas, all babus, emerging as front-runners. This came after 57 aspirants were interviewed in October of last year, and a second round of interviews was held in November.

Now it appears that the selection interview has been scrapped and a fresh round of the selection process is being rolled out. Do the powers that be have a particular candidate on their priority list? What else can we infer from the decision to restart the whole selection process? The chairperson's slot has been vacant since former IAS officer Ashok Kumar Gupta retired in October last year, and Sangeeta Verma is the acting chairperson.

The decision has obviously dampened the hopes of over 100 applicants, including senior babus (including retired), economists, judges and even some members of the CCI. How long this critical position will remain vacant is anyone's guess. But whoever is finally announced will undoubtedly be one who has the government's back.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@diliptheherian](https://twitter.com/diliptheherian). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes. **MAHATMA GANDHI**
- Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself. **LEO TOLSTOY**
- Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself. **GEORGE BERNARD SHAW**

WORDSWORTH

Anamorphosis

Anamorphosis is the process of creating an anamorphic picture, one that has been distorted so that it appears normal when viewed from a particular direction or with a suitable mirror or lens. Hans Holbein's famous painting The Ambassadors (see right), is a good example, in which a distorted shape lies diagonally across the bottom of the frame. Viewing this from an acute angle transforms it into a skull (it seems that the picture was designed to be hung on a staircase, so that people coming up the stairs would be correctly placed to see and be startled by it). A more common example is a warning notice on the road, which is extended lengthways so that drivers will see it correctly from their foreshortened perspective; another is the process of making and projecting wide-screen cinema pictures, which use anamorphic lenses to fit the picture into the squarer-shaped frames of the film and reproduce them again. Some anamorphic images have been drawn on paper so they only make sense when viewed in a vertical polished cylinder of the correct diameter placed in the middle. The word was created in the early eighteenth century from Greek ana-, back, and morphosis, a shaping.

Webucation

Obviously enough, this is education provided over the World Wide Web, a concept also sometimes called e-education. Most of the new terms beginning with Web- have been short-lived, but this one shows signs of surviving. It refers to various ways of using the Internet to contribute to learning at a distance, in particular for bringing education to groups not previously well served. But it also includes school management systems, educational software, and ways to wire the classroom. Many companies in the educational field and many prestigious educational institutions are investigating the options for webucation. The idea is seen to have great potential, but there's also a lot of work to be done making it a practical (and paying) proposition.

SPECTRUM SINO-INDIAN TIES

Time for fresh thinking on China policy

There are several theories and interpretations on China's phenomenal growth in the last three decades. Experts and observers, while unanimous in their admiration of China's exceptional growth, are concerned about the current and future actions of Beijing. Martin Jacques, a British author and a commentator says, "When China Rules the World: (there will be) The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order". This interestingly is the title of his latest book. A former diplomat from Singapore, Kishore Mehboobani, in his book, "Has China Won? The Chinese Challenge to American Primacy" suggests that China will rule the 21st century and will replace the United States of America.

An American author John Mearsheimer warns that China's rise will not be peaceful; it will try to change the world order which will be detrimental to international peace and security. It is not unusual that authors and observers will have multiple perspectives on any issue. It is for the leadership of the country to decipher such analyses, observations and interpretations and accordingly, formulate their strategies in their national interest. It is also important, particularly in case of China, that Indian leadership understands and foresees China's intentions in world politics.

Evidently, China is not a status-quo power but a revisionist one. It seeks to dominate the world, either alongside the US in a G-2 framework or supplanting the US as a superpower. The present supreme leader of China Xi Jinping, who is also characterised as the new emperor of China, has this irrepressible ambition of being the sole power of the world. Be that as it may, it is noticeable that China wants to become a regional hegemon, it wants to be the dominant power in Asia, change the status quo in South China Sea and East China Sea, seeks to change the borders with Taiwan and India, will try to build the blue-water navy to move into the Indian Ocean and harass India. In doing so, according to Samir Sharan, Beijing is using a 3M framework: a middle kingdom identity which signifies that China is the centre of the world and no one is going to stop them.

The second M refers to modern tools meant to capture the global platforms, to spy on others, steal data, build a modernised army to invade and plunder. The third M is a medieval mindset shaped by the concepts of total state control, tributary system (It involves multiple relationships of trade, military force, diplomacy and ritual) which is expressed in the latest initiative called Belt and Road

Initiative (BRI). In all this, what should worry New Delhi is that, in Xi's neo-imperial plan 2049, India is perceived as a mere irritant, an uncomfortable and discordant neighbour. Xi Jinping will harass and humiliate India at multiple points, systematically and gradually challenge the United States, the only stumbling block in his imperial design. How does India and the USA react to Chinese ambitions? There are two schools of thought on this. One, the future belongs to Asia and the geo-political contest is between the US and Europe on the one hand and Asia on the other. It is possible and advisable for India and China to live in peace and grow together. The border skirmishes can be dialled down with diplomacy and dialogue. This perhaps continues to be the dominant thinking in the South Block.

The other school of thought contends that China has pushed India beyond the boundary of non-alignment and is almost compelling her to seek allies, in particular, the United States. It is also clear that the relationship between China and the US will define the contemporary world order. Likewise, the China-India relation will be the second most important one in world politics. The recent clashes between Indian and Chinese forces including the deaths in Galwan

are indeed tragic and ominous, but things are going to get worse if the Chinese mood of domination and penchant for expansion continues unabated. For the sake of peace and security, India will have to guard herself against Chinese hostile designs. It is a fallacy to assume that China and India can carry on with their economic partnership. It is not possible to do business with those who are pointing the gun to your head. The Chinese actions on the border and internationally vis-à-vis India does not point to a beneficial partnership but towards a Himalayan conflict. Beijing's actions, both diplomatic and military, will compel the 540 million young Indians to perceive China as an enemy for the foreseeable future.

The United States, having made the mistake of feeding the rise of China, making it more powerful than it as ever was, is trying to contain it. They have seen and recognised the danger. For both India and the US, China is now a common threat. The USA is looking out for potential allies like Australia, Japan, Vietnam and Taiwan. India should reciprocate fully sooner than later.

The writer is Professor International Relations, JIMMC
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DK Giri

BEIJING DOES NOT NEED THE THREE TRILLION INDIAN MARKET, NOR DOES IT REQUIRE THE ASEAN MARKET. WHAT IT NEEDS IS THE 20-TRILLION EUROPEAN UNION MARKET

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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

An eye opener

Sir, The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) served more than 20 show-cause notices to Air India, its cabin crew and pilots for the airline's unprofessional conduct in failing to respond suitably when a passenger urinated on a co-traveller on a New York-Delhi flight in November. The aviation safety regulator has issued show-cause notices to the accountable manager of Air India, Director in-flight services and all the pilots and cabin crew members of that flight as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations. It is an eye opener for the airline industries to maintain protocol and work for the benefits of the air travellers on board of the flight.
CK Ramanathan, GHAZIABAD

Welcome verdict

Sir, The Allahabad High Court's ruling that a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to get maintenance from her former husband till remarriage must be well received. Citing Section 3 of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, the court said the maintenance payment is not limited only to the Iddat period, which lasts three months and 13 days from the date of divorce. The court was ruling on the first appeal filed by Zahida Khatoon against a Ghazipur family court ruling which declared that she is entitled to alimony from her former husband only for Iddat. The verdict should benefit scores of Muslim women.
NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Wage peace

Sir, Apropos, 'Send us tanks, Zelenskyy urges west', Orissa POST, Jan 6. Any hope of a New Year thaw in the Ukraine conflict was blown away by Ukraine's offensive in the Russian-occupied Donetsk region. Of course, Russia has been conducting night-time air strikes against Ukrainian cities and civilian infrastructure. So, the world wearily wonders whether the continuing war will deliver fresh economic shocks, even as economies are yet to recover from shocks delivered last year. Millions across countries have seen prices go up and real incomes drop, energy and food becoming more expensive and bank credit get dearer. Ukraine has suffered terribly, and Russia, despite its leadership's bravado, has suffered too. But every day of the war is Christmas Day for global arms manufacturers who like wars. And they must be loving the Ukraine-Russia conflict, which has the potential to carry on for months more. That's another very good reason to try and wage peace in Ukraine.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

national

of the day quote

Vande Bharat was pelted with stones in Bihar and not in West Bengal. We will take legal action against those media outlets that telecast fake news that the incident took place in West Bengal and brought a bad name to our state

With new age, there is a need to adapt to new technologies. Ensuring these technologies reach every farmer in India, in Meghalaya and help raise their income is the need of the hour

It is often being alleged that in the 70 years that it ruled the country after Independence, the Congress achieved nothing. It was the Congress which nurtured democracy, making it possible for Narendra Modi to become the Prime Minister despite his humble origins. A poor man's son like me is heading the party today



The Bharat Jodo Yatra is a medium to fight the divisive ideology of the BJP and the RSS, and it is not an event but a movement that will continue

SURPRISE VISIT

A usual day in the Supreme Court became a surprise for lawyers waiting in the Apex court corridors when Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud reached the first court with his two daughters to show them his workplace



Sensitise pilots, cabin crew: DGCA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 6: Aviation safety regulator DGCA Friday warned airlines that any non-compliance with regulations on handling unruly passengers will be dealt with strictly and invite enforcement action.

The advisory comes in the backdrop of two shocking incidents of urination on Air India flights late last year, which the airline failed to report to the regulator. In an advisory issued to the airlines' head of operations, the DGCA reiterated the responsibility of individuals - pilot-in-command, cabin crew and director in-flight services - towards handling of unruly passengers under various provisions of Aircraft Rules, 1937, DGCA regulations, circulars and manuals of airlines approved/ accepted by the regulator.

"Head of operations are hereby advised to sensitise pilots, cabin crew and director-in-flight services of their respective airlines on the topic of handling of unruly passengers through appropriate means under intimation to DGCA," the advisory stated.

Any non-compliance towards applicable regulations will be dealt with strictly and invite enforcement action, the regulator added. Under the norms, if an airline finds a passenger's behaviour unruly, the pilot-in-command has to



THE ADVISORY COMES IN THE BACKDROP OF TWO SHOCKING INCIDENTS OF URINATION ON AIR INDIA FLIGHTS LATE LAST YEAR, WHICH THE AIRLINE FAILED TO REPORT TO THE REGULATOR

ANY NON-COMPLIANCE TOWARDS APPLICABLE REGULATIONS WILL BE DEALT WITH STRICTLY AND INVITE ENFORCEMENT ACTION, THE REGULATOR SAID

file a complaint, which is to be investigated by an internal panel. During the probe, the airline can ban the flyer for a maximum of 30 days. The committee has to decide on

the matter within 30 days and specify how long the flyer can be kept from travelling. If the panel fails to give a decision within the stipulated time, the passenger is free to fly.

In the recent past, DGCA has noticed a few incidents of unruly behaviour and inappropriate conduct by passengers during flight, wherein "it is observed that post holders, pilots and cabin crew members have failed to take appropriate actions", it said.

A drunk passenger allegedly urinated on a woman passenger in the business class of an Air India New York-Delhi flight on November 26 last year.

Within 10 days of this shocking incident, an inebriated passenger travelling on Air India flight

to New Delhi from Paris urinated on the blanket of a passenger.

An airline, as per DGCA sources, is bound to report any unruly incident to the regulator. But in both the cases, the matter was not reported to the aviation safety regulator, DGCA sources said. "Non-action/ inappropriate action/ omission by the airlines towards such untoward incidents has tarnished the image of air travel in different segments of society," the DGCA said in the advisory.

Under the Aircraft Act, 1937, the pilot-in-command is responsible for the safety of the passengers and cargo carried and for the maintenance of flight discipline and safety of the members of the crew, in addition to being responsible for the operation and safety of the aircraft during flight.

2022 fifth warmest year since 1901: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: The year 2022 was the fifth warmest for India since 1901 when India Meteorological Department started keeping weather records.

The annual mean land surface air temperature was 0.51 degrees Celsius above the long-term average which is the mean temperature for the 1981-2010 period, the weather office said in the statement on Climate of India during 2022.

However, this was lower than the highest warming observed in India in 2016 when the average temperature was 0.71 degrees Celsius.

The all-India mean temperatures during the 2022 winter season - January to February - were normal with an anomaly of -0.04 degrees Celsius.

Temperatures during the pre-

monsoon months (March to May) were above normal with an anomaly of 1.06 degrees Celsius.

Rainfall over the country in 2022 as a whole was 108 per cent of its Long Period Average value based on the period 1971-2020. The previous year also witnessed 15 cyclonic disturbances - three cyclonic storms and 12 depressions - formed over the north Indian Ocean against the normal of 11.2 based on data of 1965-2021.

In addition to these, extreme weather events like extremely heavy rainfall, floods, landslide, lightning, thunderstorm, and droughts were also experienced in various parts of the country, the weather office said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No.SDMM/KUR/EP/2022-23/ E-procurement Tender Notice/14, Date: 05.01.2023

EAST COAST RAILWAY CANCELLATION Tender Notice No.ETCECONIII BBS2022117, dated 16.02.2022 is hereby CANCELLED due to administrative reasons.

M/S OM SARALA SECURITY SERVICES PVT. LTD. Shop No.36, Ganesh Market, S.T.I. Chowk, Rourkela, Sundargarh (Odisha), Pin - 769012

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National Highways Authority of India Project Implementation Unit, Sambalpur



Artists perform on the last day of the Manali Winter Carnival in Manali

Aircraft crashes, pilot dead

Bhopal/Rewa (MP): The pilot of a Cessna trainer aircraft was killed after it crashed into a temple in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, 400 km from state capital Bhopal, officials said Friday.

Will send 44 judges' names: Govt to SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: The government told the Supreme Court Friday all efforts are being made to "conform" to the timelines laid down by the apex court for processing the names recommended by the Collegium for appointment as judges to constitutional courts and 44 names are likely to be processed within two-three days.

Amid the frosty Executive-Judiciary ties over the system of judges appointing judges, Attorney General R Venkataramani told the top court the government will adhere to timelines and the recent recommendations made by the Collegium of high courts have been processed with "utmost dispatch".

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka observed the delay in dealing with the recommendations sent by the Collegium for transfer of high court judges not



only affects the administration of justice but also creates an impression as if third party sources are "interfering". The bench also asked Venkataramani about the five names recommended by the Collegium of high courts pending with the government, 44 are likely to be processed and sent to the Supreme Court by the weekend.

"Would your lordships defer this for a little while? I have some inputs given to me but I may have some difference of opinion on that," the Attorney General told the bench. He said out of the 104 recommendations made by the Collegium of high courts, which are pending with the

Attorney General R Venkataramani told the top court the government will adhere to timelines and the recent recommendations made by the Collegium of high courts have been processed with 'utmost dispatch'

government, 44 are likely

Mufti's home prone to attacks: Security agencies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jan 6: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti's eviction from her Gupkar residence has the security agencies on their toes as they claim her new accommodation is "not feasible" for a Z-Plus category protectee and prone to militant attacks.

They also claimed it will difficult to secure the 20-km route from her new residence

to the city centre. Mufti's family though alleged it was not told about the threat perception before they moved in as the administration was "deliberately trying" to put her in harm's way.

Mufti, the president of the PDP, moved into the residence at Khimber area on the outskirts of the city in November last year after she was evicted from the high-security Fairview residence at Gupkar here where she had



been living since 2005. However, she was served

multiple eviction notices in October last year, asking her to vacate the residence before November 15.

After Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of its special status and divided into two Union Territories in August 2019, its former chief ministers were no longer offered rent-free residential accommodation under the new laws.

Mufti then moved into the house at Khimber - about 15 kms from Gupkar - belong-

ing to her brother-in-law. Before the family - including Mufti's daughter Iltija Mufti and mother Gulshan Nazir, moved into the new residence, security agencies carried out two security reviews of the place.

The security reviews show that the Khimber residence is "not feasible" for a Z-Plus protectee area as there were "apprehensions of a terrorist attack" on the former chief minister.

Delhi's winter power demand rises to a record 5,526 MW



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: Delhi's peak winter power demand rose to a record 5,526 MW Friday as a numbing cold wave swept the national capital, officials said.

An official of the BSES said its power distribution companies are geared to ensure adequate availability for its around 47 lakh consumers (around two crore residents) during the winter months.

"According to data, Delhi's peak power demand Friday clocked 5,526 MW at 10.58 am, highest-ever recorded in the national capital during winter months. This is the third day in a row that Delhi's peak power demand has crossed the 5,000 MW mark," the BSES official said.

The power demand had peaked at 5,104 MW last year and 5,021 MW in

An official of the BSES said its power distribution companies are geared to ensure adequate availability for its around 47 lakh consumers (around two crore residents) during the winter months

2020. The peak winter power demand in BRPL and BYPL areas had reached 2,140 MW and 1,122 MW, respectively, during the last winter.

The backbone of BSES' power-supply arrangements during the winter months includes long-term agreements from power-plants, including Hydro and Delhi-based gas-fuelled generating stations. Additionally, the BSES is also receiving 840 MW of solar power from Solar Energy Corporation of India, 439 MW of wind power, around 25 MW from waste-to-energy plants. It is also being helped by more than 127 MW of solar power installed on roof-tops in south, west, east and central Delhi.



A barn owl, rare to find in the Indian sub-continent, being shown by forest officials in Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Delhi-NCR: GRAP stage III invoked

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 6: Amid a sudden spike in air pollution due to foggy weather, the Centre's air quality panel Friday directed implementation of curbs under stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR, including a ban on non-essential construction and demolition work. Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index stood at 400 Friday, just a notch below the severe category.

The Sub-Committee on GRAP directed authorities to invoke curbs under stage III of the anti-pollution plan with immediate effect

The Sub-Committee on GRAP at a review meeting, noted that the AQI is likely to worsen further in the coming days due to unfavourable weather conditions.

It directed authorities in Delhi-NCR to invoke curbs under stage III of the anti-pollution plan with immediate effect.

If the AQI is projected to reach the severe category, restrictive actions under Stage III are to be invoked at least three days in advance, according to GRAP. Curbs under Stage III include a ban on non-essential construction and demolition, closure of stone crushers and mining activities in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR).

Delhi reels under cold wave

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 6: Delhi recorded a cold wave for the second consecutive day Friday, with the minimum temperature at Ayanagar in southwest Delhi plunging to a numbing 1.8 degrees Celsius.

The Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, logged a minimum temperature of four degrees Celsius, which was lower than that of Dalhousie (8.7 degrees Celsius), Dharamsala (5.4 degrees), Shimla (6.2 degrees), Dehradun (4.4 degrees), Mussoorie (6.4 degrees) and Nainital (6.5 degrees).

A dense layer of fog persisted over northwest India, and adjoining central and eastern parts of the country, hitting road, rail and air traffic movement.

Bad weather conditions delayed around 30 flights at the Indra Gandhi International Airport and at least 26 trains reaching Delhi, officials said. The Palam observatory, near the IGI Airport, recorded a visibility level of 200 metres at 5.30 am.

According to the weather office, 'very dense' fog is when visibility is between 0 and 50 metres, 51 and 200 metres is 'dense', 201 and 500 metres 'moderate', and 501 and 1,000 metres 'shallow'. The weather stations at Lodhi Road, Ayanagar and



A day earlier, Delhi recorded the season's lowest minimum temperature at 2.2 degrees Celsius

Ridge in Delhi recorded minimum temperatures of 3.8 degrees Celsius, 1.8 degrees and 3.3 degrees, respectively.

According to the Met department's weather report, Narnaul was the coldest place in Haryana, recording a minimum temperature of 2.5 degrees Celsius. According to a senior India Meteorological Department official, there will be some relief from the cold weather under the influence of a fresh Western Disturbance, which is likely to affect northwest India starting Friday.

In the plains, the Met office declares a cold wave if the minimum temperature dips to four degrees Celsius or when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees

or below and is 4.5 notches below the normal.

A severe cold wave is when the minimum temperature dips to two degrees Celsius or the departure from the normal is more than 6.4 degrees.

A cold day is when the minimum temperature is less than or equal to 10 degrees Celsius below the normal and the maximum temperature is at least 4.5 degrees below the normal.

A severe cold day is when the maximum is 6.5 degrees Celsius or more below the normal.

25 die due to heart attacks, brain strokes

Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh): The cold wave in Uttar Pradesh is turning deadlier by the day. In Kanpur, Thursday, 25 persons died due to heart attack and brain stroke. Seventeen of these died even before they could be given any medical aid. According to doctors, the sudden increase in blood pressure in the cold and blood clotting is causing heart attack and brain attack. According to the control room of the Cardiology Institute, 723 heart patients came to the emergency and OPD Thursday. Of these, 41 patients who were in critical condition, were admitted. Seven heart patients undergoing treatment at the hospital in critical condition died due to cold. Apart from this, 15 patients were brought to emergency in a brought dead condition. Professor Vinay Krishna, director of cardiology, said that patients should be protected from cold in this weather. A faculty member in the King George's Medical University (KGMU) in Lucknow said, "Heart attacks in this cold weather are not restricted only to the elderly. We have cases when even teenagers have suffered heart attacks. Everyone, irrespective of age, should keep warm and stay indoors as much as possible."



Wildlife thriving in Delhi's urban jungles

The wildlife department had released a study in October, confirming 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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: Two leopard cubs were spotted in the Asola Bhatti Sanctuary recently in a fresh example of how bold efforts of conservationists and the forest and wildlife department can help several wildlife species recover in the urban jungles.

Forest department officials Wednesday said the two cubs were caught on a camera trap a few days ago. A video shared by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) on its Instagram page showed a leopard cub emerging from a burrow inside the sanctuary.

Since mother felines do not travel long distances with newborns, the officials believe the sanctuary is their birthplace. An official said this is first time that a cub leopard has been spotted in the jungles of Asola since leopard sightings began a



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

few years ago.

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 leopards of Asola share an area of just 32.71 sq km and probably also occupy the adjoining forest patches of the bordering Faridabad district.

The researchers said the sanctuary has a leopard population density of 4.5 per 100 km. The leopard population density is 3.03 in the Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh; 3.1 in the Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan; 2.8 in the Dhachigam National Park, Jammu Kashmir; 12.04 in Chhattisgarh's Achanakmar Tiger Reserve and 13.41 in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.

UP to start peritoneal dialysis facility soon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Jan 6: Uttar Pradesh government is planning to start peritoneal dialysis (PD) facility for patients under its existing facilities where haemodialysis is provided under PPP mode, free of cost to patients.

The state health department has prepared a proposal for the facility under the private-public partnership mode.

Dr VK Singh, joint director medical care, Uttar Pradesh, said, "The proposal has been prepared. The facility will help patients who often ignore the illness or are unable to get PD done, particularly those in rural areas."

Dialysis is of two types. In haemodialysis, a machine filters wastes, salts and fluid from blood when kidneys are not healthy enough to do it.

In haemodialysis, blood is pumped out of the body to a machine, and returned back. Haemodialysis removes wastes and water by circulating blood outside the body through an external filter, called a dialyzer.

Peritoneal dialysis is done to remove excess fluid, and remove toxins in those with kidney problems. In Uttar Pradesh, 12,80,597 dialysis sessions have been conducted across districts, from which 14,134 patients have benefited from



The state health department has prepared a proposal for the facility under the private-public partnership mode

haemodialysis. Since the beginning in 2017-18, 431 patients benefited, in 2019-18 the number of beneficiaries went up to 1,664, in 2019-20 the beneficiaries numbered 2,937 and in 2020-21 there were 2,811 beneficiaries, according to the data from the Uttar Pradesh health department.

In 2021-22, a total 3,724 beneficiaries benefited and in 2022, till September, 2,362 patients underwent dialysis at facilities located in government hospitals in the state.

The health department has now sought support from the national health mission for consumables to be used for PD.

A bond to handle last rites

AN NGO IN PRAYAGRAJ IS NOW OFFERING A BOND, CALLED 'RETIREMENT INDIA SUNSET DEPOSIT', TO HANDLE FUNERALS AND LAST RITES OF THE INVESTOR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), Jan 6: With nuclear families and old age people living alone becoming the order of the day, the concept of funeral/cremation services is slowly gaining ground.

Taking the initiative further, an NGO in Prayagraj is now offering a bond, called 'Retirement India Sunset Deposit', to handle funerals and last rites of the investor.

The plan has been floated by city-based Retirement India Foundation (RIF) that works for the welfare of senior citizens and has launched many schemes for their needs.

The bond is being introduced under the supervision of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry and will be introduced this month itself with a pilot project of having 10,000 investors across the country.

The NGO has tied up with a renowned banker and an insur-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

ance company too. A brainchild of Raj Gulati, a former senior government official who runs the NGO, the bond would be of ₹21,000 and for a period of five years.

The investor (above the age of 18) will nominate three individuals (friends, family or any other acquaintance who he or she thinks will take care of performing the last rites). One of them would be tasked to inform the NGO in the event of the investor's death. The NGO will ensure that the last rites are performed according to customs.

Following this, an amount of ₹19,000 would be transferred into the account of any one of the three nominees. "In addition to this, an amount of ₹50,000, which is a life insurance cover on investor's life and being provided by an NGO along with Sunset Deposit, would be given to the nominee within next ten days to take care of other post-death rituals," says Gulati.

"We have started the process of setting up a 24X7 call centre/helpline and payment process for that purpose," he added.

If it remains unutilized in five years (if you live on), an amount of ₹25,000 will be given back to the investor and they may reinvest in the bond afresh.

The idea was first shared with the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, in a Last Rites EXCON (first such conference in India) November 30. Gulati's elder son, Saaranish, an IITian and MIT alumnus who works in the US, assisted him on the project.

"It applies to anyone else as it does to us. My brother and I live in the US and our father lives here. If something happens to him, and God forbid we cannot make it in time; that is the thought that went into finalizing the details of the scheme. At the core of this bond is care," said Saaranish.

Delhiites guzzle 1cr liquor bottles between Dec 24-31

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: Delhiites guzzled over one crore bottles of liquor worth more than ₹218 crore during week-long celebrations and partying spanning Christmas eve to New Year eve, officials said.

The highest liquor sale, of 20.30 lakh bottles, was reported in the national capital December 31, the New Year Eve. The city gulped down liquor worth ₹45.28 crore on the day welcoming the new year, a senior Excise department official said. A record 1.10 crore bottles of liquor of different types, mostly whiskies, were sold in Delhi during December 24-31. The sold volume of liquor was worth ₹218 crore, he said.

The sale of liquor in Delhi during December month was 12.55 lakh bottles in 2019, 12.95 lakh in 2020 and 12.52 lakh in 2021 and 13.77 lakh in 2022. Presently, liquor is being sold in the city through

Official figures showed December 2022 recorded an average sale of 13.8 lakh liquor bottles in Delhi, the best year-end sale in the last three years

The Delhi government earned a revenue of ₹560 crore from liquor -- excise duty and value added tax -- in December 2022, data showed

around 550 liquor vendors run by four Delhi government undertakings. It is also available at bars in more than 900 hotels, pubs and restaurants across the city.

The Excise Department ended 2022 on a high note with a record sale, though the year posed many challenges for it including a CBI probe into implementation of Excise Policy 2021-22 that was scrapped by the government.

The festival season, also including liquor sale on Diwali, yielded good returns in the form of excise revenue to the department.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

of the day quote

India's aim is to make its military one of the strongest in the world

Let us create the India model of medical education that defines paradigm of accessible, affordable, credible and quality education

There has been a 74 per cent reduction in insurgency-related violence, 60 per cent reduction in attacks on security forces and 89 per cent decrease in civilian deaths in the Northeast

SHORT TAKES

Jain monk dies

Jaipur: A Jain monk who was on a fast against the Jharkhand government's decision to declare Shri Sammed Shikharji as a tourist place died in Jaipur, a community leader said Friday.

Five suspended

New Delhi: Delhi prison authorities have suspended five officials, including two deputy superintendents, one assistant superintendents, one head warder and one warder following recovery of several mobile phones from Mandoli jail in the national capital.

One arrested

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Police have commenced an investigation after a 56-year-old person was arrested for swindling money to the tune of Rs 62 lakhs collected from eight individuals after promising them jobs in the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Two held

Kalaburagi (Karnataka): Karnataka Police cracked the kidnapping case of a schoolboy and arrested two persons in Kalaburagi on Friday. The accused kidnapped the boy, a Class 4 student, on January 4 and demanded Rs 10 lakh from the parents.

One dead, 24 hurt

Jalpaiguri(WB): One picnicer died and at least 24 others were injured when the bus in which they were travelling collided head on with a truck on the Asian Highway at Madarihat in West Bengal's Alipurduar district on Friday.



Prime Minister ji, the Bharat Jodo Yatra has put people's 'Mic on'. Listen carefully and change your policies

SONIA RECOVERING UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, who has been admitted to Sir Gangaram Hospital for a respiratory tract infection, is stable and recovering



Delhi mayor poll postponed after AAP, BJP fight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: The first meeting of the newly elected MCD House Friday was witness to AAP and BJP councillors jostling, exchanging heated words and coming to blows over administering oath to 10 aldermen, leading to adjournment for the day without electing the mayor and the deputy mayor.

Both the BJP and AAP have claimed that their councillors sustained injuries as chairs were thrown and attempts made to snatch the presiding officer's microphone. AAP councillors climbed on the tables, including that of the presiding officer, protesting the decision to first administer oath to the aldermen appointed by the lieutenant governor.

According to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) officials, it was for the first time in the history of the civic body that a newly elected House failed to elect a mayor and deputy mayor in its maiden meeting.

The AAP leaders and councillors alleged that the decision to administer oath to aldermen before elected councillors was the BJP's

"ploy" to get them voting rights. The party had earlier also alleged that the LG appointed BJP men as aldermen instead of experts on civic matters.

"Article 243R of the Constitution clearly debar nominated members from voting in the House. Attempt to get them to vote in the House is unconstitutional," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted. In a joint press conference with fellow parliamentarians Meenakshi Lekhi and Manoj Tiwari, West Delhi BJP MP Parvesh Verma said the elected and the nominated have no difference.

"The nominated members in MCD are called aldermen. Is it possible an alderman does not have voting rights?" he posed. A ruckus broke out early in the MCD House meeting after the presiding officer (pro-tem speaker) and BJP councillor Satya Sharma was administered oath.

According to MCD officials, it was for the first time in the history of the civic body that a newly elected House failed to elect a mayor and deputy mayor in its maiden meeting. A ruckus broke out early in the MCD House meeting after the presiding officer (pro-tem speaker) and BJP councillor Satya Sharma was administered oath.



Students prepare for annual Chitra Santhe (Art Fair) at Chitrakala Parishath in Bangalore

PTI PHOTO

17 J&K leaders desert Azad, rejoin Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Srinagar, Jan 6: Seventeen leaders of the newly formed Democratic Azad Party (DAP) in Jammu and Kashmir, including former deputy chief minister Tara Chand and ex-PCC chief Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, Friday deserted former Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad and returned to the Congress fold.

The leaders were welcomed back by the Congress which said they had gone on "leave for two months". AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said it was a happy day for the party as they were returning back to their home ahead of the Bharat Jodo Yatra which will enter Jammu and Kashmir after two weeks.

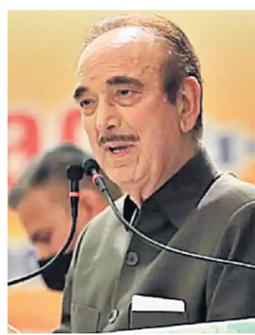
"The Bharat Jodo Yatra has become a big moment in the country and that is why all these leaders have decided to come back to the Congress fold," he told reporters in

Delhi. "This is only a beginning and when the Yatra is entering Jammu and Kashmir, all people with Congress ideology and who want a united India will join the party. I think, they had gone on a leave for two months," he said.

Asked whether there are any talks with Azad, who is the Chairman of DAP, for his return to the Congress fold, Venugopal said he has himself denied any such talks. Azad said the departure of his colleagues was not a setback for the new party and wished them well.

"It is not a setback because all three of them have no constituency. I wish them well, I will not say anything against them as they have been my old colleagues," Azad told reporters in Srinagar. He was referring to Chand, Sayeed and Thakur Balwan Singh.

On whether Azad has been invited for the Yatra, Venugopal said, "Those who believe in the ideology of Bharat



Jodo Yatra are welcome to join the Yatra. All are welcome." "We have invited all like-minded parties to join the Yatra," he said, adding that Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Sayeed will join the Yatra and walk with Rahul Gandhi in Srinagar.

He also said there is a wider thinking in the country to fight

AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said it was a happy day for the party as they were returning back to their home ahead of the Bharat Jodo Yatra which will enter Jammu and Kashmir after two weeks

against divisive policies of the BJP and the central government. Party leader Jairam Ramesh said, "A total of 19 leaders were to join today, but 17 were able to come to Delhi and join today. This is the first phase and others will also join soon".

Dam in Gujarat named after Modi's mother

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajkot, Jan 6: A check dam being constructed on the outskirts of Gujarat's Rajkot city has been named after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's late mother, an official said Friday.

The check dam is being built at the cost of Rs 15 lakh by 'Gir Ganga Parivar' Trust on the downstream of Nyari river near Vagudad village on Rajkot-Kalawad road, president of the trust Dilip Sakhiya said.

A ground breaking ceremony for the dam was performed on Wednesday in the presence of local MLA Darshita Shah and Rajkot Mayor Pradip Dav, it was stated.

"As a tribute to the prime minister's mother, we have decided to name the check dam, Hiraba Smriti Sarovar, because it is being built in her memory. This will also inspire others to do something or donate for a good cause after the death of their loved ones," Sakhiya said. Modi's mother passed away at 99 at a hospital in Ahmedabad on December 30.

MUMBAI SHOCKER

4 minors clobber 18-yr-old boy to death

THE CHILLING MURDER TOOK PLACE SOMETIME ON THURSDAY AND THE BODY OF THE VICTIM, WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS TAYYAB KHAN, WAS RECOVERED FROM AN ABANDONED PUBLIC TOILET IN A DESOLATE AREA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Jan 6: In a shocking incident, four minor boys, all aged 17, have been detained for allegedly clobbering an 18-year-old boy to death at the Mankhurd suburb of Mumbai, officials said



here on Friday.

The chilling murder took place sometime on Thursday and the body of the victim, who has been identified as Tayyab Khan, was recovered from an abandoned public

toilet in a desolate area. Swinging into action, the police teams managed to trace the alleged underage culprits and have detained them for the crime, senior police inspector Mahadev P. Koli said.

He said that the four accused minors are residents of Maharashtra Nagar in Mankhurd. The victim was also from the same neighbourhood. As per initial probe, the police have found that the five boys were regularly involved in local streetside brawls and fights, which were not very serious.

"This could have been just another such quarrel, but this time the minor boys were carrying weapons. We have detained the four boys, and further probe is underway," said Koli. The autopsy report of Khan revealed that he was brutally assaulted by the accused minors, who pounded him at least 14 times with machetes and sticks.

They left him in an unused public toilet before decamping from the spot.

The victim sustained severe injuries in the head, neck and arms, as per the post-mortem. The exact motive behind the murder is being ascertained.

Bomb scare at school triggers panic, sends police into tizzy



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Jan 6: Panic triggered among students and teaching staff of National Academy for Learning (NAL) school in Basaveshwara Nagar locality of Bangalore after the educational institution received a bomb threat Friday.

According to police, the bomb threat was sent to official e-mail ID of the school claiming that four gelatin sticks have been kept on the premises, which may explode anytime soon.

On noticing the threat mail, the school staff immediately informed police and shifted over 1,000 school children to a safe place.

Hundreds of parents rushed to the school and demanded that they should be allowed to enter the school premises to see their children. Later, the children were sent with them.

DCP (West) Lakshman Nimbaragi said: "We have ensured students are taken to a safe place, bomb disposal and dog squad have reached the spot. A case will be registered and investigation is being done." Search is on to find the said gelatin sticks, the police said.

Dhami orders evacuation of 600 families in Joshimath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Jan 6: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami Friday ordered immediate evacuation of around 600 families living in houses which have developed huge cracks and are at risk in Joshimath town which is sinking.

"Saving lives is our first priority. Officials have been asked to shift around 600 families living in endangered houses in Joshimath to safe locations," Dhami said here after reviewing the situation in the sinking town with officials via video conference. "We are also working on short

and long term plans to address the situation in Joshimath," he said. The Chief Minister will visit Joshimath Saturday, meet the affected people and hold a meeting with officials.

Garhwal Commissioner Sushil Kumar and secretary disaster management Ranjit Kumar Sinha along with a team of experts are camping on the ground to constantly monitor the situation, Dhami said. Relocation of people in affected areas should be done expeditiously, he told the officials.

Medical treatment facilities should be available on ground and arrangements for airlifting people should also be made, he said. An immediate action plan as well as a long term ac-



tion plan should be prepared and work on both should be started in right earnest, Dhami said.

Procedures should be simplified to expedite work on treatment of danger zones, sewer and drainage.

"Lives of our citizens are most important for us" he said. "Joshimath should be divided into sectors and zones and action should be taken accordingly. A disaster control room should also be set up in the town," the Chief Minister said.

For permanent rehabilitation of affected people, alternative locations should be identified in Pipalkoti, Gauchar and other places, he said.

The district magistrate should stay in touch with people and the potential danger zones should also be identified. "Moving people to safe locations is necessary. Satellite images can also be useful in this. All departments should act with a

team spirit to achieve success in the exercise," he said.

Adequate deployment of State Disaster Response Force and National Disaster Response Force personnel should be made to help the affected people, he said, adding helicopter services should also be made available, if required. "Joshimath is a town of religious and cultural importance. Care should be taken to ensure that the livelihoods of people are not affected," he said.

A temple collapsed Friday evening in Singdhar ward of Joshimath further alarming residents living under constant fear of a major disaster in the offing.

international



I strongly condemned Russia's continued aggression, and stated that Japan would do its utmost to provide assistance, including to get through the winter, in order to protect the lives of the Ukrainian people
FUMIO KISHIDA | JAPANESE PM

CRANE CRASHES ONTO MALL

A construction crane crashed onto a shopping mall in central Norway Friday amid strong winds, killing one person and injuring at least two others, police said



of the day quote

Our objective is to ensure peace and tranquility in the region, and to let peace prevail in the region
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PRESIDENT

I would like to reiterate that the continuous activities of the People's Liberation Army (around Taiwan) are not helpful to cross-strait relations nor to the peace and stability of the region
TSAI ING-WEN | TAIWANESE PRESIDENT

The Indo-Pacific concept is created by the US to contain China. In fact, there is no such concept as 'Indo-Pacific' in geopolitics
LU SHAYE | CHINA'S AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE

4 out of 5 glaciers may be lost by 2100: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Jan 6: Over 80 per cent, or 4 out of every 5 glaciers by number, could well disappear by the end of this century, if fossil fuel use continues unabated, according to a study.



of glacier mass loss through the century under different emissions scenarios, according to the study. The projections were aggregated into global temperature change scenarios to support adaptation and mitigation discussions, such as those at the United Nations

Conference of Parties (COP 27), held in Egypt, the study said. Even in a best-case, low-emissions scenario, where the increase in global mean temperature is limited to +1.5 degrees Celsius relative to pre-industrial levels, over 25 per cent of glacial mass will be gone and nearly 50 per cent of glaciers are projected to disappear, the study said.

A majority of these lost glaciers are small (less than one sq km) by glacial standards, but their loss can negatively impact local hydrology, tourism, glacier hazards, and cultural values, the study said. Rounce's work provided better context for regional glacier modelling,

and he hoped it will spur climate policymakers to lower temperature change goals beyond the 2.7 degree Celsius mark that pledges from COP-26, held in Glasgow, UK are projected to hit.

Smaller glacial regions like Central Europe and Western Canada and the US will be disproportionately affected by temperatures rising more than 2 degrees Celsius. At a 3 degrees Celsius rise, glaciers in these regions almost disappear completely, the study said. Rounce noted that the way in which glaciers respond to changes in climate takes a long time. He described the glaciers as extremely slow-moving rivers.

China attempts to minimise Covid risk during travel rush

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Jan 6: China is seeking to minimise the possibility of a major new Covid-19 outbreak during this month's Lunar New Year travel rush following the end of most pandemic containment measures.

The Transportation Ministry Friday called on travelers to reduce trips and gatherings, particularly if they involve elderly people, pregnant women, small children and those with underlying conditions.



People using public transport are also urged to wear masks and pay special attention to their health and personal hygiene

People using public transport are also urged to wear masks and pay special attention to their health and personal hygiene, Vice Minister Xu Chengguang told reporters at a briefing.

The call stopped short of asking citizens to stay home entirely, as the government had since the pandemic began, although some local governments have urged migrant workers not to return home. Xu said authorities expect more than 2 billion trips to be made during the weeklong festival season, the most important time for visiting family and friends in the traditional Chinese calendar. That is nearly double the number of last year and 70.3% over the same period in 2019 before the pandemic hit, Xu said.

Demand for family visits and tourism has "accumulated over the past three years of the pandemic to be met all at once," Xu said.

Shehbaz Sharif holds talks with IMF chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Jan 6: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday held talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Kristalina Georgieva to break the deadlock over the release of the next tranche of assistance for the cash-strapped country.

The contact was made four days before an expected face-to-face meeting between the prime minister and the IMF chief on the sidelines of the Geneva Conference for flood victims. Addressing a business gathering here on Friday, Sharif confirmed he received a call from IMF Managing Director Georgieva and they discussed the issue of disbursement of an already pledged loan.

"I told the IMF that we cannot put more burden on our masses. I also urged that the IMF should send its delegation to Pakistan for talks," he said, adding that the delegation was expected to arrive over the next three or four days to discuss various issues. The global lender has refused to issue the new instalment of the already agreed loan since Pakistan was not living up to the promises it made when the stalled loan of \$6 billion was restored last year.

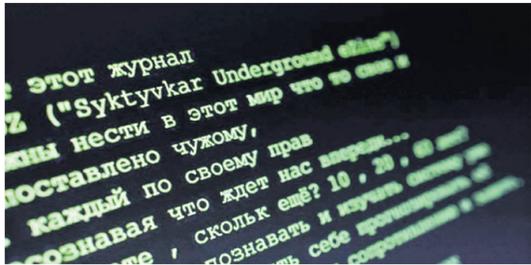
US N-scientists in Russian hackers' target

AGENCIES

London/Washington, Jan 6: A Russian hacking team known as Cold River targeted three nuclear research laboratories in the United States this past Summer, according to internet records reviewed by Reuters and five cyber security experts.

Between August and September, as President Vladimir Putin indicated Russia would be willing to use nuclear weapons to defend its territory, Cold River targeted the Brookhaven (BNL), Argonne (ANL) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories (LLNL), according to internet records that showed the hackers creating fake login pages for each institution and emailing nuclear scientists in a bid to make them reveal their passwords.

Cold River, which first appeared on the radar of intelligence professionals after targeting Britain's foreign office in 2016, has been involved in dozens of other high-profile hacking incidents in recent years, according to interviews with nine cybersecurity firms. Reuters traced email accounts used in its hacking operations between 2015 and 2020 to an IT worker in the Russian city of Syktyvkar. Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB),



the domestic security agency that also conducts espionage campaigns for Moscow, and Russia's embassy in Washington did not respond to emailed requests for comment.

Western officials say the Russian government is a global leader in hacking and uses cyber-espionage to spy on foreign governments and industries to seek a competitive advantage. The US National Security Agency (NSA) declined to comment on Cold River's activities. Britain's Global Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), its NSA equivalent, did not comment. The foreign office declined to comment.

'INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION' In May, Cold River broke into and leaked emails belonging to the former head of Britain's MI6 spy service. That was just one of sev-

eral 'hack and leak' operations last year by Russia-linked hackers in which confidential communications were made public in Britain, Poland and Latvia, according to cybersecurity experts and Eastern European security officials.

In another recent espionage operation targeting critics of Moscow, Cold River registered domain names designed to imitate at least three European NGOs investigating war crimes, according to French cybersecurity firm SEKOIA.IO.

DEEP TIES TO RUSSIA Cold River made several mistakes in recent years that allowed cybersecurity analysts to pinpoint the exact location and identity of one of its members, providing the clearest indication yet of the group's Russian origin, according to experts from Internet giant Google,

Shells fly at Ukraine front

Russian and Ukrainian forces exchanged artillery fire at the front line in Ukraine Friday, even after Moscow said it had ordered its troops to stop shooting for a unilateral truce that was firmly rejected by Kyiv. President Vladimir Putin ordered the 36-hour ceasefire from midday on Friday to observe Orthodox Christmas. Kyiv has said it has no intention to stop fighting, rejecting the purported truce as a stunt by Moscow to buy time to reinforce troops that have taken heavy losses this week. Russia's defence ministry said its troops began observing the ceasefire from noon Moscow time (0900 GMT) "along the entire line of contact" in the conflict, but said Ukraine kept up shelling populated areas and military positions.

British defence contractor BAE, and US intelligence firm Nisos.

Multiple personal email addresses used to set up Cold River missions belong to Andrey Korinets, a 35-year-old IT worker and body-builder in Syktyvkar, about 1,600 km (1,000 miles) northeast of Moscow. Usage of these accounts left a trail of digital evidence from different hacks back to Korinets' on-line life, including social media

SHORT TAKES

LGBTQ activist found dead

Nairobi: Kenyan police were investigating the death of an LGBTQ activist whose body was found stuffed in a metal box, as human rights groups Friday decried the killing. Edwin Chiloba's body was found Wednesday on a road in Uasin Gishu County in the west of the country. Police say a motorcycle taxi operator reported seeing the box being dumped by a vehicle with no licence plates.

Japan, US to hold security talks

Tokyo: Japan and the United States will hold security talks between their foreign and defence ministers in Washington the day before Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida lands in the US Capital next week, wrapping up his tour of the Group of Seven nations as Tokyo expands its military and deepens its alliance with America amid China's growing influence. Kishida will embark Monday on a five-nation trip to France, Italy, Britain and Canada ahead of his January 13 summit with US President Joe Biden.

Thousands protest in Pak

Wana (Pakistan): Thousands of people in South Waziristan's Wana took to the streets Friday against the recent wave of terrorism and demanded immediate restoration of peace in the region, the media reported. The protest comes as terrorism is again rearing its head in the country, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, Dawn reported. Pakistan has seen a rise in terrorist attacks across the country, believed to have been planned and directed by the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) leaders based in Afghanistan, Dawn reported.

Deadly riots in Mexico state

Mexico City: Deadly riots broke out in Mexico's Sinaloa state following the capture of a son of notorious drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman. Ovidio Guzman-Lopez, himself alleged to be a leader of his father's former Sinaloa Cartel, was captured in Culiacan Thursday during a special operation and transferred to Mexico City. After he was captured, clashes broke out and furious gang members set up road blocks and set vehicles fire.

Israel builds wall around Gaza Strip

Tel Aviv: Israel has started building a 4.6-km-long wall around the Gaza Strip to protect Israeli communities in its vicinity from fire from the coastal Palestinian enclave, the Defence Ministry here said. The wall is being built along two highways near Gaza.

Standoff over US House speaker grinds on Gotabaya returns to SL

THE CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN FACES A PARTY RIFT BETWEEN AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF HOUSE REPUBLICANS WHO SUPPORT HIM AND 20 HARDLINE CONSERVATIVES WHO CONTINUE TO OPPOSE HIM, EVEN AFTER MCCARTHY OFFERED TO CURB HIS OWN CLOUT

REUTERS

Washington, Jan 6: Republican Kevin McCarthy's perilous quest to become speaker of the US House of Representatives entered the fourth day Friday, with a scale of congressional dysfunction not seen since before the US Civil War.

The House was scheduled to reconvene at noon (1700 GMT), as lawmakers negotiated behind closed doors on a possible deal that McCarthy's supporters hoped could



The chair of the Speaker of the House sits empty for a fourth straight day

break the logjam and finally allow him to succeed after 11 failed floor votes since Tuesday.

The California Republican faces a party rift between an overwhelming majority of House Republicans who support him and 20 hardline conservatives who continue to oppose him, even after McCarthy offered to curb his own clout.

The speaker's gavel would give McCarthy the authority to block President Joe Biden's legislative agenda, force votes for Republican priorities on economy, energy and

immigration, and move forward with investigations of Biden and his administration.

But the holdouts want a deal that would make it easier to oust the speaker and give them greater influence within the House Republican caucus and on congressional committees.

Some of his opponents also say they don't trust him to mount the political brinkmanship necessary to contain the federal debt and impose spending cuts on Biden and the Democratic-controlled Senate. Late Wednesday, some

Republicans held out hope of a deal on the direction of the party caucus that could persuade at least some of his opponents to yield.

"I think that's coming together well," said Representative Patrick McHenry, a McCarthy supporter who is poised to lead a top congressional committee.

McCarthy, who was backed by former President Donald Trump for the post, offered the holdouts a range of concessions that would weaken the speaker's role, which political allies warned would make the job even harder if he got it.

A possible agreement could also allow for a vote on term limits for members of Congress.

Republicans won a slim 222-212 House majority in the November midterm elections, meaning McCarthy cannot afford to lose the support of more than four Republicans as Democrats united around their own candidate. Some of McCarthy's opponents showed no sign of yielding.

"This ends in one of two ways: either Kevin McCarthy withdraws from the race or we construct a straitjacket that he is unwilling to evade," said Republican Representative Matt Gaetz, who voted for Trump for speaker.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Jan 6: Former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was ousted from power last year over his government's mishandling of the cash-strapped country's economy, has returned from Dubai, his first foreign trip since returning to Sri Lanka four months ago.

Rajapaksa and his wife Ioma arrived at Bandaranaike International Airport here from Dubai Thursday, the Daily Mirror Lanka newspaper reported, quoting the airport duty manager and spokesperson of the airport immigration department.

They arrived on an Emirates flight EK-650 from Dubai, the report said. During his visit to Dubai, Rajapaksa visited the exotic animal farm called "Fame Park," according to news portal newfirst.lk.

Rajapaksa, 73, fled Sri Lanka to the Maldives on a Sri Lankan Airforce plane in July, as the country plunged into its worst economic and humanitarian crisis since its independence from Great Britain in 1948. He then proceeded to Singapore, from where he submitted his resignation July 14.

Weeks later, he flew to Thailand, seeking temporary shelter. Thailand said Rajapaksa can stay in the country for 90 days because he is



still a diplomatic passport holder.

However, he was not allowed to engage in political activities in Thailand. He was confined to a hotel and surrounded by security personnel. In September 2022, he was given special security and a state bungalow upon his return to Sri Lanka from Thailand.

Rajapaksa, an ex-military officer, became the president in November 2019. Rajapaksa, formerly a dual citizen of both Sri Lanka and the US, had to give up his US citizenship ahead of the 2019 presidential elections. As per Sri Lankan Constitution, dual citizenship holders are barred from contesting elections. A corruption case against him when he was a top defence official was withdrawn soon after he was elected in 2019.

Earlier this month, Rajapaksa applied for restoration of his US citizenship after he failed to get asylum in any country, according to The Sunday Times newspaper.

Covid may change body's response to other threats in men: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Jan 6: Covid-19 can trigger stronger inflammatory responses in males, resulting in changes to their functional immunity long after recovery, a study has found.

The findings may also help create better vaccines against diverse threats by, for instance, mimicking how mild Covid-19 changes the male immune system, the researchers said. Scientists have long believed that the immune system reverts to the previous stable level after viral infection.

However, the latest study published in the journal Nature, shows that it depends on the individual's

sex. Researchers at the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) systematically analysed immune responses of healthy people who had received the flu vaccine.

From that data, they then compared the responses between those who had never been infected by SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, and those who experienced mild cases but recovered.

The team found that immune systems of men who had recovered from mild cases of Covid-19 re-

sponded more robustly to flu vaccines than women

had mild cases or men and women who had never been infected. The baseline immune statuses in men previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 was altered in ways that changed the response to an exposure different from SARS-CoV-2, the researchers said. "This was a total surprise," said John Tsang, an immunobiologist at Yale University in the US, who was previously at NIAID.



"Women usually mount a stronger overall immune response to pathogens and vaccines, but are also more likely to suffer from au-

toimmune diseases," Tsang said. The findings may also be linked to an observation made early in the pandemic: Men were much more likely to die from a runaway immune response than women after contracting the Covid-19 virus.

The findings suggest that even mild cases of Covid-19 might trigger stronger inflammatory responses in males than females, resulting in more pronounced functional changes to the male immune system, even long after recovery.

Their analysis of immune system status down to the individual cell level showed several differences between Covid-recovered

males and healthy controls and Covid-recovered females, both before and after receiving flu vaccinations.

For instance, previously infected males produced more antibodies to influenza and produced increased levels of interferons, which are produced by cells in response to infections or vaccines. "Our findings point to the possibility that any infection or immune challenge may change the immune status to establish new set points," said lead author of the study, Rachel Sparks, from NIAID. "The immune status of an individual is likely shaped by a multitude of prior exposures and perturbations," Sparks added.

of the day quote

Farm reforms in India are pending even today since 1991, while neighbouring China implemented them way back in 1978

BIBEK DEBROY | CHAIRMAN, PMEAC

India is among the top three markets for SKODA AUTO globally and it is the biggest market for the company outside Europe

PETR SOLC | BRAND DIRECTOR, SKODA AUTO

Despite the upward trajectory of mortgage rates, we witnessed robust demand across all segments as well as in different cities (Mumbai & Pune)

ABHISHEK LODHA | MD & CEO, MACROTECH DEVELOPERS

SHORT TAKES

Jio rolls out 5G services in 4 cities

New Delhi: Reliance Jio has launched 5G services in Gwalior, Jabalpur, Ludhiana and Siliguri, taking the total number of cities to 72. Jio has announced plans to launch its "True 5G" services in every town, taluka of India by the end of December 2023. "The launch strengthens Jio True 5G coverage in Madhya Pradesh, close to unveiling of coveted events like Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and Invest MP - Global Investor Summit at Indore. With the launch, Reliance Jio has now become the first and the only operator in MP to launch 5G services across all prominent large cities of MP, including the capital city, Bhopal, and Indore," the company said in a statement. It is the first and the only operator to launch 5G services in Gwalior, Jabalpur and Ludhiana. At present, Jio is offering unlimited access to 5G data to select customers in the city where it has rolled out its 5G services.

Amazon to axe 1K staff in India

New Delhi: E-commerce company Amazon plans to lay off around 1,000 employees in India as part of its biggest retrenchment exercise across the globe, according to sources. The company has announced the elimination of over 18,000 roles across the globe due to uncertain economic conditions. "The decision to eliminate 18,000 job roles across the globe will impact about 1,000 employees in India," the source said. Another report said that Amazon founder Jeff Bezos lost about \$675 million from his net worth in a day after the company announced layoffs. As of December 31, 2021, Amazon employed approximately 16,08,000 full-time and part-time staff.

RIL makes open offer for Lotus

New Delhi: Two Reliance group firms - Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL) and Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) - have announced an open offer to acquire a 26 per cent additional stake in Lotus Chocolate. The firms will together acquire 33.38 lakh shares of Lotus Chocolate from the open market at a fixed price of ₹115.50 per share, said a notice by DAM Capital, which is managing the offer. The offer will aggregate to a total consideration of ₹38.56 crore over the full acceptance, said an open offer-detailed public statement shared by the company with stock exchanges Thursday. The open offer starts February 21 and closes March 6, said the public notice. RCPL is the FMCG arm and a wholly-owned subsidiary of RRVL.



India is a relative bright spot in the world economy today, growing at rates significantly above its peer average

ANTOINETTE SAYEH | DEPUTY MD, IMF

TEN NEW MERCEDES THIS YEAR

German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz will launch ten new vehicles in India in 2023 with majority in the over ₹1-crore price category, which grew over 69 per cent last year, according to a senior company official. Mercedes-Benz India, which posted a record sales in 2022 at 15,822 units, had sold over 3,500 cars that are priced above ₹1 crore last year



WORLD FOOD PRICES HIT RECORD HIGH IN '22

International prices of most globally traded food commodities skyrocket since 1990 due to Russia-Ukraine war which disrupted Black Sea trade

REUTERS

Paris, Jan 6: A surge in the cost of most food commodities last year, as the disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine raised concerns of shortages, sent the UN food agency's average price index to the highest level on record. The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index, which tracks international prices of the most globally traded food commodities, averaged 143.7 points in 2022, up 14.3% from 2021,

and the highest since records started in 1990, the agency said Friday. The index had already gained 28% in 2021 from the previous year as the world economy recovered from the impact of the pandemic. Food prices surged after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February last year on fears of disruptions to Black Sea trade. They have pared some of their gains since,



Over the whole of 2022, four of the FAO's five food sub-indexes - cereals, meat, dairy and vegetable oils - had reached record highs, while the fifth one, sugar, was at a 10-year high

for November. The November figure was previously given as 135.7 points. "Calmer food commodity prices are welcome after two very volatile years," FAO Chief Economist Maximo Torero said. The decline in the index in December was driven by a drop in the international price of vegetable oils, together with some declines in cereal and meat prices, but mitigated by slight increases in those of sugar and dairy, the FAO said. The FAO Cereal Price Index rose 17.9% in 2022 due to factors including significant market disruptions, higher energy and input costs, adverse weather and continued strong global food demand, the FAO said.

RBI to issue green bonds in 2 tranches of ₹8K-crore each

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 6: The RBI Friday said maiden Sovereign Green Bonds (SGRBs) would be issued in two tranches for an aggregate amount of ₹16,000 crore, and proceeds will be utilised for funding public sector projects seeking to reduce carbon emissions.



The first auction would be done January 25 while the second February 9, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement.

The proceeds will be deployed in public sector projects, which help in reducing the carbon intensity of the economy, it said.

As announced in the Union Budget 2022-23, the central government as part of its overall market borrowings will be issuing Sovereign Green Bonds (SGRBs) for mobilising resources for green infrastructure.

"Accordingly, it was notified in the half-yearly issuance calendar for marketable dated securities for the second half of the fiscal year 2022-23 on September 29, 2022, that SGRBs for an aggregate amount of ₹16,000 crore would be issued.

"The Government of India has since issued the Sovereign Green Bond Framework on November 9, 2022," it said.

These green bonds would be available in 5-year and 10-year tenure, it added.

SGRBs will be issued through uniform price auction and 5 per cent of the notified amount of sale will be reserved for retail investors, the RBI said, adding these papers will be reckoned as an eligible investment for SLR purposes.

"SGRBs will be eligible for Repurchase Transactions (Repo) as per the terms and conditions mentioned in Repurchase Transactions (Repo) (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2018 as amended from time to time," it noted. These bonds will be eligible for trading in the secondary market.

OFF TO A BAD START D-St ends 1st week of 2023 with losses

WEAK GLOBAL CUES ARE LARGELY WEIGHED ON SENTIMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY MAJOR TRIGGER FROM THE DOMESTIC FRONT - THE IT COUNTERS REMAINED SUBDUED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 6: The Sensex tumbled for the third straight session to close below the 60,000-mark Friday, ending the first week of the new year with losses amid concerns over elevated inflation and continued monetary policy tightening. Unabated foreign fund outflows and a weakening rupee added to the gloom, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 452.90 points or 0.75 per cent to finish at 59,900.37. The broader NSE Nifty went lower by 132.70 points or 0.74 per cent to end at 17,859.45. TCS was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.97 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Infosys and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Only five counters closed higher - Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Nestle India, ITC and Larsen & Toubro, rising up to 1.06 per cent.

"Investor risk sentiment took a blow post the release of the FOMC meeting minutes, which indicated further rate hikes in 2023 to tame inflation. The market already remains sensitive to FIIs selling and IT stocks traded with deep cuts ahead the release of corporate earnings next week as the growth is anticipated to be muted," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Indian markets have been one of the best performing markets globally in CY22... However, in the near term, the markets seem to be running into a few headwinds - record high valuation premium to EMs, potential slowdown in exports on the back of global slowdown, and Fixed Income emerging as a viable investment option," said Milind Muchhala, Executive Director, Julius Baer India.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge fell 0.73 per cent and midcap index declined 0.72 per



- BENCHMARKS SKID FOR THIRD DAY AS BEARS TIGHTEN GRIP
- SENSEX TUMBLES TO CLOSE BELOW 60,000-MARK
- NIFTY HAS BEEN POSTING RED CANDLES FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS
- ON A WEEKLY BASIS, THE SENSEX LOST 940.37 POINTS OR 1.55%, WHILE THE NIFTY DIPPED 245.85 POINTS OR 1.36%

The Indian equity markets have begun the new year on a slightly cautious note, in line with the global markets, continuing the trend visible in December 2022

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

cent. Among sectoral indices, teck declined 1.86 per cent, IT dipped 1.77 per cent, metal (1.28 per cent), services (1.11 per cent), bankex (1.04 per cent) and financial services (1.03 per cent). FMCG was the only gainer. International oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.15 per cent to \$78.81 per barrel.

The rupee pared initial gains and settled 4 paise lower at 82.66 against the US dollar Friday, tracking a rebound in the greenback overseas and a muted trend in domestic equities.

Continuing their selling spree, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth a net ₹2,902.46 crore Friday, according to exchange data.

Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai ended in the green, while Hong Kong settled lower. Equity exchanges in Europe were trading on a mixed note in mid-session deals. Markets in the US had ended lower Thursday.

FIIs NET SELLERS

FIIs have been net sellers the entire week. From January 2nd to 6th, FIIs have pulled out 7,813.44 crore from Indian equities. On Friday, FIIs outflow was highest in the current week to the tune of 2,902.46 crore followed by selloffs of 1,449.45 crore and 2,620.89 crore on January 5th and January 6th. From January 2-3rd, the outflow was at 840.64 crore.

INVESTORS CRY

With markets sliding down for three consecutive days, over 4.90 lakh crore of investors' wealth has been eroded. As per BSE data, the listed companies' market cap stood at over 279.75 lakh crore by end of January 6th. In Friday's session, investors lost over 2.20 lakh crore in wealth compared to the previous day.

Oil companies making ₹10/L profit on petrol, ₹6.5/L loss on diesel

The three fuel retailers haven't changed petrol and diesel prices since April 6, 2022, despite input crude oil prices rising from \$102.97 per barrel that month to \$116.01 in June and falling to \$78.09 this month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: Oil companies are selling petrol at a profit of ₹10 per litre but retail prices haven't been reduced as they recoup past losses and make up for a ₹6.5 a litre loss on diesel, a report said.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) have for the past 15 months not revised petrol and diesel prices in line with the cost. They have times of low oil prices to recoup losses incurred when rates were high.

"Post record high losses of ₹17.4 per litre on petrol and ₹27.7 a litre diesel for the week ended June 24, 2022, margins for petrol are estimated at a positive ₹10 per litre for Q3 (October-December 2022) while diesel losses too have likely narrowed to ₹6.5 a litre for the



same quarter," ICICI Securities said in a report.

Holding prices when input cost was higher than retail selling prices led to the three firms posting net earnings loss. They posted a combined net loss of ₹21,201.18 crore during April-September despite accounting for ₹22,000 crore announced but not paid LPG subsidy.

It estimated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) of ₹2,400 crore for IOC in the October-December quarter, ₹1,800 crore for BPCL and ₹800 crore for HPCL. But they may end up posting net losses. IOC may end up with a net loss of ₹1,300 crore while HPCL may post ₹600 crore loss. BPCL may break even, it said.

International oil prices have been turbulent in the last couple of years. It dipped into the negative zone at the start of the pandemic in 2020 and swung wildly in 2022 - climbing to a 14-year high of nearly \$140 per barrel in March 2022 after Russia invaded Ukraine, before sliding on weaker demand from top importer China and worries of an economic contraction.

EXPORT TAX SCRAPPED Steel exports decline 54%

REUTERS

New Delhi, Jan 6: India's exports of finished steel more than halved during the first nine months of the fiscal year that began in April 2022, according to the latest government data seen by Reuters.

The exports fell 54.1% to 4.74 million tonne between April and December, as consumption dropped in major global markets, and mills struggled to revive shipments after the recent withdrawal of an export tax.

However, the world's second biggest producer of crude steel was a net exporter of the alloy during the April-December period.

In May, New Delhi raised export tax by 15% on eight steel inter-



mediates, hitting major steelmakers, who had hoped to boost global market share after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but the higher duties made shipments unattractive.

The duties were scrapped in November, but mills have since complained about difficulties in recovering share in traditional markets, including Europe.

India's finished steel output increased 5.7% to 87.9 million tonne and consumption went up by 11.5% to 85.5 million tonne between April and December.

India imported 4.4 million tonne of finished steel during the period, up 27.4% from a year earlier. Crude steel production was up 5%, at 92.5 million tonne.

Govt, RBI in talks with South Asian nations for trade in ₹

After the successful launch of the pilot for the wholesale segment November 1, RBI December 1, last year, began its retail CBDC pilot project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 6: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Friday said the government and the Reserve Bank are in discussion with South Asian countries to have cross-border trade in rupee.

He also said the central bank digital currency (CBDC) is in trial phase and the RBI is moving very

carefully and cautiously on digital rupee launch.

"For UPI, we have already entered into agreements with countries in this region, for example, with Bhutan and other countries like Nepal and we are trying to provide the UPI facility to make cross-border payments much easier in this region".

"The other initiative is the RBI, together with the Government of India, have initiated rupee settlement of international trade. We are already in discussion with some of the countries in this region and to facilitate rupee settlement of cross border trade in the South Asian region," Das said.

In his keynote address at an IMF conference here, the Governor also said that the RBI has launched a pilot project of CBDC.

"It's in a trial phase, we are moving about it very carefully, very



cautiously because this is something where the approach has to be very cautious, very careful. If there is cloning or anything which happens, it can be very, very risky... So that could be another area where there can be room for cooperation (between South Asian countries)," Das said.

The use of the digital rupee is expected to make the inter-bank market more efficient, as settle-

At the central bank level a key dimension for cooperation has been learning from each other on common goals and challenges. Rupee settlement of cross-border trade and CBDC, where the RBI has already started moving forward, can also be areas of greater cooperation in future

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

INFLATION WORRIES

The Governor outlined six policy priorities before the South Asian region to deal with critical challenges arising due to Covid, inflation, financial market tightening and the Russia-Ukraine war.

"Multiple external shocks... Have exerted sustained price pressures in South Asian economies. For successful disinflation, credible monetary policy actions accompanied by targeted supply-side interventions, fiscal, trade policy and administrative measures have become the key instruments," Das said. Das said while the recent soft-

ening of commodity prices and supply-side bottlenecks should help in lowering inflation going ahead, risks to growth and investment outlook may rise if inflation persists at high levels. During the first three quarters of 2022, food price inflation in South Asia averaged more than 20 per cent.

"Prioritising price stability, may therefore be the optimal policy choice in the current context for the region," he said, adding the region's heavy dependence on imported fossil fuels has made it vulnerable to imported fuel inflation.

SERIES ON LINE FOR INDIA

Be patient with youngsters: Dravid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Jan 6: Head coach Rahul Dravid has called for patience as the Indian team goes through a rebuilding phase for the next cycle of the T20 World Cup and the youngsters in the side get some experience.

Dravid felt inexperience was one of the main reasons for India's 16-run defeat to Sri Lanka in the second T20I here. The former India captain pointed out that while the visitors had a pretty sorted playing XI, the hosts fielded a completely different side than the one which played the T20 World Cup less than two months back.

"They (youngsters in the team) are very skilful, but as they are learning, it's a tough (job). It's not easy learning in international cricket and you have to learn on the job. So, we've got to have a little bit of patience with these guys," Dravid said at the post-match press conference on Thursday.

Dravid said the team was in the rebuilding phase, given the "next cycle of the T20 (World Cup)" had started. He added that youngsters will be handled patiently and will continue to get support from the team management, hinting that it could be the end of the road for the likes of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul.

"For us, it was a slightly different scenario (in the T20I series against Sri Lanka) in the sense that from the last game we played against England in the semifinal of the World Cup, we've probably only 3-4 boys in the playing XI (now)."

"So, we are in a slightly different stage of looking at the next



Rahul Dravid speaks to players during India's training session

cycle of (the) T20 (World Cup). So, a slightly younger team."

With the focus shifting to the 50-over World Cup in India, Dravid feels it is the right time to give as many opportunities to youngsters in T20s as possible.

"The good thing is this year we have the (50-over) World Cup. Because a lot of focus will be on the 50-over World Cup, and the World Test Championship, at least the T20 games that we have, it probably gives us the opportunity to try out a lot of the younger guys."

India are fielding a new-look side comprising youngsters including Shivam Mavi, Umran Malik, Shubman Gill and Rahul Tripathi.

"Hopefully give them opportunities and just back and support them. I think we've got to be patient with a lot of these young kids. If you look at this team, there are a lot of

youngsters playing, especially our bowling attack. We all need to be patient with them and we need to be understanding that games like this can happen."

With openers Ishan Kishan and Gill and Tripathi – Dravid defended them, saying they've only played a couple of games, and asserted that no chopping and changing will take place for the Rajkot game.

"The boys we are already playing (with) are very young. The opening pair of Ishan and Shubman have only played two matches, so we are not going for (any) chopping and changing (of) people too much, unless, of course, there are some injuries," said Dravid.

The coach averred that improvement will only happen if youngsters get enough opportunities against foreign teams.



more chances as they gather valuable experience.

On the batting front, the top order, once again, failed to provide a solid start. Shubman Gill succumbed to his second successive failure in the series and would be eager to capitalise on the opportunities in hand like Rahul Tripathi, who too perished cheaply in his debut game.

It was the second instance of the top-order collapse in the series. But despite half the team returning to the dugout under 60

runs, it was heartening to see India still go for chase as Axar Patel and Suryakumar Yadav almost pulled off the impossible.

In Axar, India have found a reliable like for like replacement of Ravindra Jadeja. The team is expected to give its core more games to form lethal combinations as the team prepares for life beyond Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the shortest format of the game.

India is unlikely to make any changes for the series decider with head coach Dravid asserting "we

are not going to be chopping and changing people too much."

As expected, Sri Lanka have given a solid fight to the hosts. The reigning Asia Cup champions came back strongly to level the series. However, they would like their middle order to perform better.

Rajkot has is one of the flat-test tracks in the country and is expected to be a batting belt. The toss could thus play an important role as both captains would like to chase.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajkot, Jan 6: The young pace bowling unit will look to pick up pieces from the hammering of previous night even as the Indian top-order itches to put in a meaningful performance against Sri Lanka in the decider of the three-match T20I series here Saturday.

After eking out a narrow last-ball win in the opener, India fell short by 16-run defeat as Sri Lanka levelled the three-match series 1-1.

The inconsistency of a young attack was one of the reasons for the defeat but going forward Umran Malik and Shivam Mavi will know that it was great learning experience for them.

They erred in their lines and didn't always bowl the fuller length, making the Sri Lankan batters job easy to guide the pace of the short pitched stuff.

The Indian bowling unit bled runs with left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh, who returned to the playing XI after a spell of injuries, bowling as many as five no balls in his two overs.

He stepped over the line three times on the trot in his first over, making him the first India bowler to bowl hat-trick of no-balls in T20I.

Mavi, who made a sensational T20I debut in the opening game and Arshdeep Singh added to the no ball count as they too missed the trick with skipper Hardik Pandya, who had to rely on his spinners, lamenting that the team needs to get its basics right. But the youngsters in the team are expected

Djokovic through, to face Medvedev in Adelaide semis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adelaide, Jan 6: Novak Djokovic beat Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 6-4 at the Adelaide International Friday to set up a semifinal with Daniil Medvedev.

The combined ATP-WTA event is a warm-up for this year's Australian Open, which the top-seeded Djokovic missed last year after being barred from the country because he was not vaccinated against COVID-19.

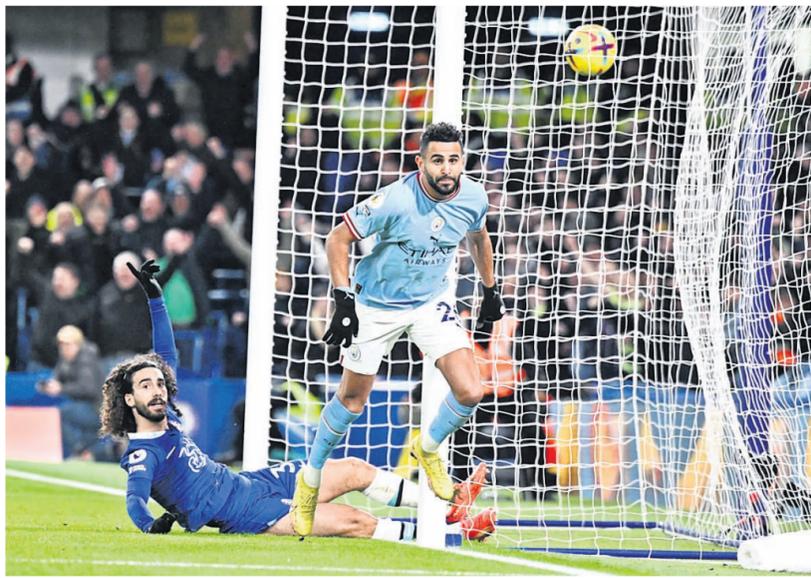
The 21-time Grand Slam winner will face third-seeded Medvedev Saturday. Medvedev defeated fellow Russian Karen Khachanov 6-3, 6-3 Friday. Medvedev is the 2021 US Open champion, but has lost twice in the finals in Australia — and in 2021 it was against Djokovic.

In other quarterfinals Friday, American Sebastian Korda defeated sixth-seeded Jannik Sinner 7-5, 6-1 and Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan beat Alexei Popyrin of Australia. Korda will face Nishioka in the semifinals.

Teenage qualifier Linda Noskova also beat two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka. The 18-year-old Czech player overcame Azarenka 6-4, 6-7(3-7), 7-6(8-6).

World No.5 Aryna Sabalenka was the first woman through to the semifinals after beating Marketa Vondrousova 6-3, 7-5.

City pip Chelsea in Premier League



Riyad Mahrez wheels away in celebration after scoring, while Chelsea's Marc Cucurella appeals for an offside, Thursday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Jan 6: Manchester City trimmed the gap to Premier League leader Arsenal to five points by beating Chelsea 1-0 after a double substitution by Pep Guardiola paid off immediately at Stamford Bridge.

Riyad Mahrez and Jack Grealish entered in the 60th minute and combined for the only goal three minutes later, with Mahrez tapping in from close range after a perfectly weighted cross by his fellow winger.

City only came to life in the sec-

ond half after a curiously passive display before halftime, perhaps brought on by a confusing team selection by Guardiola that saw a number of players deployed in unusual roles.

Known for his overthinking at times, Guardiola accepted after

the game he got it wrong. That's why he took off two full backs — Joao Cancelo and Kyle Walker — at half-time and restored Rodri to center midfield, with the Spaniard having also been in a hybrid role covering central defense, too.

Suddenly, City was all over Chelsea and creating chances, even if top scorer Erling Haaland was largely kept quiet and Kevin De Bruyne shone only fleetingly.

The goal came after Guardiola's second double change, though it might have been kept out had Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga stretched out to block Grealish's low cross from the left rather than pull away his arm.

City pulled four points clear of third-place Newcastle and closed in on Arsenal, which drew 0-0 at home to Newcastle Tuesday. Chelsea stayed in 10th place, 19 points off the leaders. Graham Potter's team is as close to the relegation zone as the top four.

Chelsea lost forwards Raheem Sterling, who joined from City in the offseason, and Christian Pulisic to injuries in the first half. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang came on for Sterling in the fifth minute and was substituted in the 68th.

Another of the substitutes, Carney Chukwuemeka, struck a shot against the post at the end of the first half. The teams will meet again in the FA Cup Sunday, with City hosting on that occasion.

Coach Heuvel bets on experienced players for Belgium's title defence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, January 6: Defending champions Belgium will bank on seasoned midfielders like John-John Dohmen to provide them with the winning momentum in their bid to retain the FIH Hockey World Cup in Odisha, starting January 13.

Head coach Michel van den Heuvel said players like Dohmen, with more than 400 international caps, will give the Olympic champions a huge advantage in their campaign. The defending champions are clubbed with Germany, Japan and Korea in Pool B. They will take on Korea here January 14.

"Well, all of them are very experienced and they know the game. They (players like Dohmen) have played here before and won the trophy. So, even though, we are under difficult circumstances this time, their presence will help the team. It's so great to have them in our squad," said Heuvel.

If the Red Lions, led by Felix Denayer, are able to defend the title here they will become only the fourth nation after Pakistan (1978, 1982), Germany (2002, 2006), and Australia (2010, 2014) to win two con-



secutive editions of the men's hockey World Cup.

"We are really well prepared. We had been to a training camp in Spain where we won all our games. So, there is a lot of confidence in our camp that we will do well in the tournament," said Denayer Friday.

"But obviously, we know it's always a really tough competition, so we are really, really excited to get started," he added.

Recalling the thrilling final between his team and the Dutch during the 2018 World Cup, the captain said the same intense drama could be witnessed this time around as well. The 2018 final, decided by shootout, had witnessed a lot drama after Arthur de Sloover's winning shot in the shootout was denied after a review, and the Belgium team had to stop their celebrations midway.

EXPLORING CAPITAL CITY



The Netherlands' men's hockey team player Derck de Vilder takes a selfie with his teammate Teun Beins at Bindusagar lake near Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar, Friday. The Dutch team arrived at the capital city Wednesday for the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup, which will be played January 13-29 in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. The Three-time World Champions are placed in Pool C along with Malaysia, New Zealand, and Chile. The Netherlands will play their first match against Malaysia at Birsa Munda Stadium in Rourkela January 14.

PICTURE: BIKASH NAYAK

Shantanu hits double century

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Jan 6: Shantanu Mishra (200 n o, 405b, 21x4) struck his highest score in first-class career as Odisha secured three points on the basis of their first innings lead over Nagaland in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match at the DRIEMS Ground in Tangi, Friday.

Shantanu was ably supported by No.8 batter Prayash Singh (104, 141b, 15x4, 1x6) as the duo guided the hosts past 500 before declaring their innings on 535/8. Thanks to the duo, Odisha got a 102-run lead which allowed them to bag three points, compared to Nagaland's one after the match ended in a draw.

It was a day to remember for both Shantanu and Prayash as one scored his maiden double century, while the other struck his first century in first-class cricket. The pair stitched together 158 runs for the seventh wicket.

Resuming the play at the overnight total of 392/6, Shantanu and Prayash continued to frustrate Nagaland bowlers guiding Odisha past Nagaland's first innings total of 433. Rongsen Jonathan (3/133) broke the partnership trapping Prayash in front as Odisha were reduced to 490/7.

New batter Suryakant Pradhan got out cheaply — just after Odisha reaching 500. With only two wick-



ets in hand, Shantanu took the onus on himself keeping as much strike as possible. Once he reached his maiden double century, Odisha skipper Subhanshu Senapati declared their essay.

With a possible result — a win or loss — was out of context, Nagaland played calmly to reach 120/1 before both the captains decided to shake hands and put an end to the match. Nagaland openers Yugandhar Singh

(53 n o, 97b, 7x4, 2x6) and Joshua Ozukum (56, 86b, 8x4) scored half centuries, putting together a 110-run opening stand. Jayanta Behera (1/34) got the wicket of Ozukum. **BRIEF SCORES:** Nagaland 433 & 120/1 (Yugandhar Singh 53, Joshua Ozukum 56; Jayanta Behera 1/34); Odisha 535/8d (Shantanu Mishra 200 n o, Prayash Singh 104; Rongsen Jonathan 3/133). Match drawn. **Odisha 3 points; Nagaland 1 point.**