



**TICKLING FUNNY BONES**  
Actor Vidya Balan's reel enacting the dialogues from 'Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain' leaves netizens in splits  
**LEISURE P10**



**US FLIGHT SERVICES HIT**  
US flights resume operations after a massive system outage grounds aircraft across the country for several hours  
**INTERNATIONAL P9**



**INDIA EYE SERIES**  
India look for an unassailable 2-0 lead in the 3-match ODI series when they face Sri Lanka in the 2nd ODI today  
**SPORTS P12**

**SHORT TAKES**

**Dhableswar temple reopens for public**

**Cuttack:** The famous Dhableswar Temple at Athagarh in Cuttack district reopened for devotees Wednesday ahead of schedule. The temple had been closed November 1 last year to carry out repair of the hanging bridge over the Mahanadi river through which devotees could reach the temple. A temporary bridge has been constructed over the Mahanadi for devotees and tourists to facilitate their passage to the temple. The administration had planned to open the temple on Makar Sankranti. However, with the construction of the temporary bridge, it was decided to throw open the door for the devotees before the auspicious day. The hanging bridge had earlier been closed in the aftermath of the Morbi disaster in Gujarat.

**2 newborn lion cubs die in Nandankanan**

**Bhubaneswar:** There was jubilation at the Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here Tuesday after lioness 'Rewa' gave birth to four cubs Tuesday. However, the joy turned into grief as two of the cubs died Wednesday. The remaining cubs have been now kept inside incubation chambers and their health is being constantly monitored. Officials said that since Rewa had become feeble after giving birth she was unable to attend to her cubs. As a result, the newborns had been shifted to a veterinary shelter. "The condition of Rewa is being constantly monitored also," Nandankanan deputy director Sanjit Kumar said Wednesday.

**3 soldiers dead in J&K accident**

**Srinagar:** Three soldiers, including a JCO, died after they slipped into a deep gorge during patrolling along the LoC in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Army said Wednesday. The accident took place when they were patrolling in the Macchil sector, Tuesday. "During a regular operation task in forward area, a party of 01 JCO & 02 OR slipped into a deep gorge, when snow on the track gave way. Mortal remains of all the three bravehearts have been retrieved," the Srinagar-based Chinara Corps tweeted Wednesday.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



Ask him to only applaud the Golden Globe winner and not to sing the song. Else, we can't ensure his safety

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	60105.50	↓ 9.98
NIFTY	17895.70	↓ 18.45
DOLLAR	82.26	↑ ₹0.20
EURO	87.80	↑ ₹0.35
GOLD	₹55,800	↑ ₹88
SILVER	₹68,783	↑ ₹420

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	29.2°C	28.8°C
TEMP MIN	13.4°C	13.5°C
Humidity	82%	77%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Shallow to moderate fog likely



Actors Disha Patani (left) and Ranveer Singh set the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack alight with their groovy moves during the opening ceremony of the Hockey World Cup, Wednesday



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Hockey World Cup at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack, Wednesday

## Glam, glitz mark WC opening ceremony

STARS ENTHRALL HUGE CROWD AT BARABATI STADIUM AS CM NAVEEN PATNAIK INAUGURATES THE HOCKEY EXTRAVAGANZA

**Cuttack, Jan 11:** In a breathtaking and scintillating extravaganza, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated Wednesday the FIH Hockey World Cup at the Barabati Stadium here in presence of Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, Odisha Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera and other senior ministers of the state were present on the occasion. FIH president Tayyab Ikram and officials of Hockey India also graced the inaugural ceremony attended by close to 50,000 people.

Patnaik led the inaugural address of this global sporting hockey carnival which is being held for the second successive time in the state. In his brief speech, the Chief Minister expressed his immense delight as the Men's Hockey World Cup has returned to Odisha. Stating that the state is known for its hospitality, Patnaik said, "I am sure all the visitors will take a little part of Odisha with them to home."

Thakur said it is a great moment for India to host the World Cup for the second time in succession. He thanked Patnaik and the Odisha government for organising such a beautiful inaugural event. "This shows how India and Odisha love hockey," Thakur said.

Ikram lauded the Odisha government for its support to hockey. He also added that Odisha possesses two of the best hockey stadiums in the world at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. Meanwhile, in a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his best wishes to all participating hockey teams for the tournament. "As the 2023 Hockey World Cup commences in Odisha, my best wishes to all the participating teams. May this tournament further strengthen the spirit of sports-

manship and may it further popularise the beautiful game of hockey. India is proud to be hosting this tournament," tweeted the Prime Minister. The real action gets underway Friday at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and Birsra Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela. The final will be played January 29 at the Kalinga Stadium. While 20 games will be played in Rourkela, 24 will take place in Bhubaneswar. During the inaugural programme, as a tribute to the late Biju Patnaik, an 'Augmented Reality Experience' was performed which told the story of his life and the incredible things he has done as the modern architect of Odisha.

## 3 more held in Puri girl murder case

**Puri, Jan 11:** Police in Puri have 'red flagged' the case in which minor girl Monali Moharana was allegedly murdered and cremated in a hurried manner Monday in Gop block of Puri district. Police also arrested Wednesday three others for their alleged involvement in the murder. Police had Tuesday detained and arrested Durga Charan. The three others who have been held are Susanta Maharana (24), Nakula Maharana (65) and Siba Maharana (35) who belong to Bijepur village, the same place where Monali's family resides. In the complaint filed with Gop police, Monali's elder sister Ranjita had said that her dad, his second

wife and brother-in-law were behind the murder. However, Durgacharan's second wife Mamata Ojha and her brother Jeevan Ojha are still absconding. The case has been red flagged so that investigation moves speedily. Puri SP has directed Manobrata Satapathy, DSP, IUCAW to take up investigation of the case. It should be stated here that a forensic team visited the spot Wednesday where Monali was cremated and collected

ashes, burnt bones and wood residues and have sent the items for DNA analysis. On the basis of the complaint lodged by Ranjita, Gop police have registered a case under Sections 302, 201 and 34 of the IPC against Durga Charan and his associates. Monali, a 17-year-old girl, was allegedly killed by her father and step-mother January 9 night. Then her body was disposed of with the help of the three others arrested and burnt to eliminate evidence. According to reports, Durga Charan had in 2020 married Mamata after his first wife died in 2018. Monali was allegedly tortured regularly by her father, step-mother and the woman's brother Jeevan.

## RODENTS POSE NEW THREAT TO SRIMANDIR

**Puri, Jan 11:** The 12th-century Lord Jagannath temple here is facing a problem of a different kind. Rodents and cockroaches are reportedly threatening the structures holding idols of the deities in the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine. The increasing number of rats and cockroaches has become a headache for servitors. Singhari sevaks who dress up the deities with clothes and flowers said that the rodents and insects are creating huge problems. They informed that unless the problem is addressed by the administration, it will affect their duties. They added drastic measures are required to stop the rodent menace.

## Docs to cease work in state from Feb 1

GOVERNMENT'S APATHY IN IMPLEMENTING 'DACP' MAIN REASON FOR CALLING STRIKE



**Bhubaneswar, Jan 11:** Doctors in Odisha have threatened to cease work from February 1 as a mark of protest against the state government's failure to implement dynamic assured career progression (DACP) for them. The doctors belonging to the Odisha Medical Services Association (OMSA), a body of government doctors, said that they would not participate in executing national programmes till their demands are met from February 1. "We have had several discussions with on this issue with the state government. However, till now steps have not been taken to address our grievances. It seems that the government is not interested in fulfilling our demands. It has forced us to take such a decision," said a doctor Wednesday. "We know that this decision will cause immense problems to the people. We had decided to go on strike January onwards, but postponed it keeping in mind the prestige of the state during the ongoing hockey World Cup," he added. Addressing mediapersons here, the doctors said that a "financially backward" state like Bihar has implemented DACP, but it has not been done in Odisha. The Odisha government has given only 10 grade pay in the last 20 years which is disappointing, the doctors alleged. The doctors said that the Odisha government is proactive when it comes to construction of medical colleges. But that is not the case with the demands made by doctors. The government is yet to take a proper decision regarding the contractual appointment of doctors, they said. "It has left us with no choice, but to go for complete cease work. We are just hoping that the government will notice our plight and do something fruitful," the doctors said.

## Golden Globe for 'RRR' song 'Naatu Naatu'

**SINCE THE RELEASE OF THE SONG IN MARCH LAST YEAR, IT HAS BECOME A CRAZE AMONG THE FANS WHO HAVE BEEN BOWLED OVER BY THE RHYTHM**



**Los Angeles, Jan 11:** 'Naatu Naatu', the irrepressible, fun number from the blockbuster *RRR*, danced its way to a Golden Globe as the 'best original song motion picture' – and to Indian showbiz history – at a star spangled awards ceremony here Tuesday night. The song, which beat the likes of those sung by Taylor Swift, Rihanna and Lady Gaga, to win the coveted award is the first time that an Indian production has won a Golden Globe which is organised by the Hollywood

**I thank my brother and the director of RRR, SS Rajamouli for his vision and his constant trust in my work**  
MM KEERAVAANI  
Foreign Press Association. *RRR* had also been nominated in the 'Best Picture-non English' category, but lost out to Argentina's historical drama *Argentina, 1985*. But there was compensation aplenty. "And the Globe goes to 'Naatu Naatu' *RRR*," actor Jenna Ortega announced on stage to loud cheers from the team of the film. The track has been composed by veteran music director MM Keeravaani and voiced by singers Kala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj. Keeravaani thanked director SS Rajamouli for his 'vision' as he accepted the award.

"It has been an age-old practice to say that this award actually belongs to someone else. So I was planning to not say those words when I get an award like this, but I'm sorry to say that I'm going to repeat the tradition because I mean my words," Keeravaani stated. "This award belongs to, in order of priority, my brother and the director of the movie, SS Rajamouli for his vision. I thank him for this constant trust in my work and support," Keeravaani added. What is 'Naatu Naatu' was the question many asked about the song that celebrates the inclusive spirit of dance and bonhomie and had them matching steps to its catchy rhythm ever since its release in March last year. 'Naatu Naatu', filmed on actors Ram Charan and Jr NTR, roughly translates to dance like no one's watching, in Telugu. **Continued on P4**



# Starstruck Barabati



Pritam (in the middle) led a group of celebrity singers



Rituraj



Neeti Mohan



Nakash Aziz



Amit Mishra



A show by Sabyasachi-Archita



Disha Patani in action



Benny Dayal



Sreerama Chandra



Antara Mitra



K-Pop girl band Blackswan



Lisa Mishra



Shalmali Kholgade





# Soaked in hockey ecstasy

Hockey fever gripped not only Odisha but the entire country as the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup went off to a colourful start in a star-studded evening at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Wednesday. The power-packed performances by artistes from movie industries and singers enthralled thousands of audience present at the stadium. Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, FIH President Tayyab Ikram, Hockey India Chairman Dilip Tirkey and Odisha Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera were among the dignitaries present at the glittering ceremony to welcome members of all the 16 participating teams. **Orissa POST** captures the myriad moments of the gala event...



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik waves at the audience during the inauguration of FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Wednesday



Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and FIH President Tayyab Ikram at the mega event



Hockey India Chairman Dilip Tirkey with Ollie



Artistes of Prince Dance Group from Berhampur perform during the inaugural evening



Fireworks at the opening ceremony



A hockey fan at Barabati Stadium



Stadium packed with thousands of hockey lovers



Folk singer Namita Meleka

## CENTRE DOING ITS BEST TO PROMOTE SPORTS: THAKUR

**THE UNION SPORTS MINISTER RECALLS HOW INDIAN HOCKEY TEAMS HAVE WON GOLD MEDALS IN OLYMPICS THREE TIMES EACH UNDER HOCKEY LEGEND MAJOR DHYAN CHAND BEFORE INDEPENDENCE**

self is a great sports lover, the Government of India extended all support to the Indian hockey team even during the difficult time of Covid-19 pandemic, as a result of which India won the prestigious bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics-2022.

PNN & AGENCIES

**New Delhi/Cuttack, Jan 11:** Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting (I&B) and Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Singh Thakur Wednesday said that the Centre has been doing its best to promote sports and games in the coun-

try and in the true spirit of cooperative federalism, the states are also doing a great job in this regard.

Gracing the grand opening ceremony of FIH Hockey Men's World Cup-2023 at the historic Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Thakur said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who him-

self is a great sports lover, the Government of India extended all support to the Indian hockey team even during the difficult time of Covid-19 pandemic, as a result of which India won the prestigious bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics-2022. Stating that India has been a seat of hockey since long, Thakur recalled how Indian hockey teams have won gold medals in Olympics three times each under hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand before independence and under another hockey legend Balbir Singh Sr. after independence.

Appreciating the grand opening ceremony, Thakur said that it



Odisha Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Union I&B and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, CM Naveen Patnaik, FIH President Tayyab Ikram and Hockey India Chairman Dilip Tirkey at the inaugural occasion in Cuttack, Wednesday

is one of the grandest of all such ceremonies. On the occasion, he thanked the FIH President Tayyab Ikram for having awarded the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup to India for two consecutive times. He also thanked the Odisha Chief Minister for having given to the country a magnificent hockey stadium.

Welcoming the guests, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Centre for extending all sorts of cooperation in organising the world cup.

Apart from FIH President, Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey, Odisha Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera and a host of

national and international players and delegates were present on the occasion.

Earlier in the day, Thakur visited Doordarshan Kendra and National Academy for Broadcasting & Multimedia (NABM) in Bhubaneswar and took review meetings. He emphasised content improvement and increase in viewership of Doordarshan. He said that only this can improve the market share of Doordarshan.

He also planted one sapling each in the campus of both Doordarshan and National Academy for Broadcasting & Multimedia. Later in the evening, Thakur visited All India Radio in Cuttack.

# Nod to ₹1k-cr under CAMPA

Chief Secretary asks officials concerned to prepare a comprehensive plan to avoid human-animal conflict

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 11:** The state government Wednesday approved the Annual Plan of Operations (APO) under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA) for the year 2023-24 with financial outlay of Rs.1, 085.94 crore.

The state level steering committee of CAMPA led by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra has approved the outlay for Annual Plan of Operation for the financial year 2023-24.

After detailed discussion, the committee went through all the activities proposed in the APO with financial outlay of Rs.1, 085.94 crore and approved the same for submission to Centre for their consideration.

The APO mainly focuses on taking up of plantations and other activities like maintenance of old plantations, forest protection, fire protection, simultaneous silvicultural operations for bamboo forests, soil and moisture conservation activities in forest lands,



wildlife management, relocation of villages from protected areas, forest infrastructure development, training and research and raising of 18 month old seedling.

DGPS survey of all forest areas in the state is one of the major activities among these.

During the discussion, the Chief Secretary said that wildlife management activities extensively being carried out through CAMPA funds are to be closely monitored. The afforestation programmes

are also to be monitored using CAMPA tracker and through satellite in every six months and to be verified in the field though frequent inspection by senior officers, he said.

Mahapatra further stressed on relocation of villages from Tiger Reserve Sanctuary. VHF networking needs to be improved in all divisions ensuring all day monitoring. Engagement of forest labour under MGNREGS for 100 days work for which a definite pool will be

created at the Gram Panchayat levels, he added.

The Chief Secretary also instructed the concerned officials to prepare a comprehensive plan to curb human-animal conflict. He further stressed that the Chandaka Wildlife Division needs to identify all the revenue forest patches in order to develop the elephant corridor.

Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Mona Sharma suggested that a plan made at district-level for combating forest fire will be discussed with the concerned collectors for effective control of forest fire and it should be uploaded in public domain.

She also suggested preparing a five-year action plan for improvement of forest roads identifying all the revenue forest patches.

A joint meeting with concerned departments will be conducted to prepare the five-year plan to upgrade forest road to Grade-1 metalling and the material intensive components such as culverts and causeway will be taken up under CAMPA funding.

# ED ATTACHES LUXURIOUS HOUSE OF ARCHANA NAG

The central agency had registered an enforcement case information report (ECIR) for taking up investigation under the provisions of PMLA against the accused in sextortion racket case

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 11:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached a luxurious house worth Rs 3.64 crore belonging to Archana Nag, the prime accused in the ongoing money laundering probe into the high-profile sextortion racket case in Odisha.

Earlier, the ED had seized two high-end vehicles worth Rs 56.5 lakh, as per the provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The central agency had registered an enforcement case information report (ECIR) for taking



up investigation under the provisions of PMLA against Archana Nag, her husband Jagabandhu Chand, associates Shradhanjali Behera and Khageswar Patra on the basis of two separate FIRs filed by Bhubaneswar police, the ED said in a statement Wednesday.

As per the FIRs, Archana, her husband Jagabandhu, with the assistance of Shradhanjali Behera and Khageswar Patra, generated prop-

erties worth crores of rupees through extortion by way of 'honey-trapping' high profile and rich people and then secretly making their videos. They then blackmailed the victims by threatening to make the videos viral.

The case came to limelight when a complaint was filed against renowned Odia film producer Parija, accusing him of sexually exploiting a woman. Following this complaint, some purportedly obscene pictures of Parija with the woman went viral on social media.

Later, Parija too lodged another complaint alleging that Archana and Shradhanjali made extortion demand of Rs 3 crore from him.

More than 20 leaders from the ruling BJD and opposition BJP, besides prominent businessmen, film producers and real-estate tycoons, were reportedly honey-trapped by Archana, who had allegedly hired high-profile call girls to please the wealthy men.

Archana, her husband Jagabandhu and their business partner Khageswar Patra have been arrested in this case.

## Plea to Centre for new Sun Temple at Konark

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Jan 11:** An outfit Wednesday submitted a memorandum to Union Minister of Tourism and Culture G Kishan Reddy to allot 6 acre land to it for construction of a new Sun Temple at Konark.

President of the outfit 'Nutan Konark Sun Temple Nirmanshala' Mukesh Jain met Union Minister of Tourism and Culture G Kishan Reddy at Transport Bhawan and informed him that stones weighing over 600 tonne have been carved for the construction of the new Sun Temple at Konark.

The organisation presented the chariot wheel of Konark Sun Temple to the minister and submitted a memorandum requesting him to allot six acre land at Konark to build the temple with two chariots and seven horses for worship.

## Continued from P1 Golden Globe for RRR song...

Choreographed by Prem Rakshith, it has legions of followers still trying to master its steps. The song, which became a sensation across social media as users took to their own version in viral Instagram and Tik-tok videos, has been shortlisted for the best original song, along with 14 others, in the Oscars.

Rajamouli said he was 'speechless'. "Music truly knows no boundaries," the director tweeted with a behind-the-scenes video of the team celebrating the win during the ceremony.

In his tweet, Rajamouli addressed Keeravani as 'Pedanna' (big brother). "Congratulations & thank

you PEDANNA for giving me #Naatu Naatu. This one is special. I thank each & every fan across the globe for shaking their leg & making it popular ever since the release. #GoldenGlobes," the director said in another tweet.

As Indian movie fans woke up Wednesday to the news, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was one of the first to congratulate the RRR team saying that it was indeed a special accomplishment.

"Sir just woke up and started dancing to Naatu Naatu celebrating your win at Golden Globes. Here's to many more awards & making India so proud!!" Shah Rukh Khan said on Twitter.

## Glam, glitz mark WC opening...

Odia singers Sniti Mishra, Rituraj Mohanty, Lisa Mishra and a host of other performers, including actor-couple Sabyasachi Mishra and Archita Sahu enthralled the audience.

Hundreds of singers from the Hindi film industry and local artists sang the World Cup theme song which has been composed by eminent music director Pritam, who also performed on the stage along with some other singers.

'BLACKSWAN', a global girl

music group also had the audience on the edge of their seats with some superlative songs. Others who took part in the show included singers like Benny Dayal and Neeti Mohan.

As the fireworks of this inaugural event of this sporting extravaganza lit up the night sky in Cuttack, it put a sparkle in the eyes of every member of the audience. The incredible show was a dazzling sight to see, and will be a sight to remember.

## 'Will ensure smooth power supply to Kalinga Stadium'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 11:** TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited, a joint venture between India's largest integrated power company Tata Power and the state government, is working to ensure uninterrupted power supply by building the required power network to Kalinga Stadium in the Capital city during the Hockey World Cup matches.

"It is a moment of glory for Odisha. At TPCODL, we are prepared to provide reliable and uninterrupted power supply during the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 and make the state proud. Proactively we have taken all possible measures to ensure smooth power supply during the event," said M Shenbagam, CEO, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited.

TPCODL had begun preparations for this event much earlier in a planned manner to feed power to the stadium from multiple sources with one dedicated source and two alternatives including one dedicated underground cable source laid down in a short span of time. The Discom has completed maintenance work of all these feeders proactively and ensured that adequate stock of essential spare parts, tools and equipment to minimize the restoration time, if any required.

## .FEST to showcase 120 home-grown products

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 11:** Creating a festival of festivals in Bhubaneswar during the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, the second edition of .FEST is scheduled from January 15 to 29. As part of the cultural extravaganza, the Night Bazaar/Flea Market will brighten up Bhubaneswar's winter nights and provide a remarkable stage for regional artists, startups, performers, makers and creators.

The Flea Market will witness more than 120 home-grown products. .FEST will also host musical evenings of a large scale along with a few stalls as part of Night Flea Market. Utkalika will also manage stalls with an aim to promote the handloom and handicrafts of Odisha.

There is an entrepreneur in every nook and corner of the state that needs a platform to showcase the products. .FEST is giving such entrepreneurs a platform to interact with a wide array of shoppers and sell their creations. The representation of the entrepreneurs at .FEST will be from Odisha where the visitors can shop from an array of products like jewellery,



home décor and apparel. As one of the most sought-after festivals, they want to strengthen the dynamic culture of the state by giving the local brands and artisans a platform to showcase their work. The festival will be organised at Ekamra Haat from 5pm to 12am.

.FEST brings an experience like never-before for the people of Odisha with activities to create a cherishable experience. Be it food, entertainment, stories or trails, .FEST entails a host of surprises from enthralling performances by the best of musicians, singers, stand-up artists, dancers and trails to the thousand-year old temples & caves to slurping the street foods of more than 16 countries and witnessing amazing stories, folklore by globally acclaimed storytellers.

## ODISHA TOURISM CONCLAVE FEB 23

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 11:** The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) is all set to organise the fifth edition of Odisha Tourism Conclave at hotel Swosti Premium here, February 23, an official said Wednesday.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has been urged to inaugurate the mega event in presence of Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy, Union Skill Development and



Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, state Tourism Minister Aswini Patra and Industries Minister Pratap Deb, the HRAO official said.

Experts from the field of hospitality and tourism sector, travel agents, tour operators, international airlines and civil aviation authorities have been invited to contribute their valuable suggestions so as to take Odisha Tourism to the next level.

JK Mohanty, MHCIMA and chairman of HRAO as well as IATO Eastern Region, thanked state's Tourism department for supporting the Odisha Tourism Conclave in the past four editions and accepting the suggestions of the stakeholders as well as tourism experts.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Sri Anil Kumar Agrawal, S/o. Premchand Agrawal, Durgamandap Road, Vill./P.O./P.S.- Kesinga Ward No.12, Dist. Kalahandi declare that in my HSC and Passport Certificate my father name wrongly endorsed as Premchand Agrawal instead of Premchand Agrawal. Hence, I will be treated as Anil Kumar Agrawal, S/o Premchand Agrawal for all purpose.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Jharsuguda, I Smt. Sudesna Behera, R/o. At- Opposite Mini Stadium, OSAP Line, Jharsuguda declare that the names Sudesna Behera, Sudeshna Kumari Parida and Sudesna Behera relates to one and same person.

## LOST

I, Keshab Majhi, S/o. Patra Majhi, Vill.- Patrabasa, P.S.- Jaipatna, P.S.- Kalahandi do hereby declare that, I have lost Bag which had a Regd. Land document vide No. 462/2008, dtd. 15.02.2008 while I was coming to on the way of Junagarh on dt. 08.01.2023 and couldn't trace out the same.

## TWO NEW SPECIAL TRAINS FOR HOCKEY WC TOURNAMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 11:** Keeping in view the demands and additional rush of passengers during FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 scheduled to begin January 13 in the state, East Coast Railway (ECoR) decided to run special train serv-

ices for the convenience of passengers, especially Hockey lovers.

02834 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela Special will leave from Bhubaneswar at 2025hrs (8:25pm) every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday from January 14-30.

In the return direction, 02833 Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Special will



leave from Rourkela at 2325hrs (11:25pm) every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Sunday from January 15-31. This train will have one AC-2

Tier, three AC-3 Tier, eight sleeper class, four second class seating and Two Guard cum Luggage Vans in its composition having stoppages at Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Talcher Road, Angul, Rairakhol, Sambalpur City, Jharsuguda and Rajagangpur between Bhubaneswar-Rourkela from both the directions.

02836/02835 Puri-Rourkela-Puri Hockey Special will run daily from January 14-31. This train will leave Puri at 0515hrs (05:15am) and will reach at Rourkela at 1245hrs (12:45pm). In the return direction, this train from Rourkela will leave at 1330hrs (01:30pm) and will reach at Puri at 2230hrs (10:30pm).

## Optimistic teens may lead to better health in adulthood

Teenagers with the feeling of optimism, happiness, self-esteem, belongingness and love, were more likely to reach their 20s and 30s in good cardiometabolic health compared to teens with fewer of these positive psychological assets, a new study has shown.

According to the study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, fostering positive psychological assets in teenagers may help prevent cardiometabolic disease in adulthood and may also play a role in addressing health inequities.

The study mentioned that the way teens - especially Black youth - feel about their lives may impact their cardiometabolic health risk as adults.

"We learned a lot in the last few decades about the impact of dis-

crimination and other social risks youth of colour face that may explain their elevated rates of cardiometabolic disease, however, much less attention is paid to the inherent strengths they possess and the ways those strengths may be leveraged to advance health equity," said lead study author Farah Qureshi, ScD, MHS, an assistant professor at the US-based Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Researchers identified five mental health assets associated with better cardiometabolic health outcomes based on survey responses when participants were teenagers: optimism, happiness, self-esteem, belonging, and feeling loved.

The study found that about 55 per cent of youth had zero to one positive mental health asset, while 29 per cent had two to three assets and

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The study found that about 55 per cent of youth had zero to one positive mental health asset, while 29 per cent had two to three assets and

16 per cent had four to five assets. As young adults, only 12 per cent of participants maintained cardiometabolic health over time, and



white youth were more likely to maintain good health later in life compared to Black or Latino youth. Teens with four to five positive

mental health assets were 69 per cent more likely to maintain positive cardiometabolic health as young adults.

While psychological assets were beneficial to all racial and ethnic groups, Black youth experienced the greatest health benefits, according to the study.

Black teens also reported having more positive mental health assets than the youth of any other racial or ethnic group.

Despite having the most assets and reaping the most health benefits from them, there were still racial disparities in cardiometabolic health in adulthood. Black individuals were the least likely to maintain good cardiometabolic health over time, said the study.

"This work suggests that early investments in youth mental health may be a critical new frontier in the advancement of cardiometabolic health equity," Qureshi said.

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## Mohan Bhagwat to visit Rourkela on January 14

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, Jan 11: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will arrive here Saturday for a three-day visit. During his visit, the RSS chief will meet members of the Saraswati Vidya Mandir, an institute run by the organisation. A senior functionary of the organisation Sanatana Pradhan said, "RSS is going to celebrate its 100 years in 2025. The aim is to take the RSS to every nook and corner of the city. Keeping this in mind, he is coming on a visit here to encourage and train our cadres."

## Kidnapped minor girl rescued; accused held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Jan 11: Mobile phone tracking of an accused helped police rescue a minor girl who had been kidnapped from Digapahandi area in Ganjam district to Dhenkanal, police said Wednesday. The kidnapped minor was rescued and the accused identified as Navan Khan, a peddler and a native of Bargarh village under Nuagaon police limits in Nayagarh district arrested, police said. A case was registered in this connection. The accused and the survivor were taken for a medical examination. Later, the accused was produced in a POCSO court in Berhampur from where he was remanded to judicial custody at Berhampur Circle Jail after his bail plea was rejected, police said. Khan, a gas stove mechanic by profession, used to move around in Digapahandi area and repair gas stoves. He came in contact with the girl during his stay at a rented house in her village. He lured the girl and kidnapped her January 2. The matter came up before police after the girl's mother lodged a complaint in this regard at Digapahandi police station, IIC Deepthiranjana Behera said. Police registered a case and began tracking the mobile phone of the accused which indicated his presence in Dhenkanal. A team of Digapahandi police reached Dhenkanal and rescued the girl from a house and arrested the accused.



**HOCKEY FEVER:** Girls make rangolis on the road at Kacheri Square in Sambalpur marking the inauguration of FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, Wednesday

## 32 held for fishing in prohibited sea zone



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Jan 11: Forest personnel arrested 32 fishermen for trespassing into the prohibited Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, which is out-of-bounds for fishermen with the annual fishing ban in force, an official said Wednesday. Fishing along the entire Odisha coast is banned from November to May every year in view of the Olive Ridley turtle nesting at Gahirmatha. Two fishing vessels with over 10 quintals of fish, fishing nets and GPS devices were seized by the patrolling unit, an official said. The arrested fishermen are residents of villages in Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore and Jagatsinghpur districts, he said. They were arrested under

Fishing along the entire Odisha coast is banned from November to May every year in view of the Olive Ridley turtle nesting

sections of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1982. Prohibition on sea fishing remains enforced in the marine sanctuary area throughout the year, and along the Odisha coast from November to May every year in view of the annual mass nesting of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles at Gahirmatha.

### RURAL FOREST AT RISK FROM INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

# Forest dept to write to SPCB

Black smoke and fly-ash discharged by a steel plant have threatened the forest's flora and are gradually denuding the area of its green cover

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 11: A newly raised rural forest near Potapali village under Town forest range in Sambalpur forest division is slowly inching towards total destruction due to rampant discharge of fly-ash and smoke by a steel firm in the vicinity. The Forest department has created the rural jungle in a year through plantation of over 10,000 saplings in Japanese Miyawaki method on one hectare of land on Landa hill. The plantation work



had been started from August 2021. The forest is home to over 70 types of trees and has been raised in organic method. The soil of the area underwent a test before the start of plantation and organic medicines were also sprayed to prevent pest attacks. This is the second successful forest raised by the Forest department. Debadutta Biswal, the principal chief conservator of forest (PCCF) visited the site and expressed his dis-

pleasure over the degrading condition of the trees. He directed the DFO Biswanath Nilambaran to take steps in this regard. The locals have also been opposing the works of the steel plant. They reiterated that there is no problem in operating the plant but the firm should not overlook protection of the local environment and pollution norms. The land, which was earlier lying

barren, has turned into a lush green forest within a year. However, the steel plant in close proximity has posed serious threat to the forest. The black smoke and fly-ash discharged by the plant have threatened the forest's flora and are gradually denuding the area of its green cover, Forest department officials said. The claim has been found to be true as ash discharged from the plant is enveloping the branches and leaves of the trees. It is apprehended that the ash settling on the trees might also result in spread of disease and pest attack, potentially putting the forest at risk of total destruction. On the other hand, ACF Tejaraj Nayak said that the trees get enveloped in thick layer of ash from the steel plant for which a letter will be written to the state pollution control board (SPCB) asking for its intervention in the matter.

GOVT. OF ODISHA No.MM-407:  
**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER**  
**ANGUL DIVISION, ANGUL**  
**e-Procurement Notice, Angul Forest Division**  
**Bid Identification No. 15 of 2022-23**  
**e-mail ID- dfoangul@gmail.com**

- Number of Works : 12 Site of SMC works
- Approximate estimated cost : Varies from Rs.350 lakh
- Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : Dt.12.01.2023 at 10.00 A.M. to 24.01.2023
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : Dt.26.01.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date of opening Bid : Dt.27.01.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Office Inviting Bid : Divisional Forest Officer Angul Division, Angul
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

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

**Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer**  
**Angul Division, Angul**  
**OIPR-08027/11/0014/2223**



**DEFENDING SELF:** Girls learn martial arts at a self-defence training camp held at Gengutia Higher Secondary Science and Technology College under Sadar block in Dhenkanal district, Wednesday

## Youth arrested for molesting minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Jan 11: Baidyanathpur police Tuesday arrested a youth on charges of molesting a 16-year-old girl. The accused has been identified as Ashok Pandi, 24, of Rammagar in Lanjipalli area of the city. A case was registered in this connection and the accused was produced in court Tuesday. However, Pandi's bail plea was rejected and he was sent to judicial custody. The victim also recorded her statement in the court. Police said the girl is a resident of an area under Baidyanathpur police limits. The accused used to harass the girl by waylaying her on a number of occasions when she used to go to her school and to attend tuitions. He had also passed lewd comments and even molested her. Fed up with the harassment, the girl narrated her ordeal to her family members. Initially the girl's family warned Pandi and asked him to desist from such acts. However, Pandi, paying no heed to the warning molested her again when she was going for tuition Monday. The girl came back home and informed her mother who then registered a complaint at the Baidyanathpur police station.

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## Tension in hosp after newborn's death due to medical negligence

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Jan 11: Tension ran high at a private hospital at Chidia bridge in this town Wednesday following the death of a newborn girl allegedly due to negligence of doctors and nurses at the hospital. The concerned family members blamed medical negligence and staged a sit-in in front of the nursing home over the child's death. They relented after Town police reached the spot and managed to placate the grieving kin urging them to withdraw from their protest. According to sources, Manoranjan Behera of Shyamsundarpur area under Nilagiri block of the district admitted his pregnant daughter at a nursing home near Chidia bridge for delivery when she com-

plained of labour pain, Sunday. There she delivered a baby girl who was in good health during her birth. However, the newborn cried profusely Tuesday following which her family members alerted the doctors. However, despite repeated requests not a single nurse or doctor attended to the baby on time which led to her death Wednesday, family members alleged. On being informed, Town Police rushed to the hospital and started investigation. The father of the deceased child said that he had initially taken his wife to a government hospital in Balasore. Later, he shifted her to the nursing home thinking that she would be given better service. However, they killed his daughter after three days of her birth, he alleged.

## Family cries foul over youth's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Jan 11: A youth allegedly died by suicide at his home in Raniguda locality in this town Monday night. However, family members of the deceased Rajesh Kadra, 22, a native of Baliguda village under Pitamahal panchayat of Rayagada block, have alleged foul play: Rajesh was working as an assistant in a cloth store and had rented a place where he was staying with his wife. The matter came to the fore after Rajesh's wife and brother-in-law informed the police about his death Tuesday. They claimed that he returned home Monday night and went to sleep after dinner and they did not notice anything unnatural with him. However, they found him hanging from the ceiling Tuesday morning. Police after bringing down Rajesh's body found an electric wire coiled around his neck. They have initiated a probe and have also handed over Rajesh's body to his family after conducting post-mortem. Rajesh's family meanwhile alleged that he has been murdered by his wife and brother-in-law. They demanded before police to conduct a proper probe into Rajesh's death.



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**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Where as, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notice on the dates noted against Account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon to Borrowers / Guarantors to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers / Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted Borrowers/ Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against Account.

The Borrowers / Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank for the amount and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

Branch / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Outstanding Amount
<b>PATIA BRANCH</b> Borrowers: (1) Mr Pradipta Kumar Sen, S/o: Mr Rama Chandra Sen, (2) Mrs Lipika Das, W/o: Mr Pradipta Kumar Sen, both are resident of At: Kanchilo, Baliaanta, Dist: Khurda, Odisha-752101.	All the part and parcel of land & Building situated on Plot No.220/746, Khata No. 249/240, Sub Plot No.16, Mouza: Kanchilo, PS: Baliaanta, Thana No.20, Tahasil/Sub-Registrar: Baliaanta, Dist: Khurda, Area: 0.036 dcml (1600 Sqft.), RSD No.11821804116, Dated: 29.12.2018, Boundaries: North- Road, South-Sub-Plot No.12 & 13, East- Sub-Plot No.15.	04.09.2022 (By Newspaper Publication)	07.01.2023	Rs.35,89,341.77 with further interest, costs, charges & expenses thereon
<b>SIRILO BRANCH</b> Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr Masud Ali Khan, Prop. of M/s Kohinoor Fly Ash Bricks, S/o: Late Ser Khan, Guarantor: Mr Sahabaj Ali Khan, S/o: Masud Ali Khan, both are resident of At: Dharadharapur, PO.: Raghunathpur, Dist: Jagatsinghpur-754132.	All the part and parcel of land and building situated in Khata No.340/36, Plot No.1322 of area 0.76 decimal (Kisam: Gharabari), Plot No.1353 of area 0.14 decimals and Plot No.1321 of area 0.20 decimal (kisam biali 2 fasali), Mouza: Kandarapati, PS: Raghunathpur No.141, Tahasil: Raghunathpur No.141, Dist: Jagatsinghpur, Boundaries: North- Fatima bibi, South- Buyer himself, East- Golak Rout, West- Road.	19.10.2022 (By Newspaper Publication)	07.01.2023	Rs.24,00,772/- with further interest, costs, charges & expenses thereon
<b>SAHEED NAGAR BRANCH</b> Borrower: Mr Lingaraj Pradhan, Proprietor of M/s Lingaraj Supplier, Business Address: Plot No.: LB-295, Bhimatangi HB Colony, Phase-II, Old Town, Bhubaneswar-751002, Residence Address: Plot No.330/2208, Lingaraj Nagar, Lane 18, Bhimatangi, Old Town, Bhubaneswar-751002. Guarantor: Mrs Sipra Sundaray, W/o: Mr Lingaraj Pradhan, residing at Plot No.330/2208, Lingaraj Nagar, Lane 18, Bhubaneswar-751002.	Residential Plot No.330/2208, Khata No.994/140, Mouza: Bhubaneswar, Unit No.27, Bhubaneswar, Dist: Khurda, having area of Ac0.550 dcml in the name of Mr Lingaraj Pradhan, Boundaries: East-Plot No.330(p), West-Road, North-Plot No.330(p), South- Plot No.2973(p).	26.10.2022	11.01.2023	Rs.46,41,339/- with further interest, costs, charges & expenses thereon

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 11.01.2023  
Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

# CAN ESG SAVE EARTH?



**In an era of trillion-dollar companies dominating the world economy, the impact of their business practices on society and the eco-system is significant**

ESG policies and their implementation or lack of it by big market players and even nations. It may even determine whether capitalism survives in its current form besides averting the predicted climate catastrophe.

In 2005, in a study report titled 'Who Cares Wins' by lead author Ivo Knoepfel, the idea of ESG was first elaborated. It resulted from a UN initiative under then Secretary-General Kofi Anan, in which CEOs of 50 global financial companies, International Finance Corporation and the Swiss government came together to make a case for embedding environmental, social and governance issues into the way capital markets operate. Specifically, ESG refers to environmental sustainability-related issues such as greenhouse gas emissions or biodiversity loss, social responsibility towards gender parity or respect for human rights, and practice of good corporate governance such as having a well-balanced board or whistleblower policy.

Before the rise of ESG-driven impact investing, terms like ethical investing, corporate social responsibility, the triple bottom line defined by profit, people and planet, tried to capture the same issues but in a more voluntary framework. Ethical investing uses a negative filter to eliminate investment in specific sectors such as tobacco, firearms, fossil fuel, that have a demonstrable negative social impact.

Environmental, social and governance are the three dimensions in which the impact of a company or any entity on our society and environment can be measured. The same set of parameters can also be used to measure the sustainability of the business itself. For example, the fast-deteriorating global climate crisis driving disruptive extreme weather events has obvious implications for many businesses and their long-term sustainability. It is as true of corporations as it is for other entities, be it cities or states or even countries. Traditionally, capitalism and market-driven economics demanded only return on investment from entrepreneurs and their ventures. There was little attention on matters such as whether the enterprise damaged the environment, abided by labour laws, respected human rights, promoted diversity at the workplace and followed good governance practices.

Interestingly, it is not the concern for the impact of the business and industry on the environment and society alone that drove the adoption of ESG policies. The realisation that the so-called non-financial ESG factors do ultimately have an impact on the bottom line of the company was also a major driver. The growing interest in ESG reporting and ratings by investors and fund managers also was for the same reason.

In an era of trillion-dollar com-

panies dominating the world economy, the impact of their business practices on society and the eco-system is significant. When companies like Google, Amazon and Microsoft declare their goals to become carbon-neutral in all their operations, it has huge consequences for the world's net-zero carbon goal. Currently, among the top ESG-rated companies listed on S&P 500 are household names like Microsoft, Nvidia and Salesforce that have achieved MSCI AAA ratings consistently while delivering very good financial performance. Microsoft has been carbon neutral globally since 2012 and has a policy to be carbon negative by 2030. Nvidia invests in 5,000 non-profits for over 25 million US dollars a year while committing to use 65% renewable energy in all its operations.

In spite of the many scandals and shortcomings exposed in how it is practised, the growth of ESG ratings-driven investment and assets under management remains unaffected (37.5 trillion US dollar and increasing). An NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business performed a meta-analysis of 1000 case studies between 2016 and 2000. It was found conclusively that there is a positive or neutral correlation between ESG focus and financial performance. It improved financial performance; it is a better strategy than a negative screening approach; it improves risk management, drives innovation, and helps mitigate economic downturn and social unrest. An honest implementation of ESG-driven policy actions certainly has long-term financial returns while benefitting society at large. Clearly, the verdict favours a more rigorous adoption of ESG-based policies in business management and corporate governance. It will help save the planet and make the business world more resilient and sustainable in the process, helping the current form of capitalism evolve into a more benevolent version of itself.

*The writer is a PhD in Civil Engineering from University of Michigan and currently based in Hong Kong working for an ESG focused proptech startup.*

Do not give way, hold tight. It is when everything seems lost that all is saved.

THE MOTHER



## Autocracy in Crisis

Until fairly recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping touted his zero-COVID policy as proof that authoritarian one-party states like China are better equipped to deal with pandemics (or any other crisis) than messy democracies hampered by selfish politicians and fickle electorates.

This might have seemed plausible to many in 2020, when hundreds of thousands of Americans were dying and former US President Donald Trump was touting anti-malaria drugs and bleach injections as COVID-19 remedies. Meanwhile, Xi enforced rigid pandemic restrictions that almost shut down the entire country, forced people into isolation camps, and insisted that Chinese citizens travelling abroad wear hazmat suits, like workers in some giant toxic laboratory. For a while, this strict regime appeared to keep COVID deaths to a minimum, compared to most other countries (though Chinese government statistics are notoriously unreliable).

But the high economic costs of China's zero-COVID strategy drove people to such despair that some finally took to the streets, at great risk. Still, Xi continued to claim that the ruling Communist Party was waging a "people's war" against the virus and would do whatever it takes to save lives. Then, at the end of last year, when protests erupted across Chinese cities, the war was suddenly declared over. No more lockdowns, hazmat suits, or even regular PCR tests. Following last year's unprecedented protests, it appears that China now deems COVID-19 harmless.

But as a result of Xi's volte-face, together with the poor quality of Chinese-made vaccines and China's low vaccination rate, nearly 9,000 Chinese people are probably dying every day, and 18.6 million across the country have reportedly been infected since zero-COVID restrictions were lifted in early December. And things could easily get much worse.

These developments suggest that Indian economist Amartya Sen was correct when he famously argued in 1983 that famines are caused not only by a shortage of food but also by a lack of information and political accountability. For example, the Bengal famine of 1943, India's worst, happened under imperial British rule. After India gained independence, the country's free press and democratic government prevented similar catastrophes. Sen's thesis has since been hailed as a ringing endorsement of democracy. While some critics have noted that elected governments can also cause considerable harm, including widespread hunger, Sen points out that no famine has "ever taken place in a functioning democracy."

China's system of one-party, and increasingly one-man, rule is couched in Communist or nationalist jargon, but is rooted in fascist theory. The German jurist Carl Schmitt, who justified Adolf Hitler's right to wield total power, coined the term "decisionism" to describe a system in which the validity of policies and laws is not determined by their content but by an omnipotent leader's will. In other words, Hitler's will was the law. Decisionism is aimed at eliminating class conflict, factional strife, and pesky political opposition. The will of the people, often expressed through a rigged plebiscite, is carried out by the leader who decides in the people's name.

Autocratic centralisation can indeed have some advantages. Top-down decisions, often implemented by competent technocrats, have enabled China to build high-speed railways, fancy highways, excellent airports (even remote ones are modern marvels compared to New York City's JFK or most other major airports in the United States), and even entire cities in a matter of years. When the Party is always right, obstacles such as public opinion or parliamentary debate cannot stand in its way.

But when an actual crisis strikes – earthquakes, pandemics, and so on – the vulnerability of decisionist rule is exposed. That is why autocratic rulers need to hide or embellish statistics and silence critics like Wuhan-based doctor Li Wenliang, who first reported the COVID-19 threat in 2019 and was publicly rebuked for "spreading false rumors," before dying of the disease in early 2020. Whatever they do, absolute rulers and the parties they lead cannot be proven wrong.

In the US, by contrast, expert opinion, critical media, and the risk of losing the 2020 presidential election forced even the blundering Trump to channel vast amounts of money into vaccine research and development. Despite many mistakes along the way and perverse obstruction by demagogues and conspiracy-mongers, the democratic response to the pandemic followed Sen's playbook: the press and the public carefully scrutinised official statistics, most people were vaccinated, and the US, along with other Western democracies, gradually opened up, enabling people to go about their business in relative safety.

Even without Xi's absolutist aspirations, this would have been hard to achieve in China. To justify its monopoly on power, the Communist Party has had to maintain a façade of infallibility, making it impossible to condemn the most colossal mistakes, even in retrospect. The nationwide famine of the 1950s is still often blamed on bad weather and natural disasters rather than Mao Zedong's catastrophic Great Leap Forward. Even as at least 30 million Chinese died, officials remained silent, fearing that annoying the Great Helmsman with bad news might cost them their lives as well.

China, of course, is no longer as isolated as it was in the 1950s, Xi is not Mao, and his erratic decision-making will most likely not claim 30 million lives. But with a daily death toll of 9,000, the costs will be massive. And precisely because China is no longer isolated, the implications will extend far beyond Chinese borders. Viruses, after all, travel, as do economic disruptions. The damage done to China by its autocratic regime will end up hurting us all.

*The writer is the author, most recently, of The Churchill Complex: The Curse of Being Special, From Winston and FDR to Trump and Brexit.* @PROJECTSYNDICATE



Dhanada K Mishra

**ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE ARE THE THREE DIMENSIONS IN WHICH THE IMPACT OF A COMPANY OR ANY ENTITY ON OUR SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT CAN BE MEASURED**



Ian Buruma

**As a result of Xi's volte-face, together with the poor quality of Chinese-made vaccines and China's low vaccination rate, nearly 9,000 Chinese people are probably dying every day**

SPECTRUM JUDICIARY

## Democracy dies with death of dissent

The legal history of India is replete with instances which show that some judges of the Supreme Court are more influenced than others by the famous patriotic song of Rabindranath Tagore "ekla chalo re": Lay bare your soul and speak your mind, say what you have to say. They stand out, speak up, and share their opposing views openly. While some call them dissenters, many call them reformists.

Legal researchers and observers in India often give credit to three great dissenters, Justice Fazl Ali, Justice Subba Rao and Justice Khanna for creating and maintaining the tradition of judicial dissents in India. In the recent past too, we have witnessed dissents in two government decisions relating to Aadhaar and demonetisation. In both cases, one of the five judges delivered a dissenting note.

The latest one is the five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court which delivered its verdict on 2 January 2023. The court upheld the decision of the Central government taken in 2016 to demonetise the currency notes of ₹500 and ₹1,000 denominations. There was one voice of dissent. The youngest of the five judges, Justice BV Nagarathna wrote a dissenting judgement. She

said, "Demonetisation was an exercise of power, contrary to law, and therefore unlawful." She said that though demonetisation was in the best interest of the people, it had to be done through legislation and not through a gazette notification as the Parliament cannot be left aloof in a matter of such critical importance. It seems for Justice Nagarathna, it is not enough just to have good intentions, even the process of achieving such good intentions should be legitimate.

A similar high-profile dissent was that of Justice Chandrachud in 2018. Four judges of the panel had upheld the Aadhaar Act as Constitutionally valid. However, Justice Chandrachud delivered a powerful and philosophical dissent. He said: "Constitutional guarantees cannot be compromised by vicissitudes of technology." Like Justice Nagarathna, Justice Chandrachud also held the purpose of the Aadhaar Act to be legitimate, but he differed from the majority opinion by saying "the passing Aadhaar Act as money bill is a fraud on the Constitution."

These two dissents convey a message that even today there are judges who raise their voice, give their own views and not just follow the majority. But unfortunately, such dissents are

not very common in India. According to a well-researched book, "Supreme Whispers" by Abhinav Chandrachud, despite the rivalries among the judges, there is a lack of dissent in the day-to-day decision making of the court. According to the author, around 70% of cases in the US Supreme Court recorded dissents and more than 25% of cases in the UK, Australia, and Canada recorded dissents. Whereas such dissents were recorded in less than 10% of cases in India. Should India go the US way? The answer, of course, is not an unconditional yes. Dissent has both merits and demerits.

Dissent is the manifestation of the right to freedom of speech and expression. The practice of dissent is an important part of democracy. Democracy dies with the death of dissent. Judges too use this right and write their own dissenting opinions, if they feel that the majority is failing to understand the spirit of the case. Often it has been found that dissent improves the quality of judgement too as both sides need to explain the rationale of their judgement more clearly and strongly. Dissent reveals flaws in the majority's judgement and therefore works as a corrective for future judgements. As dissents are

published along with the majority judgement, it sends a positive signal to the society at large about the process of judgement.

Though judicial dissent has no force of law, it has the power and potential to create new laws. Dissents also explain the case facts with opposite legal principles which may be useful in the long run. The followers of law see a ray of hope of change in every word of a dissent. Today's dissent may be tomorrow's law.

Concerted efforts are needed to strengthen this pillar of democracy. We need to work in that direction. We must talk openly about dissents and eulogise the dissenters. Let us create opportunities for young professionals to talk to dissenters and understand the spirit of dissents too. Dissent should not be confined to courtrooms, classrooms, boardrooms or office rooms. We should develop the ability to see dissent in the larger perspective of life as enunciated by Justice Thurgood Marshall while accepting the prestigious Liberty Award (1992): "We cannot play ostrich. We must dissent from the indifference, the apathy, the fear, the hatred, and the mistrust."

*The writer is a Professor in XIMB.*



DV Ramana

**THOUGH JUDICIAL DISSENT HAS NO FORCE OF LAW, IT HAS THE POWER AND POTENTIAL TO CREATE NEW LAWS**

WISDOM CORNER

- Opinion has caused more trouble on this little earth than plagues or earthquakes. VOLTAIRE
- When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everybody will respect you. LAO TZU
- They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

WORDSWORTH

Fair cop

It comes from the same root as the term cop for a policeman. This may be from the slang verb cop, meaning to seize, originally a dialect term of northern England that by the beginning of the nineteenth century was known throughout the country. This can be followed back through French caper to Latin capere, to seize or take, from which we also get our capture. So a cop in this sense was an example of a seizure or capture. It's a fair cop was what the essentially good-natured thief with a typically British sense of fair play was supposed to say as his collar was fingered by the fuzz, meaning that the arrest was reasonable and that he really had done what he was accused of doing. You will understand that this is, and always has been, an entirely fictitious view of the relationship between British criminals and the police.

Blatant subversion

Sir, This refers to the editorial "Right Might", Orissa POST, Jan 11. The demonstrators loyal to former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro stormed the Presidential palace and the buildings of the National Congress as well as the Supreme Court in capital Brasilia. The pandemonium occurred just a week after Bolsonaro's rival Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took charge as the President. Lula had narrowly won the election held on October 30 last year. Refusing to accept the poll verdict, Bolsonaro levelled unsubstantiated allegations against the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the electronic voting system. There is no doubt that his rejection of the electoral mandate has led to the current mess. The chaos is a new low for democracy in South America, a continent notorious for its dictatorships and autocracies. What happened in the US two years ago had its genesis in the "baseless" allegations made by the then US President Donald Trump regarding the conduct of the 2020 presidential election. It seems that Bolsonaro took a leaf out of Trump's book to whip up trouble. However, the international community must speak in one voice against the blatant subversion of democratic values in Brazil.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Misuse of position

Sir, Through his disdainful acts, Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has not only brought a new low to the House, but as well further sullied his image by himself. It is the tradition that as per the Constitution, Governors read out the text in full prepared by the state governments. In fact, the powers of the Governor are defined in the Constitution and have been made clear in the Supreme Court ruling. But what is most unpalatable from his address is that the Governor had intentionally missed out reading the name of Dr. BR Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution. The tumultuous incident in the Tamil Nadu Assembly last Monday has further escalated the already simmering relationship between the Governor and the political Executive of the state, and it is a clear indication of how the position of a Governor is being misused in a democracy for cheap political gains by the ruling BJP at the Centre. The conduct of Governors like Ravi does no good to the country's federal structure and unity and integrity.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

### 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

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

# national



**Fake news and rumours cause chaos, so be careful ... Do not pay heed to them to avoid any untoward stamped-act-like situation**  
MAMATA BANERJEE  
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

## DELHI NOTIFIES NEW RATES OF AUTO-TAXI FARE

According to the new fares, the metre down charge (minimum fare) for the initial 1.5 kilometres for autorickshaws has been increased from ₹25 to ₹30, while the per kilometre charge afterwards has been hiked from ₹9.50 to ₹11. The revised rates came into force from January 9



## of the day quote

Founding fathers and mothers of Constitution. I'm reading this for the first time. We call them mothers because otherwise the role played by women members would not be identified. These women really contributed in drafting the Constitution

D Y CHANDRACHUD | CHIEF JUSTICE

I have close links with weavers individually and saw their problems from the closeness. The weavers must focus on the quality of products and come forward for exports. The market must be extended through the digital forum and for this, the Department of Handlooms and Textile will extend full support. Steps are being taken to reach an agreement with Amazon, Flipkart, and other Online players

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

The simple truth is this is Hindusthan and it should remain Hindusthan. There is no harm to the Muslims living today in Bharat. If they wish to stick to their faith, they can. If they want to return to the faith of their ancestors, they may. It is entirely their choice

MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS SANSANGHCHALAK

## SHORT TAKES

### Self-styled godman jailed in Haryana

**Chandigarh:** A fast-track court in Haryana has sentenced a self-styled godman to 14-year jail for sexually abusing about 100 women. Fast Track Court judge of Fatehabad, Balwant Singh, convicted Billu Ram, a.k.a. Amarपुरi, a.k.a. Jalebi baba, January 5. The quantum of punishment was awarded Tuesday. The court also slapped a fine of ₹35,000 on him. He was booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Pocco Act and the IT Act on the complaint of the then SHO of the Tohana police station July 19, 2018.

### Court frames charges against Tahir Hussain

**New Delhi:** A court here Wednesday paved the way for the commencement of trial by framing charges against former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Tahir Hussain. On November 3, the court had passed an order on framing of charges against Hussain in a money-laundering case registered by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the 2020 northeast Delhi riots.

### RLD MLA, 60 others booked

**Muzaffarnagar (UP):** A Rastriya Lok Dal MLA and 60 party workers were booked Wednesday for violation of prohibitory orders in Shamli district's Jalalabad town, police said. Prohibitory orders are in place in the city to maintain law and order in Jalalabad, they said. The police has booked RLD MLA Ashraf Ali and 60 others after a video went viral in which he is seen leading a procession under his party's Kisan Sandesh Abhiyan, Deputy SP, Sharestha Thakur told PTI.

### Tiger found dead

**Seoni (MP):** A tiger was found dead in a forest area in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district Wednesday with officials suspecting the big cat was electrocuted in what was the third tiger fatality reported in the state in the last 10 days. The carcass of the tiger, aged around 8 years, was spotted by a patrolling team near an agricultural field in Bakrampath village, some 35km from the district headquarters, said forest ranger Danis Ulkey.



A vendor paints an earthen pot ahead of the 'Pongal' festival at roadside in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

PTI PHOTO

## EVICION DRIVE IN ASSAM'S LAKHIMPUR Hundreds go homeless

**THE EVICTEES, MOST OF THEM BENGALI-SPEAKING MUSLIMS, RUED THAT THEY COULD NOT COLLECT ALL OF THEIR BELONGINGS, AND THEIR CROPS WERE DESTROYED IN THE DRIVE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**North Lakhimpur (Assam), Jan 11:** The drive to evict encroachers from a forest land in Assam's Lakhimpur district continued for the second day Wednesday, with 299 families residing on a 250 hectare tract left in the lurch. The administration cleared the remaining 250 acres during the daylong exercise Wednesday. Around 70 bulldozers, excavators and tractors were pressed into action in Adhasona village, while 600 police and CRPF personnel stood guard, the official said. With some belongings in tow, Hasmat Alam (name changed on request), who witnessed his house being razed to the ground, claimed that he had been a resident of that area for the past 28 years.

"This year, the harvest was good. I grew brinjal, cabbage and cauliflower and sold some of the produce in the market. Around 70 per cent of the crop, however, got destroyed in the drive," he said. Some of the victims claimed that there are around 500 Hindu families living in the forest, and the "government must evict them too" if it is really concerned about encroachment. According to the senior official, the Hindu families, most of them belonging to

### Naxalites fire at CRPF commandos in Ch'garh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Raipur, Jan 11:** Naxalites Wednesday fired at a CRPF commando team alighting from a helicopter at a remote camp in Chhattisgarh during a massive anti-Naxal operation being undertaken by security forces along the state's border with Telangana, officials said.

A joint team of multiple forces are undertaking the offensive to target some senior and most-wanted Naxal commanders, official sources said. "A CRPF CoBRA team was being sent on a chopper to a forward operating base that is located along the Bijapur and Sukma districts of Chhattisgarh abutting the Telangana border. An exchange of fire took place between the commandos and Naxalites when they were alighting from the helicopter. The Naxalites had to flee," the CRPF (Raipur sector) said.

There has been no harm to the CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) commandos even as the forces are trying to ascertain the damage inflicted on the Naxalites, the statement said. The operation that was launched along the interstate borders of Sukma district in Chhattisgarh has been going on since noon, the officials said.



THE EXERCISE THAT BEGAN TUESDAY WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE STATE TO FREE UP AROUND 450 HECTARES IN PAVA RESERVE FOREST OFFICIALS ON THE FIRST DAY CLEARED 200 HECTARES IN MOGHULI VILLAGE, WHICH WAS HOME TO 201 FAMILIES

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe communities, had in 2016 approached the Gauhati High Court seeking rehabilitation.

The court had stayed their eviction till an alternate arrangement was made, the official maintained. Authorities were seen using tractors and bulldozers to flatten the crops. Excavators also filled the ponds and fisheries with earth. The forest land also houses Bir Lachit Bahumukhi Samabai Samiti, a cooperative society led by BJP MLA Amiya Kumar Bhuyan, which was engaged in cultivating mustard over 450 bighas (over 60 hectares). Though Bhuyan, the Bihpuria MLA, could not be contacted immediately, some of the youths engaged in the society claimed that the ruling party legislator had promised them of no action from the administration, but their crops were also damaged.

The All Assam Minority Students' Union (AAMSU) termed the eviction drive as "inhuman and one-sided" and staged a brief protest at Sonapur area of Lakhimpur district. According to the senior official, several notices

for vacating the land were issued to the "illegal settlers" since November 2021.

Lakhimpur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ashok Kumar Dev Choudhury noted that out of 46 sq km Pava Reserve Forest, earmarked in 1941, only 0.32 sq km were free and the rest all occupied. Altogether 701 families have encroached upon the Pava Reserve Forest land over the last three decades, he said. These settlers had in 2006 applied for declaring their place of stay as 'Forest Village', but the government had rejected that proposal then. In July last year, 84 families had submitted documents claiming land ownership but those were found to be fake upon scrutiny.

Notably, several state and central schemes like Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana, MGNREGA, Anganwadi centres, water supply and rural electrification have been implemented in this area over the years.

The DFO said that the state government has approved a proposal for afforestation in 200 hectares of land.

## AI URINATION INCIDENT Delhi court denies bail to Shankar Mishra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 11:** A Delhi court Wednesday denied bail to Shankar Mishra, accused of urinating on an elderly woman co-passenger on an Air India flight, calling the act "utterly disgusting and repulsive".

Metropolitan Magistrate Komal Garg said the act has shocked the civic consciousness of people and needed to be deprecated.

"The alleged act of accused of relieving himself upon the complainant is utterly disgusting and repulsive. The alleged act in itself is sufficient to outrage the modesty of any woman. Egregious conduct of the accused has shocked the civic consciousness and needs to be deprecated," the judge said.

The alleged act in itself prima facie reflects the intention of the accused, she said, while declining the relief to Mishra, who is lodged in jail. The judge noted that as per the record, the accused had failed to join the investigation even after a notice was issued to him under section 41A CrPC and his presence could be secured only upon the execution of the non-



bailable warrant.

"Therefore, the conduct of the accused does not inspire confidence. It has also come on record that accused has tried contacting the victim and the possibility of accused influencing the witnesses cannot be ruled out," the judge noted.

Further, as per the report of the investigating officer, other witnesses are yet to be examined and the probe is at a very initial stage, the judge noted.

"Considering the above facts and circumstances, this Court does not deem it appropriate to release the accused on bail at this stage. Accordingly, the present applica-

The alleged incident had occurred November 26 last year when drunk Mishra walked up to the woman's seat in the business class on an Air India New York-New Delhi flight, exposed himself and urinated on her

tion stands dismissed," the judge said in the order.

Earlier during the arguments, Mishra's counsel said his act was not driven by sexual desire nor aimed at outraging the complainant's modesty. The complainant's counsel, however, opposed Mishra's bail application, claiming she was being threatened.

"Nobody should have to go through something like that. It was revolting. I feel bad for the poor lady. It was appalling... However, was the unzipping aimed by sexual desire? No. Was any of this act aimed at outraging her modesty? No," the counsel for the accused said.

## Dhami visits Joshimath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dehradun, Jan 11:** Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami Wednesday visited the subsidence-hit Joshimath town and announced interim assistance for the affected people even as protests by locals who are demanding compensation on the

stalled the demolition of unsafe structures.

"We stand with the people of Joshimath. The Prime Minister is personally monitoring the situation. I have his full support. Their (affected people) interest will be taken care of," he told reporters on his arrival in Joshimath. Compensation will be given according to the market rate which will be ascertained after taking stakeholders into confi-

dence, said the Chief Minister who visited houses that have developed cracks more recently and spoke to the affected people.

Interim assistance of ₹1.5 lakh is being given to the affected people and details of relief and rehabilitation are being worked out, said the Chief Minister.

Dhami also said that an impression is being created that the whole of Uttarakhand is in danger which is not correct.

"Such an impression should not be created. We are going to have the international winter games in Auli in February. Char Dham yatra will also begin in a few months. This kind of wrong impression should not be created," he said.

**We stand with the people of Joshimath. The Prime Minister is personally monitoring the situation. I have his full support. Their (affected people) interest will be taken care of**

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI  
UTTARAKHAND CM



## India recycles only 30 per cent of 3.4 MT plastic waste generated annually: Report

OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, THE PLASTIC CONSUMPTION IN THE COUNTRY HAS RISEN AT A COMPOUNDED ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (CAGR) OF 9.7 PER CENT TO 14 MT IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016-17 TO 20 MILLION TONNES IN 2019-20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 11:** India generates around 3.4 million tonnes (MT) of plastic waste, a report said on Wednesday noting that only 30 per cent of it is recycled.

Over a five-year period, the plastic consumption in the country has risen at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.7 per cent to 14 MT in the financial year 2016-17 to 20 million tonnes in 2019-20, Marico Innovation Foundation said in a report released in the national capital. India's plastic waste output also doubled between the said period, the report titled 'Plastics, The Potential and Possibilities' said.

According to the report, which has been prepared in association with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Praxis Global Alliance, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu together contribute 38 per cent to the total plastic waste that



is generated in India. "The plastic consumption in India has grown at a significant pace over the past five years, and so has its waste output. India produces 3.4 million tonnes of plastic waste in a year, only 30 per cent of it is recycled," it said.

While the rest of the plastic waste is sent to landfills or aquatic dumps, the report noted and suggested ways to deal with the challenge as the entire plastic value chain from production to waste disposal severely impacts the local ecologies it surrounds. This im-

pact is wide ranging, and affects communities and ecosystems. Apart from imposing a ban on single-use plastic, the government has been working on creating a statutory framework for including the use of biodegradable plastics as an alternative material. However, there are other effective policy interventions that can be used to create a sustained impact.

"Landfill and incineration taxes must be levied in India to encourage recycling rather than dumping. Authorise a 'pay-as-you-throw' system, which requires citizens to pay a variable rate per kilogram for a bag of mixed garbage," it suggested.

There is a need to regulate the entire life cycle of plastic bags, from manufacturing or imports to disposal, besides specific incentives to the bioplastics industry like corporate income tax exemptions, infrastructure development support and installation cost reduction.

## Farmers assaulted by police in Buxar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, Jan 11:** A large number of police personnel allegedly assaulted farmers in Bihar's Buxar district, who had been protesting for the last 85 days against a thermal power company, while they were sleeping in their homes.

The incident occurred at the Banarpur village in Chausa sub-division of the district.



Earlier on the Tuesday, the farmers had locked the main gate of the company's office and demanded adequate compensation for the lands it had acquired for the thermal power project.

Around midnight while they were sleeping in their homes, the police personnel came and started knocking on the doors, the farmers claimed. When they opened the doors, the personnel started beating them with batons and also misbehaved with some women who were present at the scene, they added. A video of the police attack has gone viral on social media, leading to outrage in the region.

Following the attack, the farmer intensified their protests Wednesday which turned violent after they set fire to police vehicles.

## Mohan Bhagwat speaks in support of LGBT community

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Jan 11:** Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sansanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat has come out in support of the gay and transgender community days before the government is due to respond to the Supreme Court about petitions to legalise same-sex marriage.

India decriminalised homosexuality when it scrapped a colonial-era ban on gay sex in 2018, but it remains a taboo topic in this socially conservative country of 1.4 billion.

Speaking in an RSS-backed magazine published this week, Bhagwat said the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community "should have their own private and social space as they are humans and have the right to live as others". He cited Hindu scriptures and mythology as the basis of his support, and added: "Without much hullabaloo, we have found a way with a humane approach to provide them social acceptance."

The RSS, established in 1925, is estimated to have millions of active members across India and overseas. The organisation was behind Modi's rise to power.



RSS Chief's announcement means that the Sangh Parivar would intensify their attack and hatred against the minorities and Communists before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Ahead of the next parliamentary polls, this would be Sangh Parivar's only tool

SITARAM YECHURY | CPI-M GENERAL SECRETARY

POOR AIR QUALITY

The air quality in Delhi Wednesday continued to be under the "severe" category, with dense fog enveloping the national capital reducing visibility to a minimum



of the day quote

Brazen overstepping of the Constitution by a few Governors recently has sullied the federal structure of our polity. Governors have to function within framework of the Constitution and cannot insult the Legislature of which they are a part of

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

The Delhi government is working round the clock to decongest the roads of the capital from traffic jams. The Najafgarh-Phirni Road, which is one of the main routes followed by people commuting between Delhi and Haryana, gets heavily jammed during peak hours

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

Who is Mohan Bhagwat to give Muslims permission to live in India or follow our faith? We're Indians because Allah willed it. How dare he put conditions on our citizenship? We're not here to adjust our faith or please a bunch of alleged celibates in Nagpur

ASADUDDIN OWAIJI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Fresh worry for Shiv Sena-UBT

Mumbai: Over seven months after a split, the Shiv Sena-UBT is beset with a fresh worry as the five-year tenure of party President Uddhav Thackeray is slated to end January 23. Sena-UBT MP Anil Desai said that the party has written to the Election Commission seeking permission to hold organisational elections including of the President and its national executive.

Delhi: Man, woman's bodies found in hotel

New Delhi: Bodies of two persons were found at a hotel in northwest Delhi's Bawana area with the police suspecting that the man killed the woman before ending his life by consuming sulphur tablets. According to police, the hotel owner informed police about the two bodies in one of the rooms. The woman had an injury on the neck while foam marks and a foul smell were noticed in the mouth of the man. There was also some vomit on the side of the man's body, Deputy Commissioner of Police (outer north) Devesh Kumar Mahla said.

Khemka gets 55th transfer in 31 years

Chandigarh: The Haryana government has transferred senior IAS officer Ashok Khemka for the 55th time in his career of 31 years. Khemka, Additional Chief Secretary in the Science and Technology Department, has been posted as Additional Chief Secretary, Archives Department. The 1991-batch IAS officer's transfer comes days after he wrote to Chief Secretary Sarvesh Kaushal, saying he did not have enough work with the merger of his Science and Technology Department into the Higher Education Department.

WB: Two killed in elephant attack

Bankura: Two persons were killed in separate elephant attack incidents in West Bengal's Bankura district, a senior police officer said Wednesday. An elderly woman was killed by a wild elephant in Jharia village of the district in the early hours of Wednesday, the officer said. In another elephant attack case, a 45-year-old man was killed in Sangrampur village Tuesday night, he said.

Lakhimpur trial may take 5 years, SC told

THE TOP COURT HAD LAST MONTH ASKED THE SESSIONS COURT HOW MUCH TIME IN NORMAL COURSE WAS IT LIKELY TO TAKE TO CONCLUDE THE TRIAL, WITHOUT COMPROMISING WITH THE SCHEDULE OF OTHER PENDING OR PRIORITISED MATTERS



which is hearing a plea by Ashish Mishra seeking bail in the case of mowing down of protesting farmers in October 2021 in Lakhimpur Kheri. During the hearing, the bench asked the counsel appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government to confirm whether the four accused in a separate case lodged over the killing of three occupants of the SUV, which allegedly mowed down four farmers in the incident, are still in custody.

At the outset, advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the complainant in the case of the killing of farmers, requested the bench to post the hearing for some other day, saying senior advocate Dushyant Dave who is leading him in the matter is unwell. The bench inquired from the state's counsel about the status of the separate case lodged over the killing of three occupants of the SUV, which allegedly mowed down farmers. The counsel said charges have been framed against the accused in that matter. "We just want to know if there are accused in that case who have been arrested?" the bench asked. The state's counsel said four accused were arrested in the case. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Ashish Mishra, told the bench that

the trial judge has sent a report to the apex court. When the bench said as per the report of the additional sessions judge, it may take at least five years in the normal course to conclude the trial, Bhushan said material witnesses can be examined first. "The problem is the report says when the case was fixed for examination of prosecution witnesses, one of the material witnesses was to be examined but he got fever and was unwell on that day...These practical difficulties may arise," the bench pointed out. It said if the trial in the case is asked to be speeded up, it will have to be done at the cost of all other cases pending in that court. Bhushan said day-to-day trial is needed in this case being probed by a special investigation team. On October 3, 2021, eight people were killed in Tikunia in Lakhimpur Kheri district during violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against the then Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area. Four farmers were mowed down by an SUV in which Ashish Mishra was seated, according to the Uttar Pradesh Police FIR.

FCI CORRUPTION CASE

CBI raids 50 locations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: The CBI Wednesday launched 'Operation Kanak' on alleged corruption in the Food Corporation of India, conducting searches at 50 locations in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi after arresting a DGM-rank officer from Chandigarh, officials said.

The CBI booked a total of 74 accused in the FIR, including FCI Executive Director Sudeep Singh after a six-month-long undercover operation to identify suspects in the syndicate of officials, rice mill owners and middlemen, among others who were allegedly indulging in corrupt practices.

Deputy general manager (DGM) of FCI Rajiv Kumar Mishra was arrested for allegedly receiving a bribe of ₹50,000 from one Ravinder Singh Khera, the CBI said, adding the role of senior officers of Punjab government are also under scanner for running 'be-nami' godowns outsourced to the FCI.

Among the 74 accused, 34 are serving officials, three are retired, 17 private persons and 20 entities, the officials said, adding that the agency has recovered ₹80 lakh in cash, including ₹10 lakh from a female officer which was hidden in a washing machine. Sources said the agency has started the operation against an "unholy nexus of corruption" in the FCI involving a chain of officers, rice mill owners, grain merchants



etc., engaged in the procurement, storage and distribution of food grains.

It is alleged that the accused officials were receiving bribes from silos operator and rice millers in extending favours during tendering process as well. Their illicit actions cheated farmers by forcing them to sell product through syndicate and end consumers as well who were getting sub-standard grains under the Public Distribution System, the CBI alleged. The agency also alleged officials showed more procurement on paper than what was available in godowns.

The role of officials from technical assistants to executive directors in the FCI are under the agency's scanner, the officials said. They said the operation is spread across multiple cities in Punjab, Haryana and two locations in Delhi.

BJY FINALE

Congress invites 21 like-minded parties to Srinagar event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has invited leaders of 21 like-minded parties to join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar January 30, saying their presence would strengthen the march's message of truth, compassion and non-violence.



In a letter to the heads of the parties, he said from the beginning of the yatra, the Congress has sought the participation of every like-minded party and on the invitation of Rahul Gandhi, MPs of several political parties joined it at different stages.

"I now invite you to personally join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra to be held in Srinagar on January 30 at noon. The function is dedicated to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, who lost his life on this day in his tireless struggle against the ideology of hatred and violence," Kharge wrote. "At this event, we will commit ourselves to fighting hatred and violence, to spread the message of truth, compassion and non-violence, and to defend the constitutional values of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice for all. At this time of crisis for our country, where public attention is systematically diverted from people's issues, the yatra has emerged as a powerful voice. I hope you will participate and further strengthen its message," he said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: It might take at least five years in the normal course to conclude the trial in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, a sessions judge conducting the trial in the case in which Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son is one of the accused, informed the Supreme Court Wednesday. In a report submitted to the apex court, the additional sessions judge said there are 208 witnesses, 171 documents and 27 forensic science laboratory (FSL) reports in the case. "The report says it will take at least five years. It says there are 208 witnesses, 171 documents and 27 FSL reports," said a bench of Justices Surya Kant and V Ramasubramanian while referring to the report received from the trial court judge. "He (sessions judge) says in normal course, it may take five years," observed the bench,

Govt to revamp agri education



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Jan 11: In line with the National Education Policy, the agricultural education in the country will be revamped by laying emphasis on skill development, Dr Seema Jaggi, Additional Director General (HRD) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Education (ICAR) said here Wednesday. Jaggi was speaking after inaugurating 21-day Winter School, a training programme for researchers and academicians, at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). She added that the course curriculum will be restructured in a way that helps open a wide array of opportunities in the agriculture sector.

"With this, education and research in agriculture and allied areas will have greater opportunities in the country in the future", she said, adding that setting up of initiatives like incubation centres would greatly support rural development. Stressing the importance of analytical tools in social science research, she said that research would be incomplete without proper data analysis. "It is essential to have a solid understanding of modern statistical, econometric and time series methods to make proper inferences in social sciences research", she added. Sponsored by the Agricultural Education Division of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Winter School is aimed at providing an opportunity to update the analytical skills of social science researchers and make them more familiar with advanced analytical tools and software.



Women collect drinking water in snow-covered Rasheel village after fresh snowfall in Lahaul-Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

'Not tobacco ban, new therapies key to combating lung cancer'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: The key to combating lung cancer is the development of novel immunotherapies and diagnostic techniques and not a complete ban on tobacco that is impossible to enforce, says American Nobel laureate Harold Varmus.

Varmus won the 1989 Nobel Prize in Medicine - along with American immunologist Michael Bishop - for the discovery of gene mutations that can lead to the transformation of a normal cell into a tumour cell and result in cancer. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare in India has recommended in its latest report that the government ban the sale of loose cigarettes. "The focus should be on novel therapies and diagnostic techniques and not on complete prohibition," the 83-year-old said when asked if tobacco ban is the answer to combat the deadly disease.



Trying to prohibit tobacco or to ban tobacco entirely is a mistake because we know that you can't enforce complete prohibition. That is the kind of thing that leads to various forms of crime and it doesn't work. I don't think bans work very well. But I do think that not just in India and every country, including the US, where we still have 18 per cent of our population smoking, we have people using nicotine vapes instead of cigarettes. All these are risk factors for cancer

HAROLD VARMUS | AMERICAN NOBEL LAUREATE

Noting that there were limited therapies available for lung cancer 20 years ago, Varmus said he is "optimistic" about developments in the field of cancer research. "Broadly speaking, in addition to the preventive advice, which is mainly about smoking,

that's the biggest with respect to lung cancer. But the second thing is early diagnosis and there are new ways to make diagnoses of lung cancer earlier. Third thing is the development of new kinds of therapies."

Varmus, who is currently the Lewis Thomas University Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and a senior associate at the New York Genome Center, said there are two major types when it comes to diagnostics. "The first one I'm particularly knowledgeable about because it involves work that I and my colleagues have done over the years. It is to identify the genetic changes that have occurred in an individual's lungs over that person's lifetime, that are the causative agents of the disease," he explained. The scientist also highlighted the role of genetics in cancer diagnosis, saying the chances of different cancers arising vary if a person comes from a certain ancestry.

AIADMK walks out of TN Assembly, Stalin retorts



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Jan 11: The Tamil Nadu Assembly witnessed acrimonious scenes Wednesday when AIADMK legislators, led by Leader of Opposition K. Palaniswami walked out of the house, citing the "deteriorating" law and order situation in the state. The AIADMK legislators wore black shirts in the house and Palaniswami lashed out against the DMK government and said that even police constables were not safe in the state. Citing the example of a sexual assault on a woman cop allegedly by DMK leaders at a party public programme, he said that if a woman cop was not safe in the state, what would be the situation of women in Tamil Nadu? He also said that in the DMK rule, the state was passing through a bad

phase and people are living in constant fear. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, while responding to the allegations, said that regarding the sexual assault on the woman cop, an FIR was registered immediately under IPC's Sections 353 and 354 and Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, 1998. He also said that an inquiry was conducted and the two DMK local leaders, Praveenkumar and Ekambaram were arrested January 3 and sent to judicial custody the next day itself. The Chief Minister also said that during the AIADMK regime, the state had witnessed police firing and deaths during that regime. He also said that two women police officers in the rank of Superintendents had to run from pillar to police to register a complaint.

# international

## of the day quote

It is a very important relationship between the United States and India, when it comes to security cooperation, defense cooperation. So we look forward to continuing to engage with the Indian leadership



PAT RYDER | PRESS SECRETARY, PENTAGON

We've seen a miscalculation leading to serious wars many times in history. North's advancing nuclear arsenal poses a direct threat to the US mainland as well as South Korea and nearby Japan



YOON SUK YEOL | PRESIDENT, SOUTH KOREA

We are now changing the legislation, making it possible to build more reactors in more places than is possible today



ULF KRISTERSSON | PM, SWEDEN

## SHORT TAKES

### No Ebola in Uganda

Kampala: Uganda's latest outbreak of the Ebola virus is over, the government and the World Health Organisation said Wednesday. Health Minister Ruth Aceng told journalists that no new cases had been registered in the past 42 days. This outbreak was the first in a decade of the less common Sudan strain which, unlike the Zaire strain that has caused outbreaks in neighbouring Congo in recent years, has no proven vaccine or therapeutics. Uganda had recorded 142 cases including 56 deaths since the outbreak was announced in September.

### Tate to stay in jail

Bucharest: A court in Romania's capital Bucharest has upheld the 30-day arrest of divisive social media personality and self-described misogynist Andrew Tate on charges of organized crime, human trafficking and rape, an official said late Tuesday. Ramona Bolla, a spokesperson for Romanian anti-organized crime agency DILCOT, said the court rejected an appeal by Tate against a judge's earlier decision to extend his arrest from 24 hours to 30 days. Tate, 36, a British-US citizen who has 4.5 million followers on Twitter, was initially detained December 29 for 24 hours along with his brother Tristan, who was charged in the same case.

### 6 stabbed in Paris

Paris: A knife attacker wounded six people in an unprovoked attack in Paris' busy Gare du Nord train station Wednesday morning before being shot by police, the French interior minister said. The man had attacked several people, including a police officer, with a "bladed weapon" at Gerald Darmanin told reporters at the scene. He said the unnamed assailant was currently "between life and death" in a hospital. Several passengers and a border police officer were among the wounded, according to officials. The officer was stabbed in the back by the assailant, but was saved by a bulletproof vest, Darmanin said.

### Bomb kills over 20

Kabul: A suicide bomber detonated a device Wednesday near Afghanistan's foreign ministry in the capital, causing more than 20 casualties, an AFP staff member said. Images from the scene show people lying in the snow in the street outside the central Kabul building. "I don't know how many of them were dead or injured," AFP driver Jamshed Karimi said, adding: "I saw the man blow himself up." Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran confirmed the explosion "which unfortunately resulted in casualties".

## Arms by UK, US behind civilian deaths in Yemen

The fighting in Yemen has created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, Jan 11: Weapons supplied by the United Kingdom and the United States and used by a Saudi-led coalition fighting in war-torn Yemen killed at least 87 civilians and wounded 136 others in just over a year, a new report said Wednesday.

The report by the Oxfam charity found that the Saudi-led coalition used weapons supplied solely by the UK and the US in hundreds of attacks on civilians in Yemen between January 2021 and the end of February 2022.

Britain is the second-biggest supplier of weapons to Saudi Arabia, after the US.

Yemen's war began when the Iran-backed Houthis seized the country's capital, Sanaa, in September 2014 and forced the internationally recognised government into exile.

A Saudi-led coalition — armed with US and UK weaponry and intelligence — entered the war on the side of Yemen's exiled government in March 2015.

Oxfam's report comes ahead of a legal challenge by the Campaign Against Arms Trade, a group of anti-weapons campaigners, against the UK government for supplying weapons used in Yemen's war. The charity says it provides witness in support of the challenge.

The court battle by the anti-weapons campaigners is years old. The Court of Appeal in London ruled in 2019 that the British government acted unlawfully in selling weapons to Saudi Arabia that were used in the Yemen war. The court, however, did not order a halt to the exports to the Gulf Arab kingdom.

Oxfam's report portrayed a grim picture.

Martin Butcher, Oxfam's policy advisor on arms and conflict and author of the report, said they an-

They've (UK government) really been not only arming Saudi Arabia, but also very reluctant to use their position in the Security Council to push for peace

MARTIN BUTCHER | POLICY ADVISOR ON ARMS AND CONFLICT, OXFAM



alyzed 1,727 attacks on civilians in Yemen's war during the 14-month period, with the Saudi-led coalition, using weapons supplied by the UK and the US, being responsible for a quarter of all attacks.

"It's just so relentless," Butcher told the AP. "People just find it so hard to escape the violence and the killing."

The 43-page report said the analyzed attacks killed at least 839 civilians and wounded 1,775 others. Of all the attacks by the Saudi-led coalition during the 14-month period, airstrikes alone killed at

least 87 civilians and wounded 136, the report found.

The rest of the attacks were artillery, missiles and drone attacks, as well as from land mines, road bombs and light arms.

The report found that airstrikes and artillery attacks involved cluster munitions, "weapons banned by international convention and customary law".

The charity counted at least 19 attacks by the coalition on health facilities and ambulances. It said 293 airstrikes forced people to flee

The events in Ukraine are not a clash between Moscow and Kyiv - this is a military confrontation between Russia and NATO, and above all the United States and Britain

NIKOLAI PATRUSHEV | SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARY, RUSSIA



## UAE TO GO PLASTIC FREE

The United Arab Emirates Tuesday announced a ban on single-use plastic shopping bags to take effect next year, the latest initiative aimed at reducing pollution in the oil-rich nation. The law would prohibit the import, production and circulation of such bags from January 1, 2024



## Constantine, the former, last king of Greece, dies

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Athens, Jan 11: Constantine, the former and last king of Greece, has died at a private hospital in Athens, his doctors announced late Tuesday. He was 82.

Staff at the private Hygeia Hospital in Athens confirmed to The Associated Press that Constantine has died after treatment in an intensive care unit but had no further details pending an official announcement.

When he acceded to the throne as Constantine II at the age of 23 in 1964, the youthful monarch, who



had already achieved glory as an Olympic gold medalist in sailing, was hugely popular. By the following year he had squandered much of that support with his active involvement in the machinations that brought down the popularly elected Center Union government of prime minister George Papandreu.

The episode, still widely known in Greece as the "apostasy," or defection from the ruling party of several lawmakers, destabilized the constitutional order and led in 1967 to a military coup. Constantine eventually clashed with the military rulers and was forced into exile.

Constantine was born June 2, 1940 in Athens, to Prince Paul, younger brother to King George II and heir presumptive to the throne, and princess Federica of Hanover. His older sister Sophia is the wife of former King Juan Carlos I of Spain. The Greek-born Prince Philip, the late Duke of Edinburgh and husband of the United Kingdom's late Queen Elizabeth II, was an uncle.

He is survived by his wife, the former Princess Anne-Marie of Denmark, youngest sister of Queen Margrethe II; five children, Alexia, Pavlos, Nikolaos, Theodora and Philippos; and nine grandchildren.

## US airports rumble back to life after FAA outage

The Federal Aviation Administration announced earlier in the morning that it suffered an outage of its Notice to Air Missions or NOTAMs, which alerts pilots and other personnel about airborne issues



MORE THAN 5,400 FLIGHTS HAD BEEN DELAYED AND 900 CANCELED  
US OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF A CYBERATTACK

REUTERS

Washington, Jan 11: US flights were slowly beginning to resume departures and a ground stop was lifted after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) scrambled to fix a system outage overnight that had forced a halt to all US departing flights.

The cause of the problem with a pilot-alerting system, which delayed thousands of flights in the United States, was unclear, but US officials said they had so far found no evidence of a cyberattack.

The outage occurred at a historically slow time for US travel after the December holiday travel season, but airlines have said demand remains strong as travel continues to recover to near pre-pandemic levels.

"Normal air traffic operations are resuming gradually across the US following an overnight outage to the Notice to Air Missions system that provides safety info to flight crews. The ground stop has been lifted. We continue to look into the cause of the initial problem," the FAA Tweeted.

The number of flights impacted continued to steadily rise even after the ground stop was canceled.

One issue airlines are facing is trying to get planes in and out of crowded gates, which is causing further delays.

More than 5,400 flights had been delayed and 900 canceled according to the FlightAware website as officials said it will take hours to recover from the halt to flights.

The FAA had earlier ordered airlines to pause all domestic departures after its pilot alerting system crashed and the agency had to perform a hard reset around 2 am, officials said.

The FAA is expected to implement a ground delay program in order to address the backlog of flights halted for hours. Flights already in the air had been allowed to continue to their destinations during the ground stop.

US President Joe Biden ordered the Transportation Department to investigate the outage and said the cause of the failure was unknown at this time. Asked if a cyber attack was behind the outage, Biden told reporters at the White House, "We don't know."

### ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

A NOTAM is a notice containing information essential to personnel concerned with flight operations but not known far enough

in advance to be publicized by other means. A ground stop is an air traffic control measure that slows or halts aircraft at a given airport.

Information can go up to 200 pages for long-haul international flights and may include items such as runway closures, bird hazard warnings and construction obstacles.

United Airlines (UAL) said it had temporarily delayed all domestic flights and would issue an update when it learned more from the FAA.

Germany's Lufthansa and Air France both said they were continuing to operate flights to and from the United States, while the French airline said it was monitoring the situation.

Earlier this month, a problem with a different airline computer control system delayed dozens of flights in Florida.

### UPGRADES NEEDED

Chicago-based United said it has resumed operations, but warned customers might continue to see some delays and cancellations.

A trade group representing the US travel industry, including airlines, called the FAA system failure "catastrophic."

"America's transportation network desperately needs significant upgrades," Geoff Freeman, president of the US Travel Association, said in a statement. "We call on federal policymakers to modernize our vital air travel infrastructure."

FAA's system outage comes weeks after an operational meltdown at Southwest at the end of last year left thousands of passengers stranded.

A severe winter storm right before Christmas, coupled with the Texas-based carrier's dated technology, led to over 16,000 flight cancellations last month.

## Fighting rages over Ukraine's Soledar

REUTERS

Kyiv, Jan 11: Russian and Ukrainian forces were engaged in intense fighting on Wednesday over the town of Soledar in eastern Ukraine - a stepping stone in Moscow's push to capture the entire Donbas region - with the Russians appearing to have the upper hand.

The mercenary group Wagner, which has spearheaded the assault, Tuesday claimed to have taken control of the small salt-mining town although pockets of Ukrainian resistance were holding out in the centre.

Russia's defence ministry said Wednesday that airborne units had cut off Soledar from the north and south. But Ukraine denied that the town, with a pre-war population of around 10,000, had fallen.

"Heavy fighting continues in Soledar," Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar, wrote on Telegram. "The enemy has again replaced its units after sustaining losses,



has increased the number of Wagner fighters and is trying to burst through our forces' defence and fully seize the city, but is not having success."

The Kremlin also stopped short of claiming victory and acknowledged heavy casualties. "Let's not rush, let's wait for official statements. There is a positive dynamic in progress," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

With the war now in its 11th month, Russian commanders have targeted Soledar as a platform to attack the nearby city of Bakhmut, which has held out for months against a Russian onslaught and is a hub for supply lines in eastern Ukraine.



ON STRIKE: A protestor runs with her dog as nurses shout during a nursing strike outside Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. A nursing strike by as many as 7,100 nurses has disrupted patient care at two of New York City's largest hospitals has entered its second day

## No safe limit of alcohol consumption for health: WHO

The research has classified alcohol along with asbestos, radiation and tobacco, as a high risk Group 1 carcinogen, contributing to cancer worldwide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: There is no safe limit to alcohol consumption and any amount of drinking can severely impact one's health, according to a statement published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in The Lancet Public Health journal.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified alcohol along with asbestos, radiation and tobacco, as a high risk Group 1 carcinogen, contributing to cancer worldwide.

The agency has previously found that alcohol causes at least seven types of cancer, including the most common cancer types, such as bowel cancer and female breast

cancer. It is also linked with oesophagus, liver and colorectal cancers.

Alcohol causes cancer through biological mechanisms as the compound breaks down in the body, which means that any beverage containing alcohol, regardless of its price and quality, poses a risk of developing cancer.

In the WHO European Region where cancer is the leading cause of deaths, light to moderate alcohol consumption, that is less than 20 grammes of pure alcohol every day, resulted in 23,000 new cancer cases in 2017, constituting half of all alcohol associated cancers, and approximately 50 per cent of these were female breast cancers, the statement said.



"Currently available evidence cannot indicate the existence of a threshold at which the carcinogenic effects of alcohol 'switch on' and start to manifest in the human body," WHO said. A safe level of al-

cohol consumption can only be defined if there is scientific evidence to prove that at or below the level, there is "no risk of illness or injury," the statement said.

WHO said that there are no stud-

ies to show that potential benefits of alcohol on cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes outweigh the risk of cancer, but there is evidence to believe heavy episodic drinking increases the risk of car-

diovascular diseases.

"Potential protective effects of alcohol consumption, suggested by some studies, are tightly connected with the comparison groups chosen and the statistical methods used, and may not consider other relevant factors," said Jurgen Rehm, member of the WHO Regional Director for Europe's Advisory Council for Noncommunicable Diseases.

The study also found that WHO European Region has the highest alcohol consumption level and has over 200 million people at risk of having alcohol-attributed cancer.

Amongst them, the vulnerable and disadvantaged population is more at risk because of the quality of alcohol they consume.

Although it is well established that alcohol can cause cancer, this fact is still not widely known to the public in most countries. We need cancer-related health information messages on labels of alcoholic beverages, following the example of tobacco products

CARINA FERREIRA-BORGES | REGIONAL ADVISOR FOR ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS, WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

# leisure



## ANGELA'S TRIBUTE TO CHADWICK BOSEMAN

Angela Bassett, who won Best Supporting Actress at Golden Globes for her performance as Queen Ramonda in *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, said, "We mourned, we loved, we healed, and we were surrounded every day with the light and spirit of Chadwick Boseman."

## AFFLECK SERVES COFFEE AT DOUGHNUT JOINT

Argo star Ben Affleck has landed the job of serving customers at a Dunkin' Donuts drive-through in Boston. The Oscar-winning actor was snapped taking orders and serving up coffee at a drive-through window, with his wife Jennifer Lopez pulling up in a white SUV to order her own takeaway.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
Your attractive personality is always at the disposal of others, and today you could benefit immensely through it. However, there is room for improvement and you could be drawn towards charity work. Ganesh says you will surely feel satisfied by helping the needy.

**TAURUS**  
This day you will tend to be too bossy, too harsh on your subordinates or employees and end up making them miserable as well as hostile. Their insubordination could corrode the respect you get and, in addition, make things unworkable.

**GEMINI**  
You will want some change in your daily routine today. You are likely to be fed up of the rut of daily life and are looking for a refreshing change. You need to apply your inherent creativity to your work to get more satisfaction out of it and to ease the boredom of your daily schedule, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Don't meddle in others' affairs today, suggests Ganesh. For they will not take it kindly. Adopt the middle path. Ganesh feels that you must keep your bravado and boldness in check.

**LEO**  
Your pride and self-confidence will help you to excel in whatever task it is that you take up today. Other people will also praise you. You will buy new clothes and other possessions that you have been desiring since a long time, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Today will be a pleasant day full of surprises and unforeseen changes. You may go for a long drive with your beloved. The trip will be very interesting and will calm your frayed nerves. All in all, Ganesh says, it is an optimistic and happy day, so go ahead and get the best out of it.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says you will have a good time with your family members and will have fun with them. You will also be able to organize a picnic or a party for your family members and enjoy the day with them. Ganesh says you will go out for a trip to a religious place or temple, which will enhance your mind and ideas.

**SCORPIO**  
Your sixth sense would work wonders today, as per to what Ganesh has to say. Trust your instincts and work accordingly. Work enthusiastically and dedicatedly. When the pressure of work mounts on you, take a break and unwind with the help of soft music.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
It's time for some entertainment. Movies, picnics and dining out is on your mind. Invite your beloved and enjoy quality time with each other. Also, you will spend time with you family and friends, and attend a music concert together.

**CAPRICORN**  
Actions speak louder than words. Your sincere efforts and honest intentions will motivate others also to put in their best, feels Ganesh. You'll be like a friend, philosopher and guide to them. People will follow you, but it has a darker side to as many will even over take you. It is certainly not a pleasant sight to see opportunities pass by!

**AQUARIUS**  
You will take the road to spirituality today and give a miss to materialism. You will visit temples, other religious places, and spiritual leaders to find answers for some of your questions. It will, however, take a while for you to distinguish between mysticism and materialism, and understand that you can have the best of both worlds.

**PISCES**  
You will not take matters to heart needlessly today, and will instead calmly evaluate the bitter words of others to see if there is a grain of truth in them somewhere. This is a good practice and one that should be continued. While you won't be in the mood to tolerate any injustice, you will be able to forgive those who have wronged you and will thus be able to refrain from stoking further, the fires of enmity, says Ganesh.

### GOLDEN GLOBES 2023

# The Banshees of Inisherin, The Fabelmans big winners

Steven Spielberg bags Best Director award while Austin Butler and Cate Blanchett take home Best Actor and Actress trophies for 'Elvis' and 'Tar' respectively



**Los Angeles:** While the fans are over the win with the big win of Natu Natu, a song from Indian film *RRR* directed by SS Rajamouli was named the Best Original Song in Motion Picture, *The Fabelmans* won Best Picture, Drama and *The Banshees of Inisherin* bagged the

Best Picture, Musical or Comedy at the Golden Globes Awards. *House of the Dragon* won best TV drama and *Abbott Elementary* received the prize for best TV comedy. In a marathon telecast that stretched over three hours, *The White Lotus*, was named best limited or anthology series for its Sicily-set second season.

*The Banshees of Inisherin*, a comic look at the dissolution of a friendship, won a leading three prizes, including awards for its screenplay and the lead performance of Colin Farrell. *The Fabelmans*, a warm-hearted look at Steven Spielberg's childhood, also won a directing prize for the filmmaking icon. IANS

**MAJOR WINNERS**  
Best Film: *The Fabelmans*  
Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy: *The Banshees of Inisherin*  
Best Director (Motion Picture): Steven Spielberg for *The Fabelmans*  
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama: Austin Butler for *Elvis*  
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama: Cate Blanchett for *Tar*  
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy: Colin Farrell for *The Banshees of Inisherin*  
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy: Michelle Yeoh, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*  
Best Original Song – Motion Picture: *Natu Natu* by M.M. Keeravani, Kala Bhairava, Rahul Sipligunj from *RRR*  
Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy: *Abbott Elementary*  
Best Television Series – Drama: *House of the Dragon*  
Best Performance by an Actor in a TV Series – Drama: Kevin Costner, *Yellowstone*  
Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series – Drama: Zendaya, *Euphoria*

## Naatu Naatu celebrations back home



**Mumbai:** Several film celebrities joined the chorus of compliments pouring in for the Golden Globes win of the *RRR* track *Natu Natu*. Here're some reaction from them

Keeravani garu, Ram Charan, Jr NTR, Alia Bhatt. First ever Asian movie to win a Golden Globe for a song. Amazing win for Indian cinema.

## RIHANNA WALKS UP TO RRR TEAM TO CONGRATULATE

Soon after their win, pop singer Rihanna was seen congratulating the team as she walked by the *RRR* table with her partner ASAP Rocky. Ram Charan's wife Upasana shared the video on her Instagram handle and it shows the team smiling as they received wishes from the popular pop singer. Jr NTR and his wife also captured the moment as Rihanna congratulated them.



**Akshay Kumar:** The whole country is dancing to #NaatuNaatu today. Congratulations to @mmkeeravaani @ssrajamouli @tarak9999 @AlwaysRamCharan and the entire team of *RRR*.

**Rashmika Mandana:** You did it #RRR so so proud and happy for you.

**Samantha Ruth Prabhu:** Proudest moment ever!

**Karan Johar:** Absolutely thrilled and filled with pride as #RRR brings home a prestigious #GoldenGlobes award

# Vidya's reel leaves netizens in splits

**Mumbai:** Actress Vidya Balan recently shared a reel on Instagram in which she can be seen enacting Angoori Bhabhi's dialogue from the show *Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain*.

Vidya. Angoori, played by Shubhangi Atre, in the show, shared: "I saw this reel as soon as I woke up. I was very happy and excited. Sometimes, there are some reels on such trending audios which we both have made and I feel that we have similar choices when it comes to this."

Vidya captioned it: "Angrezi ek sensuous bhaasha". Shubhangi expressed her excitement over it and also wished to get a chance to work with

"I was waiting to see what she will make now. But today I heard my own voice in her reels and I was super excited. She has done such great work and I hope to work with her some day. I want to thank her and I loved it, 'aap sahi pakde hai'."

Producer Binaferr Kohli also added that getting positive response and attention for the content you are creating always gives a special feeling and the way Vidya shared a reel is like an honour for her. IANS

Producer Binaferr Kohli also added that getting positive response and attention for the content you are creating always gives a special feeling and the way Vidya shared a reel is like an honour for her. IANS



## Taapsee starts shooting for Hasseen Dillruba sequel

**Mumbai:** Actress Taapsee Pannu has started shooting for the sequel of *Hasseen Dillruba*, which is titled *Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba*.

poster yet. "O hamari hasseen dillruba Aaj shooting shuru ho gai hai 'phir aayi hasseen dillruba' kia @taapsee tuje bola tha na 9 baje poster dalne ke liye..dala kyun nahi abhi tak? #PhirAayiHasseenDillruba," he wrote.

Filmmaker Anand L Rai took to Twitter to announce that the shooting has commenced and also asked Taapsee as to why she hasn't shared the

To which Taapsee replied: "Sir'ni not ready yet... Is baar toh le gayi hai character ko @KanikaDhillon! Pata nahi kya kha ke likhi hai yeh kahani. Aur har baar mere saath hi kiyun aesai. #PhirAayiHasseenDillruba."

*Hasseen Dillruba* is a 2021 romantic thriller film directed by Vinil Mathew and written by Kanika Dhillon.

It stars Taapsee Pannu, Vikrant Massey and Harshvardhan Rane. *Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba* starred Taapsee Pannu and Vikrant Massey in lead roles. IANS



### PEANUTS



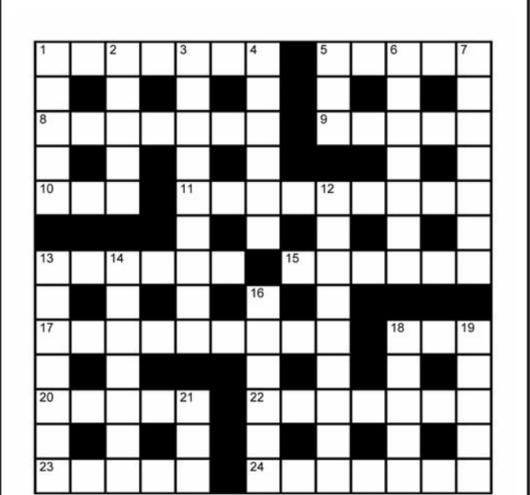
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



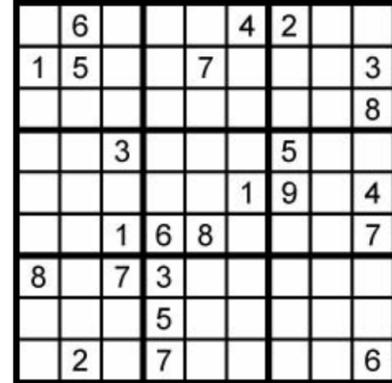
### FUN post CROSSWORD



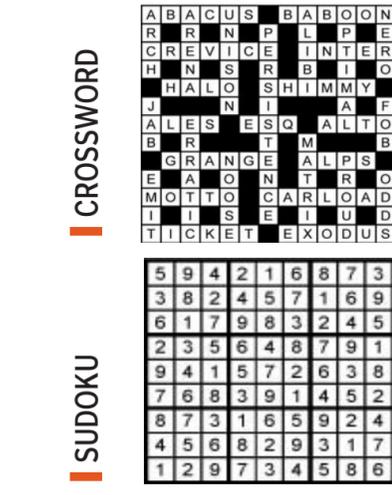
- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 One having no equal
  - 5 Mother-of-pearl
  - 8 Thankless wretch
  - 9 Most defective
  - 10 Late Eng. actress, Dame \_\_\_ Whitty
  - 11 Teach
  - 13 Breakfast choice
  - 15 Smiles derisively
  - 17 Musical group
  - 18 Child's game
  - 20 Elevate
  - 22 Virulent stare (4,3)
  - 23 Wash cycle indication
  - 24 Disease
  - 4 Sewing item
  - 5 Original
  - 6 Museum custodian
  - 7 Draws out or makes longer
  - 12 Athletic facility
  - 13 Mendicant, to some
  - 14 Literary work
  - 16 Tension
  - 18 Pay for, at dinner
  - 19 Reflected light
  - 21 Foot part
- Down**
- 1 Optical device
  - 2 Football game
  - 3 Gossip carrier

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## of the day quote

As the preparation for the Union Budget 2023 gets underway, we expect a correction in the customs duties and taxes levied on medical devices

**PAVAN CHOUDHARY** | CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR GENERAL, MTAI

The penetration of the luxury car segment is likely to improve to 1.5 per cent (of the overall passenger car market) if not more this year. In the future years, however it is expected to grow even further

**NAVEN SONI** | PRESIDENT, LEXUS INDIA

On GeM, MSEs have secured 55.2 per cent (Rs 1,41,887 crore) of total order value (Rs 2,57,263 crore) and MSEs owned by women have secured 8 per cent (Rs 11,373 crore) of the MSE orders since FY 2020-21 till now. The numbers reflect inclusion on GeM

**PK SINGH** | CEO, GEM

## SHORT TAKES

### FM meets Hunt

**New Delhi:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and UK Chancellor of Exchequer Jeremy Hunt Wednesday discussed bilateral investment and trade issues. The two leaders also discussed issues relating to the G-20, of which India has assumed the Presidency for the current year. "Union Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman and the Chancellor of the Exchequer United Kingdom, Mr @Jeremy\_Hunt had a telecon today. Both sides discussed about #G20, investment & trade and other bilateral concerns of mutual interest," the finance ministry tweeted.

### No relief to Google

**New Delhi:** The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal Wednesday declined to grant interim relief to Google seeking a stay on competition watchdog CCI's penalty of ₹936.44 crore on the tech giant for abusing its dominant position with respect to Play Store policies. The appellate tribunal has directed Google to deposit 10 per cent of the fine before its registry in the next four weeks. Last week, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) also declined to stay another CCI order, in which it had slapped a penalty of ₹1,337.76 crore on Google for anti-competitive practices in relation to Android mobile devices.

### Kia's boost to EV

**Greater Noida:** Auto maker Kia India plans to invest ₹2,000 crore over the next four years to scale up its presence in the electric vehicle segment, a senior company official said Wednesday. The South Korean firm plans to invest the capital on various elements like manufacturing and infrastructure development for EVs over the next few years. It currently sells a single battery electric model in the country and has plans to introduce a locally manufactured product in 2025. Globally, Kia has already announced plans to drive in 14 battery electric models by 2027.

### Big yr for Boeing

**Arlington:** Boeing said Tuesday it took more than 200 net orders for passenger airplanes in December and finished 2022 with its best year since 2018, which was before two deadly crashes involving its 737 Max jet and a pandemic that choked off demand for new planes. The biggest boost came from United Airlines, which placed large orders for both the 737 Max and the larger, twin-aisle 787, which is used mostly on international routes.



**The government is expecting to get financial bids for IDBI Bank's strategic sale by September**

**TUHIN KANTA PANDEY** | SECRETARY, DIPAM

## EVs RULE DAY 1 OF AUTO EXPO

Electric vehicles hogged the limelight on the first day of India's flagship motor show Auto Expo 2023 with the likes of Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Kia, Tata Motors and MG Motor showcasing their futuristic products, while also committing to invest in sustainable mobility



# 'Cost of living crisis biggest short-term risk; climate action long-term'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/London, Jan 11:** The cost of living crisis is the biggest short-term risk the world is facing, while the failure of climate mitigation and climate adaptation is the largest long-term concern, the World Economic Forum said Wednesday.

Releasing its annual Global Risks report in London ahead of its Davos summit next week, the WEF also said geopolitical rivalries and inward-looking stances will heighten economic constraints and further exacerbate both short- and long-term risks.

The Global Risks 2023 report,

drawing on views of over 1,200 experts, policy-makers and industry leaders from across the world, also urged countries to work together to avoid 'resource rivalries'.

"Conflict and geo-economic tensions have triggered a series of deeply interconnected global risks," the report said.

These include energy and food supply crunches, which are likely to persist for the next two years, and strong increases in the cost of living and debt servicing.

At the same time, these crises risk undermining efforts to tackle longer-term risks, notably those related to climate change, biodiversity and investment in human capital.



The report said the window for action on the most serious long-term threats is closing rapidly and concerted, collective action is needed before risks reach a tipping point.

Produced in partnership with Marsh McLennan and Zurich Insurance Group, the report painted a picture of the global risks landscape that is both new and eerily familiar, as the world faces many pre-existing risks that previously appeared to be receding.

Noting that the global pandemic and war in Europe have brought energy, inflation, food and security crises back to the fore, the report said these create follow-on risks that will dominate the next two years.

Those include the risk of recession; growing debt distress; a continued cost of living crisis; polarised societies enabled by disinformation and misinformation; a hiatus on rapid climate action; and zero-sum geo-economic warfare.

Failure to mitigate and adapt to climate change, natural disasters, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation represent five of the top 10 risks - with biodiversity loss seen as one of the most rapidly deteriorating global risks over the next decade.

In parallel, crises-driven leadership and geopolitical rivalries risk creating societal distress at an unprecedented level, as investments in health, education and economic development disappear, further eroding social cohesion.

Finally, rising rivalries risk not only growing geo-economic weaponisation but also remilitarisation, especially through new technologies and rogue actors, the WEF said.

## WB estimates India GDP slowing to 6.6%

India however is expected to be the fastest growing economy of the seven largest emerging-market and developing economies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 11:** India's economic growth rate will slow to 6.6 per cent in next financial year from an expected 6.9 per cent in 2022-23, the World Bank said in its latest economic update.

India however is expected to be the fastest growing economy of the seven largest emerging-market and developing economies (EMDEs), it said.

The growth rate of 6.9 per cent in current fiscal year (April 2022 to March 2023) compares with 8.7 per cent in the previous year. For 2024-25, the growth rate is projected at 6.1 per cent. "The slowdown in the global economy and rising uncertainty will weigh on export and investment growth," it said.

The government has increased infrastructure spending and various business facilitation measures. However, it will crowd-in private investment and support the expansion

of manufacturing capacity.

"Growth is projected to slow, to 6.6 per cent in FY2023/24 before falling back toward its potential rate of just above 6 per cent," it said.

The GDP expanded by 9.7 per cent on an annual basis in the first half of fiscal year 2022-23, reflecting strong private consumption and fixed investment growth.

Consumer inflation in most of the last year was above the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent, prompting the policy rate to be raised by 2.25 percentage points between May and December.

India's goods trade deficit has more than doubled since 2019, and was \$24 billion in November, with deficits for crude petroleum and other commodities (\$7.6 billion) and other commodities (for example, ores and minerals at \$4.2 billion) accounting for the widening.

World Bank said India used its international reserves (at \$550 billion in November, or 16 per cent of GDP) to curb excess exchange rate volatility helping to limit the rupee depreciation, and its sovereign spread has remained broadly stable at 1.4 per cent in December, similar to average levels in the five years before the pandemic.

# Boost to digital payments

THE ₹2,600 CRORE INVESTMENT TO PROMOTE RUPAY DEBIT CARDS AND LOW-VALUE BHIM-UPI TRANSACTIONS WOULD HELP IN BUILDING A ROBUST DIGITAL PAYMENT ECOSYSTEM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 11:** The Cabinet Wednesday approved a ₹2,600 crore scheme for promoting RuPay debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions.

Under the scheme, banks will be provided financial incentives for promoting Point of Sale (PoS) and e-commerce transactions using RuPay and UPI in the current financial year.

The decision in this regard was taken in the meeting of the Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"India's strides in digital payments will be further strengthened by today's Cabinet decision regarding promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and BHIM-UPI transactions," Modi said in a tweet.

The scheme would help in building a robust digital payment ecosystem. It would also promote UPI Lite and UPI23PAY as economical and user-friendly digital payments.

In December alone, UPI achieved a record of 782.9 crore digital payment transactions with a value of ₹12.82 lakh crore.

"The approved incentive scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (P2M) in FY 2022-23 has a financial outlay of ₹2,600 crore," an official statement said.

Briefing reporters after the



**BANKS TO GET INCENTIVES FOR PROMOTING POINT OF SALE AND E-COMMERCE TRANSACTIONS USING RUPAY AND UPI**

**UPI ACHIEVED A RECORD OF 782.9 CRORE DIGITAL PAYMENT TRANSACTIONS WITH A VALUE OF ₹12.82 TRILLION IN DEC**

**TOTAL DIGITAL PAYMENTS TRANSACTIONS HAVE REGISTERED A YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH OF 59%**

Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Bhubender Yadav said this will help in taking the digital payment system to MSMEs, the unorganised sector and farmers.

In 2021-22, the government approved an incentive scheme in compliance with the budget announcement of 2021-22 to give a boost to digital transactions. In the 2022-23 Budget, the government announced its intent to continue the financial support.

The total digital payments transactions have registered a year-on-year growth of 59 per cent, rising from 5,554 crore in 2020-21 to 8,840 crore in FY2021-22.

BHIM-UPI transactions have registered a year-on-year growth of 106 per cent, rising from 2,233 crore in FY2020-21 to 4,597 crore in FY2021-22.

The statement further said that the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) had sought incentivisation of BHIM-UPI and

## NRIs from 10 nations to be able to use UPI for fund transfer

The NPCI has permitted non-residents from 10 countries, including the US, Canada and UAE, to digitally transfer funds using the UPI platform from NRE/NRO accounts. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in a circular said it has been receiving requests for allowing non-residents to use international mobile numbers for transacting in Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Accordingly, the NPCI in a circular dated January 10 has asked the UPI participants to put in place a mechanism by April 30 under which non-residents having NRE/NRO accounts will be allowed to transfer funds using their international mobile numbers. To start with, this facility will be available to non-residents in 10 countries - Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE and the United Kingdom.

RuPay Debit Card transactions to create a cost-effective value proposition for ecosystem stakeholders, increase merchant acceptance footprints and faster migration from cash payments to digital payments.

## Airtel 5G Plus now live in 3 cities

**Bhubaneswar:** Bharti Airtel Limited, commonly known as Airtel, India's leading telecommunications services provider announced the launch of its cutting edge 5G services in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Rourkela. The company has also deployed the ultrafast 5G services at the Kalinga & Birs Munda stadiums in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela respectively that are hosting the Men's Hockey World Cup. Airtel 5G Plus services will be available to customers in a phased manner as the company continues to construct its network and complete the roll out. Customers with 5G enabled devices will enjoy high speed Airtel 5G Plus network at no extra cost until the roll out is more widespread. Airtel 5G Plus will bolster the entire portfolio of services that Airtel offers. In addition, it will allow superfast access to High Definition video streaming, gaming, multiple chatting, instant uploading of photos and more.

## Bol celebrates World Hindi Diwas

**Bhubaneswar:** Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Zone celebrated World Hindi Diwas which is celebrated January 10 and organised a competition on the occasion. The winners of this competition were awarded with certificates and prizes. Ashok Kumar Jena, Deputy Zonal Manager was present for the celebrations. Prizes were distributed to the winners by Navdeep Mohanty, Assistant General Manager, National Banking Group (NBG), Odisha and Ved Prakash Ojha, Chief Manager, Security Department. Staff members from all zones participated in the competition. The programme was coordinated by Sonia Sawant, Senior Manager, Rajabhasha.



Usha Travels unveils its new 24x7 domestic and international ticket booking counter for all airlines at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) in Bhubaneswar. It will provide visa, passport, hotel bookings, tour packages etc among other services. BPIA Director Prasanna Pradhan inaugurated the booking counter in the presence of other officials

## TAX MOP-UP RISES 24.58% TILL JAN 10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 11:** The country's gross direct tax collection rose 24.58 per cent to Rs 14.71 lakh crore till January 10 this fiscal, buoyed by an upsurge in personal income tax mop-up, the government data showed Wednesday.

After adjusting refunds, net direct tax collection stood at Rs 12.31 lakh crore, 19.55 per cent higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year.

The net collection is 86.68 per cent of the total budget estimates of direct taxes for the current fiscal. The Budget had estimated direct tax collection at Rs 14.20 lakh crore this fiscal.

On gross basis, collections from corporate income tax (CIT) grew 19.72 per cent, while that for personal income tax (PIT) increased 30.46 per cent.

"The provisional figures of direct tax collections up to 10th January, 2023 continue to register steady growth. Direct tax collections up to 10th January, 2023 show that gross collections are at Rs 14.71 lakh crore which is 24.58 per cent higher than the gross collections for the corresponding period of last year," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

After adjusting refunds, the net growth in CIT collections is 18.33 per cent and that in PIT (including securities transaction tax) is 20.97 per cent.

Refunds amounting to Rs 2.40 lakh crore have been issued between April 1, 2022, to January 10, 2023, which are 58.74 per cent higher than refunds issued during the same period last year.

# Oil price cap takes small slice of Russia war chest

The current price cap is above the market price for Russian oil and remains in the range of what Moscow needs to balance its budget

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Frankfurt (Germany), Jan 11:** A price cap and European Union embargo on most Russian oil have cut into Moscow's revenue from fossil fuels, but the Kremlin is still earning substantial cash to fund its war in Ukraine because the \$80-per-barrel cap was "too lenient", researchers said Wednesday.

The combination of the cap by the Group of Seven major democracies and the EU ban are costing Russia an estimated 160 million euros (\$171.9 million) per day, the Helsinki-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air said in a study of the first weeks of the sanctions, which took effect December 5.

But the group's figures showed that Russia was still taking in 640 million euros a day from fossil fuels, down from 1 billion euros daily from March to May 2022 just after the country invaded Ukraine February 24.

Russia would lose an additional 120 million a day starting February 5, when the EU bars imports of refined oil products such as diesel fuel, for which Russia is a major supplier. That would drop Moscow's earnings to 520 million euros a day by February.

The group said Russia still managed to make 3.1 billion euros in revenue shipping oil under the price cap, reaping 2 billion euros in tax income. Lowering the cap to \$25-



USD 35 per barrel would almost completely eliminate the tax income by putting the price much closer to Russia's cost of production.

Western governments have struggled to find a way to cut into the fossil fuel income that is the main funding source for Russia's government budget and its war against Ukraine.

Early rounds of sanctions mostly avoided blocking oil and natural gas shipments. That's because the European Union had been heavily dependent on Russian fossil fuels to run its economy and because sharply higher energy prices early in the war helped send inflation through the roof in Europe

and the United States.

The Group of Seven major democracies came up with the price cap as a solution to keep Russian oil flowing to other parts of the world and avoid sharply higher energy prices while still cutting into the Kremlin's income.

The cap is enforced by barring insurers, mostly based in the West, from handling Russian oil shipments priced above the cap. The EU oil embargo blocks the bulk of Russian oil - that coming by tanker.

Lowering the cap could have unpredictable effects because President Vladimir Putin has said Russia will not sell oil to countries obeying the cap, a threat which has not materialized because the cap is above the market price.

Oil markets, however, are now less focused on a potential loss of Russian oil than on weak demand from a slowing global economy, and prices have fallen.

# INDIA AIM TO SEAL SERIES

# FIH Men's World Cup '23: Noteworthy facts & trivia

With the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup set to kickoff Friday, PTI takes a look at some facts and trivia about the tournament from its previous editions...

**2433** goals have been scored from the 605 matches at an average of four goals per match

**605** matches have been played so far in the 14 editions of the tournament from 1971 onwards

**26** different countries have taken part in all the World Cups till now. Chile and Wales will take the number to 28 as they make their debut in this edition in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela

India, Netherlands and Spain are the only teams to have appeared in all the 14 editions so far, and all three of them will also appear at this World Cup too, making it 15 appearances in a row. Argentina, Australia, England and Pakistan have appeared in 13 editions so far.

Netherlands in the final of the 2018 edition in the penalty shootout after both sides were locked goalless in regulation time.

Pakistan are the most successful country with four titles (1994, 1981, 1978, 1971). They have also won two silver medals.

Australia (1998, 1990, 1973) and the Netherlands (2014, 2010, 1986) have won the title three times each while Germany has won it twice.

Australia have won 10 medals (3 gold, 2 silver, 5 bronze) at the World Cups, the most among all the nations.

Netherlands have won nine medals (3 gold, 4 medal, 2 bronze) at the World Cups.

India's lone World Cup win came in 1975 in Kuala Lumpur under the captaincy of Ajit Pal Singh, beating arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 in the final.

Netherlands have played most World Cup matches - 100 - out of which they won 61.

Australia have won most number of matches - 69 - from 92 games with a winning percentage of 75.

Australia have also scored most goals - 305 - making it the most attacking side ahead of the Netherlands (267) and Pakistan (235).

Australia also have a phenomenal defensive record at the World Cups, letting in just 107 goals in their 92 games, at an average of 1.16 per game.

Pakistan have won 51 matches out of the 89 they have played.

India have played 95 matches, second among all the countries, out of which they won 40.

Argentina, Australia and England are also taking part this time while Pakistan failed to qualify for this edition as well as the previous one.

India will become the first country to host back-to-back FIH Men's World Cup as the 2018 edition was also hosted at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar thus becomes the first venue to host back-to-back FIH Men's Hockey World Cup. The brand new Birsas Munda Stadium in Rourkela, Odisha, is the co-host.

The Odisha government has claimed the 21,000 capacity Birsas Munda Stadium to be the largest hockey stadium in the world.

Sixteen participating teams will play 44 matches at this edition with Kalinga stadium hosting 24 of them, including the semifinals and the final (January 29) while the Birsas Munda Stadium will host the remaining 20 games, including two of India's three Pool D matches (January 13 and 15).

The winning team of the four pools will straightaway qualify for the quarterfinals, while the second and third-placed sides (of the four pools) will play an additional cross-over round to pick the remaining four teams for the last eight stage.

Belgium are the defending champions, having beaten the



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Jan 11:** Buoyed by the form of its top three batters, a clinical India will look to take an unassailable 2-0 lead when they face Sri Lanka in the second ODI here Thursday.

Having ended his century drought for nearly three years in a T20I against Afghanistan in the Asia Cup in September, Virat Kohli has not looked back since then especially in the white ball format and brought up his 73rd international century in their 67-run win in Guwahati Tuesday.

He looked in supreme control in the first ODI in Guwahati on Tuesday and made Sri Lanka pay the price for two dropped chances to slam a back-to-back ODI hundreds that formed the backbone of India's massive 373/7. It was like the Kohli of the old as he looked uncluttered and no Sri Lankan bowler troubled him.

Returning from an injury, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma too allayed

any concerns whatsoever of being short on match-fitness as he took on the Lankan attack in a 67-ball 83 to set the foundation for a mammoth total. He seemed to be in his zone before coming to his favourite venue Eden Gardens.

The last time the two teams met in an ODI here, Rohit struck that world record 264 eight years back. Now here in his favourite venue as the Indian skipper, Rohit would be definitely keen to get to a big score.

That an ODI century is also eluding him since a long time - his last ODI hundred came against Australia in January 2020 would also be an added motivation. Add young opener Shubman Gill's splendid ODI run to Indian top three and Indian top-order looks sorted and would once again look to dominate the pedestrian Lankan attack.

Having got unflinching support from his skipper, Gill was back as opener in the ODI format at the expense of left-handed keeper-batter Ishan Kishan, a selection that copped a lot of criticism in Guwahati.

But Gill silenced all that debate with yet another aesthetic knock of 70 off just 60 balls as he continued his fine form from last year during which he has averaged 70-plus from 12 innings.

With Shreyas Iyer also coming back from a dream ODI run last year and occupying the No.4 spot with his flair for tackling spin and rotating strike in the middle overs, the only spot that may open up in the batting order is that of KL Rahul.

Rahul, who also doubles up as a wicketkeeper, has been in wretched form of late but may get a longer run especially in the series to prolong Kishan's wait.

Mohammed Siraj continued to raise his stakes and looked terrific with the new ball in an opening spell on a flat deck at Barsapara Stadium. On Eden's fast deck, Siraj will relish the challenge bowling with old warhorse Mohammed Shami as it remains to be seen whether the team think tank opts for an extra seamer.

Umran Malik played the role of the

enforcer in the middle overs till Dasun Shanaka took on him en route to a fine century. The young pace gun is a work in progress and would look to improve with every match.

Skipper Dasun Shanaka has been the only silver-lining for Sri Lanka in a lopsided contest in Guwahati. From being 179/7, the premier Lankan all-rounder gave the visitors some hope with a valiant 108 not out as he would look to continue his fine form.

Taking full advantage of the dew, Shanaka took Indian bowling to cleaners but they would need a collective effort from their batters to give India any fight.

With opener Pathum Nissanka also in good form, the Lankans would look to put up a strong show with the batting. But the biggest letdown for the Sri Lankans was their fielding as they dropped Kohli twice. They would also hope for an improved show from their bowlers especially in the powerplay where they gave a lot of width to Indian batters.

## 'I've been judged by people who hardly know me'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 11:** A few months ago, Prithvi Shaw had posted a message on his Instagram handle: "Hope you are watching everything Sai Baba". It was a young man desperately seeking some divine intervention after being pushed to a corner. He was being judged by people who didn't even know him and those fair weather friends weren't around when he needed them most.

"I think that post was just about if he (Sai Baba) is watching or not. That wasn't for anyone. It was a deeply personal thing," Prithvi's voice was unusually calm as he spoke to PTI after his marathon 379 (383b, 49x4, 4x6) in a Ranji Trophy match against Assam in Guwahati.

In the close to nine decades of Indian first-class cricket history, Shaw has the second highest individual score after Bhausaheb Nimbalkar's 443 for Maharashtra against Kathiawar in Pune back in 1948-49.

Perceptions in Indian cricket fly thick and fast which can make or break careers. "Sometimes, you do get frustrated," said Shaw. "You know you are doing your things right. You know you are doing your processes right, you are honest with yourself, disciplined with your career on and off the field. But sometimes people do talk differently. People who don't even know you (would) judge you," the hurt was palpable in his voice.

"People who are not with me when I am not doing well, I don't really care about them. Just like to ignore them. That's the best policy," said the second man after Sachin Tendulkar to hit a Test hundred in his teens.

The trolls on social media or the adverse comments don't bother him anymore.

## PRASHANT TON SPOILS SUNIL'S 6-WICKET HAUL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Nadaun, Jan 11:** Prashant Chopra completed his 12th first-class century as the Himachal Pradesh opener helped the hosts take the first-innings lead in their Ranji Trophy Group A match against Odisha Wednesday.

The dependable opener's 198-ball 138 (18x4, 1x6) was the highlight of the day as Himachal quickly got on with the task of erasing the opponents' first-innings lead.

Beginning the day at 91/2 in reply to Odisha's first-innings total of 191, Himachal had only Prashant to thank for guiding them to a modest 258 even as the visitors' seam bowler Sunil Roul (6/62) wreaked havoc.

The 24-year-old Roul created a lot of hurdles for the hosts with his nagging line and length. But Prashant, starting from where he had left off Tuesday at 61, kept accumulating runs and punished any loose deliveries by dispatching them for boundaries.

The seasoned batter, in the process, completed his 4,000 first-class runs even as Roul continued to chip away. Prashant finally fell victim to a Roul delivery, trapped in front of the wicket. His dismissal opened the floodgates as none of the Himachal batters could play the wily bowler with confidence. The home team lost their last seven wickets for just 25 runs in less than 10 overs.

Himachal wicketkeeper-batter Praveen Thakur and Mayank Dagar departed without opening their account, while tail-enders Vaibhav Arora and Kanwar Abhinay too fell cheaply. Soon, the hosts' batting wound up at 258 in 76.5 overs.

At stumps on day two, Odisha were 29 without loss in 13 overs with Anurag Sarangi and Shantanu Mishra unbeaten on 14 and 15 respectively.

### BRIEF SCORES

**Odisha 191 & 29/0; Himachal Pradesh 258** (Prashant Chopra 138, Amit Kumar 46; Sunil Roul 6/62). Match to continue.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kuala Lumpur, Jan 11:** PV Sindhu faltered on her return to action after a long injury lay-off but in-form HS Prannoy continued his sensational run to progress to the second round of the Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament here Wednesday.

Sixth seed Sindhu, who was playing her first match since she sustained a stress fracture on her left ankle en route her Commonwealth Games gold in August, lost 12-21, 21-10, 15-21 to Rio Olympics champion Carolina Marin of Spain in 59 minutes.

Earlier, World No.8 Prannoy lived up to his new status of being India's best-ranked men's singles player with a come-from-behind 22-24, 21-12, 21-18 victory over Lakshya Sen, ranked 10th, in an edgy opening-round contest that went for little over an hour: The 30-year-old from Kerala will next face Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Malvika Bansod, however, failed



Chirag Shetty also advanced to the pre-quarterfinals with a 21-16, 21-13 win over the Korean pair of Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho. The World No.5 pair will meet the Indonesian combination of Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Bagas Maulana.

to cross the opening hurdle, losing 9-21, 13-21 to second seed Korean An Se Young.

The women's doubles pair of Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam lost 10-21, 12-21 to Thailand's Supissara Paewsampran and Puttita Supajirakul.

Sindhu came into the match

with a 5-9 head-to-head record against Marin, who had a tough last few years, having suffered an ACL in both her knees.

The Indian had a rusty start as she struggled with her finishing, allowing an aggressive Marin to grab the momentum. Marin comfortably sealed the first set, but Sindhu came back strongly in the second set to level the match.

In the decider, Marin moved into the breather with a four-point advantage. On resumption, Sindhu slumped to 8-14 following a judgement error. Marin grabbed six match points leaving her opponent cramped for space with another body return to end the contest in her favour.

In men's singles, Sen came into the match against Prannoy holding a 3-2 head-to-head advantage for the previous year.

The match lived up to its top billing with the duo fighting tooth and nail right from the start. They played at a high pace and it was Prannoy, who came on top of the West Bengal lad.

## Prannoy trumps Sen, Sindhu loses

# There is definitely pressure on Harmanpreet: Reid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 11:** India captain Harmanpreet Singh is one of the star attractions of the men's hockey World Cup starting Friday because of his sheer calibre of penalty-corner conversions, but the team's chief coach Graham Reid has worked upon plans to divert the attention from his key player.

Harmanpreet is currently regarded as one of the world's finest penalty-corner exponents but Reid wants his other dragflickers - vice-captain Amit Rohidas, Varun Kumar and Nilam Sanjeev Xess - to share the responsibility with their skipper.

"I would be lying if I say that there isn't pressure on him (Harmanpreet). We have been spending a lot of time on our variations and making sure that we can deflect some of the pressure



from Harman," Reid told this agency in an interview ahead of their tournament opener against Spain in Rourkela Friday.

"There are other dragflickers in the squad in the form of Amit, Varun and Nilam and they have to share the burden."

Eight-time gold medallists India grabbed an Olympic medal - a bronze in Tokyo - after 41 years and the expectations are high from the

home team to return to the podium in the World Cup since 1975, when they won their maiden yellow metal in the event.

And the Australian coach, under whose tutelage India won the Olympic medal in Tokyo, understands the need of modern-day hockey. "We focussed mainly on scenarios in our training, what if we are 0-1 down, what if we are playing with 10 men, what if they take their keeper off. Those types of scenarios which are important that we have dealt with," Reid said.

"Spending a lot of time on those sorts of scenarios, lots of goal shooting, a lot of tackling, a lot of penalty corners. There is no rocket science there."

Asked about his realistic expectation from the World Cup to be jointly hosted by Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29, the Indian coach said, "I always

said that we shouldn't be too much outcome focussed. India as nation always is focussed on outcome.

"It's an old adage that the first game is the most important, so we are just focussing on that and then take it forward. That's how we are approaching. My job as a coach is to keep them focussed and the result will follow. It's an old sports psychology but it works."

"But having said that after winning medals in the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games, it would be great for a hockey nation like India to win a World Cup medal," he added.

But the coach added he isn't looking too far ahead and just wants to focus on the pool matches at this stage. India are placed in a tough Pool D alongside Spain, England and Wales. India will open their campaign against Spain Friday.