

## KANYE WEST IS MARRIED AGAIN

Rapper Kanye West has recently exchanged vows with Yeezy employee Bianca Censori in a private ceremony. However, it is not believed that the union is legally binding as they haven't filed a marriage certificate. *The All Day* hitmaker was split from Kim Kardashian in February 2021 after seven years of marriage.

## SEX TAPE SCANDAL WAS VERY HURTFUL: PAMELA

Actress-model Pamela Anderson said the sex tape scandal involving her ex-hubby Tommy Lee was 'very hurtful'. In a teaser for her upcoming interview on *CBS' Sunday Morning*, she said: "It was two crazily naked people in love and those tapes were not meant for anybody else to see."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

#### ARIES

You may feel empty, and completely down-and-out today. Ganesh says that this may make you feel a bit more inclined to spirituality. Meditation and prayer will engage more of your attention. You will also make considerable material progress.

#### TAURUS

You are likely to be in a mood to get away from the daily grind and take a much needed break. You would naturally try to stay free from future concerns and commitments and keep all your woes and worries aside for the day.

#### GEMINI

Today, you may encounter unusual challenges, says Ganesh. You will come up with new thoughts and tactics, which will bring about positive changes and results. Avoid any confrontation with those living around you. Ganesh advises you to keep your cool during the day.

#### CANCER

Financially, you may be in a bit of a bother today. Payment of bills, taxes and loans may keep you busy for most part of the day. You may even contemplate borrowing money to meet the demands. However, you are likely to receive one of your pending payments, which will be enough to get you out of the fix.

#### LEO

Today, Ganesh advises you to keep the Bhagavad Gita's verses in mind, and persist in fulfilling your duties without bothering about the fruits of your labour. Put in some extra effort to finish off whatever you undertake today. Patience bears its fruits and they are always sweet. Also, Ganesh reminds you that anybody can enjoy pleasure, but only few can handle pressure. So, take your pick!

#### VIRGO

You better identify your worth in the realms of emotions, feelings and sentiments. You shall warm up to and about everything - from play to colleagues to family. Simultaneously, you may realise where your limitations are. Ganesh predicts that the artist in you will flourish beginning today.

#### LIBRA

Well, today is just not your day. The prospects sure aren't looking too good. However, there's no point in getting anxious over this triviality. Remember, 'not good' does not necessarily mean bad. In any case, if it's a stressful day you have had, be sure to have an equally enjoyable evening.

#### SCORPIO

A creative thought or an innovative idea may spice up your routine work. Apparently, you may seem all worked up and disorganised, but actually you may be quite systematic when it comes to your work. Keep the enthusiasm in you alive to make life happier, tips Ganesh.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Going to private parties is a high probability today. All in all, make the most of it as you get nostalgic with old friends and make plans with new ones. Moreover, relatives will be pleased to meet you after a long time.

#### CAPRICORN

Whatever field you are in, your career matters will top your priority list. You will put your personal life on the back burner for a while. This change of places will surely bring you great rewards as your performance will drastically improve and everyone will appreciate your efforts. Credit goes to your family members and well-wishers for believing in you in the toughest of times and supporting you along the way, says Ganesh.

#### AQUARIUS

Aim. Shoot. Achieve. Today, you will concentrate your energies to execute your plans with precision. Naturally, your work progresses by leaps and bounds. By sundown, you will achieve far more than everyone's estimation. That's the way to go, says Ganesh.

#### PISCES

You will have difficulty in interpreting the behaviour of your life partner today. It is better to bring transparency in your relationship rather than to doubt it. Speak freely about your problems and communicate with your spouse. Business relationships will also face rough weather. Those who work will find a measure of success in their office.

## Shruti fumes over reports on her 'mental problems'

**Mumbai:** Actress Shruti Haasan has slammed a report claiming that she missed the *Waltair Veerayya* event due to 'mental issues'.

Directed by KS Ravindra, the film stars Shruti with Chiranjeevi, Ravi Teja and Catherine Tresa.

The daughter of actor-politician Kamal Haasan shared that she had viral fever, due to which she skipped the event.

Sharing screenshots on social media of several media reports which claimed Shruti Haasan has 'mental problems' and is undergoing treatment, she wrote: "Ok so here's the thing, misinformation like this and the over dramatisation or flippant handling of such subjects is what makes people afraid to talk about mental health. Guess what? It doesn't work."

"I will always be a mental health advocate. I will always promote taking care of myself in all aspects. Oh and I had a viral fever so nice try get over yourselves."

and while you are at it please talk to a therapist. No really, please do," she added.

*Waltair Veerayya* is set to release January 13. The Telugu original and the dubbed Hindi version will be out on the same day.

AGENCIES



## Randeep severely hurt while riding horse

**Mumbai:** Actor Randeep Hooda was reportedly hospitalised at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai for treatment after he fainted while riding a horse and got severely injured.

The actor was injured in the incident that occurred few days back and rushed to the hospital immediately, he has been advised complete bed rest for now.

Last year, Randeep suffered an injury while shooting an action sequence for *Radhe* with Salman Khan for which the *Highway* actor had to undergo knee surgery on his right leg. The surgery happened during the shoot of his series

Inspector Avinash. Randeep had also posted pictures from the hospital to keep his fans updated with his health developments.

Now, the actor was drastically losing weight for *Savarkar* for a long time. As he has lost 22 kg for his role, there is hardly any muscle left around his

knee due to which the fall had a major impact on his knee and leg. The actor injured his left leg which may require surgery.

AGENCIES



## Ajay Devgn launches trailer of *Daman's* Hindi version

**Bhubaneswar:** Top star Ajay Devgn Friday released the trailer of the Hindi version of Odia film *Daman*, a social drama, based on a true incident on Odisha's malaria elimination drive.

February 3, Panorama Studios and JP Motion Pictures will release the movie in Hindi in theatres across India.

"*Jab badhaga ek kadam badlaav ki taraf, tab banegi nayi misaal*. Presenting the official Hindi trailer of #Daman In cinema on 3rd Feb, 2023," Devgn tweeted.

Written and directed by Vishal Mourya and Debi Prasad Lenka, the film opened in Odisha last year, November 4, was declared tax-free and is still running successfully.

*Daman* is based on a true incident and traces the journey of Dr Siddharth Mohanty, played by Odia actor Babushaan Mohanty, who having just completed his MBBS from Bhubaneswar, is posted

in a remote tribal area in the state's Malkangiri district.

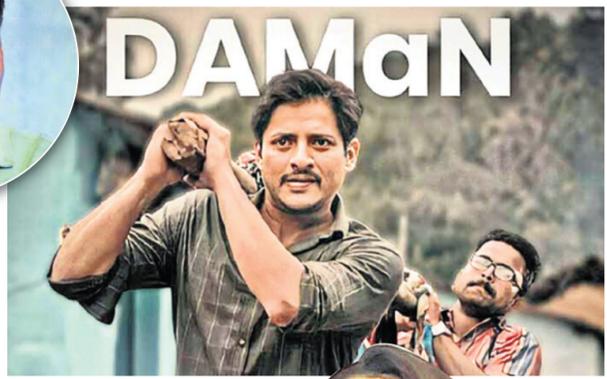
How he spearheads a drive to eradicate malaria in the 151 villages in Janbhai PHC in tribal dominated Malkangiri district in spite of many hurdles, forms a moving tale of the film.

"Our film is a true-life story appreciated not only by the common man, but also Odisha Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik. Now Ajay sir supporting this small film with a big heart is really a sweet gesture," said Mourya.

"It is important to support inspirational stories like *Daman* to help support a national cause. Films like these are the need of the hour," asserts Kumar Mangat Pathak, chairman, Panorama Studios.

AGENCIES



## Samantha gives glimpse of her biggest support systems

**Mumbai:** Samantha Ruth Prabhu is one of the most popular actresses in the South film industry. The actress took to Instagram and shared a glimpse of her biggest support systems in life. Well, it's none other than her furry babies, Hash and Saasha.

Samantha shared a pic of Hash and Sasha sitting on a sofa and called them her 'biggest support'. She captioned the post, "Don't worry mommy. I got your back#chroniclesofbeingcute #hashandsaasha." She enjoys a massive fan following and used to often maintain a close relationship with her fans through social media. However, the actress has been missing out on action due to the hard times in her personal life and her health condition Myositis.

Recently, Samantha won the internet with her savage reply to a 'negative' post. A popular Twitter page shared a pic of Samantha from *Shaakuntalam* trailer launch saying the actress 'lost all her charm and glow' post her myositis diagnosis. However, Samantha, who is unfazed by all the negativity coming her way, retweeted the post with a caption that reads: "I pray you never have to go through months of treatment and medication like I did... And here's some love from me to add to your glow."

AGENCIES



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

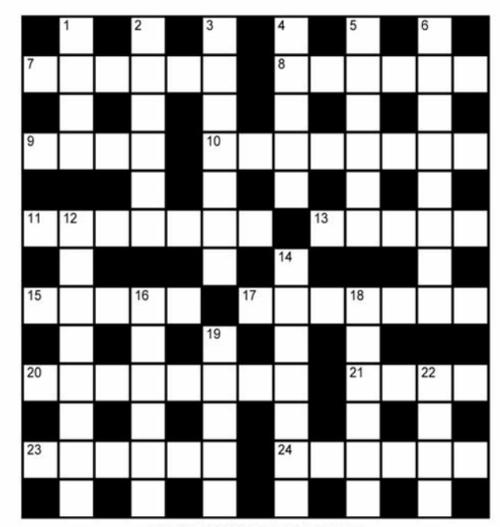


### BREVITY



### FUN post

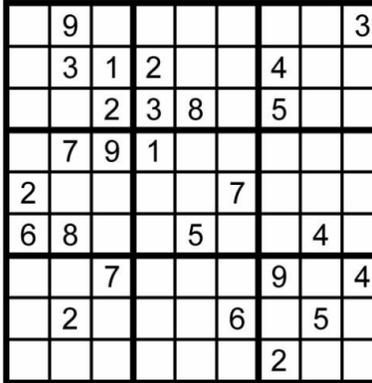
### CROSSWORD



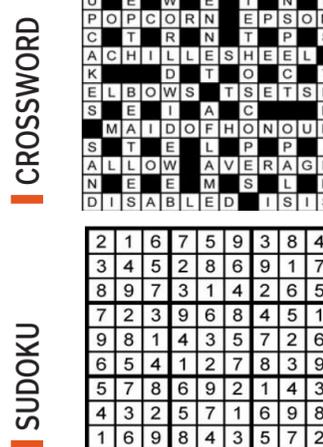
- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 Rarebit ingredient
  - 8 Censure severely
  - 9 Rigging support
  - 10 Increases
  - 11 Squash variety
  - 13 Sacred song
  - 15 Monastery
  - 17 Superior skill
  - 20 Provided relief
  - 21 Trot or jog
  - 23 Tenuous
  - 24 They're turned up, at times
- Down**
- 1 Small fragment
  - 2 Rip to pieces (4,2)
  - 3 Israeli city (3,4)
  - 4 Sediment
  - 5 Be overly preoccupied with something
  - 6 Bowling game
  - 12 Bad weather protection
  - 14 Scholarly
  - 16 Surface
  - 18 Waldorf salad ingredient
  - 19 Great merriment
  - 22 Taverns

### 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

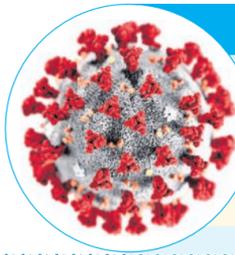


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## MAKAR SHANKRANTI

Chunara servitors gear up ahead of Makar Shankranti at Srimandir in Puri, Friday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	67,05,67,708	64,16,13,050	67,25,048
India	4,46,80,757	4,41,47,775	5,30,725
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

## CHIT FUND CASE

# Coop Ministry files status report in SC



POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** The Union Cooperation Ministry Friday filed a status report in the Supreme Court on a petition seeking probe in multi-crore chit fund scam and compensation to thousands of depositors duped in Odisha.

The Union Ministry of Cooperation also filed an impleadment application in the apex court to become a party in the case. The counsel appearing for the ministry submitted that the ministry wants to make certain suggestions based on the status report filed by it in the apex court on the issue and

**The Cooperation Ministry filed an impleadment application in the apex court to become a party in the chit fund case**

requested the court to take up the matter Monday.

A two-judge bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar allowed the impleadment application of the Union Ministry of Cooperation. "The Union Ministry of Cooperation wants to make certain suggestions on the issue. Let us consider these suggestions on larger

public interest," the bench said. Earlier, the apex court January 4 had expressed dissatisfaction with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for causing delay in investigation of chit fund cases.

The court had observed that whenever CBI and ED come into play in financial scam cases, there is delay in taking the cases to a logical end. The apex court was hearing a PIL seeking probe in the multi-crore chit fund scam in Odisha.

The petition filed by Pinak Pani Mohanty stated that the chit fund scam that has hit the states of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Odisha involves collection of nearly Rs 10,000 crore (approx.) from the public especially the weaker sections of the society.

The petitioner pleaded the court to constitute a single commission/standing committee under a sitting Judge of High Court/Supreme Court to secure the seized hard cash money and property of chit fund companies by CBI, ED, State of Finance of Odisha, CB of Odisha, OPID special Court, SEBI, others State and Central Agency and pay off the money to the investors in appropriate manner.



**FUN AND FROLIC:** Huge footfall at Olly's Land in Puri, Friday

OP PHOTO

# Hockey fever grips fans at Olly's Land

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** Hockey fans are in for a treat at the Olly's Land inside the Kalinga Stadium here, one of the venues for the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup that began Friday.

Designed beautifully, the fan parks light up the night with spectacular lighting installations for picturesque photographs, eateries for people to enjoy cuisines from across Odisha and tons of activities for all to participate in.

The zones are a highlight for fans to come celebrate hockey in a

larger-than-life way.

Fans, be it young or old, had their eyes beaming with excitement. From taking selfies with Olly, the official mascot for the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023, in groups, visitors were soaking in all the fun at Olly's Land.

The fan parks feature food stalls, festivity, and frolic for all those in attendance. The zone is lit up with spectacular lighting installations to fill the space with a sense of wonder and mysticism.

The fan parks serve as a place to create unforgettable memories and celebrate as hockey comes home to

Odisha.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had graced the Olly's Land at the Kalinga Stadium Thursday. Patnaik waved to the fans and shook hands with young kids who had come to Olly's Land to participate in the hockey fever which has gripped the entire state.

The fans will have an unforgettable experience encapsulating the true spirit of hockey at Olly's Land.

A mesmerising world built with the electrifying atmosphere on the occasion of the 2023 Hockey World Cup. These are situated in Bhubaneswar, Rourkela, and Puri

Beach respectively.

Olly is a representation of the critically-endangered Olive Ridley sea turtle, which travels thousands of kilometres in the ocean.

It is both the smallest and most prevalent marine turtle in the world. The Olly mascot promotes awareness for Olive Ridley while also encouraging fair play and the growth of sportsmanship from a game standpoint.

The entry to Olly's Land is from 3pm to 10pm. On the match days, the entry is only for ticket holders while on non-match days, it is free entry for everyone.

## 24 WSC students leave for Singapore

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** World Skill Centre (WSC) Bhubaneswar sent 24 meritorious students for training at ITE Education Services (ITEES) Singapore Friday. ITEES is a subsidiary of Singapore's prestigious Institute of Technical Education (ITE).

Before leaving for Singapore to sharpen their skills, the students met Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) chairman Subroto Bagchi and Skill Development and Technical Education Principal Secretary Usha Padhee.

Bagchi wished the students and inspired them to explore their full potential. The students will have a 6-month stint in ITE.

He said 24 young men and women would be on a 6-month paid apprenticeship at leading Singapore companies, thanks to a great partnership between Odisha government and ITE Singapore.

"It is perhaps the greatest day of my life to see a collective dream fulfilled," he said. Bagchi also encouraged the students to make all-out effort to become No. 1 in the world.

In Singapore, the students will get training and receive 800 Singapore dollar as monthly stipend during the period. After the training, they will get job at big companies in Singapore.

Recently at Make In Odisha Conclave, OSDA and ITEES signed a memorandum of understanding for skill development in the state and as a part of that the students are leaving for Singapore to sharpen their skills.

# STARTUP MELA TO ATTRACT BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** In order to showcase the prowess of Odisha's startup ecosystem and orient youth towards startups, innovation and entrepreneurship, Startup Odisha is all set to organise a two-day 'Startup Mela-2023' at O-Hub, an incubation centre in Bhubaneswar, from January 15.

It is also Startup Odisha's attempt to expand its outreach among the students in various institutes, colleges, B-schools and schools spread across the state so that youths can develop an inclination towards startups and dwell on prospects in this domain.

Besides students and budding entrepreneurs, other stakeholders of the startup ecosystem like industry leaders, incubators, academicians, policymakers, investors and others have been invited and they would be interacting with students and sharing their valuable insights.

The two-day event would be buzzing with a host of interactive activities scheduled one after

**IN A UNIQUE ENDEAVOR, PROBABLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE COUNTRY, STARTUP ODISHA HAS IDENTIFIED SOME BRIGHT STUDENTS AS 'CAMPUS AMBASSADORS'**

**THE CAMPUS AMBASSADORS WOULD ADD VALUE TO THE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM OF ODISHA BY INSPIRING, SENSITISING, AND ORIENTING THEIR PEERS TO BE PART OF STARTUPS AND ENCOURAGE THEM FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**ONE OF THE MAJOR ATTRACTIONS OF THE FEST WOULD BE 'ASK SUBROTO BAGCHI'**

startups and encourage them for entrepreneurship.

The campus ambassadors would act as a bridge between their respective academic institutions and Startup Odisha. These ambassadors would be felicitated at the Mela and would be encouraged to come up with new and sparkling ideas in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Further, one of the major attractions of the Fest would be 'Ask Subroto Bagchi', a program where Odisha Skill Development Authority chairman Subroto Bagchi would interact with students and share insights and give mantra to young entrepreneurs and students.

In a maiden move, Startup Odisha is also bringing successful industry leaders of Odisha to connect them directly with students and startups so that they can become part of the startup ecosystem and contribute to it.

Industry leaders from Ruchi Foodline, Falcon Marine Exports Limited, OvoFarm, and Z Estates Pvt Ltd will participate in the two-day fest.

## Biswal appointed new V-C of OTR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** Bibhuti Bhusan Biswal has been appointed the Vice Chancellor of Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR).

Governor Ganeshi Lal appointed Biswal as the V-C of OTR for a period of four years with effect from the date he assumes office as such or until further order, whichever is earlier.

Biswal, who is presently posted as Director of Indian Institute of Technology, Meghalaya, has more than 36 years of teaching experience. He has authored three books and successfully guided 24 Phd and 45 PG scholars.

Speaking to **OrissaPOST**, Biswal said that his main priority and immediate focus will be to strengthen the academic structure of the university and get A+ accreditation from NAAC. OTR (Formerly CET), Bhubaneswar was established by the state government in 1981 to meet the growing technical man power need in the state.

# .FEST all set to enthral City's art, music lovers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** The second edition of .FEST, the carnival that celebrates Odisha's culture through food, entertainment, art, and trails at IDCO Exhibition Ground and other venues here from January 15 to 29, will witness power-packed performances by as many as 11 Odisha artistes of international repute, an official said Friday.

Stars including Dipti Rekha Padhi, Pragyani Hota, Lisa Mishra, Rituraj Mohanty, rapper Big Deal, Susmita Das, Ashank Sekhar, Swayam Padhi, Satyajet Jena and Aseema Panda are set to enthral the carnival hoppers.

Sources said the cultural extravaganza would bring an experience like never-before for the people of Odisha with activities to create a cherishable experience.

The festival will also provide a platform to more than 800 regional artists who will be entertaining the populace of Bhubaneswar with a host of performances in Sambalpur, Dhamsa, Ghumura, Paika Akhada, Nabadurga, Jodi Shankha, Fate Fighters



Mallakhamb and many more in the three stages present across the Flea Market and Night Bazar, near IDCO Exhibition Ground.

On the star performances during .Fest, Labour Commissioner-cum-Nodal Officer of .FEST

N Thirumala Naik said, "This year, we aim to make the .FEST not just bigger but better by creating a platform for both regional and national artistes. Odisha is filled with raw talent and we are happy to see it all come to the limelight through our platform."

He added, "You will witness mesmerising and jaw dropping performances from some of our best talents."

.Fest was first curated in 2018 to provide the experience of a fortnight-long festival of festivals.

# How PSInSAR satellite technique helped detect Joshimath sinking

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** The PSInSAR satellite technique used to observe the gradual sinking of Uttarakhand's Joshimath town is a powerful remote sensing tool capable of measuring and monitoring displacements in the Earth's surface over time.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar in Punjab this week said that its researchers had in 2021 predicted a large-scale subsidence in Joshimath.

The predictions ranged between 7.5 and 10 centimetres (cm) displacement for buildings in Joshimath which is enough to cause large scale cracks in buildings, IIT Ropar said in a statement.

The researchers collected remote sensing data using the Permanent Scatterer Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (PSInSAR) technique to observe the sinking.

A Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) is a form of radar that is used to create two-dimensional images or three-dimensional reconstructions of objects, such as landscapes.

"A signal from an SAR satellite interacts with different targets and goes back to the sensor located in

the satellite, based on which an image is created. In our study, Sentinel 1 SAR satellite data was used," said Reet Kamal Tiwari, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, IIT-Ropar.

"So, for active SAR sensors, the built-up structures such as buildings act as persistent or permanent scatterers," Tiwari, who was involved in the yet-to-be peer-reviewed study, told PTI.

Scattering refers to a change in the direction of light because of its collision or interaction with another particle, say buildings.

The buildings are 'scatterers', and because they are usually static and do not record movements, they are referred to as 'permanent scatterers' or 'persistent scatterers'.

In PSInSAR, the persistent scatterers in question are imaged over a period of time at regular intervals. Therefore, successive images are acquired.

Any change in the signal received after having been scattered by the target is due to change in the target movement.

"Since persistent scatterers are not usually expected to move, therefore, any movement, even on a scale of millimetres, arising from crustal deformations or seismic



activity or even structural failure is captured precisely," said Tiwari.

The IIT-Ropar team had been investigating the surface displacement of Tapovan, a tourist spot near Joshimath, after the floods of February 2021, when they

noticed that Joshimath was recording a surface displacement of up to 8.5 centimetres which was on an upward trend.

"While we had been working on the same area but for the study of rock displacement as a result of

the flash floods, we thought of applying the PSInSAR technique to study the displacement of buildings over time as well," said Tiwari's then PhD student Akshar Tripathi, who was also involved in the study.

Joshimath, being only 15 kilometres away from Tapovan, was captured in the satellite images, enabling the scientists to go back in time up to January 2020 and look at all the data, this time to study the surface displacement of the town.

The scientists then used this remote sensing data along with artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms to predict the land subsidence in Joshimath.

"Initially, we ran 16 images received using this PSInSAR technique from January 2020 to April 2021 through a machine learning model and predicted the displacement to go up to 8.5-10 centimetres in the near future. This figure is enough for cracks to develop in buildings, possibly even cause structural failure," said Tiwari.

"Currently, the displacement figures may even be more and could be analysed in greater detail because every 12 days, more data is being added with successive satellite passes and ground displacement happening steadily," said Tiwari.

A study by ISRO's National

Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) shows the town of Joshimath sinking by up to 8.9 centimetres between April and November 2022. This recorded displacement falls within the range predicted by the IIT Ropar study.

"The displacement map from the study shows that the subsidence is maximum in areas with settlements and around the Narsingh temple area," added Tiwari.

"So, what exactly is land subsidence and how does it differ from a landslide?"

Land subsidence is when the normal ground itself starts sinking or gets displaced all together. On the other hand, landslides occur when a mass of rock located at higher elevation falls down on a lower surface or road either due to slip action or under influence of gravity.

"While landslides are a highly localised phenomenon, land subsidence usually covers a larger area," explained Tiwari.

"Land subsidence is the slow settling of ground over a large area, which can happen in plains as well. However, in a landslide, a mountain slope fails due to different reasons, one of them being heavy rainfall," he added.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	60261.18	↑ 303.15
NIFTY	17956.60	↑ 98.40
DOLLAR	82.37	↓ ₹0.48
EURO	87.90	↓ ₹0.08
GOLD	₹56,197	↑ ₹322
SILVER	₹68,981	↑ ₹338

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 31.7°C	30.2°C
	MIN 16.3°C	17.0°C
Humidity	96%	92%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Shallow to moderate fog likely	

# Forest range officer held for amassing 188% DA

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** Vigilance sleuths Friday arrested a forest range officer of Ujjalpur in Sundargarh district on the charge of possessing disproportionate assets (DA) which is 188 per cent higher than his known sources of income.

The officer, Sangram Keshari Manihira, has been remanded to judicial custody till January 25 by the Vigilance court in Sundargarh, an official of the anti-corruption wing said, adding that a case has been registered against Manihira and his spouse under Sections 13(2) r/w 13(1)(b) / 12 Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. During house searches, a three-storey building worth Rs 1 crore, a single-storey building, an asbestos house and five plots in Sambalpur were detected, said the official. In addition to it, Rs 1,57,700 in



A JUNIOR CLERK OF ROURKELA'S RURAL WORKS DIVISION WAS ALSO ARRESTED FOR POSSESSING DISPROPORTIONATE ASSETS

DURING HOUSE SEARCHES, A THREE-STOREY BUILDING WORTH ₹1 CRORE, A SINGLE-STOREY BUILDING, AN ASBESTOS HOUSE AND FIVE PLOTS IN SAMBALPUR WERE DETECTED

cash, bank and insurance deposits worth over Rs 37.99 lakh, gold jewellery worth 371 grams and silver ornaments worth over Rs 15.78 lakh, one four-wheeler, three two-wheelers and household articles worth over Rs 14.30 lakh were unearthed during the raid.

In another case, one Nandi Kishore Nath, junior clerk in office of Executive Engineer, Rural Works

Division, Rourkela, was arrested by Vigilance and forwarded to the Court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Bhubaneswar for possession of DA worth Rs 1,01,03,128.

He has been remanded to jail custody till January 25 next and a case has been registered against Nath, and his spouse U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(b) / 12 PC Act, 1988 as amended by PC (Amendment) Act, 2018.



**KEEPING TRACK:** CMC Commissioner Nikhil Pavan Kalyan inspecting the ongoing JICA project near Bajrakabati Canal Road in Cuttack, Friday OP PHOTO

CONTINUED FROM P1

## Banks can use...

The prospect of banks using facial recognition has concerned some privacy experts. "This raises substantial privacy concerns especially when India lacks a dedicated law on privacy, cybersecurity and facial recognition," said Pavan Duggal, an advocate and cyber law expert. The government has said it is targeting Parliamentary approval of a new privacy law by early 2023. The new measures can be used to verify identities of individuals making deposits and withdrawals exceeding Rs 2 million in a financial year, where the Aadhaar identity card is shared

as proof of identity, said two government officials, who asked not to be named because the information is not public. The Aadhaar card has a unique number tied to an individual's fingerprints, face and eye scan. The Finance Ministry in December asked banks to take "necessary action" on a letter by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which suggested verification should be done through facial recognition and iris scanning, especially where fingerprint authentication of an individual fails.

## Woman cricketer...

A missing complaint was lodged at Mangalabag police station in Cuttack by coach Pushpanjali Banerjee, after Swain could not be reached over phone. Her family members alleged that Swain, a right-arm fast bowler and a middle-order batter, was murdered "as the body bore injury marks and her eyes were damaged." They also claimed that Swain was refused a berth in the team despite performing better than many others who have been selected. Subrat Behera, the CEO of the association, said the selection was done in a very transparent manner, expressing shock over the demise of the cricketer.

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Abhijit Senapati, S/o Late Bhagaban Senapati, R/o Pakhad, Kendrapara, Odisha have changed my name from B.R Abhijit Senapati to Abhijit Senapati for all future purposes.

## LOST

By an affidavit before the Notary Public, Bhawanipatna, Dist.- Kalahandi, date: 06.01.2023. I, Khamanidhi Bag, S/o.- Late Suni Bag, At/P.O.- Chacharabadi, P.S.- Junagarh, Dist.- Kalahandi declared that I have lost my (1) ROR bearing No.-159/87 and (2) Sale deed of bearing No.-10891202278, 10891202279 and 10891202280. I have also lodged an FIR in this regard before Junagarh Police Station. Any complicity or litigation arises in future regarding the same, I will solely be responsible (Contact: Advocate Mr. Shraban Kumar Agrawal, Mob. Number:-7381024787).

I, Shri Subhash Chandra Pradhan, aged about 37 years S/o- Late Netrananda Pradhan, resident of At- Matiapada, P.O.- Gobindpur, P.S.- Pipli, Dist.- Puri - 752104, Odisha has declared that I have lost my original registered sale deed of my own property of Mauza- Matiapada-1, Khata No. 296/ 199, Plot No.125/788, Area A0.4.820 deca., Kisama- Homestead (Gharabari) vide deed No. 11532101599, ID No.- 1532101617 on 15.10.2022 in between Gudiapokhari Chowck to Uttara Chowck.

# Hospital de-empanelled for BSKY irregularities

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** Acting tough on irregularities under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), the state government Friday de-empanelled South Point Hospital in Cuttack, Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) sources said.

Health Secretary Shalini Pandit said that the action taken against the healthcare facility comes into effect from Friday itself.

In the first phase, the hospital has been de-empanelled and Swasthya Mitra deployed at the said hospital has been disengaged, district administration has been requested to shift the patient undergoing treatment under BSKY to appropriate BSKY empanelled private hospital or to a government facility for uninterrupted treatment.

The state team has been instructed to further investigate the claims raised by the said hospital earlier vis-a-vis claims scrutinised



Claims raised by the hospital earlier vis-a-vis claims scrutinised by Claim Panel Doctors of State Health Assurance Society will be scrutinised

by Claim Panel Doctors of State Health Assurance Society.

Intensive patient feedback is being collected through outbound calls to patients previously admitted to South Point Hospital in order to check past fraud, if any.

Earlier, the H&FW Secretary directed the BSKY teams at the state and district levels to keep strict vigil over any chance of fraud in extension of BSKY benefits to the card holders.

She also directed all the Collectors and District Magistrates to take

stringent action against the fraudsters under both Clinical Establishment Act and BSKY Enforcement Norms.

Pandit said, "Health is a basic human need, and state government is committed to providing quality healthcare to the citizens of the state. The government has also rolled out BSKY with adequate fund provisions."

Any attempt to misuse the provisions or cheat people in any manner in the name of BSKY will be seriously dealt with, she warned.

# Finance dept holds workshop on e-BG



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** To sensitise the stakeholders about the implementation process of electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) system, which the state government launched at the MiO conclave this year for public procurement, Finance department organised a workshop at the Lokseva Bhawan here Friday.

Development commissioner-additional chief secretary PK Jena inaugurated the workshop in presence of Finance principal secretary Vishal Kumar Dev. Secretaries of Administrative departments, FA/AFA of departments, and representatives of banks participated in the workshop. Besides, heads of departments, Collectors, PSUs, representatives from field offices joined the workshop virtually.

Highlighting the importance of electronic Bank Guarantee, Jena in his inaugural address, said that this initiative will help the government departments in verifying the authenticity of the "BG" received during the procurement process and eliminate the possibility of fraud or misuse.

He urged government agencies to adopt the new initiative and accept e-BG during their procure-

The guests urged government agencies to adopt the new initiative and accept electronic guarantees during the procurement process.

In his welcome address, the principal secretary explained the concept of electronic Bank Guarantee vis-a-vis the conventional guarantee issued by the bank. He encouraged all the empanelled banks of the state to integrate and join the NeSL platform for the issue of electronic Bank Guarantee.

A team led by NeSL executive director EP Nivedita made a presentation on the features and procedures of the electronic Bank Guarantee and explained steps for on-boarding for the government buyers.

"It was in the workshop decided to explore the possibility of making e-BG mandatory in future for all public procurement. Before making it mandatory, the electronic Bank Guarantee system will be piloted in some selected departments and state PSUs soon," said a department official.

# Flower show at Ekamrakanan from today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** The Regional Plant Resource Centre (RPRC) under the Forest, Environment and Climate Change department is all set to organise the much-awaited Annual Flower Show 2023 on the premises of the RPRC botanical garden of Ekamrakanan Park at Nayapalli here January 14 and 15.

The event will be inaugurated by the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat at 10am January 14.

The show, which is supported by Plant Lovers Association, Odisha



Mining Corporation, Odisha Forest Development Corporation and Directorate of Horticulture, will include floral exhibits from several institutions, 'Plant Bazar' for plant nurseries, competitions for floral arrangement, painting competitions and various special plant group displays.

The show will include floral exhibits, a 'plant bazar' for plant nurseries, floral arrangement competitions, painting competitions and special plant group displays.

The RPRC was established in 1985 as a recreational garden and with an aim to provide a green lung for the inhabitants of the City. Gradually it became a vibrant re-

search organisation of the state with a focus on the conservation of plant biodiversity.

"Over the years, the institution has made significant contributions in the field of ex situ and in situ conservation and assessment of genetic diversity of various plants groups. With strengthening of scientific manpower and laboratory facilities, it has expanded its areas of research which has delivered large outputs in terms of analysis of genetic assessment of plant groups through cyto-taxonomic and molecular techniques," briefed a Forest department official.

# Astronomers discover Milky Way galaxy's most-distant stars

REUTERS

**Washington, Jan 13:** Astronomers have detected in the stellar halo that represents the Milky Way's outer limits a group of stars more distant from Earth than any known within our own galaxy - almost halfway to a neighbouring galaxy.

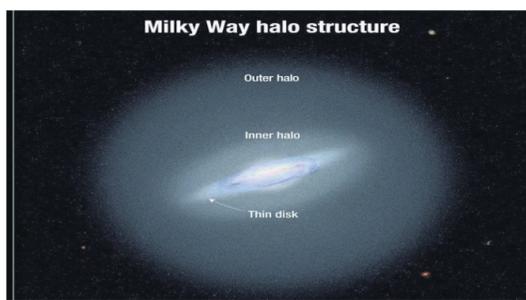
The researchers said these 208 stars inhabit the most remote reaches of the Milky Way's halo, a spherical stellar cloud dominated by the mysterious invisible substance called dark matter that makes itself known only through its gravitational influence. The furthest of them is 1.08 million light years from Earth. A light year is the distance light travels in a year; 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km).

These stars, spotted using the

Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope on Hawaii's Mauna Kea mountain, are part of a category of stars called RR Lyrae that are relatively low mass and typically have low abundances of elements heavier than hydrogen and helium. The most distant one appears to have a mass about 70% that of our sun. No other Milky Way stars have been confidently measured farther away than these.

The stars that populate the outskirts of the galactic halo can be viewed as stellar orphans, probably originating in smaller galaxies that later collided with the larger Milky Way.

"Our interpretation about the origin of these distant stars is that they are most likely born in the halos of dwarf galaxies and star clusters which were later merged - or more straightforwardly, cannibalized - by



the Milky Way," said Yuting Feng, an astronomy doctoral student at the University of California, Santa Cruz, who led the study, presented this week at an American Astronomical Society meeting in Seattle.

"Their host galaxies have been gravitationally shredded and di-

gested, but these stars are left at that large distance as debris of the merger event," Feng added.

The Milky Way has grown over time through such calamities.

"The larger galaxy grows by eating smaller galaxies - by eating its own kind," said study co-author Raja GuhaThakurta, UC Santa

Cruz's chair of astronomy and astrophysics.

Containing an inner and outer layer, the Milky Way's halo is vastly larger than the galaxy's main disk and central bulge that are teeming with stars. The galaxy, with a supermassive black hole at its center about 26,000 light years from Earth, contains perhaps 100 billion-400 billion stars including our sun, which resides in one of the four primary spiral arms that make up the Milky Way's disk. The halo contains about 5% of the galaxy's stars.

Dark matter, which dominates the halo, makes up most of the universe's mass and is thought to be responsible for its basic structure, with its gravity influencing visible matter to come together and form stars and galaxies.

The halo's remote outer edge is

a poorly understood region of the galaxy. These newly identified stars are almost half the distance to the Milky Way's neighboring Andromeda galaxy.

"We can see that the suburbs of the Andromeda galaxy and the Milky Way halo are really extended - and are almost 'back-to-back,'" Feng said.

The search for life beyond the Earth focuses on rocky planets akin to Earth orbiting in what is called the "habitable zone" around stars. More than 5,000 planets beyond our solar system, called exoplanets, already have been discovered.

"We don't know for sure, but each of these outer halo stars should be about as likely to have planets orbiting them as the sun and other sun-like stars in the Milky Way," GuhaThakurta said.

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# Erosion poses huge threat to Paradip

Manmad Park near the Mahanadi river mouth and View Tower are on the verge of being gobbled up by the sea



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paradip, Jan 13:** The View Tower and the Manmad Park near Nehru Bungalow here are the two most popular tourist spots in this port town. However, rapid coastal erosion taking place on Mahanadi river mouth for the last one year is posing a severe threat to these places. The stretch of land from the stone embankment of Mahanadi to the fishing jetty is getting constantly eroded and the sea has gobbled up more than 100 acres of land in the last one year.

The erosion has also uprooted and washed away more than 100 trees which have hastened erosion. The erosion of the river bank increases when the sea turns rough and during cyclonic storms and floods. It is now being apprehended that the View Tower may collapse anytime due to erosion. One sizeable portion of the tower and its toilet area has been washed away by the sea.

Sources said that the View Tower was built by the Paradip port au-

thority in 1992. Woman self-help group 'Swarnamayee SHG' is looking after maintenance and other aspects of the tower. The SHG members provide necessary facilities to tourists. The tourists visit the View Tower to see the place where the river merges into the sea. However, now with the tower facing threat due to erosion, tourists are not being allowed to go to the top, SHG member Purabi Mandal informed.

The Manmad park comprises an attractive and colourful garden with drinking water facilities for the tourists. The Paradip Municipality authorities had built an open-air gymnasium inside the park for both adults and kids. The park also had areas earmarked for walkers and joggers. There are places for having picnics and a separate place for parking vehicles. However, all these zones have been gobbled up by the sea due to erosion.

Paradip Port was established January 3, 1962 at Nehru Bungalow locality. The first township came up

near the bungalow. Later, the 'Jawahar Guest House' which is the first multi-storied building in Odisha was constructed in 1970.

The land where the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and former Odisha Chief Minister, Biju Patnaik laid the foundation stone for the port has also disappeared due to the marauding sea waves.

Port authorities constructed a stone embankment in 1982 to save the town from the fury of the sea. However, it has not helped. Erosion is taking place at a very quick rate with stones at many places being washed away by the waves. Even though the gaps are being filled up, it is of not much help.

Erosion is also happening rapidly along the stretch of area from the river mouth till IFFCO fertiliser plant since 2012. The rate of erosion is so high that the 180 metres berth inside the Paradip fishing jetty was washed away in 2013. To prevent erosion, the Fisheries department undertook stone packing of the area by spending over ₹1 crore. Sources said that the port authorities are trying to restore the area. They have sought the assistance of a technical team. The technical team also visited the area and conducted a review of the devastation caused by the sea.

Paradip Municipality chairman Basant Biswal said the civic body does not have adequate resources to combat the situation. They have requested the Fisheries and Water Resources departments to take steps. Marine Fisheries department officer Jagannath Rao said a high-level team from the department has visited the spot and conducted a review of the erosion in the area.



**TRADITIONAL SPORT:** Artistes of Pallavi cultural outfit performed Mallakhamb, a traditional sport, as part of a programme for National Youth Day in Nayagarh

# Replica of hockey WC trophy grabs eyeballs in Subarnapur

Huge quantities of rice husk and Sambalpuri fabric used to create the duplicate



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sonepur, Jan 13:** The district administration in Subarnapur has taken the lead in promoting hockey and the FIH World Cup which got underway Friday. As part of the many events being organised in the district, the administration Thursday conducted a programme during which renowned sand artist

Sudarsan Patnaik and his team created a replica of the winners' trophy with rice husk here.

The replica contained information on the ongoing hockey championships. It was built over an area of 4.682 square metres in the presence of hundreds of students from the district. Sudarsan and his team took six hours to build the replica trophy and used 100 sacks of husk and

large amount of Sambalpuri fabric.

Sudarsan took the initiative following a request from Subarnapur Collector Aboli Sunil Naravane. He said that the replica has been built to make the world cup a memorable event for the youths of Subarnapur district. He said students who watched the creation of the trophy must have gained some knowledge about art and sculpture.

Sudarsan hoped that through his endeavour he will be able to inculcate creativity among the youths of Subarnapur district. He pointed out rice husk is available in huge quantities in almost all households of the district and it can be used to create beautiful objects.

Naravane said that Subarnapur is a district of farmers and has earned reputation by harvesting huge quantities of paddy every year. He thanked Sudarsan for his efforts. Naravane also took to Twitter to share Sudarsan's creation.

# BJD's Siddheswari wins bypoll to G Udayagiri NAC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**G Udayagiri, Jan 13:** BJD candidate Siddheswari Nayak has won the byelection to the post of councillor for G Udayagiri notified Area Council (NAC) in Kandhamal district, officials said Friday.

Siddheswari defeated her nearest rival, independent candidate Rakhil Nayak by a margin of 12 votes. Siddheswari got 65 votes while Rakhil secured 53.

Congress candidate Kunjabihari Nayak received only 14 votes while BJP's Sujata Nayak managed to get only one vote. Ward No-6 for which the bypoll was held, has 198 voters out of which 133 exercised their franchise.

Election officer Subhranjali Pradhan declared Siddheswari as the winner after the end of the counting.



# Odisha tribals join chorus to free Parasnath hills

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sundargarh, Jan 13:** Members of various tribal outfits in Odisha will observe a day's fast January 30 along with their counterparts from Jharkhand and West Bengal at Ulihatu in Khunti district, the birthplace of Birsa Munda. This will be done to 'save' the Parasnath hills. This information was given Thursday here by a member of a joint forum of Adivasi bodies.

To drum up support, hundreds of tribals from Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal assembled Tuesday near the Parasnath hills in Giridih district, urging the re-

spective state governments and the Centre to free their holy site from the 'clutches' of the Jain community. The tribal bodies warned of long-term agitations if their demand was not met. They voiced their protests carrying traditional weapons and beating of drums.

'Marang Buru' (Parasnath) is the birthright of Jharkhand tribals, and no power in the world can deprive them of this right, a member of the 'Jharkhand Bachao Morcha', which claims to be an outfit of over 50 bodies, said Thursday. "The tribals will observe a day's fast January 30 at Ulihatu in Khunti, the birthplace of tribal

icon Birsa Munda, in solidarity with the movement," he added.

Jains across the country have been demanding the scrapping of a 2019 Jharkhand government notification designating Parasnath hills as a tourist place. They fear this would lead to an influx of tourists who may consume non-vegetarian food and liquor at the holy site.

Even as the Centre stayed the Jharkhand government's move to promote tourism at Parasnath hills after protests by Jains, the tribals jumped into the fray staking a claim to the land and asking for it to be freed.

# Pregnant woman dies after release from Rayagada jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, Jan 13:** A pregnant woman, who was arrested and kept in a jail at Rayagada for 16 days, died due to post-delivery complications a day after her release, her family members said Friday. Sources said 30-year-old Sulabati Naik, a resident of Andrakanch village under Maikanch panchayat and wife of a daily wage labourer, died on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, they said.

Sulabati was pregnant for the last nine months. She was among the 13 women arrested December 26 last year for staging a peaceful demonstration. The women were demanding jobs in a private company as they reside in its periphery, the family members said.

Sulabati went into labour soon after she stepped out of the prison Tuesday evening and was rushed to the district headquarters hospital. Wednesday night she gave birth to a boy, but her condition turned critical. She was referred to the SLN Medical College and Hospital here, her husband Baidya Naik said. However, she breathed her last en route to the hospital. The infant has been kept under observation at the special newborn care unit of Rayagada hospital, Baidya said. Sulabati's relative Tulsi Naik said the former was remanded to jail after her bail plea was rejected by a court in Kaspur as police had slapped charges against her under IPC Section 307 (attempt to murder) among others.



**FOLK DANCE:** Artistes performed a traditional tribal dance at a block-level Lok Utsav in Muribahal of Bolangir district

# Strawberry delight for Daringbadi women

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Daringbadi, Jan 13:** Strawberry cultivation has been undertaken for the first time in this block of Kandhamal district, sources said Friday. The cultivation is being carried out on two acres of land by using only organic manures instead of fertilizers. Members of 'Elizabeth' women self-help group (SHG) of Greenbadi panchayat under the leadership of BDO Gadadhar Patra and supervision of Pintu Kumar Nayak, the block project manager of Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM), cultivation is being done.



tration and OLM have been providing vital assistance and support for cultivation, Patra said.

The land for strawberry cultivation has been developed by spending around Rs 2,00,000 under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) while OLM has provided Rs 5,00,000.

Producing strawberries has freed women from the daily labour chores and recurring expenses they normally incur during cultivation of

other crops. This is because once cultivated, strawberry trees will bear fruit for a period of five years. Nayak said that people are interested in strawberry cultivation as the demand for the fruit is growing. Also unlike turmeric and mustard cultivation that has to be undertaken annually, it is not the case with strawberry.

Officials of Watershed Mission and Soil Conservation department are helping in preparation of the land while the officials of Agriculture

department are getting the soil tested so that the product is sufficient. On the other hand, the Horticulture department is providing technical assistance.

As part of the cultivation, over 20,000 strawberry saplings have been planted on the two acres land. All of them have grown and started delivering fruits. Also the extended branches of the strawberry trees are being sold as saplings augmenting the income of women.

When contacted, Mohini Pradhan, president and Renuka Pradhan, secretary of Elizabeth SHG said strawberry cultivation is far more profitable than other vegetables. OLM project manager said strawberry juice has gained huge popularity and is being sold for Rs 20 per bottle at the 'Shita Utsav' which is underway here. In coming days, the target is to rope in more women SHGs and enhance strawberry cultivation in other parts of the block, he added.

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਐਂਡ ਸਿੰਧ ਬੈਂਕ (भारत सरकार का उपकरण)		Punjab & Sind Bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking)		E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
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PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY				
LAST DATE AND TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS : 14.02.2023 upto 05.00 P.M.				
In exercise of power conferred in the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, the Authorized Officer has taken possession of the under-mentioned Secured Assets, in respect of credit facilities granted to the below mentioned Borrower/Sl. No. (hereinafter referred to as "Borrowers/Sl. No."), it has been decided to sale on "As is where in", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 15.02.2023 through E-Auction of the properties mentioned hereunder for realization of the secured debts due to Punjab & Sind Bank amount mentioning below along with further interest and incidental charges incurred by the bank thereon till final payment of the amount due from the Borrower.				
Sl. No.	a) Name of the Borrower b) Name of the Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Description of the Property	Outstanding Balances per Demand notice	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Bid Increase Amount
Mr. Sagar Kumar Behera, Authorised Officer, Mob. : 9088014691 Details of NEFT/RTGS for EMD : IFSC : PSIB0001258, A/c. No. 12585039026001 E-mail ID : d1258@psb.co.in				
1.	a) Lakshman Kumar Behera S/o. Santha Charan Behera Jagula, Narasinghpurhat Bhadrak, Odisha - 756171 b) Biplob Behera S/o. Lakshman Kumar Behera Jagula, Narasinghpurhat Bhadrak, Odisha - 756171 Amarendra Behera S/o. Santha Charan Behera Jagula, Narasinghpurhat Bhadrak, Odisha - 756171	Equitable mortgage of all that part and parcel of the property consisting of land situated at Jayadurga Patna, measuring an area of 0.100 Decimal at Khata No. 61/63, Plot No. 7/417/555, P. S. Basanda, Tahsil / SRO Chandabali, Bhadrak, Pin - 756171. Title Deed No. 1393 dated 06.05.1976. Property Butted and bounded are : North - Owner himself, East - Debendra Nayak (vacant land), South - Road, West - Mr. Das (Vacant land).	Rs. 9,19,237.65 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Seven and Paise Sixty Five only) plus future interest and other charges thereon	Rs. 20.00 Lakh Rs. 2.00 Lakh Rs. 0.10 Lakh
2.	a) M/s. Parbati Store Prop. Shri Harekrishna Giri Plot No. 277/482, Khata No. 61/141, Mouza - Jayadurgapatna P. S. Basanda, Dist. Bhadrak b) Mr. Harekrishna Giri (Prop.) S/o. Late Ramanath Giri Jayadurgapatna, P.O. Dharma P.S. Basanda, Dist. Bhadrak Mrs. Umarani Giri (Guarantor) W/o. Santha Charan Behera Jayadurgapatna, P.O. Dharma P.S. Basanda, Dist. Bhadrak	Equitable mortgage of Property at Plot No. 277/482, Khata No. 61/141, Mouza - Jayadurgapatna. P. S. Basanda, P. O. Dharma, Dist. Bhadrak, Measuring area 0.12 Dec. more or less. Property Butted and Bounded by : North - Owner himself (Vacant Land), East - Susanta Giri (Thatched House), South - Road, West - Ashwini Giri (Thatched House).	Rs. 13,07,995.57 (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five and Paise Fifty Seven only) plus future interest and other charges thereon	Rs. 38.80 Lakh Rs. 3.88 Lakh Rs. 0.10 Lakh
3.	a) Bijay Kumar Majhi S/o. Khageswar Majhi Dakshina Dhamara, Dhamara Bansada, Bhadrak, Odisha Pin - 756171 b) Smt. Ajoydya Majhi W/o. Khageswar Majhi Dakshina Dhamara, Dhamara Bansada, Bhadrak, Odisha Pin - 756171	Equitable mortgage of Property at Plot No. 106/432, Khata No. 143/39, Mouza - Dakhin Dhamara, P. S. Basanda, Tahasil / SRO - Chandabali, District - Bhadrak measuring area 3484.80 Sq. Ft. Sale Deed No. 197 & 198 dated 06.02.1990. Property Butted and Bounded by : North - Jayakrushree Jena, East - Jayeeram Tarai (Vacant Land), South - Dasarath Majhi, West - Road.	Rs. 7,83,064.00 (Rupees Seven Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Sixty Four only) plus future interest and other charges thereon	Rs. 26.53 Lakh Rs. 2.66 Lakh Rs. 0.10 Lakh
Date & Time of Inspection : 10.02.2023 (between 10.00 A.M. to 03.00 P.M.)				
Date & E-Auction : 15.02.2023 (between 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M.) with an extension of 5 Minutes for unlimited times till closure of E-auction.				
For Detailed Terms and Condition of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in : 1. https://www.bankeauctions.com 2. https://punjabandsindbank.co.in/module/sarfaasi-list The Sale will be conducted through https://www.bankeauctions.com				
Date : 14.01.2023 Place : Bhadrak, Odisha		Authorised Officer Punjab & Sind Bank		

There is no end to the wonders of the universe. The more we get free from the limits of our small ego, the more these wonders disclose themselves to us.



THE MOTHER

## Winds of Change

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is undergoing a revamp. Early last month, the government appointed Arun Kumar Singh, who had earlier headed BPCL, as the chairperson of ONGC. Apparently, this is the first instance of a 60-year-old retiree being appointed as the head of a blue-chip government-owned firm. The move has also prompted the government to initiate a board revamp and a decision to look beyond oil and gas and explore new businesses such as renewable energy.

Sources have informed DKB that ONGC is merging two director posts to create a new position of director for strategy and corporate affairs. Further, a post of director production has been created after merging director onshore and director offshore. This post will come into effect from March 1, 2023, and reportedly go to Pankaj Kumar, current offshore director.

The goal is to increase operational synergies and focus on oil and gas production. Meanwhile, the new corporate affairs director will focus on new businesses such as renewable energy ventures, downstream activities like oil refining and petrochemicals, and LNG, in addition to marketing oil and gas at the best rates. Besides, the new director will be responsible for IT, communication services, safety, health, environment, and business development, among other tasks. So far, these have been addressed in turn by the board directors.

### Babus' future roadmap

It's time for the babus to deliver. With nine crucial assembly elections due this year in the run-up to 2024's big one, the Centre is increasingly trying to focus on governance and development issues. Obviously, a lot will depend on the government's performance which has been tepid so far, with bursts of bold policy initiatives but long periods of semi-stasis. Clearly, this has to change.



### BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized this during his remarks at the 2nd National Conference of Chief Secretaries last week. The conference was aimed at rapid and sustained economic growth in partnership with states. Some observers were surprised that Modi not only attended but actually chaired the conference for two days, choosing to address some 200 top babus comprising representatives of the Central ministries, chief secretaries and other senior officials from the states and UTs rather than hold discussions with state chief ministers, as PMs normally do.

The agenda of the conference was decided after more than 150 consultative meetings over the past three months between various ministries, NITI Aayog, states and domain experts. The thrust was on MSMEs, infrastructure and investments, women's empowerment, health and nutrition, and skill development among others. Also on the table were India's geopolitical challenges, G20, the role of the states and emerging technologies.

Modi urged the babus to aim for improving the lives of people and strengthen development initiatives. Similar exhortations are likely to pick up pace as the polls draw nearer.

### Ex-babus on NDTV board

Several babus on the verge of retirement half expect to be re-employed, or they seek it elsewhere, mostly in the private sector, and often get it too. Some, however, are cherry-picked to add heft to corporate boards, usually for the special expertise that they bring to the table.

The recent appointment of Aman Kumar Singh, currently Group Head, Corporate Brand Custodian for the Adani Group and a former principal secretary to Chhattisgarh's chief minister, and Sunil Kumar, former chief secretary of Chhattisgarh, as non-executive independent directors at NDTV, set off quite a few murmurs in Delhi.

Both were powerful babus in the former Raman Singh government with Singh, a former IRS officer, considered an expert in finance and planning, while Kumar headed the state administration. They bring rich experience and contacts in government and know how to navigate smoothly through its myriad rules and regulations. Of course, the incentives of the private sector far outdo the charms of babudom.

The mighty Adani Group, owned by India's richest man, is a newbie in the media sector, even after the recent strategic acquisition of a major television outfit like NDTV. Clearly, both ex-babus have been installed on the NDTV board not for their media expertise but for the advice and counsel they can provide to Adani in other areas of his business. It's left to us to join the dots.

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

### WISDOM CORNER

Let your life lightly dance on the edges of time like dew on the tip of a leaf. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

Death is the veil which those who live call life; They sleep, and it is lifted. **PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY**

Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom. **ARISTOTLE**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Andropause

The term male menopause was coined in the late 1940s for a condition whose symptoms included emotional upsets and uncharacteristic behaviour but became something of a joke. The concept has recently been revived by various specialists, who call it the andropause, a word coined using the Greek prefix andro-, "man", plus pause, also from Greek, which here means "cessation; stop", as it does not only in menopause but also in some technical terms such as tropopause or magnetopause. A better-established related term in medicine, dating from the early seventies, is andrology, the study of male reproductive disorders. The principal symptoms of the andropause are loss of libido, decline of memory, increased fatigue and risk of osteoporosis, which can occur at any age from about 30 onwards, but are most common about 50 and which are associated with lowered levels of testosterone. Some specialists argue this is a real condition, often with devastating consequences for the sufferer, but which can be treated by appropriate synthetic sex hormones. The adjective is andropausal. Other names for it include viropause, PADAM, short for "partial androgen deficiency of the ageing male", Low T, short for "low testosterone" and the jokey man-opause.

#### Welkin

We don't use this much nowadays — dictionaries usually tag it as archaic or literary — except in the set phrase make the welkin ring, meaning to make a very loud sound. What supposedly rings in this situation is the vault of heaven, the bowl of the sky, the firmament. In older cosmology this was thought to be one of a set of real crystal spheres that enclosed the Earth, to which the planets and stars were attached, so it would have been capable of ringing like a bell if you made enough noise. The word comes from the Old English wolcen, a cloud, related to the Dutch wolk and German Wolke. Very early on, for example in the epic poem Beowulf of about the eighth century AD, the phrase under wolcen meant under the sky or under heaven (the bard used the plural, wolcnum, but it's the same word). Ever since, it has had a strong literary or poetic connection. It appears often in Shakespeare and also in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales: "This day in mirth and revel to dispend, / Till on the welkin shone the starres bright". In 1739, a book with the title Hymns and Sacred Poems introduced one for Christmas written by Charles Wesley that began: "Hark! how all the welkin rings, / Glory to the King of kings". If that seems a little familiar, it is because 15 years later it reappeared as "Hark! the herald-angels sing / Glory to the new born King".

# ENGULFED IN DEBT CRISES

## FOCUS DEVELOPING NATIONS



Recent developments such as deglobalisation, decarbonisation efforts, and the demise of the export-oriented growth model have likely lowered the growth potential of low-income countries



Dani Rodrik and Reza Baqir

THE KEY TO MAKING DEBT DEALS MORE COMPELLING TO ALL PARTIES IS TO DESIGN THEM IN A WAY THAT UNLOCKS GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

This year may prove devastating for the developing world, as more and more countries find themselves engulfed in debt crises. Several (Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Russia, Suriname, and Zambia) are already in default, and scores of others urgently need debt relief to ward off economic collapse and sharp rises in poverty.

The prevailing response to debt crises is to negotiate complex packages involving the debtor country, international financial institutions (IFIs), and other external creditors. Domestic bondholders, labor unions, and others play a part, too, as they have their own interests to protect. The bargaining process among all these parties can be lengthy and feature significant domestic and global efforts to game the outcome by pushing a larger burden of losses onto others, even as debtor-country conditions continue to deteriorate.

The rise of emerging markets as major bilateral official creditors has added further complexity to an already difficult process. China, India, countries in the Middle East, and others have not been part of conventional debt-resolution arrangements. Besides complicating coordination, heterogeneity among creditors can unleash more destructive processes led by self-fulfilling expectations, such as sudden capital-flow reversals and banking crises.

The key to making debt deals more compelling to all parties is to design them in a way that unlocks growth opportunities. The prospect of large enough gains would attract all parties to the negotiating table, as they could share among themselves the benefits that such a package unleashes.

Growth-promoting debt resolution requires a three-sided deal. Debtor governments can afford to invest in growth opportunities and cut unproductive and inefficient expenditures only if additional resources are provided. The IFIs can safely lend those resources only if the existing creditors agree to debt (and debt-service) reduction. The existing creditors, in turn, will provide debt relief only if the

IFIs can apply effective conditionality to ensure that debtor governments maintain appropriate growth policies. With a new wave of debt workouts looming, some of the elements of such grand deals must be updated and adapted to new global realities.

One key issue has to do with the nature of growth opportunities. Recent developments such as deglobalisation, decarbonisation efforts, and the demise of the export-oriented growth model have likely lowered the growth potential of low-income countries. This implies that debt-reduction bargains should not exaggerate the role of future growth, and that the cost of lost growth opportunities will have to be deeper debt reductions. But, equally important, future growth would be even lower in the absence of new investments that adjust the growth path to new realities.

If new growth opportunities receive new financing and are profitable, they can lessen the need for debt reduction, by at least partly counteracting the effect of the trade-related decline in growth opportunities. These opportunities and funding needs are clearest and most substantial with respect to the green transition. Climate change is hurting growth prospects in low-income countries the most, owing partly to their geographical location, and partly to their populations' greater vulnerability and

inability to mitigate climate risks. Green growth is largely about implementing public policies to offset these negative forces. But it is also about taking advantage of new opportunities.

Investments in adaptation to climate change include projects to defend against sea-level rising, reduce the salinity of floods, bolster road and bridge infrastructure, and increase water conservation. Since global food prices are expected to vary more widely in the coming years, adaptation also includes improving food security. Mitigation in turn will focus on generating power in clean ways, using solar and wind technologies that require front-loaded investments.

For this to happen, the approach of the IFIs must change. Conditionality must be adapted to the new development challenges. It must embrace the new growth agenda and shift its focus from an overemphasis on macroeconomic targets to socially acceptable policies that support the green growth imperative. Since the growth payoffs are likely to take longer, conditionality must be phased in accordingly.

Moreover, the IFIs must take on a larger financing role, both directly and through efforts to leverage private finance through enhancements. More than in the past, the IFIs will need to provide new finance early on, until debtor countries re-establish a track

record of creditworthiness and market access as they manage the transition to a new growth path. The investment needs of the green transition are much larger than the old-style reforms of the 1980s, which simply shifted resources from the public to the private sector to concentrate on a narrower set of public expenditures.

Given valuable growth opportunities, the size of the IFIs' loans and the amount of debt reduction needed can be negatively correlated. An ambitious lending program that financed an ambitious reform program should lead to high growth rates and thus require less debt reduction.

Finally, the IFIs need to respond to the changes in creditor composition. Burden-sharing is more complex today, owing to the growth of private-market debt and the rise of new creditors (especially China, India, Russia, and a few others). If the new official creditors are going to be taking major losses on their claims, they might expect to have a greater say in how the principles for debt restructuring are developed. In the short term, the principles must be applied in flexible ways to facilitate progress. Over time, the significant changes in the official creditor landscape must be reflected in the composition of the boards of the IFIs.

Economic growth remains an essential ingredient of successful debt deals. But even in the best of circumstances, developing countries' growth is likely to be slower and more domestically oriented, requiring a combination of deeper debt reduction and longer time horizons. Realizing new investment opportunities will require new funding and new forms of conditionality. And new financing will have to come early and largely from the IFIs, until developing countries embark credibly on new growth paths.

Dani Rodrik is President of the International Economic Association and Reza Baqir is a former governor of the State Bank of Pakistan

PROJECT SYNDICATE

## SPECTRUM SINO-INDIAN TIES

# Catching up with China economically



DK Giri

INDIA CAN LOOK TO CHINA'S EXPERIENCE IN BUILDING OUT ITS INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORK TO IMPROVE THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, TO REDUCE RED TAPE AND BUREAUCRACY, WHICH CAN MAKE INDIA MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR INVESTMENT

Last week, I wrote in this column about India countering China. This piece is a sequel that suggests measures for building resilience in her economy, reducing trade dependence on China and avoiding being vulnerable to economic pressure or disruption.

India will have to catch-up with China sooner than later in order to be able to defend her political security and territorial integrity. India and China are two of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, and there is ongoing debate about how India can catch up with China economically.

China's GDP is significantly larger than India's, with the former's GDP currently being around four times larger than the latter. The GDP per capita of China is also higher than that of India; it is around 10 times higher than India's. China has a more developed infrastructure than India, including better transportation networks, power grids, and telecommunications networks. On exports and trade, China is the world's largest exporter and has a more developed export-oriented economy than India.

China's manufacturing sector is more developed and diversified than India's and is a major driver

of its economic growth. In contrast, a significant portion of India's population still depends on agriculture and allied activities.

On human capital, India has a large English-speaking population and a large pool of skilled workers, while China has a large, low-cost workforce and a well-educated population. Yet, according to the World Bank data, China has a poverty rate much less than that of India, only one per cent of the population in China live under the poverty line. In India, the poverty rate is quite high with around 21 per cent of the population living below the poverty line.

It's worth noting that these are general statistics, and they are subject to change. The economy of both countries is complex and multifaceted, and different sources may report different figures. Additionally, both India and China face their own unique set of challenges and opportunities, the relative economic performance of India and China can be affected by a variety of factors, such as domestic policies, global economic conditions, geopolitical considerations and many more.

That said, the following are some steps that India can take to close the gap with China. It needs

to invest in infrastructure. Developing robust transportation, power, and other infrastructure is essential to attracting foreign investment and driving economic growth. India can look to China's experience in building out its infrastructure and work to improve the ease of doing business, to reduce red tape and bureaucracy, which can make India more attractive for investment.

It needs to boost manufacturing and exports. India can look to China's success in building a strong manufacturing base and exports to create jobs and spur economic growth. This will require policies and practices that create a conducive environment for businesses. It is also essential to invest in human capital. To close the gap with China, India will need to invest in its workforce and education system to build the skills and expertise necessary for the 21st century economy.

India can work to attract foreign investment in the country, which can help to bring in capital, technology, and jobs, as well as spur economic growth. Along with FDI, boosting domestic consumption is necessary. One of the key drivers of China's economic growth has been its large domestic market;

India can look to ways to increase domestic consumption by raising the incomes of its citizens, which will lead to higher demand for goods and services.

In order to catch up with China, India should increase its international trade to build its economy. There are a number of steps that India can take some of which include; pursuing bilateral and multilateral trade agreements - India can work to negotiate and implement trade agreements with other countries and trade blocs to reduce tariffs and other trade barriers and increase market access for its goods and services. New Delhi should conclude ongoing trade negotiations without dragging them for long like with the European Union, United Kingdom and others.

On improving infrastructure and logistics, India can invest in improving its transportation and logistics infrastructure to reduce the cost and time required to move goods and make it more attractive for international trade.

It's worth noting that these're just a few examples. What cannot be underplayed is the priority of economic development over anything else.

The writer is Professor in International Relations, JIMM. ©INFRA

## 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

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#### Blue Carbon Initiative needed

Sir, Blue carbon is simply the term for carbon captured by the oceans, seas and littoral ecosystems. When degraded or destroyed, these ecosystems emit the carbon they've stored for centuries into the atmosphere and abysses and come as sources of greenhouse effect. Experts estimate that as important as around one billion ton of carbon dioxide is being released annually from demoralised littoral ecosystems. Sea meadows, mangroves, and swab morasses along the seacoast hold carbon, acting as commodity. These littoral systems, however much lower in size than the earth's timbers, suck carbon at faster rate, and can continue to do so for millions of times. Most of the carbon taken up by these ecosystems is stored beneath the oceans ground where we cannot see it, but it's still there. The carbon set up in littoral soil is frequently thousands of times old. The bigger picture of blue carbon is one of littoral niche conservation. When these systems are damaged, an enormous quantity of carbon is emitted back into the atmosphere, where it can also contribute to climate change. So guarding and restoring littoral territories is a good way to reduce climate change. When we cover the carbon in littoral systems, we cover healthy littoral surroundings that give numerous other benefits to people. The Blue Carbon Initiative works are needed to cover and restore littoral ecosystems for their part in reducing impacts of global climate change. Systems are needed to be developed at spots in the Indian ocean and Arabian sea to cover and restore littoral ecosystems for their blue carbon value. **Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR**

#### City's beautification should continue

Sir, The beautification drive in Smart City Bhubaneswar has inspired the city dwellers like never before. Such enrichment of roads, installation of flower pots, artistic paintings, spic and span national high way were never seen in the capital city. There is no denying that such beautification of the city was made possible for the ongoing FIH Hockey World Cup 2023. It is certainly a welcome step. It has got international acclaim and praise from all quarters. But, it should not end there. After the marquee event, this enrichment of the capital city should continue. The public should collaborate with government agencies in keeping our city clean and green. Social forestry is the need of the hour. It will protect us from sunstroke and global warming. World Cup Hockey has given a new birth to the Smart City. It is delightful and life-giving. **Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR**

# national



I would now like to announce a new 'Aarogya Maitri' project. Under this project, India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises  
**NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER**

## RAJOURI TERROR ATTACKS PROBE GIVEN TO NIA

The probe into the recent terror attacks in Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir has been handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Friday, as he assured the people of Jammu region of a secure atmosphere with a new action plan having 360-degree security net



### of the day quote

The vision of an intolerant, fascist Hindutva nation is an attempt to destroy the secular and democratic character of the Republic of India, which should be rejected and resisted  
**SITARAM YECHURY | CPI-M GENERAL SECRETARY**

Sharad Yadav spent his entire life serving the country and the society. He will remain alive in the hearts of people because of his deeds and thoughts  
**SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | MADHYA PRADESH CM**

We had to send 30 teachers to Finland in March, but the L-G sent its file back with objections. Again, we submitted our reply to the objections but the L-G has again sent the file back with a remark that a cost benefit analysis should be done  
**MANISH SIDOSHIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM**

## LAND FOR JOBS SCAM

### CBI gets nod for trial against Lalu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: The Central Bureau of Investigation has got the Centre's sanction to prosecute former railways minister Lalu Prasad Yadav in connection with the land-for-jobs scam, officials said Friday.

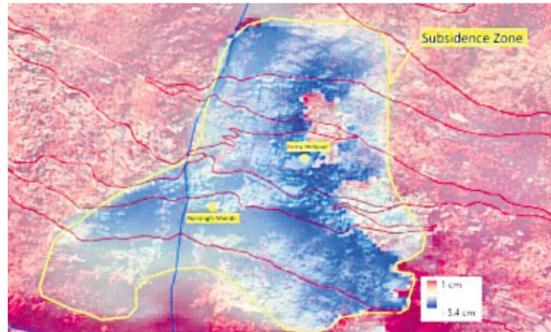
The agency submitted the sanction before a special court Friday, they said. Sanction to prosecute from the competent authority is a prerequisite for the special court to take cognizance of the charge sheet filed by the agency, they said.



The CBI had filed October 7 last year a charge sheet against Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi and 14 others in connection with alleged appointments made in the Railways in return for land parcels gifted or sold to his family but the cognisance was pending.

# Joshimath sank by 5.4 cm in just 12 days: ISRO report

The gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib and international skiing destination Auli is facing a major challenge due to land subsidence



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 13: Satellite images of Uttarakhand's Joshimath released by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) show that the Himalayan town sank at a rapid pace of 5.4 cm in just 12 days, triggered by a possible subsidence event January 2.

Joshimath, the gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib and international skiing destination Auli, is facing a major challenge due to land subsidence.

The preliminary study by ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) said the land subsidence was slow between April and November 2022, during which Joshimath had sunk by 8.9 cm. But between December 27, 2022 and January 8, 2023, the intensity of land subsidence increased and the town sank by 5.4 cm in these 12 days.

The pictures were taken from the Cartosat-2S satellite. "The region subsided around 5 cm within a span of a few days and the areal extent of subsidence has also increased. But it is confined to the central part of

Joshimath town," the NRSC report said. It said a subsidence zone resembling a generic landslide shape was identified - tapered top and fanning out at base.

The report noted that the crown of the subsidence was located near Joshimath-Auli road at a height of 2,180 metres. The images show the Army Helipad and Narsing Temple as the prominent landmarks in the subsidence zone that spans the central part of Joshimath town.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had Thursday assessed the situation in Joshimath and steps taken to ameliorate people's hardship at a meeting attended by Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, RK Singh, Bhupendra Yadav and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and top officials.

A total of 169 families consisting of 589 members have so far been shifted to relief centres. There are 835 rooms serving as relief centres in Joshimath and Pipalkoti which can together accommodate 3,630 people.

An interim assistance of Rs 1.5 lakh has been paid so far to 42 affected families. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami Thursday said a committee would decide the market rate for compensation to be paid to the families affected in Joshimath by keeping in mind the interests of stakeholders.

# Want a balanced press in India: SC



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 13: Hate speeches are a "complete menace", the Supreme Court observed Friday and ruled the lack of regulatory control on TV news content, saying it wants "free and balanced press in India".

The top court said nowadays everything is driven by TRP (television rating point) and channels are competing with each other and creating a division in society. It wondered why can't a TV news anchor, if they become a part of the problem of propagating hate speech, be taken off air.

It emphasised that a free and balanced press is wanted in India. A bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna orally observed that channels are competing against each other; they sensationalise things, and serve an agenda. Justice Joseph orally told a counsel, representing The News Broadcasters & Digital Association: "You (the news channels) create divisions amongst the society, or whatever opinion you want to create is much faster..."

As counsel said they are guidelines for anchors, Justice Joseph asked: "How many times have you taken off anchors, have you dealt with

## 'Why 5 months' to file FIR

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday sought a report from the police in connection with the progress on investigation into the cases of hate speeches made at religious assemblies in the national capital in 2021. A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud noted that there was no palpable progress made in the investigation in the case. The bench, also comprising Justice P.S. Narasimha, noted that the incident occurred in December 2021, and the FIR in the matter was lodged in May 2022. The bench told Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, representing Delhi Police, said, "Why do you need five months for lodging an FIR..." It further queried, "How many arrests have been made?"

anchors in a way you send a message, see ultimately who controls the content of the programme anchor and editorial... if anchor himself or herself are part of the problem." Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, representing the Centre, contended that the government is contemplating a separate amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code and that is its stand in the matter.

Justice Joseph said: "Freedom of speech, the greater the freedom the better marketplace of ideas is very good. In the marketplace of ideas we have to also see populace... are we really a fully developed country?... are the audience mature enough to receive this kind of information that is dished out. If freedom is exercised with an agenda, then you are not actually serving the people."



Students of Shahzada Nand College with their kites on the eve of 'Makar Sankranti' festival during an event for 'lohrri' celebrations, in Amritsar, Punjab

# AAP protest outside LG's house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: The AAP Friday staged a protest outside Delhi LG VK Saxena's residence over his alleged objections to the city government's proposal of sending teachers to Finland for training.

Party leader Atishi, who led the protest, said Saxena should pass the file of approval immediately. "LG rejected the file sent by the

Delhi government recommending names of government school teachers for a training programme in Finland. These are the same educators who provide good quality education to some of the poorest of students in the city. "I do not understand why the LG would stop them from attending the training programme," Atishi said.

She said the Delhi government takes teachers to Finland and to the

USA to help them adopt their practices and use them in the government schools of Delhi. The Senior AAP leader also alleged that the LG's refusal was a sign of his "hatred" against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. "We do not have a problem with LG disliking the Chief Minister and our party. But his hatred for us should not turn into hatred for the poor children of Delhi who study in government schools," he added.

# PM flags off world's longest river cruise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi, Jan 13: Strong connectivity is essential for building a developed India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday while flagging off the world's longest river cruise 'MV Ganga Vilas' which will travel 3,200 km in 51 days to reach Dibrugarh via Bangladesh, sailing across 27 river systems.

Modi via video conferencing also inaugurated a Tent City at Varanasi, developed on the banks of the Ganga opposite the famed ghats of the holy city, to tap the tourism potential of the region.

Besides, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several other inland waterways projects worth more than Rs 1,000 crore in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Assam during the event.

In his address, Modi pointed out that the world's longest river cruise from Kashi to Dibrugarh will bring to the fore, places of tourism in

North India on the world tourism map. Talking about the importance of river Ganga in the lives of Indians, Modi regretted that the area around the banks lagged behind in development in the post-independence period thereby leading to a massive exodus of population from the area.

The beginning of cruise service on river Ganga is a landmark moment and it will herald a new age of tourism in India, Modi said adding this will further push tourism and create new employment opportunities.

"Strong connectivity is essential for building a developed India," the Prime Minister said and stressed that the rivers of India will give new heights to water power and trade and tourism of the country. Modi further said there was a low usage of river waterways in India before 2014 despite the rich history in this mode of transport in the country. The Prime Minister informed that in 2014 only five na-



THE JOURNEY WILL GIVE THE TOURISTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EMBARK UPON AN EXPERIENTIAL VOYAGE AND INDULGE IN THE ART, CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SPIRITUALITY OF INDIA AND BANGLADESH

tional waterways were there in the country now there are 111 national waterways and about two dozen are in operation already.

Similarly, there has been a 3 times increase in cargo transportation via river waterways from 30 lakh metric tonnes eight years ago. He also emphasised that India has more than 125 rivers and river

streams which can be developed to transport goods and ferry people while also giving impetus to further expanding port-led development. Modi said facilities for promoting cruise tourism are being created in other parts of the country.

He also said that waterways are not just beneficial to the environment but also help in saving money.

The 51-day cruise is planned with visits to 50 tourist spots including world heritage sites, national parks, river ghats, and major cities like Patna in Bihar, Sahibganj in Jharkhand, Kolkata in West Bengal, Dhaka in Bangladesh and Guwahati in Assam

According to an official statement, the luxury cruise has three decks, 18 suites on board with a capacity of 36 tourists, with all the luxury amenities

The cost of operating waterways is two and a half times lesser than that of roadways, and around one-third of the cost when compared to railways, he added.

An official release said the MV Ganga Vilas cruise is curated to bring out the best of the country to be showcased to the world.

## SC grants bail to Vyapam scam 'whistleblower'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday granted bail to a medical practitioner, who also claimed to be a whistleblower in the sensational Vyapam scam, in a case of alleged violence during a protest in Madhya Pradesh. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha took note of the submissions made by senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Vivek Tankha that accused Anand Rai, an ophthalmologist, is in jail for the last 60 days in connection with a criminal case lodged under various sections of the IPC and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: GSU-ST-SBP-TENDER-2023-01, Dt. 11.01.2023  
Name of Work: SIGNAL & TELECOM PORTION OF WORK FOR THE PROVISION OF TWO NOS. ADDITIONAL LOOP LINES AT ARANG MAHANADI STATION IN TITLAGARH-LAKHOLI SECTION.  
Tender value: ₹2,08,29,439/-, Bid Security: ₹2,54,200/-  
Date & Time of Tender Closing: 1100 hrs of 02.02.2023.  
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.  
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>  
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.  
By: Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (GSU/PR-159/CF/22-23) Sambalpur

### ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT

#### POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT (AGRI-BUSINESS MANAGEMENT) (PGDM-ABM, 23rd Batch)

CCS NIAM, Jaipur invites applications for admission to the Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Agri-Business Management) for batch 2022-2025 approved by AICTE. The Minimum qualification for admission is a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture of Allied sciences or in any other discipline from any University or Institute as recognized by ICAR/UGC. The details such as eligibility, selection criteria, reservation, application form, admission procedure and prospectus are placed on the institute's website [www.ccsniam.gov.in](http://www.ccsniam.gov.in). The Candidates who wish to apply for PGDM-ABM are required to have CAT 2022 or CMAT 2023. The application form can be downloaded from the website <http://www.ccsniam.gov.in>, from December 2022 onwards. cbc 01375/12/0002/2223 Sd./- Director

### COLLECTORATE, ANGUL II ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଅନୁଗୋଳ

#### DISTRICT EXCISE OFFICE, ANGUL

ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଅବକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଅନୁଗୋଳ  
Telephone: 06764-230567(O)/230234(R)/230685(F)  
Website: [www.angul.nic.in](http://www.angul.nic.in)/E-mail: [dm-angul@nic.in](mailto:dm-angul@nic.in)

### NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR SETTLEMENT OF ANADIPUR & LODHABANDHA OUTSTILL LIQUOR SHOPS FOR ANGUL DISTRICT

Notice No.95/ Ex.Date. 13.01.2023  
Applications are invited for settlement of 02 Nos. of OS Shops i.e. Anadipur & Lodhabandha of ANGUL DISTRICT for the year 2022-23 onwards by way of lottery mode.  
The persons interested to participate may apply online in "Form-B" through the portal "<https://stateexcise.odisha.gov.in>" from dt.13.01.2023 to 26.01.2023 (upto 5.00 PM). Lottery will be held on dt.31.01.2023 (Tuesday) in the Office Chamber of Collector, Angul (Place) from 11.00 A.M. onwards.  
The details of the shops to be settled and the terms and conditions applicable thereof are available in the said website and the notice boards of the District Excise Office, Angul and Collectorate, Angul.  
NB- THE TOLL-FREE Number for the service is- 155335 or 18003456770 and Operation Hours - All days of week except Sunday, 7 AM to 7 PM. Sd./- 13.01.2023 Collector, Angul

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER DHENKANAL (R&B) DIVISION, DHENKANAL

No. B-1125 Email: [eedklpww@gmail.com](mailto:eedklpww@gmail.com)

### INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement

Bid Identification No. DKL-1 Tender Call Notice No. 30 of 2022-23

#### Invitation for Bids

The Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building Work & Electrical Work as detailed below.

1.	The Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building Work & Electrical Work as detailed below.
2.	Nature of Work : Building Work (2 Nos.)
3.	No. of Work : 02 Nos.
4.	Bid Cost : Rs.6,000/- & Rs.4,000/-
5.	Class of Contractor : C & D Class
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 17.01.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of 31.01.2023
7.	Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.01.02.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
8.	The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <a href="https://tendersodisha.gov.in">https://tendersodisha.gov.in</a> . Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal  
OIPR-34016/11/0021/2223

### FORM G

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SAV INDUSTRIES PVT LTD OPERATING IN MANUFACTURING OF COLD ROLLED AND COIL STEEL AT ROOM NO. 02, 1ST FLOOR, KHALSA NIWAS ITI CHOWK, NEAR TARINI TEMPLE, ROURKELA-769004, ORISSA (Under Regulation 36A(1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

#### RELEVANT PARTICULARS

1.	Name of the corporate debtor along with PAN/CIN/LLP No.	SAV INDUSTRIES PVT LTD PAN: AAGC0700Q CIN: U28112OR1999PTC005891 (Hereinafter referred to as 'CD')
2.	Address of the registered office	Room No. 02, 1st Floor, Khalsa Niwas ITI Chowk, Near Tarini Temple, Rourkela-769004, Orissa
3.	URL of website	NA
4.	Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located	No asset of CD found at the Registered office.
5.	Installed capacity of main products / services	Not Known
6.	Quantity and value of main products / services sold in last financial year	Nil
7.	Number of employees / workmen	Nil
8.	Further details including last available financial statements (with schedules) of two years, lists of creditors, relevant dates for subsequent events of the process are available at:	Detail can be obtained by sending mail at: <a href="mailto:cirp.savindustries@gmail.com">cirp.savindustries@gmail.com</a>
9.	Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(b) of the Code is available at:	Detail can be obtained by sending mail at: <a href="mailto:cirp.savindustries@gmail.com">cirp.savindustries@gmail.com</a>
10.	Last date for receipt of expression of interest	29.01.2023
11.	Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	03.02.2023
12.	Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	08.02.2023
13.	Process email id to submit EOI	<a href="mailto:cirp.savindustries@gmail.com">cirp.savindustries@gmail.com</a>

Note: In absence of information and documents (including latest financial statements) from the CD, the status given herein above is on the basis of the understanding of the RP gathered during the physical visit at the registered office of the CD on 18.11.2022 and information gathered from the public domain.

Uday Narayan Mita  
Interim Resolution Professional  
IBBI Regn. No.: IBBI/PA-01/1P-P00793/2017-2018/11360  
72/1, Dawnagang Road, Bally, Howrah, West Bengal-711201  
For SAV Industries Pvt. Ltd. (in CIRP)

Date : 14.01.2023  
Place : Kolkata

# Pak's narco-terror in Kashmir

AS THE ECONOMY OF PAKISTAN IS IN A DIRE SITUATION AND FUNDING TO TERROR MODULES FROM STATE HAS STOPPED, PAKISTAN AGENCIES ARE INCREASINGLY RELYING ON MOBILISING FUNDS BY SMUGGLING DRUGS AND NARCOTICS TO INDIA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Jan 13:** Pakistan's ISI's C Wing is constantly changing its strategy on Kashmir.

Replicating their Punjab plan, given Kashmir is fast on track of normalcy, particularly seen in huge reduction in acts of terror and violence incited, aided and abated from across the border, it appears that Pakistani agencies are using terror modules to supply drug and narcotics so as to derail the process.

The Pakistani agencies intend to destroy the peaceful and constructive environment in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) that has seen acceleration in investment in development of infrastructure in recent times as well as creating newer opportunities for education and employment for the youth.

In a recent investigation of the J&K Police, it has also surfaced that about 5 kg narcotics valued at Rs 5 crore in the market has been smuggled in from Pakistan by Tahmeed Khan, the head of such a module during the last three months. Out of this, about 2 kg has been recovered in the instant case, about a kg has been peddled among drug peddlers and addicts and about 2 kg remains to be traced.

During the current year, 85 cases have been registered against 161 persons in the district. 33 people involved in narcotics smuggling have been detained and lodged in different jails under PSA (PIT-NDPS Act).

The busting of the module has yet again exposed the direct involvement of Pakistan-based terrorist handlers in pumping narcotics into Kashmir Valley, aiming to destroy the Kashmiri youth.

In this particular case, Shakir Ali Khan, a Pakistan-based terrorist handler originally hailing from



## Hybrid terrorism

The phenomenon of drug and narcotics peddling aims at corrupting the young minds and promote the growth of hybrid terrorism and creating a terrorist mindset among ordinary citizens and youth who are otherwise engaged in their day-to-day and education businesses. The task of indoctrination and injecting madness becomes easy if drug addiction is promoted among the youth. That is why the government of India is taking a serious note of the issue.

85 CASES HAVE BEEN REGISTERED AGAINST 161 PERSONS

IN DEC, BSF GUNNED DOWN NINE DRONES ALONG THE LOC

Keran has surfaced to be the main supplier of narcotics to his son Tahmeed Khan on Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC). After obtaining training in illegal arms and ammunition, he infiltrated back and remained one of the top active terrorists of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) for quite some time in Keran. Feeling the heat from security forces, Khan again crossed over the LoC and exfiltrated to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and is now a top terrorist handler, who is also involved in pushing arms, ammunition and narcotics into the valley.

The Pakistani terror modules are also using drone technology to skip border surveillance while delivering drug and narcotic substances as well as arms and ammunition to their handlers in

India. In the month of December alone, the Border Security Force (BSF) of India downed nine drones along the LoC. Most drones are operated either from within the premises of Pakistan Rangers or special premises used by smugglers and terrorists just behind the Rangers' posts.

Smugglers and terrorists are finding the territorial routes difficult as surveillance, monitoring and action from the Indian security forces has increased and so they are using drone technology for the purpose.

Drones of various sizes and payload carrying capacity are being increasingly used to smuggle narcotics, weapons & ammunition and fake currency from Pakistan as India has beefed up border surveillance on ground.

## GLOBAL CRITICISM

According to South Asia Press, Pakistan has established smuggling networks over the last few years into India and especially within the Kashmir Valley

Terror financing by Pakistan establishment is not unknown. Even at a multilateral forum Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Pakistan had to prove that it has taken action against money laundering and terror finance to avoid continuance of gray listing last year. In the part, Pakistan had been the fallen twice into the gray list of the FATF. The illegal channelisation of money from Pakistan was also penalised by US regulators as late as 2022.

Two large Pakistan banks Habib Bank Ltd (HBL) and National Bank of Pakistan paid \$225 million and \$55 million in 2022, respectively, in fines imposed by US regulators for compliance failures and anti-money laundering violations.

The NATO Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP) 2022 Report titled "Narco insecurity, Inc." is on the convergence of Pakistan and Afghanistan narco-trade made possible with the help of Pakistan's military spy agency, the ISI, which launched several covert operations with sympathetic jihadist groups, all of whom heavily relied on narcotics trafficking.

The illegal narcotic trade constitutes one of the main financial sources of the insurgency groups in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but more importantly, it feeds narco-terror globally.

According to South Asia Press, Pakistan has established smuggling networks over the last few years into India and especially within the Kashmir Valley, so as to ensure a steady supply of narcotics and weapons. Sharing a 2,400 km border with Afghanistan, Pakistani modules have easy access to opiates (opium, morphine and heroin) smuggled from Afghanistan by the terror outfits and smugglers. Such consignments are first taken from Afghanistan to the Torkham border crossing, then sent enroute Ghulam Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to Lahore, and Faisalabad. These are reassembled into huge consignments thereafter and smuggled to other parts of the world including India.

The European Foundation for South Asian Studies pointed out in its report that Pakistan, along with Iran, acts as conduit for drugs and narcotics from Afghanistan to be smuggled to European and Asian countries. According to it, opium trade remains substantial source for financing the Jihad led by Al Qaeda and other terror outfits. The smuggling of opiates, it says, causes several vulnerabilities including disease in the children and youth, apart from helping the terror outfits to manage funds for terror acts or jihad against the so-called infidels or non-believers. It concluded that drug traffickers have a symbiotic relationship with insurgents and terrorist groups. And Pakistan finds this trade and smuggling a convenient tool to wage a proxy war against India.

# Ranked 3rd among big states, TN has to catch up on other aspects



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Jan 13:** Even though Tamil Nadu ranked third in the overall score, it still lags behind on many aspects like fiscal, governance, economic, ease of doing business, as per the CARE Ratings study.

The glaring aspect is its ranking under the governance category where Tamil Nadu's ranking is sixth after Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

According to CARE Ratings, the selected indicators for ranking the states can be broadly classified into two categories viz., business friendly environment and public service delivery (law, police, e-service).

A better governance leads to stability and foster trust which are crucial for unlocking new investment opportunities.

As regards the fiscal performance, Tamil Nadu is ranked 11th in the country based on the indicators. According to CARE Ratings, the indicators are selected to cover three aspects: Debt and deficit sustainability, quality of expenditure and debt management.

Under the economic category Tamil Nadu is ranked sixth scor-

ing 39.6 points behind Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Haryana and Odisha.

Tamil Nadu is ranked third under the financial inclusion head after Maharashtra and Telangana.

Tamil Nadu got the third rank on the overall ranking owing to its high score under the social category indicators like Gross Enrolment Ratio, Percentage Literate, Poverty Rate, Gini Coefficient, Infant Mortality Rate and Life Expectancy. The state scored second rank under the social category after Kerala.

Similarly in terms of environment, Tamil Nadu is ranked sixth with CARE Ratings taking factors like quality of natural resources as well as waste management efforts taken by each state. Tamil Nadu was ranked third under the financial inclusion category and fourth under the infrastructure segment.

According to CARE Ratings, the indicators and the respective weights have been selected to capture the overall economic growth and also if the growth is inclusive in nature. Investment has a major role to play in propelling the growth trajectory. This is reflected in higher weight for investment related indicators.

# Exotic animals, gold, heroin top seizures in '22

THE OFFICIALS HAVE ARRESTED MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE FOR THEIR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE SEIZURES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Jan 13:** Over 200 kilograms of gold worth Rs 94 crore, along with foreign currencies and narcotic substances were some of the major seizures made by the Customs department here in 2022, a senior official has said.

Some of the recoveries comprised endangered wildlife species including albino porcupine, white lipped tamarin monkeys among others. The officials have also arrested over 100 people for their alleged involvement in the seizures, Chennai International Airport, Principal Commissioner of Customs M Mathew Jolly said. Between January and



205 KG OF GOLD WORTH ₹94.22 CRORE WAS SEIZED IN 293 CASES



RECOVERY OF NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES HIT THE ROOF IN 2022 AS THE OFFICIALS RETRIEVED ₹14.02 CRORE WORTH OF BANNED DRUGS

December 2022, 205 kg of gold worth Rs 94.22 crore was seized in 293 cases of which majority of the smuggled precious metal was from passengers who arrived here from Dubai, Sharjah and some other Gulf locations, he said.

Recovery of narcotic substances also hit the roof in 2022 as the officials retrieved Rs 14.02 crore worth of banned drugs including cocaine, methaqualone, heroin among others. The department executives have managed to seize foreign currencies valued at Rs

10.97 crore in 81 cases between January-December 2022.

Besides gold, the authorities seized diamond and other precious stones worth Rs 1.20 crore in five different cases. An antique bronze Buddha statue was also confiscated, he said.

Endangered wildlife species that are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act including albino porcupine, red chested tamarin monkeys, De Brazza monkey, king snakes, ball pythons were detained. The animals that were allegedly smuggled into India from Thailand were retrieved and sent back to Bangkok.

Apart from the recovery of gold, diamonds and narcotics, the Customs officials have booked cases into alleged smuggling of miscellaneous products like cigarettes, and electronics worth Rs 3.90 crore. In total, 407 seizures were made in which cases were filed against 122 people for their alleged involvement in the crime, he said.



FRESH FALL: People walk during fresh snowfall, in Srinagar, Friday. Many parts of Jammu and Kashmir receives fresh snowfall and rains leading to the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway and impacting the flight operations to and fro the valley

## FREE SAREES, DHOTIS FOR PONGAL

# TN to engage 3,000 more power looms



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Jan 13:** The Stalin government has asked the Tamil Nadu Federation of Power looms association to identify 3,000 more power looms for producing sarees and dhotis meant for distribution to the public through ration cards as part of the Pongal gift hamper of the government.

The state government has already given orders for 99,56,883 dhotis and 1,26,19,004 sarees to 225 power loom weavers cooperative societies.

17,455 power looms are engaged in the production of these dhotis and sarees for executing the mega order of the state government.

TP Rajesh, Commissioner of Handlooms had in a letter to the Federation directed the association to identify 3,000 more power looms and to complete the work on time. The federation has been directed to identify the power looms and to send the list of looms and contact phone numbers and other contact details to the respective Assistant Directors of Handlooms

in Erode, Tiruchengode, Coimbatore, and Tiruppur districts.

There was criticism from all corners when the government delayed placing orders for the production of dhotis and saris meant for Pongal gift hampers. While generally, the government places the orders in either May or June, this year it was delayed till October first week and this has led to the delay in executing the project.

Sources in the Handloom department said that only 60 to 70 per cent of the production of sarees has been completed while only 45 to 50 per cent of the production of dhotis is completed. With Pongal on Sunday, almost half of the eligible will not be able to get the free dhotis from the government and 30 per cent of the women will not get sarees during the festival. This would mean that completing the order for dhotis and sarees may require a minimum of 30 days more.

It has to be seen whether any power loom cooperative society will come forward to execute the order from the government at this last moment.

# Boys, girls getting trained in martial arts in J&K

FEROZ AHMAD BHAT, A RESIDENT OF LUROW JAGIR VILLAGE IN TRAL, IS A NATIONAL-LEVEL MARTIAL ARTS PLAYER WHO OPERATES A SQAY MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY TITLED AS 'LEENIV MARTIAL ARTS'. HE HAS BEEN TRAINING HUNDREDS OF YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS, PARTICULARLY FROM FAR-OFF VILLAGES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Pulwama, Jan 13:** At a time when martial arts are witnessing overwhelming response from the aspiring athletes in Jammu & Kashmir, its trainers continue to make efforts to uplift them more.

In South Kashmir, young boys and girls have started taking to martial arts in large numbers, and are excelling in different district, state/UT, and national-level competitions. At Tral in Pulwama district, the young boys and girls are now getting training in martial arts at different academies/clubs, and are aspiring to achieve glory by becoming professional athletes.

Feroz Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Lurow Jagir village in Tral, is a national-level martial arts player who operates a Sqay martial arts academy titled as 'Leeniv Martial Arts'. He has been training hundreds of young boys and girls, particularly from far-off villages.

## READY FOR ACTION



The players from his academy have been leaving their mark at different state and national-level competitions. In December last year,

seven players from the 'Leeniv Martial Arts' won gold medals under different age categories at the UT level, and were selected for na-

tional-level championships.

Similarly, near about one-dozen players from his academy got selected for the National Sqay Championship held in Jammu a few days back. Feroz said that he started the academy in 2017 with only six trainees in the beginning, following which he worked hard and spent money from his own pocket.

He said that around 250 trainees are now enrolled with his academy, who are competing in senior, junior and sub-junior categories. The trainees at his academy said that sports play a vital role in maintaining their fitness, keeping them fit and healthy.

Another youth from Tral, Raja Shabhat, has also set up his Karate-Do association, and has been training dozens of aspiring athletes for over a year now. His trainees recently competed in a championship at Jammu, winning three gold, six silver and four bronze medals.

## of the day quote

Northeast is witnessing transformation through transportation and mega projects regularly inaugurated in the region bear testimony to it

**HIMANTA BISWA SARMA** | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

Delhi LG has been interfering in the government's work that is causing inconvenience to people of Delhi. My intention was to sort out the issues, which is why I carried copies of the Constitution, Motor Vehicles Act, School Education Act, Supreme Court Judgement

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL** | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

In G-20 education working group, we will be discussing issues related to foundational literacy and numeracy, making tech-enabled learning more inclusive, lifelong learning in context of future and ways to strengthen research and innovation in higher education institutions

**DHARMENDRA PRADHAN** | UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Annamalai to get 'Z' security

**Chennai:** Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai's security has been upgraded by the Central government following an Intelligence Bureau (IB) threat assessment exercise, police sources said. The former IPS officer's security has been raised from 'Y' to 'Z' category. Apart from escort vehicles provided by the TN police, the BJP leader who has been very vocal in Tamil Nadu politics, will now have a 28-member security detail that includes commandos from the NSG and the Security branch CID of the Tamil Nadu police, they said.

### Rapido suspends services in Maha

**Mumbai:** Following a strong rap from the Bombay High Court, the "illegally run" Rapido Bike Taxi services disabled its app within an hour and suspended all services in Maharashtra till January 20. The move followed an order by a bench of Justice Gautam S. Patel and Justice Shivkumar G. Dige warning that if the company did not suspend services immediately, it would permanently bar it from getting a license and impose a heavy fine. The irked court's order came in a petition filed by Rappen Transportation Services Pvt Ltd - which operates Rapido Bike Taxi in Mumbai and Pune - challenging a state government communication of December 29, 2022, refusing to issue it a bike taxi aggregator licence.



It is the need of the hour to focus on long-term measures to build stronger, more resilient health systems that can prevent, prepare for and respond to future health-related challenges, while maintaining essential health services

**MANSUKH MANDAVIYA** | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

### LALIT MODI ON OXYGEN SUPPORT

Former IPL Chairman Lalit Modi Friday revealed that he is on 24x7 external oxygen after contracting Covid-19 twice in two weeks and deep pneumonia. The 59-year old took to social media to give updates about his health, saying that he was airlifted to London from Mexico after three weeks of confinement



# I didn't urinate: Mishra takes U-turn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** In a surprise U-turn, Shankar Mishra, the man accused of urinating on an elderly woman co-passenger on an Air India flight, told a Delhi court Friday he did not commit the offensive act and that the alleged victim seems to have urinated in her seat.

The claim by his lawyer, made for the first time since the sordid event unfolded on an Air India New York-New Delhi flight November 26 last year, flies in the face of denunciation of the accused by some of the co-passengers and even a string of WhatsApp exchanges he had with the victim woman which suggested the unsavoury incident indeed took place.

The counsel for the accused made the submission before Additional Sessions Judge Harjot Singh Bhalla while arguing against a Delhi police petition seeking revision of an order passed by a magisterial court denying police his custodial interrogation.

The judge disposed of the application, saying the submissions made before him did not seem to have been made in front of the Metropolitan Magistrate. He said police can approach the magisterial court with its application afresh.

"I'm not the accused. There



Mishra was accused of having exposed himself before the victim woman in a drunken state and urinated on her. Delhi police registered an FIR against him January 4 on the complaint of the woman

must be someone else. It seems she herself urinated. She was suffering from some disease related to prostate which several 'kathak dancers' seem to suffer from. It was not me. The seating system was such that no one could go to her seat. "Her seat could only be approached from behind, and in any case the urine could not reach to seat's front area. Also, the passenger sitting behind the complainant did not make any such complaint," the defence advocate told the judge.

Senior advocate Ramesh Gupta, appearing for Mishra, accused po-

lice and the press of turning the case into a joke. "The first complaint was made by complainant a day after the incident. What was the claim? To refund. That was done by the airline. The police and press have turned this case into a joke... Was this case so big, was it a murder case that they reached Bangalore to arrest me and called me an absconder. He was removed from job," the defence counsel said.

Arguing for fresh custody of the accused, the prosecutor told the

court that Mishra's interrogation was required to establish the sequence of events. "His family members tried to contact...Accused tried to evade. We also need to find out whether he had consumed anything else before boarding the plane, and how did he consume. Questions like where did he hide himself, why was he not appearing before the (probe) agency, need to be answered. He had switched off his phone," the prosecution told the court.

It added after the accused used his phone for around 15 seconds, he was arrested from a guest house, where he had not even entered his name. The judge, however, said whatever submission he was making was not dealt with by the metropolitan magistrate.

Even otherwise, if additional facts are raised, the application can be moved before the magistrate, the court said. "With these the application is disposed of. Department can approach MM afresh with these grounds if it wishes so," the judge said.

Earlier during the arguments, the judge asked police if the complainant had given any statement that there was prior altercation or enmity with the accused. The prosecution replied in the negative.

# HP reinstates OPS in first cabinet meeting



The Congress party had promised to take a decision to restore Old Pension Scheme (OPS) at the first meeting of the government and it stood by the promise

The Cabinet also decided to adopt the Election Manifesto of the Congress party as policy document of the Government

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu reiterated that the state government has not restored OPS for votes but for giving social security and safeguarding self respect of the employees who have scripted the history of development of Himachal Pradesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, Jan 13:** The Himachal Pradesh government Friday approved restoration of Old Pension Scheme in its first cabinet meeting, calling it a "Lohri gift" to 1.36 lakh employees who currently are under the New Pension Scheme.

Briefing media persons after the cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said: "During her election tour, AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi had told us to promise restoration of OPS and we included it in the Pratigya Patra and fulfilled the promise at very first cabinet meeting".

He further added that the benefit of old pension scheme would be given from today (January 13, 2023) and notification in this regard would be issued soon.

Asserting that the promise to provide Rs 1,500 per month to women in the age bracket of 18 to 60 years would be implemented, the chief minister said that a cabinet subcommittee headed by Agriculture Minister Chander Kumar and Dhani Ram Shandil, Anirudh Singh and Jagat Negi as members has been constituted to prepare a road map for disbursement of Rs 1,500 per month in 30 days. Accusing the previous government of financial mismanagement, the Chief Minister said that his government not only inherited debt liability of Rs 75,000 crore but also committed liability of Rs 11,000 crore pertaining to employees and pensioners as the pre-

vious BJP government has not paid arrears of Rs 4,430 crores to employees, Rs 5,226 crores to pensioners and Rs 1,000 crores dearness allowance of sixth pay commission. Under the New Pension Scheme (NPS), the employees and government contributed ten per cent and 14 per cent respectively and an amount of Rs 8,000 crore is lying with Central government, which is reluctant to reimburse the amount but government has decided to go without it and three per cent increase on GST on diesel would help generate additional funds, Sukhu said.

Sukhu reiterated that the state government has not restored OPS for votes but for giving social security and safeguarding self respect of the employees who have scripted the history of development of Himachal Pradesh.

The matter has been studied in depth and in spite of some reservations by finance officers, the issue has been settled and all the employees under the NPS would be covered under OPS, he added.

Sukhu also said that the government de-notified over 900 institutions opened by the previous BJP Government without budget as a sum of Rs 5,000 crores was required to make them functional, adding that harsh decisions would have to be taken as the government cannot run under huge debt.

Employees who joined government service from January 1, 2004 are covered under NPS.

### Kanjhawala case: 11 policemen suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** Delhi Police Friday suspended 11 of its personnel who were on PCR and picket duty on the route a 20-year-old woman was killed after being dragged under a car, officials said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs Thursday directed the Delhi Police to suspend all its personnel deployed on the route following a report on the accident submitted by an inquiry committee headed by Special Commissioner of Police Shalini Singh.

"As approved by the competent authority, a total of 11 policemen of Rohini district deployed on the route at PCRs and pickets have been suspended in view of the Sultanpuri incident," a senior police officer said.

Five personnel on two pickets and six personnel on three PCR vans have been suspended. Of them, two are sub-inspectors, four assistant sub-inspectors, four head constables and one constable, the officer added. Officials in the ministry had said the MHA also directed the city police to serve show-cause notices to the supervisory officers of the PCR vans and police pickets over their alleged dereliction of duties.

Disciplinary action will also be taken against the police personnel who were on duty that night, they had said. The MHA has directed the Delhi Police to file the chargesheet in the case as soon as possible so that the culprits are punished.



Para jumpers perform during Southern Command Investiture parade, at MEG and Centre, Ulsoor, in Bangalore

# Shirdi-bound bus collides with truck; 10 dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai/Nashik, Jan 13:** Ten persons were killed and at least 22 others injured - most of them workers of a packaging firm and their families - after a private tourist bus on way to the temple town of Shirdi collided with a truck in Maharashtra's Nashik district Friday morning, police officials said.

The impact of the crash was so powerful that both the vehicles were completely wrecked. Many of the passengers of the private tourist bus were workers of a company located in Ambernath in Thane district and heading for the temple town of Shirdi in western

Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district with their families, the officials said. As per state highway control room officials, one side of the two-lane Sinnar-Shirdi stretch of the road had been closed for some work near the accident spot. Sajid Khan, a survivor, said the bus was over-speeding and the driver fled the spot after the accident.

More than 50 passengers, including workers of the private company and their family members, were travelling in the bus, said Khan, who was sitting on the last row. "The bus driver was driving at a very high speed and lost control over the wheels, leading to the collision with the truck," he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi



expressed grief over the loss of lives in the crash and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the PM National Relief Fund to the next-of-kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000 each, the PMO tweeted.

# FCI CORRUPTION: CBI SEARCHES 19 MORE LOCATIONS

**New Delhi:** The CBI has searched 19 more locations, made another arrest and recovered an additional Rs 23 lakh as part of its ongoing search operation against a corrupt syndicate of FCI officials, rice mill owners and grain merchants, officials said Friday. They said the agency has searched 99 locations -- 90 in Punjab and Chandigarh and nine in the rest of the country, including Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Chennai in Tamil Nadu where tentacles of the syndicate were found. During the operation, Rs 23 lakh additional cash was seized, taking the total seized amount to Rs 1.03 crore, they said.

# How India evaded current global Covid surge to date

In India, we have a large population that has already been infected with Covid, thus the combination of infection and vaccination has developed a certain amount of herd immunity, said health experts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** As countries like China and Japan bear the maximum brunt of the global Covid surge, India has survived the immediate threat and according to health experts, majority of the population has got either natural immunity or vaccine-induced immunity to all coronavirus strains currently active in the country.

Given the exposure of the Omicron variant in India in the last one year, there is hardly any possibility of any significant public health problem to be caused by Covid in near terms.

"We will not see any surge in

serious cases of Covid-19 in India in the near future. However, we need to prepare and strengthen our epidemic response system by taking lessons from the last two years," Dr. Harshal R. Salve, Professor at Centre for Community Medicine at AIIMS, New Delhi, told IANS.

While China saw a massive surge in Covid and hospitalisation, especially in the month of December, Japan that is reeling under the eighth wave of the pandemic, has reported record coronavirus-related deaths almost every single day.

According to Dr Anita Mathew, Infectious Disease Specialist at Fortis Hospital in Mulund, Mumbai, in



the last two and half years, India has seen three waves of Covid-19 with different variants like Delta, Omicron and its subvariants in circulation, which caused an "endemicty".

"Along with that, we also had a robust vaccination programme in place that helped us reduce the severity of infection, and it helped control further spread of the dis-

ease. We have over 95 per cent of the population with primary doses of vaccine and 30 per cent have got a booster," Dr Mathew told IANS.

"Thus, we have not yet seen any worrying situation of either wave of outbreaks or severe disease. Whereas, in China, the zero-Covid policies and strict regulations for the first couple of years are an excep-

tion in this respect, which is probably why there is a sudden surge of infections there," she explained.

The current variant in China is not the new one; it's a part of the Omicron family and India is likely to see a wave only if we have a new sub-variant that "we haven't been exposed to in the past," said the doctor. According to Dr. Ravindra Gupta, Head of Department, Internal Medicine at C.K. Birla Hospital in Gurugram, Covid wave resurgence in China and other countries has evaded India so far.

"It could be an effect of negative Covid tests being made compulsory by the government travelling from the impacted countries. The other reason, and most likely, is the herd immunity that has developed in our country due to effective mass vaccination against Covid. However, we should still be cautious and vigilant," said Dr Gupta.

# 'MONEY LAUNDERING A SERIOUS OFFENCE'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, Jan 13:** Money laundering is an "independent" offence, the Jharkhand High Court has held while rejecting the bail plea of a man arrested by the ED in the Jharkhand illegal stone mining case, which it said, came across like a "crime thriller".

A bench of Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary in its order passed on January 10 denied relief to the accused Prem Prakash, who had petitioned the court saying he had no links to the case, in which Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has been questioned by the federal agency and his political aide Pankaj Mishra apart from some others have been arrested.

The case dates back to July, 2022 after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided Mishra and his al-

leged associates covering 19 locations in Sahibganj, Barhait, Rajmahal, Mirza Chauki and Barharwa in Jharkhand. Prakash was arrested by the ED in August last year and he is currently lodged in jail under judicial custody.

"After having considered the rival submissions advanced on behalf of both the sides, this court is of the view that the argument advanced on behalf of the ED is persuasive enough to reject the petition for bail.

"Contrary to the submission by the learned counsel on behalf of the petitioner, the offence of money laundering is an independent offence and it is not necessary that the accused charged with the offence of money laundering are the same who are made accused in predicate offence..." the order said.

# international



What I want to do as prime minister of the United Kingdom is work constructively with the Scottish government to make a difference to people in Scotland  
RISHI SUNAK | PM, UK

## EUROPE'S MIGRANT CRISIS

The number of attempts by migrants to enter the European Union without authorisation reached around 330,000 last year, the highest number since 2016, the EU's border and coast guard agency said. Almost half of the 2022 attempts were made overland through the Western Balkans region



## of the day quote

The application of rule of law at the international level should protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states from aggression, including terrorism, and including cross border terrorism  
RUCHIRA KAMBOJ | INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN

It is important for the American people to know this, is that the President has said, he takes classified documents and information very seriously  
KARINE JEAN-PIERRE | PRESS SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSE

There was an agreement in our points of view to continue with the Saudi-Iran dialogue in what would eventually normalize relations between the two countries  
HOSSEIN AMIRABDOLLAHIAN | FOREIGN MINISTER, IRAN

# UFO reports rise in US, not aliens but still a threat

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Jan 13: The US has now collected 510 reports of unidentified flying objects, many of which are flying in sensitive military airspace. While there's no evidence of extraterrestrials, they still pose a threat, the government said in a declassified report summary released Thursday.

Last year the Pentagon opened an office, the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, solely focused on receiving and analyzing all of those



reports of unidentified phenomena, many of which have been reported by military pilots. It works with the intelligence agencies to further assess those incidents.

The events "continue to occur in restricted or sensitive airspace, highlighting possible concerns for safety of flight or adversary collection activity," the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) said in its 2022 report.

The classified version of the report addresses how many of those objects were found near locations where nuclear power plants operate or nuclear weapons

are stored. The 510 objects include 144 objects previously reported and 366 new reports. In both the old and new cases, after analysis, the majority have been determined to exhibit "unremarkable characteristics," and could be characterized as unmanned aircraft systems, or balloon-like objects, the report said. But the office is also tasked with

reporting any movements or reports of objects that may indicate that a potential adversary has a new technology or capability. The Pentagon's anomaly office is to include any unidentified objects moving underwater, in the air, or in space, or something that moves between those domains, which could pose a new threat. ODNI said in its report that efforts to destigmatize reporting and emphasize that the objects may pose a threat likely contributed to the additional reports.

## Nepal bars citizens from investing in foreign countries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Jan 13: Nepal's central bank Friday barred Nepalese nationals from investing in foreign countries, warning that such a move would invite strict punishment.

According to a notice issued by Nepal Rastra Bank, the country's central bank, Nepalese nationals are not allowed to purchase land, house, property, debenture and deposit money in foreign banks and financial institutions abroad.

Except under the provision specifically mentioned by the bank, no one shall engage in making this kind of payment in a foreign country, the notice said.

The central bank urged citizens not to do any work related to payment abroad, except as per the prescribed rules. The notice also warned that if anyone is violating the rules, strict action will be taken under the prevailing laws.

In April last year, Nepal's central bank announced the ban on the import of vehicles and other luxury items citing liquidity crunch and declining foreign exchange reserves, despite government assurances that the economy will not go into a tailspin like Sri Lanka.

Nepal's total foreign exchange reserves rose marginally, by about 3 per cent in mid-December to touch \$9.82 billion - enough to cover 8.7 months of imports - from mid-July levels.

## A BLOODY BATTLE

# Russia claims Soledar; Kyiv denies



REUTERS

Seizing Soledar would be first big Russian success in months  
Ukraine says its forces still fighting in the town  
US says Russian capture would not change course of war

Kyiv, Jan 13: Russia said Friday that its forces had taken control of the town of Soledar in eastern Ukraine, claiming Moscow's first big battlefield gain in half a year, but Kyiv said its troops were still fighting in the town.

Reuters could not immediately verify the situation in Soledar, a salt mining town that has been the focus of relentless Russian assault for days. If confirmed, Russia's capture of the town would be the bloodiest campaigns of the war, following major battlefield setbacks throughout the second half of 2022.

Kyiv and the West have played down its significance, saying Moscow sacrificed wave upon wave

of soldiers and mercenaries in a pointless fight for a bombed-out wasteland, unlikely to affect the wider war except insofar as the huge losses have sapped manpower on both sides.

"The capture of Soledar was made possible by the constant bombardment of the enemy by assault and army aviation, missile forces and artillery of a grouping of Russian forces," Moscow's defence ministry said.

Seizing the town would make it possible to cut off Ukrainian supply routes to the larger nearby city of Bakhmut, and trap remaining Ukrainian forces there, it said. Moscow has been trying to seize Bakhmut for months.

But Serhiy Cherevatyi, spokesperson for Ukraine's eastern military command, told Reuters by tele-

## 'Belarus could join conflict if invaded'

A Russian foreign ministry official said Friday that Belarus may enter the conflict in Ukraine if Kyiv decides to "invade" either country. Russia used Belarus as a springboard to invade Ukraine in February 2022, and since October has deployed troops in Belarus for joint military drills. Both countries have since agreed to intensify their military co-operation, raising fears Moscow could use its close ally to launch a new offensive on Ukraine from the north. In an interview with state media, foreign ministry official Aleksey Polishchuk said that Russia's joint drills with Belarus were designed to prevent escalation, but warned that Belarus may join the Ukraine conflict if it or Russia were invaded. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Wednesday that his country must "be ready" at its border with Belarus, but that he so far only saw "powerful statements" coming from his neighbour.

phone Soledar had not been captured. "Our units are there, the town is not under Russian control."

Ukrainian officials said Thursday more than 500 civilians were trapped inside Soledar, including 15 children. In an overnight video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy thanked two units in Soledar he said were "holding their positions and inflicting significant losses on the enemy."

## 'MEAT GRINDER'

After Ukrainian forces drove Russia into humiliating retreats for much of the second half of 2022, the front lines have barely budged for the past two months. Meanwhile, the battles around

Bakhmut and Soledar became what both sides called a "meat grinder" - a brutal war of attrition claiming the lives of thousands of soldiers.

Kyiv's Western allies see it as a fight for marginal gains on a stretch of front where neither side can make a big breakthrough, a sideshow from battles further north and south, where Ukraine hopes to push through Russian lines.

"Even if both Bakhmut and Soledar fall to the Russians, it's not going to have a strategic impact on the war itself," US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters at the White House, "and it certainly isn't going to stop the Ukrainians or slow them down."

## SHORT TAKES

### Abe's assassinator charged with murder

Tokyo: Japanese prosecutors formally charged the suspect in the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with murder, sending him to stand trial, a court said Friday. Tetsuya Yamagami was arrested immediately after allegedly shooting Abe with a homemade gun as the former leader was making a campaign speech in July outside a train station in Nara in western Japan. He then underwent a nearly six-month mental evaluation, which prosecutors said showed he is fit to stand trial. Yamagami was also charged with violating a gun control law.

### 49 deaths so far in Peru protests

Lima: A 16-year-old shot during a protest in the southern Peruvian region of Puno died Thursday, bringing the death toll to 49 in more than a month of unrest following the ouster of President Pedro Castillo. His passing raised the number of deaths during protests in hard-hit Puno region, home to Lake Titicaca, to 19. Among the dead are a policeman who was attacked and burned to death by a group of protesters. Across Peru, the death toll amid the protests stands at 49.

### SL to downsize military by half

Colombo: Cash-strapped Sri Lanka Friday announced plans to reduce the current strength of its military to half by 2030 to build a technically and tactically sound and well-balanced defence force, amid criticism that military expenditure was more than the allocation for health care and education in the 2023 budget. The Army's strength is to be reduced to 100,000 by the year 2030, down from the current figure of 200,783. The strength would be limited to 135,000 by next year, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. The defence allocation of Rs 539 billion in the budget 2023 drew criticism as the island nation faced its worst economic crisis since 1948.

### EU's 1st mainland sat launch port

Kiruna: The European Union wants to bolster its capacity to launch small satellites into space with a new launchpad in Arctic Sweden. European officials and Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf inaugurated the EU's first mainland orbital launch complex Friday during a visit to Sweden by members of the European Commission, which is the 27-nation bloc's executive arm.

## Tornadoes slam Selma, Alabama; 9 dead



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Selma (US), Jan 13: Rescuers raced Friday to find any survivors trapped in debris after tornadoes barreled across parts of the South in a system that killed at least nine people in Alabama and Georgia and inflicted heavy damage on Selma, a flashpoint of the civil rights movement.

A better picture of the damage was expected to emerge later in the day as authorities surveyed the scarred landscape. At least 35 possible tornado touchdowns were

reported across several states, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The National Weather Service, which was working to confirm the twisters, said suspected tornado damage was reported in at least 14 counties in Alabama and five in Georgia. Tens of thousands of homes and businesses were without power in both states, according to PowerOutage.us, which tracks outages nationwide. One tornado cut a 20-mile (32-kilometer) path across two rural Alabama communities Thursday before the worst

of the weather moved across Georgia on a track south of Atlanta.

Searchers in Autauga County found a body after daybreak near a home that had been badly damaged, authorities said. That death brought the toll to seven in the county about 40 miles (64 kilometers) northeast of Selma.

At least 12 people were injured severely enough to be taken to hospitals, Ernie Baggett, Autauga County's emergency management director, said as crews cut through downed trees looking for survivors. He said about 40 homes were destroyed or seriously damaged, including several mobile homes that were launched into the air. "They weren't just blown over," he said. "They were blown a distance."

In Selma, a city etched in the history of the civil rights movement, the city council met on a sidewalk using lights from cell-phones and declared a state of emergency.

## ACCELERATED BY COVID TRAUMAS

# China set for historic demographic upheaval

The United Nations predicts China's population will start to decline this year when India overtakes it as the world's most populous country

REUTERS

Hong Kong, Jan 13: Living under China's stringent Covid-19 restrictions for the past three years had caused Zhang Qi enough stress and uncertainty to consider not having babies in the country.

When China abruptly dismantled its "zero Covid" regime last month to let the virus spread freely, the balance tilted to a definite "No", the Shanghai-based e-commerce executive said.

Stories about mothers and babies not being able to see doctors at medical facilities were overwhelmed by Covid infections were the final straw for Zhang.

"I heard that giving birth at a public hospital is just horrific. I really wouldn't consider having a baby," the 31-year-old said.

A glimpse of the scars caused by the pandemic to China's already bleak demographic outlook may come to light when it reports its of-

ficial 2022 population data January 17. Some demographers expect China's population in 2022 to post its first drop since the Great Famine in 1961, a profound shift with far-reaching implications for the global economy and world order.

New births for 2022 are set to fall to record lows, dropping below 10 million from last year's 10.6 million babies - which were already 11.5% lower than in 2020.

"With this historical turn, China has entered a long and irreversible process of population decline, the first time in China and the world's history," said Wang Feng, professor of Sociology at University of California.

China's total population increased by 480,000 to 1.4126 billion in 2021. UN experts see China's population shrinking by 109 million by 2050, more than triple the decline of their previous forecast in 2019.

While nine of the 10 most pop-



New births for 2022 are set to fall to record lows  
Population to post its first drop since the Great Famine

ulous nations in the world are experiencing declines in fertility, China's 2022 fertility rate of 1.18 was the lowest and well below the 2.1 OECD standard for a stable population. The country, which imposed a one-child policy from 1980-2015, officially acknowledged it was on the brink of a demographic downturn last year, when the National Health Commission said the pop-

ulation may start declining before 2025.

In October, President Xi Jinping said the government would enact further policies to boost the country's birth rate.

## GOING GREY

Since 2021 authorities have introduced measures including tax deductions, longer maternity leave,

In less than 80 years China's population size could be reduced by 45%. It will be a China unrecognisable by the world then

WANG FENG | PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

enhanced medical insurance, and housing subsidies to incentivize people to have more babies. Their impact so far has been lacklustre.

Online searches for baby strollers on China's Baidu dropped 17% in 2022 and are down 41% since 2018, while searches for baby bottles are down more than a third since 2018. In contrast, searches for elderly care homes surged eight-fold last year.

The reverse is playing out in India, where Google Trends shows a 15% year-on-year increase in searches for baby bottles in 2022, while searches for cribs rose almost five-fold.

## TRUMP'S FIRM FINED \$1.6MN FOR TAX FRAUD

REUTERS

New York, Jan 13: Donald Trump's company was fined \$1.6 million Friday as punishment for a scheme in which the former president's top executives dodged personal income taxes on lavish job perks - a symbolic, hardly crippling blow for an enterprise boasting billions of dollars in assets.

A fine was the only penalty a judge could impose on the Trump Organization for its conviction last month for 17 tax crimes, including conspiracy and falsifying business records.

The amount imposed by Judge Juan Manuel Merchan was the maximum allowed by law, an amount equal to double the taxes a small group of executives avoided on benefits including rent-free apartments in Trump buildings, luxury cars and private school tuition.

Trump himself was not on trial and denied any knowledge of his executives evading taxes illegally.



While the fine - less than the cost of a Trump Tower apartment - isn't big enough to impact the company's operations or future, the conviction is a black mark on the Republican's reputation as a savvy businessman as he mounts a campaign to regain the White House.

Neither the former president or his children, who helped run and promote the Trump Organisation, were in the courtroom for the sentencing hearing.

Prosecutor Joshua Steinglass said the fine constitutes "a fraction of the revenue" of the Trump Organisation and that the scheme was "far-reaching and brazen."



CLIMATE CONSCIOUSNESS: Activists demonstrate during a sit-in protest against the expansion of the Garzweiler open-cast lignite mine of Germany's utility RWE, in Luetzerath, Germany

REUTERS

## of the day quote

Although the momentum of core inflation has moderated, it remains sticky at 6. That is not a comfortable number to deal with. So therefore we have to be very vigilant and we have to really keep focus on the core part of inflation

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

To my mind every crisis has a huge opportunity and G20 in the past has demonstrated the ability to deliver in times of adversity

AMITABH KANT | G20 SHERPA

We shall redouble our efforts at the WTO to get the TRIPS waiver extended to Covid-19 diagnostics and therapeutics

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Wipro Q3 net profit rises 2.8%

**New Delhi:** Wipro Ltd Friday posted 2.8 per cent year-on-year rise in its consolidated net profit for December quarter, at about ₹3,053 crore. The net profit stood at ₹2,969 crore in the year-ago period. Revenue of the Bangalore-headquartered IT company came in at ₹23,229 crore in Q3FY23, 14.3 per cent higher than the same period of previous year. The company expects revenue from IT services business for the full year to be in the range of 11.5-12 per cent in constant currency terms, according to a statement.

### Infosys shares climb nearly 2%

**New Delhi:** Shares of Infosys gained nearly 2 per cent, with its market valuation climbing ₹9,695.95 crore Friday, a day after the company announced its December quarter earnings. The stock ended 1.55 per cent higher at ₹1,503.50 per share on the BSE after falling nearly 1 per cent in initial trade. During the day, it climbed 2.61 per cent to ₹1,519.20. On the NSE, the company's shares ended at ₹1,504 apiece, up 1.58 per cent.

### Three senior NDTV executives resign

**New Delhi:** NDTV's three senior executives, including the group president, have resigned weeks after the Adani group took control of the broadcaster. NDTV group's President Suparna Singh, Chief Strategy Officer Arijit Chatterjee and Chief Technology and Product Officer Kawaljit Singh Bedi have resigned, the company said.



**We count a lot on India's leadership of the G-20. Because it is such a critical time for the world to protect its own well-being by protecting the integrated global economy. I hope that India will do that huge global service keeping us together**

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA | MD, IMF

## FIRST FLIGHT IN FOUR YEARS

A Boeing Co 737 MAX made its first passenger flight in China in nearly four years Friday, marking a major milestone in the US plane maker's attempt to rebuild its business in the world's second-largest aviation market



## IN A FIRST

# India-China trade gap breaches \$100bn

*Trade between the two countries continued to boom despite border tensions following the military standoff in eastern Ladakh in May 2020*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, Jan 13:** The trade between India and China touched an all-time high of \$135.98 billion in 2022, while New Delhi's trade deficit with Beijing crossed the \$100 billion mark for the first time despite frosty bilateral relations, according to data released by the Chinese customs Friday.

The total India-China trade for 2022 has climbed to 135.98 billion, overtaking the \$125 billion mark a year earlier by registering a rise of 8.4 per cent, the annual Chinese customs data said.

China's exports to India climbed to \$118.5 billion, a year-on-year increase of 21.7 per cent. During 2022, China's imports from India dwindled to \$17.48 billion, a year-on-year decline of 37.9 per cent. The trade deficit for India stood at \$101.02 billion, crossing the 2021 figure of \$69.38 billion.

This is the first time the trade deficit, a serious concern constantly expressed by India, has crossed the \$100 billion mark.

In 2021, the overall trade with China totalled \$125.62 billion, an increase of 43.32 per cent year on year crossing the \$100 billion mark for the first time.

The trade deficit in 2021 stood



at \$69.56 billion as India's imports from China witnessed an increase of 46.14 per cent to reach \$97.59 billion.

India's exports to China increased by 34.28 per cent year on year to reach \$28.03 billion in 2021.

According to an official brief on trade posted on the Indian Embassy website in Beijing, the rapid expansion of India-China bilateral trade since the beginning of this century has propelled China to emerge as India's largest goods trading partner by 2008.

Since the beginning of the last decade, bilateral trade between the two countries has recorded exponential growth.

From 2015 to 2021, India-China bilateral trade grew by 75.30 per cent, an average yearly growth of 12.55 per cent, it said.

Officials said that while trade with China thrived on the availability of cheap Chinese goods to India, it has continuously resulted in the spiralling trade deficit India had with any other country.

"Our trade deficit concerns are two-pronged. One is the actual size

of the deficit. Two is the fact that the imbalance has continuously been widening year after year," the Embassy brief said.

"The growth of trade deficit with China could be attributed to two factors: narrow basket of commodities, mostly primary, that we export to China and second, market access impediments for most of our agricultural products and the sectors where we are competitive in, such as pharmaceuticals, IT/ITES," it said.

Despite placating statements to address India's concerns, China has not taken any major steps to open up pharma and IT sectors to Indian exports despite widespread demand.

Demand for Indian cancer drugs was so predominant in China that a film highlighting the plight of cancer patients and their attempts to get the drugs from India struck a chord with the Chinese public.

In recent years, reports said China has officially cleared some Indian drugs but not much is heard of the market access to them.

On the decline of Indian exports

INDIA-CHINA BILATERAL TRADE AT ALL-TIME HIGH OF \$135.98BN FROM \$125BN

CHINA'S EXPORTS TO INDIA CLIMBED TO \$118.5BN, A YOY INCREASE OF 21.7%

CHINA'S IMPORTS FROM INDIA DWINDLED TO \$17.48BN, A YOY DROP OF 37.9%

to China, the Indian Embassy brief said "our predominant exports have consisted of iron ore, cotton, copper, aluminium and diamonds/natural gems".

"Over time, these raw material-based commodities have been overshadowed by Chinese exports of machinery, power-related equipment, telecom equipment, organic chemicals and fertilisers. We continue to engage the Chinese side to address market access issues," it said.

The data released by the Chinese customs Friday said China's global trade flourished despite the weakening of the US and European demand and the Covid-19 controls leading to periodic shutdowns of several cities including Shanghai, China posted a trade surplus of \$877.6 billion in 2022.

As per the customs data, China's overall exports in 2022 rose by seven per cent and imports rose by 1.1 per cent, while China's trade surplus last year stood at \$877.6 billion.

China's exports increased to \$3.95 trillion, decreasing from 2021's high growth of 29.9 per cent while imports increased by 1.1 per cent to \$2.7 trillion, compared to the previous year's 30.1 per cent rise.

## HEFTY HIKES

# Global borrowing costs may rise \$8.6trn: S&P



REUTERS

**Washington, Jan 13:** Central bank rate rises could land global borrowers with \$8.6 trillion in extra debt servicing costs in coming years, S&P Global estimated Friday, warning of a slowdown in economic activity as a result.

Major central banks have delivered a record 2,700 basis points of rate hikes in 2022 to stamp out high inflation while concerns have been growing about higher borrowing costs sparking a global recession.

"Higher interest expenses are already straining less-creditworthy governments and corporates, and lower-income households," S&P Global, a financial intelligence company that includes a debt ratings service, said in a report.

Businesses' required returns on new projects were rising along with debt costs, S&P Global added, in a trend that would "dampen future business activity volumes".

"Rising interest rates and slow economies are making the debt

burden heavier," S&P Global added in the report launched ahead of next week's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"To mitigate the risk of a financial crisis, trade-offs between spending and saving may be needed." S&P Global based its estimate of an \$8.6 trillion extra interest bill by applying a three percentage point rate increase to \$300 trillion worth of global debt. Around 65% of the extra debt service cost would be paid on fixed-rate bonds and loans as they were refinanced "over time," the report said.

It also projected that the global debt-to-GDP ratio - a marker of leverage risk in the financial system - could rise in a worse case scenario to 391% by 2030, from 349% in June 2022.

S&P Global is adding its voice to a chorus of warnings from policymakers and multilateral institutions about the impact of higher debt servicing costs on fragile economies and companies, as well as struggling households.

## JSP bags Golden Peacock CSR Award 2022

**Bhubaneswar:** Leading steelmaker Jindal Steel & Power has been awarded with the prestigious Golden Peacock Award 2022 for its excellence in corporate social responsibility activities in the steel sector. On behalf of the company, JSP's president and group head (CSR) Prashant Kumar Hota received the honour from Union Minister of State Law & Justice SP Singh Baghel January 12 during 17th International Conference on CSR held at Mumbai. Institute of Directors (IOD)'s President Lt Gen (Retd) Surinder Nath and Principal Advisor Desh Deepak Verma, IAS (Retd) were present on the occasion. This is the second Golden Peacock CSR Award for the steelmaker led by its Chairman Naveen Jindal. Jindal Steel & Power has bagged the coveted award for its holistic corporate social responsibility activities, undertaken by JSP Foundation, led by Shalu Jindal for improving the quality of life of the community around its operational areas and beyond. The steelmaker was selected by the award jury headed by former Chief Justice of India MN Venkatachaliah.



meet January 12 for the branches under area manager office Berhampur at Gopalpur in presence of Aurobinda Mishra, Zonal Manager Sambalpur Zone. The meeting was attended by 35 branch heads of the bank along with more than 20 valued customers. Mishra entrusted the managers to have better and more focused approach towards the development of small and medium industries operating the service area. He also gave due emphasis and assured growth in the fishery, dairy, poultry and plantation industries operating in the area.

## Vedanta Lanjigarh scores big at Odisha CSR Forum Award

**Lanjigarh:** Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh, India's premier producer of metallurgical grade alumina, bagged the Odisha CSR Forum Award in three categories: healthcare and hygiene; women empowerment and production of alumina and community development initiatives during Covid-19, for the year 2022. The company's developmental interventions in these fields have had a transformative impact on the socio-economic advancement of its surrounding communities. Receiving the award on behalf of the company, GG Pal, Dy CEO - Alumina Business, Vedanta Limited, said, "Vedanta Lanjigarh strives to create a tangible and sustainable social impact through its operations. Towards this end, we have undertaken deep community development interventions on the five pillars of education, healthcare, livelihood, grassroots sports and art & culture, with a special focus on women and child development. We are focused on partnering with the community towards our shared progress. These recognitions are an immense boost to our unceasing journey to bring sustainable development to Kalahandi and its surrounding areas."



## BoI GM holds review meeting

**Bhubaneswar:** After the inauguration of the National Banking Group- Odisha January 2, Bank of India's General Manager Bikram Keshari Mishra conducted the manager's review meeting along with the customer



## Forex kitty drops by \$1.268bn



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 13:** India's forex reserves declined by \$1.268 billion to \$561.583 billion for the week ended January 6, the Reserve Bank said Friday.

The overall reserves had increased by \$44 million to \$562.851 billion in the previous reporting week after two consecutive weeks of the slide.

In October 2021, the country's foreign exchange kitty reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves had been declining as the central bank deployed the reserves to defend the rupee amid pressures caused by global developments.

Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall

reserves, dropped by \$1.747 billion to \$496.441 billion during the week to January 6, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves increased by \$461 million to \$41.784 billion, it said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$35 million to \$18.217 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was down by \$18 million to \$5.141 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

## NCLT approves Jet Airways ownership transfer to Jalan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 13:** The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Friday approved the transfer of ownership of bankrupt Jet Airways to the Jalan Kalrock consortium and gave the winning bidder more time to pay the dues to the creditors.

The latest rulings have come on two petitions filed by the consortium. One plea pertained to approval of transfer of ownership and the second one related to extension of time for the payment of dues to the creditors.

Earlier, the tribunal had given time till November 16, 2022 for the consortium to make the payments to the creditors of the airline.

The latest orders also come against the backdrop of differences between the consortium and the lenders of the airline, which has been grounded for nearly four years now.

On Friday, the tribunal allowed Jalan-Kalrock consortium's plea to transfer the ownership of the airline.

A two-member NCLT Mumbai bench of Pradeep Narhari Deshmukh and Shyam Babu Gautam said as the effective date of the resolution plan has been taken as November 16, the consortium will get six months from the said date to make the payments to the creditors.

Now, the consortium will have time till mid-May this year to make the payments to all the creditors, including workmen and employees.

The counsel for the lenders Rohan Rajadhyaksha had sought a two-week stay on the order but the plea was rejected by the tribunal.

In a statement, the consortium said the tribunal has ordered the transfer of ownership of the airline to it in compliance with the resolution plan the tribunal previously approved.

"We await the detailed judgement that follows this order to provide further details, if any, on the matter," it said.

As per the resolution plan that was approved in June 2021, the consortium has so far deposited bank guarantees worth ₹150 crore with the lenders.

The consortium also has to make cash payments of ₹185 crore to the financial creditors. A total cash infusion of ₹1,375 crore, including ₹475 crore for payment to stakeholders, has been proposed by the winning bidder.

# \$58bn investment likely in exploration, production of oil, gas

*India, the world's third biggest oil-consuming and importing nation, is looking to raise domestic output to help cut down reliance on costly imports. India imports 85 per cent of its crude oil, which is converted into petrol and diesel, and roughly half of its natural gas is converted to CNG and used in industries*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** India will likely see an investment of \$58 billion in finding and producing oil and gas resources by 2023, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Friday, adding global energy majors Chevron Corp, ExxonMobil and TotalEnergies are keen to invest.

Speaking at the Voice of Global South Summit, Puri said the government has targeted to increase the geographical area under exploration and production to 0.5

million square kilometres or 15 per cent by 2025 from the current 0.25 million sq km.

"We are expecting an investment of around \$58 billion in exploration and production (of oil and gas) by 2023," he said. "Several multinational corporations like Chevron, ExxonMobil and TotalEnergies are showing keen interest to invest in Indian E&P sector."

India, he said, is ready to "explore opportunities for joint development and production of oil and



gas assets for mutual benefit and also invite investment in our domestic E&P sector".

Puri said the world is facing an unprecedented crisis of 3Ps - food, fuel and fertiliser. "We are witnessing extreme price volatility in energy molecules. The most acute impact of this is felt in the global south."

Despite these challenging cir-

cumstances, the government has taken several measures to maintain energy security for its citizens.

These include diversification of supplies, an increase of alternate energy sources like bio-fuels, ethanol, and compressed biogas, increasing E&P footprint along with a focus on domestic production; and meeting energy targets through EVs and Hydrogen.

Chevron, Exxon, Total keen to invest in India

India raised ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53% in 2013-14 to 10.17% in 2022

E20 will be rolled out soon in 11 states and UTs much earlier than the initial target date of April 1, 2023

"All these measures offer easy replication for achieving our respective energy security goals," he said.

India, he said, has increased the ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53 per cent in 2013-14 to 10.17 per cent in 2022, which was well ahead of the November 2022 deadline and advanced its target to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol from 2030 to 2025-26.

"To resolve the common concerns of the global south, India is

proposing to create Global Biofuel Alliance under G20," he said.

"The aim of the Alliance is to support projects in order to increase the deployment of biofuels and its related technology, offer alternate means of sustainable energy and finally move to its trading among the largest producers and consumers of biofuels."

E20 or petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol, will be rolled out soon in 11 states and UTs much earlier than the initial target date of April 1, 2023. "15 cities will be covered under phase-1. We are targeting a phased rollout of E20 in the entire country between now and April 2025," he said.

Also, the government is targeting to set up a production capacity of 15 million tonne of compressed bio-gas (CBG) from 5,000 plants by 2023 with an investment of \$20 billion.

# IMPRESSIVE INDIA DOWN SPAIN

Amit Rohidas opens the hosts' goal account at the FIH World Cup 2023

## ENGLAND BLANK DEBUTANT WALES



**ROURKELA:** England greeted their neighbours Wales with a dominating display routing the debutants 5-0 in the first international match—a Group D FIH men's hockey World Cup game—at the Birsas Munda International Stadium, Friday. England made their intentions clear from the word go as they raced to a lead 35 seconds into the match when David Goodfield lifted the ball from his half to catch the Welsh defence off guard. His pass found Ward, who squared the ball for Nicholas Park to lift his finish past the goalie.

England finally doubled their advantage when Liam Ansell rifled in the finish from a penalty corner. Ansell got his second from another penalty corner when Ward cleverly flicked it behind to find the forward, who rode a challenge before smashing it into the net.

England added a fourth when Phil Roper connected the ball just outside the circle before firing into the net. The goal was awarded after a video referral. England finished struck their fifth through Nicholas Bandurak.



**A NEW CHAPTER:** Harmanpreet Singh and Marc Miralles lead their teams into the field at the Birsas Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rourkela, Jan 13:** India's chief coach Graham Reid on Friday said his players ticked most of the boxes in the 2-0 win over a tricky Spain in their FIH Men's Hockey World Cup opener here. He also praised the home team's defensive efforts to deny their opponents any chances.

"The boys were able to take the ball out of the goal. It was a good start. It is good to get the first game and it is done now and we will now focus on the next game," Reid said at the post match press conference. "We did practice of playing with

10 men as we thought at some point in the tournament we are going to play with 10 men. It was good. We got in front a lot today and that was very important. We were first with the ball and that makes a lot of difference in these sort of games.

"What is pleasing today is one the defensive effort and the second we handle the ball very well. There were not too many people who did not play well. That is what you need to win a World Cup. We need to continue it in the next game," he added.

The Australian was also happy with the performance of both the goalkeepers PR Sreejesh and Krishan Bahadur Pathak. "It is

the way we have been playing. Both keepers have been playing fantastically well and I am very happy. They are pushing each other," he said with a wry smile as the question related to Sreejesh.

"I want both of them to be life options, that is, if they are playing well and something happens to one of them and the other is slotted quite easily. There are a lot of positives." Reid also hinted that the Indian side is on the road to achieve greater heights in future.

"As a coach, I do a lot of things and try to fix problems, block holes and doing it over and over in the two years. But the problem is you

**CM Naveen Patnaik Friday announced a ₹10 Lakh reward for the two Odia members – vice-captain Amit Rohidas and Nilam Sanjeev Xess – of the Indian hockey team, an official statement said**

never know which is the one to fix the problem but I am a big mindset person and a lot of things we ended up talking tactically are fixed quite easily when you have a good mindset. There was tempo, there was turn which went right for the team," he said.

"The great teams in the world make decisions on the pitch and that I think that is what ends up happening with me as a coach. It is like you are putting your kids out and let them run and make mistakes and we are going to fix them later.

"But they also need to take their responsibility. Harmanpreet (Singh) made a nice speech before during the shirt presentation and part of that is we have to cannon balls, each of us and we showed a bit of it today. We just need to keep building on that."

Captain Harmanpreet was also happy with the team's impressive defensive performance. "We speak daily that we must be strong in defence because that is important and that we did it. We cannot commit any silly mistake and all the boys did well when we were one man down (in the final quarter). As the coach said we did box practice and that helped," he said.

## Contrasting wins for Oz, Argentina



Australian players acknowledge the support from the spectators after victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** Jeremy Hayward and Tom Craig scored a hat-trick each, first of the tournament, to hand Australia a convincing 8-0 win over France in a Pool A match of the FIH men's hockey World Cup here Friday.

While Craig scored three field goals in the eighth, 31st and 44th minutes, Hayward converted three penalty corners in a span of 12 minutes as World No.1 Australia routed their opponents at the Kalinga Stadium here. Hayward sounded the board in the 26th, 28th and 38th minutes from set pieces.

Earlier in the day, former Olympic champions Argentina were made to toil by World No.14 South Africa before registering a 1-0 win in the opening Pool A match.

After a barren and hard-fought first two quarters, Argentina, the 2016 Olympic champions, scored the winner in the 42nd minute through a field effort from Casella Maico.

But it was far from rosy for the Los Leones as it was South Africa who pressed hard in the first quarter but failed to convert their chances into positive results.

In the second quarter, Argentina came back strongly and secured three penalty corners in succession but wasted all as South Africa defended stoutly. After the change of ends, South Africa had the first shy at the goal in the form of a penalty corner but the opportunity was wasted.

Argentina broke the deadlock in the 42nd minute when Casella capitalised on a counter-attack and scored a brilliant field goal from Toscani's pass. Down a goal, South Africa came out attacking in the fourth and final quarter, but the Argentine defence stood firm to stifle their rivals' forays and register a hard-fought win.

Argentina will face Australia January 16 here, while South Africa will take on France in their next pool match on the same day.

## HOCKEY FEVER GRIPS ROURKELA

queued up at the gates hours before the start of the England-Wales match (5 pm), with many of them coming from all across Odisha to have a glimpse of the brand-new stadium as well as India's first international match in the region.

"I have seen matches at the Kalinga Stadium and now I am going to experience the same at the Birsas Munda stadium, which is our pride. This region has produced so many Indian players and done so much for the game in the country," said Hemanta Das, who has come from Jharsuguda, nearly 150km from here. "I want to be among those who watch the first match at this stadium, so I am going to watch the England vs Wales and then the India-Spain match," said another fan from Rourkela.

The city wore a festive look with billboards and roadside wall paint-

ings relating to the World Cup all over the place. The state government has also set up three fan parks – called Olly Land referring to the official mascot of the World Cup, the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtle – outside the Birsas Munda and Kalinga Stadium as well as the Puri beach, where large screens have been put up for fans to watch the matches live.

Organisers claimed that the tickets for all 20 matches here were sold out within a week of the sale opening. The stadium was at least two-thirds full during the England vs Wales match.

The Birsas Munda stadium was built in a record time of 15 months to host the World Cup matches. The stadium will host 20 of the 44 matches of the World Cup, while the remaining 24, including the semi-finals and final, will be played at the

Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, which is hosting back-to-back World Cup. The stadium had not hosted any senior international event before the World Cup but coaches and players of all 16 participating teams have nothing but admiration for the stadium.

"It is a magnificent stadium and the facilities here are fantastic. We have trained on the pitch four or five times and it was fantastic. It's the same as at the Kalinga Stadium," Spain captain Alvaro Iglesias said.

India coach Graham Reid was in awe of the state-of-the-art stadium. "It is unbelievably good and facilities are fantastic. What has changed in the last 15 months has been quite incredible. Living in the World Cup village since December 27 has been quite amazing. I am happy with the pitch, we are getting used to it," he said.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rourkela, Jan 13:** Hockey fever has gripped the country's cradle of the sport with thousands of people turning up to witness the men's World Cup match between England and Wales at the magnificent Birsas Munda stadium on the opening day Friday.

The 21,000-capacity stadium, named after an Indian tribal freedom fighter, is said to be the biggest hockey venue in the world, and true to the tradition of the state, a

sea of spectators came to watch the Pool D match.

The Sundargarh region of Odisha, of which Rourkela is the largest city, is considered the cradle of Indian hockey as it has produced more than 60 international players, both men and women, including captains like the current Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey. Sansarpur in Punjab was earlier considered the nursery of Indian hockey but it has declined in the recent past.

Thousands of hockey fans

## PICTURES SAY IT ALL



**1** CM Naveen Patnaik was accompanied by FIH president Tayyab Ikram (L), Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey (R) and Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang ahead of India-Spain match at the Birsas Munda Int'l Hockey Stadium in Rourkela

**2** Kids pose for pics in 'Olly Land' inside Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar

**3** A couple of fans take selfies at a photo zone in 'Olly Land'

**4** Spectators switch on their flash lights of their mobile phones in a stand at Kalinga Stadium

**5** A couple of South Africa fans show off their match tickets ahead of their team's match against Argentina

**6** Cheer girls enjoy while doing their job during a World Cup match at Kalinga Stadium

**7** Fans go through security check before entering the stadium

**8** School girls show their delight ahead of a World Cup match in Bhubaneswar

