



**BHUMI'S CHOICE**  
Actor Bhumi Pednekar says she loves shooting at the stillness of the night as it inspires her to be more focused  
**LEISURE P2**



**WAR INTENSIFIES**  
Ukraine battles Russian troops trying to pierce its lines in the east and northeast before Kyiv takes delivery of tanks  
**INTERNATIONAL P10**



**INDIA REACH FINAL**  
India notch up an 8-wicket win over New Zealand to sail into the final of inaugural U-19 Women's T20 World Cup  
**SPORTS P12**



**TUG OF WAR:** German and Australian players in action during the semifinal of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Friday  
PIC BIKASH NAYAK

**DATE FOR FINAL**  
**IT'S BELGIUM VS GERMANY**

In the semifinals, Germany beat Australia 4-3 while defending champions Belgium defeated Netherlands 3-2 in shoot-out

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** Defending champions Belgium will face Germany in the final of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium here Sunday in their bid to retain the title. Belgium defeated Netherlands 3-2 in penalty shootout in the second semifinal at the Kalinga Stadium, here Friday. The game ended 2-2 at the end of the regular time before Vanasch made some brilliant saves during the shootout to put the defending champions in the summit clash. Earlier, star drag-flicker Gonzalo Peillat struck a second half hat-trick as Germany made a sensational comeback after being two goals down to beat Australia 4-3 and enter the FIH Men's World Cup final for the fifth time. This was Germany's second comeback win after being 0-2 down against England as well in the quarter-final match. They scored twice in the last three minutes to equalise and then beat England in the penalty shoot-out to enter the semi-finals. Two-time champions Germany recorded their first entry to the final after the 2010 edition in New Delhi, where they finished runners-up. They won the silver medal in 1982 as well before winning the title in 2002 and 2006. For three-time champions Australia, this was their second consecutive failure to enter the final. **MORE ON P12**

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



No need to reach out to the marginalised anymore. Survey says we are going to win the elections

**Adani's \$48bn rout**

**CARNAGE IN MARKETS**

**Mumbai, Jan 27:** Shares of Adani Enterprises plunged Friday as a scathing report by a US short seller triggered a massive selloff in the conglomerate's listed firms, casting doubts on the company's record \$2.45 billion secondary offering. Seven listed companies of the Adani conglomerate - controlled by one of the world's richest men Gautam Adani - have lost a combined \$48 billion in market capitalisation since Wednesday with US bonds of Adani firms also falling after Hindenburg Research flagged concerns in a Jan 24 report about debt levels and the use of tax havens. The rout took shares of Adani Enterprises, the group's flagship company, well below the offer price of its secondary sale that had initially been offered at a discount. As bidding started Friday, the issue was subscribed only 1%, raising concerns over whether it would be able to proceed. Capital markets regulator SEBI is studying the Hindenburg report and may use it to aid its own ongoing probe into offshore fund holdings of Adani Group, two sources said. Spokepersons for the regulator and Adani had no immediate comment. Adani Group has dismissed the Hindenburg report as baseless and said it is considering whether to take legal action against the New York-based firm. With a net worth of \$96.6 billion, billionaire Gautam Adani is now the world's seventh richest man, according to Forbes, slipping from the third position he held before the Hindenburg report.

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	59330.90	↓ 874.16
NIFTY	17604.35	↓ 287.60
DOLLAR	81.57	↑ ₹0.26
EURO	88.63	↓ ₹0.02
GOLD	₹56,852	↓ ₹110
SILVER	₹68,314	↓ ₹362

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP: MAX	34.0°C	30.5°C
TEMP: MIN	16.8°C	15.0°C
Humidity	66%	89%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Foggy weather mostly	

**Clashes with Chinese troops anticipated**

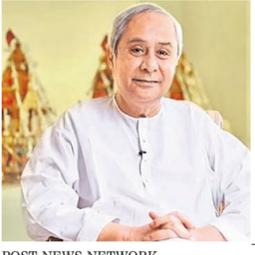
**New Delhi, Jan 27:** A security assessment by Indian police in the Himalayan region of Ladakh says there could be more clashes between Indian and Chinese troops along their contested frontier there as Beijing ramps up military infrastructure in the region.

At least 24 soldiers were killed when the armies of the Asian giants clashed in Ladakh, in the western Himalayas, in 2020 but tensions eased after military and diplomatic talks. A fresh clash erupted between the two sides in the eastern Himalayas in December but there were no deaths. The assessment is part of a new, confidential research paper by the Ladakh Police that was submitted at a conference of top police officers held from January 20 to 22 and has been reviewed by Reuters. India and China share a 3,500 km (2,100 miles) border that has been disputed since the 1950s. The two sides went to war over it in 1962.



The assessment is part of a new, confidential research paper by the Ladakh Police that was submitted at a conference of top police officers held from January 20 to 22 and has been reviewed by Reuters.

**Naveen most popular CM**



**New Delhi, Jan 27:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has emerged as the most popular Chief Minister of the country in home state in India Today's Mood of the Nation survey. The longest serving Chief Minister of the state and Biju Janata Dal supremo bagged the top position with 73.2 per cent of respondents expressing their satisfaction over the performance of Patnaik. He was followed by Delhi CM and Aam Aadmi Party supremo Arvind Kejriwal, who has clocked a massive jump in popularity within the state, with 69.2 per cent of respondents expressing satisfaction with his performance, up from 58.9 per cent in August 2022. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma was placed in the third spot with 68.3 per cent.

**BHARAT JODO YATRA**

**Rahul alleges security breach in Kashmir**

**Khanabal, Jan 27:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday cancelled his walk as part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra for the day after it entered Kashmir Valley, with the party alleging a security lapse and claiming the police arrangements by the Union territory administration 'completely collapsed'. Gandhi, who began his yatra from Banihal in Jammu region, crossed the Jawahar Tunnel into the valley in Qazigund in a bulletproof vehicle. While the yatra got a rousing reception on this side of the tunnel, the security forces found it difficult to control and manage the crowd of hundreds of party supporters. The Jammu and Kashmir Police rejected the Congress charge and said there was no security lapse at the Bharat Jodo Yatra and that the organisers had not informed the police about a large crowd joining the march from Banihal. The Congress, however, put out a video purportedly showing police personnel withdrawing from the site.

**SANIA CAPS OFF GLORIOUS GRAND SLAM CAREER**

**Melbourne, Jan 27:** Trailblazing Indian tennis star Sania Mirza capped off her glorious Grand Slam career with a runners-up finish alongside 'best friend' Rohan Bopanna in the Australian Open mixed doubles final here Friday. Pairing up with her first-ever mixed doubles partner Bopanna, the unseeded Indian duo went down 6-7(2) 2-6 to the Brazilian pair of Luisa Stefani and Rafael Mataos in the final at the Rod Laver Arena. "If I cry, these are happy tears. That's just a disclaimer. I'm still going to play a couple of more tournaments but my journey of my professional career started in Melbourne," an emotional Sania said as she struggled to hold back tears. **MORE P12**



"Rohan was my first-ever mixed doubles partner when I was 14 and we won the nationals, it was 22 year ago and I couldn't think of a better person, he's my best friend and one of my best partners to finish my career," Sania said, thanking Bopanna, who has one French Open mixed doubles title to his credit.

**Close encounter with asteroid this week**

**DURING ITS FLIGHT, THE ASTEROID IS PREDICTED TO BE ONLY 2,200 MILES ABOVE EARTH'S SURFACE, MAKING IT THE CLOSEST IN RECORDED HISTORY, ACCORDING TO NASA**

**San Francisco, Jan 27:** An asteroid, about the size of a box truck, will have a very close encounter with the Earth this week, NASA Systems has predicted. The asteroid, called Asteroid 2023, is expected to fly over South America. During its flight, the asteroid is predicted to be only 2,200 miles above Earth's surface, making it the closest in recorded history, according to NASA. However, the space agency said that there is no risk of the asteroid impacting Earth, and even if it did, the small asteroid, which is estimated to be 11.5 to 28 feet (3.5 to 8.5 metres) across, would disintegrate harmlessly in the atmosphere, with some of the larger debris potentially falling as small meteorites. The asteroid was initially spotted by amateur astronomer Gennadiy Borisov Saturday and reported to the Minor Planet Center (MPC).



The asteroid was initially spotted by amateur astronomer Gennadiy Borisov Saturday and reported to the Minor Planet Center (MPC).

NASA's Scout impact hazard assessment system was then used to analyse the MPC's data and predict the near miss. "Scout quickly ruled out 2023 BU as an impactor, but despite the very few observations, it was nonetheless able to predict that the asteroid would make an extraordinarily close approach with Earth," Davide Farnocchia, a navigation engineer at JPL who developed Scout, said in a statement. "In fact, this is one of the closest approaches by a known near-Earth object ever recorded," he added. Although this asteroid poses no threat to Earth, NASA has been focusing on building planetary defences against them.

# leisure



## AMBER ROSE VOWS TO STAY SINGLE INDEFINITELY

Model Amber Rose, who previously dated Kanye West and was married to Wiz Khalifa, has struggled on the dating scene in recent years. "I'm completely disillusioned about finding love so planning to stay single indefinitely," she says.

## BALDONI, LIVELY TO STAR IN HOOVER'S IT ENDS WITH US

Justin Baldoni and Blake Lively are all set to star in the film adaptation of Colleen Hoover's best selling romance novel *It Ends With Us*. Baldoni and his partner Andrew Calof will executive produce and direct the adaptation



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

Positive thinking can change the world, and you could do with some today. No matter how tough the going gets, take it in your stride, says Ganesha. If you think you can do it, you will. You have the magic touch today to initiate a new business strategy.

#### TAURUS

The time you previously spent on certain activities may not yield results as expected, predicts Ganesha. You will be reluctant to travel today. Your may find yourself wanting more space and freedom of expression. A stroll with your sweetheart, hand in hand, may be the highlight of your day, says Ganesha.

#### GEMINI

Today, it's time to meet those who are close to you, and maybe even those who were close to you at some point of time. Also, it's time to revive old friendships, old memories and sink into nostalgia. You may want to buy a valuable historic artefact, says Ganesha.

#### CANCER

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

#### LEO

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

#### VIRGO

A shadow grows large in your mind today. An unknown fear will haunt your day, warns Ganesha. But be ready to take a hike. You are most likely to end up spending on your foreign associates. Be careful of those expenses, says Ganesha.

#### LIBRA

Sometimes, you lend a helping hand and people end up taking the entire arm. Well, that's kids for you! So beware, because young ones around you may try to take undue advantage of your sympathetic nature today, hints Ganesha. Minor issues and problems may dampen the high spirits that you are in today.

#### SCORPIO

Today, there are chances that you would be disturbed by continuous flow of negative thoughts in your mind. Try to divert your mind and look for positive people or friends who would cheer you up. Understanding needy people and living up to their expectations would bring some respite to your disrupted mind, says Ganesha.

#### SAGITTARIUS

It's time for you to sit back, relax and let your actions do the talking. After all, actions speak louder than words, they say. You will also wrap up with all the pending tasks today, says Ganesha. You play an important role in resolving troubles, either for yourself or for others.

#### CAPRICORN

Success never comes easy, but in your case, it will make an exception, says Ganesha. You will meet with success in social as well as professional life, and this will also make heavy your treasure box. At work, prepare to get loaded with new assignments and simultaneously deal with existing work pressure.

#### AQUARIUS

Things barely move today. But just like the proverbial tortoise, you seem to be winning the race, for many opportunities will come your way. There won't be any cash crunch, so you needn't lose sleep over that, says Ganesha.

#### PISCES

The apple of your eye is what you will have your sights set on today. It is likely that you will find yourself attending a Parent-Teacher meet, says Ganesha. However, fortunately, it is likely only to receive news about how proud your children are making you. Buy them something to make them happy, or take them out on a picnic.

## Bhumi's love for stillness of night

Mumbai: Bhumi Pednekar, who has been having sleepless nights for nine days due to her film shoot commitments, says she loves shooting at the stillness of the night because it inspires her to be more focused on her craft.

Bhumi is currently filming for *Mere Husband Ki Biwi* in Mumbai. She says, "I have always loved night shoots. As a creative person, nothing inspires me more than the stillness of the night. I feel energised. I feel more focussed. Night shoots have been something I look forward to. It really messes with my sleep and rest but I also love it."

She adds, "So, I like it when there are short shooting sched-

ules at night. There is something about the night that al-

ways got me going since my first film and the feeling hasn't changed. I'm currently wrapping my romantic comedy and I'm having a blast on the sets. I wish I could say more but you have to wait to watch the film when it releases in theatres!"



## Love always wins: Alia

Mumbai: Alia Bhatt has given a shout out to Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone's latest release, *Pathaan*. Taking to her Instagram Stories, Alia shared the *Pathaan* poster Friday and wrote, "Because love always wins (heart emoji) What a blast," followed by several fire emojis. The film released in theatres worldwide Wednesday and is breaking records at the box office with its whopping collections each day.

Alia Bhatt has worked with Shah Rukh Khan in *Dear Zindagi* in which he played her therapist. She has never worked with Deepika Padukone though they share a common factor. Deepika once dated Ranbir Kapoor who is now married to Alia Bhatt.

Not only Alia, 'Love wins' was the larger message that many film celebrities including Karan Johar, Pooja Bhatt and Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub, sent out following the success of *Pathaan*. The early response to the stylish spy thriller appears to be a shot in the arm for the film industry reeling under the pandemic-induced losses, a series of box-office failures in 2022, and calls for boycott by a section of people on social media and a few politicians and pressure groups.



## Kangana wants to rename *Pathaan*

Mumbai: Actress Kangana Ranaut has said that she wants to rename Shah Rukh Khan's latest release *Pathaan* to *Indian Pathaan* as Indian Muslims are patriotic and different from Afghan Pathans.

Kangana took to her Twitter handle @KanganaTeam and wrote: "All those who are claiming Pathan is triumph of love over hate, I agree but whose love over whose hate? Let's be precise, who is buying tickets and making it a success? Yes it is India's love and inclusiveness where eighty per cent Hindus lives and yet a film called *Pathaan*."

She added: "Which shows our enemy nation Pakistan and ISIS in good light is running successfully, it is this spirit of India beyond hate and judgements that makes it Mahan.. it is the love of India that has triumphed hate and petty politics of enemies."

The actress went further: "I do believe Indian Muslims are patriotic and very different from Afghan Pathans and the crux is India will never be Afghanistan, we all know what is happening there, it's beyond hell there, so apt name for the movie *Pathan* according to its storyline is the Indian Pathan."

### 12TH INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL BHUBANESWAR: DAY 5

## Adh Chanani Raat enthralls viewers



Punjabi film director Gurvinder Singh speaking after the show

BHUBANESWAR: Gurvinder Singh directorial *Adh Chanani Raat* (Crescent Night), screened on the fifth day of Indian Film Festival Bhubaneswar (IFFB) here at Odissi Research Centre, garnered much appreciation. The

Punjabi language film had premiered earlier at the prestigious International Film Festival of Rotterdam in 2022.

The film depicts the life of Modan, after spending the prime of his life in prison, is finding it

difficult to start afresh. Amid growing animosity with his now well off brother, he shifts to a decrepit home with his mother and marries a woman with a child from a previous marriage. However, despite Modan's attempts at putting the past behind him, his suppressed anger manifests itself in renewed violence.

Singh, an alumnus of FTII-Pune, spoke about his filmmaking journey since he started off with *Anhey Ghorey Ka Daan* that shot him into the limelight. "Nothing changes overnight. It takes time for seeds of change to sprout. One needs to accept failures too. Cinema is a temporal medium and demands rigorous efforts."

Satyajit Ray's *Charulata* (Bengali), Arun Karthick's *Nasir* (Tamil) and Abdul Majeed KB directed *Appan* (Malayalam) were the other movies screened on the day.

## Golden Visa for Odia filmmaker

BHUBANESWAR: Akshay Parija, a known name in film and TV industries of Odisha, has been accorded with Dubai Golden Visa under Celebrity Artist Category for his achievement in India. He has so far produced over 30 films in Odia, Bengali, Malayalam and Hindi. He also has made over 7,000 television episodes at his own studio employing over 350 people for over a decade.



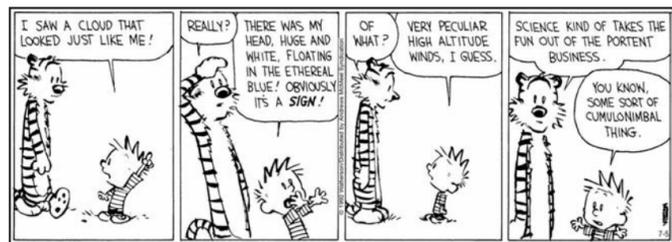
"To be treated at par with stars like Shah Rukh Khan, Mohanlal, Mammooty, Sunil Shetty, Sonu Nigam and many others is really a great honour: I profusely thank the Government of Dubai for creating a global artist community there," said Parija in his reaction.

"Thanks to the CM of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik and his team, Odisha will soon have a direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Dubai. I propose to equally distribute my time between Dubai and Odisha" added Parija, who has two national, 16 international and 43 state awards to his credit.

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

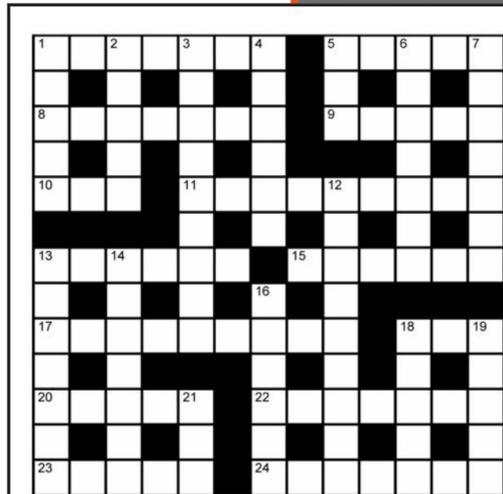


### BREVITY



### FUN post

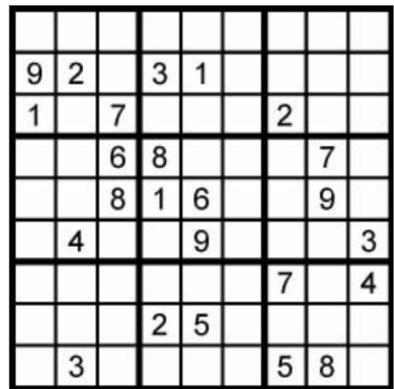
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Beatific
  - 5 Great Australian (Bay)
  - 8 Give advice
  - 9 Religious person
  - 10 Yearling
  - 11 Atoll (5,4)
  - 13 Dark grey cloud
  - 15 Moving and bending with ease
  - 17 Farmer's tool
  - 18 Toast topping
  - 20 Void
  - 22 Sculler
  - 23 Bird's greeting
  - 24 Clump of grass
- Down
- 1 Cravat
  - 2 Hog noise
  - 3 Inevitable defeat (4,5)
  - 4 Edible herbaceous plant
  - 5 Exclamation of disgust
  - 6 Refined
  - 7 Edible subterranean fungus
  - 12 Energetic people (4,5)
  - 13 Most curious
  - 14 Dinner pastry (4,3)
  - 16 Audition
  - 18 Gargantuan
  - 19 Capital of Belarus
  - 21 Still

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



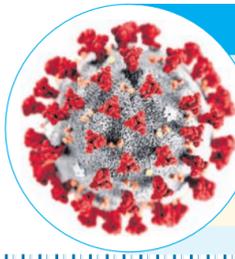
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## SILVER JUBILEE FETE

Artistes of 'Rose Tree' perform Santhali dance to mark the silver jubilee celebration of the Theatre Movement at KVK auditorium in Cuttack, Friday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	67,44,15,925	64,64,18,026	67,55,771
India	4,46,82,437	4,41,49,802	5,30,739
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

# Five held for burglary at Prabodh Tirkey's house

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** The Commissionerate Police Friday cracked a case of burglary at the residence of international hockey player Prabodh Tirkey in a Capital police station area here a few days back.

The police also arrested five persons on charges of stealing gold ornaments and other valuables from the quarters of the former Indian hockey team captain.

The arrested were identified as Chitta Ranjan Dalei, 30, of Belaguntha area in Ganjam, Sukant Nayak, 34, of Bhimpur Mouza under Airport police limits, Milu Behera, 39, of Sashtri Nagar area under Kharavelnagar police limits, G Ganga Reddy, 30, of Chhatrapur in Ganjam. The accused Chitta and Ganga are currently staying at Bhimpur Mouza in Airport police limits and in Saliasahi under Nayapalli police limits in the Capital city.

This apart, the cops have also managed to arrest another person, Raja Mahalik, for receiving the



**A scooter, an auto-rickshaw, 5 silver, 8 bronze and one gold medal, 2 pairs of gold earrings, a gold clip, a platinum chain and other valuables were recovered**

booty from the thieves. Raja, who hails from Kanpur area of Cuttack, is residing at Shastri Nagar here. The accused were Friday produced before the court that later sent them to judicial custody.

As per sources, Tirkey was in Rourkela for the last one month

to attend the FIH Hockey World Cup events while his family members had gone to his native place in Sundargarh. Meanwhile, the person working as a caretaker at his residence was out of town for the last few days when the burglary took place. Taking advantage of the situation, robbers entered Tirkey's home from the backyard and decamped with valuables including 200 gram gold ornaments, two television sets, one computer and five medals owned by the former captain. The caretaker, who returned to his residence, Saturday informed Tirkey about the theft over phone.

Based on a complaint lodged by Tirkey's relative, Capital police registered a case (56/23) and launched a manhunt to nab the culprits.

The cops have recovered a scooter, an auto-rickshaw, five silver and eight bronze medals, one gold medal, two pairs of gold earrings, one gold clip, one platinum chain, one camera, two cellphones, one LED TV, 10 gas cylinders and four house breaking instruments from the possession of the accused.

# Student volunteers score big at hockey WC

*From setting up the venues to helping with logistics, hospitality and stand management, the volunteers have been working tirelessly to make sure that everything is in place*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** The FIH Men's Hockey World Cup (WC) is nearing its end with the final scheduled to be played January 29.

As the teams prepare to vie for the top prize, a dedicated group of individuals, in addition to Hockey India and officials from the Odisha government, have been tirelessly working behind the scenes to ensure the marquee event is a mega success.

These individuals are the volunteers from the Government University of Physical Education, Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur, who got the rare opportunity to work for an event of such magnitude.

The volunteers have been an integral part of the organising team, lending their time and support to ensure that the tournament is a success. From setting up the ven-



**We had to ensure that the volunteers were ready for the big event. We began selecting and screening them in November last, and they had their orientation as early as December 2022. It is a challenging job, but they have really excelled at it**

RAJENDRA PRASAD PANI | UNDER SECRETARY IN SPORTS DEPT

**We've had the opportunity to work with some of the best athletes in the world and have learned so much about the planning, processes and execution of a major sports event. It is a matter of great pride that our home state is hosting this event and it feels special to contribute in our own way**

DEBIPRASAD SAHOO | VOLUNTEER

ues to helping with logistics, hospitality and stand management, the volunteers have been working tirelessly to make sure that everything is in place.

Rajendra Prasad Pani, Under

Secretary in the Sports department, who oversees volunteer management for Hockey India, said, "We had to ensure that the volunteers were ready for the big event. We began selecting and screening them in

November last, and they had their orientation as early as December 2022. It is a challenging job, but they have really excelled at it."

The tournament has been a great learning experience for the volunteers. As students of physical education, it has been a great opportunity for them to interact with some of the world's finest athletes and get backstage access to a sporting spectacle, he said.

Besides the memories, the experience is invaluable in terms of their career development, as many wish to pursue careers in sports. Their newly-acquired knowledge will hold them in good stead for their future prospects, Pani said.

Debiprasad Sahoo, who studies at the Government University of Physical Education, said he is optimistic about pursuing sports management someday.

Sharing his experience, Sahoo said, "We've had the opportunity to work with some of the best athletes in the world and have learned so much about the planning, processes and execution of a major sports event. It is a matter of great pride that our home state is hosting this event and it feels special to contribute in our own way."

These volunteers have been the unsung heroes of the tournament, and their contributions have not gone unnoticed.

# Ex-CM Giridhar Gamang, wife, son, others join BRS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** Former Chief Minister and tribal leader Giridhar Gamang, his wife Hema, son Shishir along with a host of political, farmer and social service leaders have joined the KCR-led BRS (Bharat Rashttra Smaithi) in Hyderabad, Friday.

Several others leaders including ex-MP Jayram Pangi and ex-MLA Nabin Nanda, Navnirman Kishan Sangatan Convenor Akshay Kumar, Sangthan's Seshdev Nanda and RTI activist Pradeep Pradhan also joined the BRS in the presence of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu. The BRS chief welcomed them into the party by presenting party scarves to them.

Rao said that Odisha is very rich in natural resources. It has the best quality of coal in Talcher region. However, the state is not able to generate enough power for its people, the CM said.

Rao said there is a need for farmers coming together across the country and ensuring 'ab ki baar, kisan sarkar' to dictate the terms to ruling parties.

"Odisha needs development, which is yet to start. Our BRS will contest in all 147 MLA and 21 MP seats in the next election," said Sishir Gamang.

According to sources, the BRS will focus on southern Odisha, which has a large Telugu-speaking population. The party will fight the next election with focus on farmers and tribals.

## STRIKES & PICKETING

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Jan 27:** The Supreme Court Friday refused to hear on urgent basis a fresh application filed by Odisha lawyers tendering unconditional apology for their involvement in strikes and picketing during the protests for establishment of a High Court bench in western Odisha.

The application moved by lawyers also said that the apex court may also facilitate the bail of the lawyers arrested for their alleged involvement in vandalism in Sambalpur court.

Senior advocate AK Panda, appearing for Central Action Committee of all Bar Associations of western Odisha, mentioned the

# NO URGENT HEARING OF LAWYERS' PLEA: TOP COURT



matter before the bench of Justice SK Kaul Friday.

The bench, however, refused to hear the matter on urgent basis.

"We are not a bail court. No indulgence," the bench said.

The Supreme Court has, earlier,

posted the matter for hearing February 6.

During the mentioning, the senior advocate submitted that over 30 advocates, including women, have been in jail for the past 45 days. He submitted that the District Court has refused to enlarge the advocates on bail. Their bail applications are now before the high court, the senior counsel submitted. He claimed that the HC has deferred hearing on several occasions.

In December last year, the SC had asked the police to take stringent action against the advocates involved in vandalism and disruption of court work during the strike for establishment of HC bench in western Odisha.

# Talcher MLA deposes before ED for second time in a row

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** BJD leader and Talcher MLA Brajakishore Pradhan Friday once again appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the allegations of money laundering in an illegal mining case. Pradhan, who reached the ED office at Nayapalli in the afternoon for the second time, was grilled by the central agency sleuths for more than three hours.

Sources revealed that Pradhan was questioned over his alleged links with his close aide and owner of a logistics company, who is engaged in illegal mining activities in Angul, Dhenkanal and other areas of the state. Income Tax officials had earlier carried out raids

at different locations related Pradhan's close aide on the allegations of tax evasion and income through illegal sources in October last year.

Following the IT raids, the ED also reportedly initiated a probe to unearth illegal financial transactions of the transporter. The ED later summoned Pradhan to appear before it for questioning after allegedly coming across his links in the illegal mining business of his aide.

Sources also alleged that Pradhan and his relatives invested in various industries and logistics companies in Angul and neighbouring districts. Pradhan had deposed before the ED January 20 over the money laundering case. He was then grilled by the ED for over seven hours.



## FEST FERVOUR

An artiste enthralled FEST audience at Ekamra Haat in Bhubaneswar, Friday

OP PHOTO

# SC to examine plea on citizens petitioning Parl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 27:** The Supreme Court Friday agreed to examine a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to take steps to create an appropriate system, which would empower the citizens to petition the Parliament and seek the initiation of a debate, discussion, and deliberation on the issues and concerns highlighted by citizens in their petitions.

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna expressed its reservations in connection with the prayers raised in the plea. It said if allowed, it could impede the functioning of the Parliament, and pointed out that India has a huge population, as compared to other countries which have such systems.

"You want it to be declared as part of Article 19(1). It will completely clog the working of Parliament," the bench told advocate Rohan J Alva, representing petitioner Karan Garg.

Alva, assisted by advocate Ahy P Varghese, argued that the petition raises substantial questions of constitutional law and there is an engaged electorate, which is attentive to

The plea sought a declaration that citizens have a fundamental right to directly petition the Parliament and invite discussions on important issues of public interest



issues but there is no avenue to engage with the lawmakers after they have been elected.

Counsel urged the top court to issue notice in the matter:

As the bench asked how is the writ petition maintainable against the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the counsel argued that the system is there in the UK's House of Commons "and we are based on the Westminster model", while adding that these practices are in vogue abroad.

After hearing arguments, the top

The top court asked the counsel to serve the petition to the Central government's standing counsel

court asked the counsel to serve the petition to the Central government's standing counsel, saying: "Let us see what they have to say." It scheduled the matter for further hearing in February. It, however, did not issue notice on the plea.

The petitioner has made three respondents in the petition: Union of India through its Secretary, the Lok Sabha through its Secretary General, and the Rajya Sabha through its Secretary General.

The plea sought a declaration that

citizens have a fundamental right to directly petition the Parliament and invite discussions on important issues of public interest.

The plea, filed through advocate Joby P Varghese, said: "The present writ petition prays that it is imperative for the respondents to take substantive steps in order to ensure that citizens can have their voices heard in Parliament without facing undue barriers and difficulties. To that end, the present writ petition presents a detailed and nuanced framework under which citizens can prepare petitions, seek popular support for it and if a citizen petition crosses a prescribed threshold, then the citizen petition has to mandatorily be taken up for discussion and debate in Parliament."

The plea argued that after the people cast their votes and elect their representatives to Parliament as well as to the state legislatures, there is no scope for any further participation. "There is the complete absence of any formal mechanism by which citizens can engage with the law-makers and take steps in order to ensure that issues which are important are debated in Parliament," it added.

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# BJD demands inclusion of 169 communities in ST list

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** Playing tribal card, ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Friday slammed the BJP-led Centre for non-inclusion of 169 communities into Odisha ST list.

Addressing a press conference here, former MP and party spokesperson Pradeep Majhi said that the state government has been working for the development and welfare of tribals in Odisha.

But, unfortunately, the BJP-led Centre has always neglected the tribal communities of the state. Their approach has been anti-tribal, anti-op and anti-Odisha, he alleged.

He said the state government has provided 5 lakh tribal girl children with hostels, Special Development

**Despite the CM fighting for the rights of these communities for inclusion in the ST list, the BJP led Centre with its anti-tribal approach has been thwarting all efforts**

PRADEEP MAJHI | PARTY SPOKESPERSON

Councils (SDCs) have been constituted in nine tribal-dominated districts of Odisha covering 117 blocks, 2022 GPs, 18687 villages and 14.05 lakh ST households.

“However, the BJP-led Centre has always neglected the tribals. Why do I say so? About 169 proposals have been recommended by the Odisha government for inclusion of 169 communities in the ST list of

Odisha. But, despite repeated letters sent by the CM and the Odisha Government, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is not including them in the ST list and it is pending,” said Majhi.

Despite the CM fighting for the rights of these communities for inclusion in the ST list, the BJP led Centre with its anti-tribal approach has been thwarting all efforts, Majhi said.

The tribal leader demanded immediate inclusion of the pending 169 communities in the ST list.

Reacting on this allegation, state BJP spokesperson Dillip Mohanty said the allegation made by the BJD is baseless as the state government has not followed the process for inclusion of new communities under the ST list.



**CHAMPIONING CULTURE:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Governor Ganeshi Lal watch artistes perform folk dance at the state level Republic Day celebration in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Sri Dusashan Barik, aged 56 years, son of Late Ramachandra Barik of Village Brahmanabaisida, P.O. -Bagda, Via-Pratappur, PS.- Baliapal, Dist.- Balasore, State-Odisha do hereby declare that my nickname as Bijay Kumar Barik was reflected on some financial transaction documents. But from today any financial or property transactions will be continued in my name as Dusashan Barik instead of Bijay Kumar Barik and it will be hereby declared illegal in Court of Law and will be punished under Law if anyone utilize my name as Bijay Kumar Barik in any financial documents or others.

By the virtue of an affidavit dt.27.01.2023 before the Court of Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar. My India Passport No. P1784065, surname has changed as Priyanka Mahakud to Priyanka Padhee. Henceforth, I shall be known as Priyanka Padhee in my Passport.

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Erasama, I, Tunilata Mohanty, W/o Bijaya Kumar Mohanty, At- Rupakhandi, P.O.-Mahimadeipur, P.S.-Erasama, Dist.- Jagatsinghpur do hereby state that in LIC Policy my name has been mentioned as Kshetramani Sahoo. Hence, Tunilata Mohanty and Kshetramani Sahoo is same and one person for all purpose.

## LOST

I, Prashant Kumar Mohapatra belonging to Bayangadihi, Nuahat, Bhadrak lost my original sale deed No.-5274/95 relating to land at Pandara, Bhubaneswar, documents of State Bank of India and Aadhaar Card on 21st January, 2023 while travelling at Cuttack road. I have informed the same to Police Station, Laxmisagar. I shall be obliged if any body found the same and informed me in the below mobile phone. I shall not be responsible of any body misutilised the above lost documents. Mobile No.9437001348.

# CM flags off pilgrimage train for senior citizens



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik virtually flagged off Friday the special Barishtha Nagarik Tirtha Yatra pilgrimage train from the Bhubaneswar Railway station.

The special train is carrying some 970 senior citizens to various religious places of the country including Varanasi, Mathura and Brindavan. Senior citizens from seven districts including Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Dhenkanal have

■ The special train is carrying some 970 senior citizens from seven districts including Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Dhenkanal

■ Because of Covid, the programme was on hiatus for the last two years. This year, the CM mentioned, the government has arranged pilgrimage for 7,000 senior citizens

been picked for this journey. The train left the Bhubaneswar station at 12:45pm. Because of Covid, the programme was on a hiatus for the last



two years. This year, the CM mentioned that the government has arranged pilgrimage for 7,000 senior citizens of the state.

It should be noted that the state government started this Barishtha Nagarik Tirtha Yatra Yojana in 2016 to facilitate free pilgrimage for the senior citizens of the state to various places of the country. About seven special trains have already been flagged off till now. The government is making all arrangements for free for travel, accommodation, food and sightseeing of these pilgrims.

For the ceremony, School and Mass Education minister Samir Ranjan Dash, SSEPD minister Ashok Chandra Panda, IT minister Tushar Kanti Behera and others state leaders were also present at the railway station.

## Youth's body fished out from Kuakhai

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** The body of a 25-year-old youth was found floating in Kuakhai River under Mancheswar police limits on the City outskirts here Friday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as SK Asif, a resident of NAC Colony under Kharavelnagar police limits.

Some locals spotted the body and informed the police and fire services personnel through the emergency number. Informed, fire services personnel reached the spot and recovered the body which was later sent to Capital Hospital for post-mortem which is scheduled to be conducted Saturday.

The family members of the deceased informed the police that Asif had left home after a heated exchange with his mother over some petty issues Wednesday Asif's relatives searched for him, but in vain. They filed a missing complaint with Kharavelnagar police.

Sources at Mancheswar police station claimed that the family members have not alleged foul play in their complaint lodged Friday. Police have started investigation by registering an unnatural death case (10/23) in this regard.

## Universities to focus on community engagement

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** Higher educational institutes (HEIs) have an important role to play in the socio-economic development of the country through community engagement, emphasised the vice chancellors (VCs) and representatives of around 15 universities of the state at a roundtable discussion organised here recently.

The representatives of universities were discussing strategies to be adopted by the institutions to engage students with communities at the roundtable on 'Community Based Research and Social Responsibility of Institutions of Higher Learning' organised by the Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD) in collaboration with UNESCO Chair.

“The HEIs need to bring in social responsibility and community in their vision and mission and develop institutional mechanisms to adopt a functional approach to community engagement,” said Association of Indian Universities secretary general Pankaj Mittal.

UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education (CBRSRHE) Budd Hall lauded the efforts of civil societies and the government in India to engage community and reflect a community perspective in the national education policy.

“Less priority to the local language and dominance of English language; exclusion of community-based and indigenous knowl-

**Higher educational institutes need to bring in social responsibility and community in their vision and develop mechanisms to adopt a functional approach to community engagement**

PANKAJ MITTAL | AIU SECRETARY GENERAL

edge; and centralization of publishing and ranking are the main reasons behind unequal knowledge distribution,” added Hall.

UNESCO Co-Chair Rajesh Tandon said, “The approach of community involvement will contribute to improve the quality of both teaching and research in universities as they will develop a better understanding of issues in the society. It will support the UGC's quality mandate that focuses on improving societal linkages of HEIs and enabling students to become socially productive.”

Odisha State Higher Education Council vice-chairperson Ashoka Kumar Das underlined that the state has successfully combined inclusivity and excellence in the system of education. He emphasized that both science and social science should walk hand-in-hand to ensure inclusivity.

Among others, VCs of Ramadevi Women's University, National Law University Odisha, Khallikote University, Centurion University, KISS University, JK University and Siksha O' Anusandhan University participated in the roundtable.



## 'MO MOBILE, MO MARKET'

# Jena's biz relationship mantra to women FPOs

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** Women-led Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) need to develop a proper business relationship with potential buyers as it would help them find customers online as well as establish direct market linkages, said Agriculture Production Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena.

Jena was addressing a programme 'Mo Mobile, Mo Market' hosted by Odisha Rural

Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) at Krushi Bhawan here. According to Jena, quality products, ample stock, fair price, packaging and proper online listing of products are keys to attract customers.

“This apart, members of FPOs must develop a proper business relationship with potential buyers. This would go a long way help them find customers online and establish robust direct market linkages as well,” said the Agriculture Production Commissioner.

'Mo Mobile, Mo Market', an ap-



plication managed by Market Mirchi developed by CTARA, IIT, Bombay, is an e-marketing platform that facilitates rural farmers, especially women-led FPOs, to sell their agri-horti produces directly to potential buyers across India at favourable prices, it was learnt.

On the occasion, Jena launched

a host of products including strawberry, roasted moong dal, turmeric, groundnut and haldi powder of women-led FPOs in the presence of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Principal Secretary Sushil Kumar Lohani, ORMAS CEO Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar and 'Mera Mobile, Mera Marketing' chief mentor Pragati Gokhale.

The inaugural session was followed by a technical session on using the online platform 'Mo Mobile, Mo Market' for listing of the products. The session was coordinated by Gokhale.

# R-Day, Saraswati Puja celebrated in edu institutions

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** Several educational institutions here and other parts of the state celebrated the 74th Republic Day and Saraswati Puja on their campuses with pomp and gaiety Thursday.

Saswati Bal, president of KIIT & KISS, unfurled the tricolour on the institution premises. Addressing the gathering, Achyuta Samanta, founder of KIIT & KISS, said, “We are indebted to Bharat Ratna Bhimrao Ambedkar who has given us the constitution of the country. Both KIIT and KISS have grown and attained stability because of the love and contribution of each and every staff.”

On the occasion, parade and colourful and patriotism-based cultural shows were displayed by the students of KIIT group of institutes & KISS. Among the dignitaries RN Dash, Secretary, KIIT & KISS, NL Mitra, ex-chancellor, KIIT DU; Subrata



Acharya, pro-chancellor; Sasmita Samanta, VC, KIIT DU; JR Mohanty, Registrar, KIIT DU; Deepak Behera, VC, KISS DU, PK Routaray, Registrar, KISS DU; Olympian Dutee Chand, Shreyanka Sarangi and Swetaparna Panda were present.

The R-Day was also observed at Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium (BJEM) School with patriotic fervour. A host of activities from singing the national anthem to participating in House-wise parade and cultural performances on the theme of “Jan Bhagidari-



Participation of the common man” depicting love for the country were conducted to rekindle children's patriotic spirit.

Similarly, ODM Public school

also celebrated Republic Day and Saraswati Puja on the institution premises in the presence of teachers and students. Satybrata Minaketan, educationist and chair-

man at ODM Educational Group, unfurled the national flag.

Siksha 'O' Anusandhan deemed to be university (SOA) joined rest of the country to celebrate the Republic Day with Chancellor DP Ray unfurling the national flag at the university stadium. Ray highlighted how progress happening in various sectors since independence has strengthened the country.

Pro-chancellor Amit Banerjee, along with vice-chancellor Bijay Kumar Sahu, pro-vice chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda, pro-vice chancellor cum registrar Bibhuti Bhushan Pradhan and dean (students' welfare) Jyoti Ranjan Das were also present at the celebration.

Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput also celebrated the 74th Republic Day and Vasant Panchami, and conducted a plantation programme apart from performing 'Kanya Pujana'.

## Sambalpur-Shalimar Express is now Mahima Gosain Exp

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 27:** With the approval of Union Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, 20832/20831 Sambalpur-Shalimar-Sambalpur Tri-weekly Express (via Angul & Talcher) has been renamed as 'Mahima Gosain Express', an official in know of the development said Friday.

Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan, during the foundation laying ceremony for redevelopment of Bhubaneswar railway station December 29, 2022, has urged the Railways minister to rename the Sambalpur-Shalimar-Sambalpur Tri-weekly Express as 'Mahima Gosain Express'.

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# 3 Maoists surrender in Malkangiri



PNN & AGENCIES

**Malkangiri, Jan 27:** Three Maoist cadres surrendered before senior police officers in Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri district Thursday.

Director, Intelligence, Sanjib Panda said the Republic Day this year was a great occasion for the Odisha Police with the surrender of three Maoist cadres, including a woman.

The three persons identified as Manoj alias Mati Madhi (24), Pandu Kabasi (27) and Aite Karttami (21) hailed from Daldali village under the Mathili police station of Malkangiri district, the police said.

"Maoist activities have been reduced substantially in Malkangiri district. Three cadre Maoists surrendered before us today," said Panda.

Malkangiri district and the state government had announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh each on the capture of these Maoists, Panda and Amitabh Thakur, ADG (Operations), told a press conference here.

"They decided to shun violence and returned to the mainstream

after being impressed with the development works in the district", Panda said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and DGP SK Bansal's appeal to Maoists to surrender along with the ongoing developmental work in the area motivated them to take this step, he said.

He said Odisha police and BSF hoisted national flags at the place in Swabhiman Anchal, which was earlier treated as Maoist core area.

Situation at the core area has been improved a lot. Various developmental works of the state government are going on there and people are welcoming the moves. A peaceful and secure environment has been created in the area, said Panda.

The Maoists surrendered in the presence of Panda, Thakur, DIG SIW (state intelligence wing) Anirudh Singh, DIG (south western range) Pandit Rajesh Uttamrao, DIG BSF Madan Lal and Malkangiri SP Nitesh Wadhvani, the police said. Following their surrender, the Naxals informed the police that many Maoists in the region are disillusioned and are looking forward to an opportunity to surrender.

The establishment of many security camps in the surrounding area of Tulsipahad has also led them to surrender.

In the past three years, more than 23 active Maoist cadres and hundreds of active Maoist sympathisers have surrendered in Malkangiri district.

## Red dump unearthed

In a separate incident, a huge cache of arms, ammunition, IEDs, IED-making materials, uniforms and other incriminating articles was unearthed by Odisha's elite force, Special Operation Group (SOG), and Malkangiri District Voluntary Force (DVF) during a search operation and area domination activities in the hilly and mixed forest area of Tulsipahad under Mathili PS jurisdiction. "It is suspected that these articles were intended to target civilians and security forces," Panda said. Meanwhile, security was tightened in Niyamgiri hills area after Maoist posters surfaced at several places in Kalyansinghpur block of Rayagada district. A probe was initiated and the police were trying to identify the people who pasted the posters on the walls.



The establishment of many security camps in the surrounding area of Tulsipahad has also led them to surrender.

In the past three years, more than 23 active Maoist cadres and hundreds of active Maoist sympathisers have surrendered in Malkangiri district.

# Factionalism grips BJD in Rayagada

Political observers claim that BJD instead of fighting with other parties in elections is fighting with its own leader N Bhaskar Rao

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Jan 27:** Factionalism has allegedly gripped the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Rayagada district due to intense turf war between the party leaders.

While BJD is talking about forging unity, the opposite is being seen in the party unit in Rayagada district. The party owes its growth and rise in the district to former Rajya Sabha MP N Bhaskar Rao.

However, some party leaders having greed for power and posts are trying to corner Rao and end his political career spanning over five decades. They are trying to make their way to political ascendency by ending his political career, some party workers alleged.

Speculations were rife after state Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik who was here to attend the concluding ceremony of district-level cultural festival 'Chaiti Mahotsav' took some time out of her busy schedule and met Rao at his Rayagada residence. It was learnt that Mallik, during the meet, talked to BJD's organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das over phone where she invited Rao to come to Bhubaneswar for a meeting.

The one-to-one meeting between

Mallik and Rao has warmed up politics in the district this winter season. Speculations are rife that there might be major change in the district politics and Rao might be given a major charge by the party.

When contacted, Rao termed it a courtesy visit by Mallik. State Water Resources Minister Tukuni Sahu, who was also in the town, was expected to meet Rao at his residence but failed to do so due to paucity of time.

After formation of BJD in 1997, the party managed to spread its influence all over the undivided Koraput district due to skill, efficiency and political acumen of Rao. Chatters are abuzz that attempts are being made to cut Rao to size and reduce the clout he holds in the party. Resentment is also brewing among the party workers over alleged neglect of former MP Jhina Hikka and former minister-cum-MLA Lalbihari Himrika.

On the other hand, opposition BJP and Congress are trying to gain from the factional feud plaguing the ruling party. Political observers claimed that BJD instead of fighting with other parties in elections is fighting with its own leader Rao.

Party workers have alleged that the party by neglecting Rao lost



one Assembly seat and one Lok Sabha seat in the 2019 elections. They even went to say that some party leaders had conspired to defeat the party candidates in Rayagada Assembly seat and Koraput Lok Sabha seat in 2019 elections.

It is alleged that some BJD leaders provided tacit support to independent candidate Makarand Muduli in the Rayagada Assembly seat and became the reason for defeat of party candidate and former Minister Lalbihari Himrika. Similarly, BJD foundation day was observed at Bissam Cuttack and Gunupur Assembly seats by neglecting Rao. The district level leaders of the party invited the independent MLA to the programme but forgot to invite Rao who is a towering leader in the party.

The factional feud has taken a toll on the party activities for which the district level workers' meet is being held for the last few years. The party workers have expressed dissatisfaction that the opposition parties are taking advantage of this party feud.

Efforts to contact BJD district president Sudhir Dash on his phone went in vain as he did not respond to the call.

On the other hand, Rao ruled out any factionalism in the party. He said he handled the duty that was assigned to him during the elections with all sincerity. He works wherever and whenever the party assigns him any responsibility, he added. BJD district observer Atanu Sabysachi Nayak also ruled out any factionalism in the party. He said there is only one leader in the party and all others are workers.

**Zonal Office: BOI Sambalpur**  
**ADDENDUM**  
With reference to our E-Auction Sale Notice published on 26.01.2023 in "Orissa Post" in the property description of Borrower: Mrs. Sana Arju of our Main Road Branch following corrections should be read in the 1st line after of "The Property consisting of Flat No.: 1-B, 1st Floor of Residential Apartment of AL-SATTAR PALACE, Area: 862.13 Sq.ft." All other facts remain unchanged.  
Date: 27.01.2023 Authorised Officer



**MODERN FARMING TOOLS:** Agricultural equipment on display at Paschim Odisha Krushi Mela-2023 held at Ainthapali PHD ground at Sambalpur, Friday

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
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Tender Value: ₹ 10,72,19,396.90, EMD: ₹ 6,86,100/-  
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**IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL AT KOLKATA**  
**MA DAIRY NO. 380 OF 2022 (DAIRY NO. 539 OF 2021)**  
Dr. Binod More .....Appellant  
Versus  
Indian Overseas Bank & Ors. ....Respondents  
To,  
1. Indian Overseas Bank, 3B, Lalbazar Street, Police Station: Hare Street, Kolkata-700001  
2. Hilton Trade Links Private Limited, 19/2B, Nayan Chand Dutta Street, Police Station: Burtala, Kolkata-700006.  
3. Salyanarayan Jalan, 19/2B, Nayan Chand Dutta Street, Police Station: Burtala, Kolkata-700006.  
4. Pawan Singhania, sole proprietor of Sri Venkatesh Udyog, Gudwara Road, Rourkela, Odisha-769001  
**NOTICE**  
Take notice that the above mentioned case/ matter shall be placed before this tribunal for appearance on 31.01.2023. You are hereby directed to appear on the day mentioned herein, in default the proceedings will be heard and determined in your absence.  
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 24th day of January 2023.  
Sd/- Registrar  
Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal, Kolkata  
Date: 24.01.2023

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प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित  
**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**  
नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, दिसंबर 14, 2022/अज्ञान 23, 1944  
NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022/AGRAHAYANA 23, 1944

**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**  
**NOTIFICATION**  
New Delhi, the 14th December, 2022  
**S.O. 5846(E)**—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four lane etc.), maintenance, management and operation of Newly Proposed NH130CD in the stretch of land from Km. 123.21 to Km. 238.2 (o/o Tahasilard, Umakote) in the district of NABARANGPUR in the state of ODISHA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.  
Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.  
Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Tahasilard cum Land Acquisition officer, Umakote in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.  
Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.  
The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

**SCHEDULE**  
Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling Newly Proposed NH130CD in the stretch of land from Km. 123.21 to Km. 238.2 (o/o Tahasilard, Umakote) in the district of NABARANGPUR in the state of ODISHA.

Sl. No.	Survey/Plot No.	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
<b>State: ODISHA District: NABARANGPUR</b>					
<b>Village: Umakote</b>					
1	233	Private	Dangara-3	0.0422000(Hectare)	0.0422000
2	248	Private	Dangara-3	0.0001000(Hectare)	0.0001000
3	249	Private	Dhana-3	0.0050000(Hectare)	0.0050000
4	250	Government	Patita	0.0185000(Hectare)	0.0185000
5	251	Government	Rasta	0.0036000(Hectare)	0.0036000
6	252	Government	Patita	0.0269000(Hectare)	0.0269000
<b>Village: Andrigrira</b>					
1	103	Government	BadaJungle	0.0477000(Hectare)	0.0477000
<b>Village: Badakumari</b>					
1	1	Government	Jhati Jungle	0.1608000(Hectare)	0.1608000
<b>Village: Chhanchanbera</b>					
1	205	Government	Patra Jungle	0.1464000(Hectare)	0.1464000
<b>Village: Dangarigira</b>					
1	163	Government	Patra Jungle	0.0826000(Hectare)	0.0826000
2	164	Private	Dangara-2	0.0761000(Hectare)	0.0761000
3	165	Private	Dangara-3	0.0038000(Hectare)	0.0038000
4	166	Government	Rasta	0.0187000(Hectare)	0.0187000
5	176	Private	Dhana-3	0.0380000(Hectare)	0.0380000
6	62	Government	Patra Jungle	0.0043000(Hectare)	0.0043000
<b>Village: Kharka</b>					
1	412	Private	Dangara-3	0.0025000(Hectare)	0.0025000
2	429	Government	Rasta	0.0144000(Hectare)	0.0144000
3	437	Government	Patra Jungle	0.1334000(Hectare)	0.1334000
<b>Village: Matgan</b>					
1	34	Government	Patita	0.1266000(Hectare)	0.1266000
2	43	Government	Bada Jungle	0.0132000(Hectare)	0.0132000
3	48	Government	Patita	0.0017000(Hectare)	0.0017000
4	49	Government	Bada Jungle	0.3217000(Hectare)	0.3217000
5	59	Government	Bada Jungle	0.0010000(Hectare)	0.0010000
6	63	Government	Bada Jungle	0.0750000(Hectare)	0.0750000
7	64	Government	Bada Jungle	0.0762000(Hectare)	0.0762000
<b>Village: Murtama</b>					
1	254	Government	Patra Jungle	0.1459000(Hectare)	0.1459000
<b>Village: Pujhari Barandi</b>					
1	201	Private	Dangara-3	0.0229000(Hectare)	0.0229000
2	303	Government	Rasta	0.1081000(Hectare)	0.1081000
3	304	Private	Dhana-3	0.0343000(Hectare)	0.0343000
4	306	Private	Dhana-2	0.0005000(Hectare)	0.0005000
5	307	Private	Dhana-3	0.0190000(Hectare)	0.0190000
6	312	Private	Dhana-2	0.0088000(Hectare)	0.0088000
7	38	Government	Rasta	0.0568000(Hectare)	0.0568000
<b>Village: Sukigan alias Dabriguda</b>					
1	146	Private	Dhana-3	0.3373000(Hectare)	0.3373000
2	147	Government	Bada Jungle	0.0886000(Hectare)	0.0886000
3	25	Government	Patita	0.1507000(Hectare)	0.1507000
					<b>Total 2.4939</b>

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
For Immovable Properties  
**(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 for Immovable Property)**  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the UCO Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **UCO Bank** for an amount plus interest & expenses thereon.

BRANCH NAME/ Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
<b>Nayagarh Branch/ Borrowers:</b> (1) Mr. Daitari Rout, S/o: Hajari Rout, At: Rankadeuli, P.O.: Damasahi, Nayagarh, (2) Mr. Hajari Rout, At: Rankadeuli, P.O.: Damasahi, Guarantors: (1) Mr. Binod Rout, S/o: Giridhari Rout, At: Rankadeuli, Dist: Nayagarh, (2) Satrugna Rout, S/o: Mr. Giridhari Rout, At: Rankadeuli, Dist.: Nayagarh	₹3,93,722/- as on 21.10.2021 + Interest & expenses thereon	21.10.2021 / 25.01.2023	All that part and parcel of immovable property standing in the name of Mr. Hajari Rout, Bicha Rout, Satrugna Rout and Boita Rout in Mouza: Rankadeuli, SRO/Dist: Nayagarh, Khata No.- 329, Plot No.: 1282, 1393 Area: A.0.04 decimal
<b>Nayagarh Branch/ Borrowers:</b> Mr. Harekrishna Paikray, S/o: Late Kasinath Ghadei, At: Golagaon, P.O.: Bhaladihi, Nayagarh-752092, Guarantors: (1) Mr. Bhaskar Ghadei, S/o: Late Sanyasi Ghadei, At: Golagaon, P.O.: Bhaladihi, Nayagarh-752092, (2) Mrs. Malini Ghadei, W/o: Late Kashinath Ghadei, At: Golagaon, P.O.: Bhaladihi, Nayagarh-752092	₹6,68,065/- as on 21.10.2021 + Interest & expenses thereon	21.10.2021 / 25.01.2023	All that part and parcel of immovable property standing in the name of Mr. Kashinath Ghadei in Mouza: Golagaon, SRO/Dist: Nayagarh, Khata No.: 71, Plot No.: 856, 857, Area: A.0.13 decimal
<b>Itamati Branch/ Borrower:</b> Mr. Sk Amir Ulla, S/o: Sk Sana Ulla, At: Pratap Prasad, P.O.: Itamati, Nayagarh, Guarantor: Sk Sana Ulla, S/o: Sk Jameer, At: Pratap Prasad, P.O.: Itamati, Nayagarh.	₹2,13,487/- as on 29.08.2019 + Interest & expenses thereon	04.11.2019 / 25.01.2023	Plot No. 801/1492, Khata No.: 407/358, Mouza: Pratap Prasad, Thana: Itamati, Tahasil: Nayagarh Sub Regd. Khandapara, Dist: Nayagarh, Area 0.01 dec in the name

of Sk Sana Ulla, S/o: Sk Jameer, At: Pratap Prasad, P.O.: Itamati, Nayagarh, Boundaries- North: Road, East: Private Plot, South, Private Plot, West: Private Plot  
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 27.01.2023  
Sd/- Authorized Officer UCO Bank

# JSP to set up 100-bed multispeciality hospital in Angul's Jindal Nagar



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Angul, Jan 27:** Fulfilling its commitment for improving healthcare facility for people of Angul, JSP Foundation, the social arm of Jindal Steel & Power (JSP), laid the foundation stone for a 100-bed multispeciality hospital at Jindal Nagar, Angul.

Chairman of JSP Naveen Jindal and Chairperson of JSP Foundation Shalu Jindal performed the Bhoomi Pujan and laid the foundation stone for Jindal Arogyam Hospital at Jindal Nagar, Angul. Chhendipada MLA Susanta Kumar Behera and Angul Municipality Chairman Akshaya Kumar Samant were present on the dais.

Speaking on the occasion, Naveen Jindal said, "Service to humanity is service to God. Building ultra-modern hospitals and quality schools for the community is embedded in JSP's mission of improving the Human Development Index. A well-

equipped modern hospital is a necessity for delivering quality health care to people at large in Angul region. With the establishment of Jindal Arogyam Hospital with several specialties, this dream of ours will soon be a big reality," Jindal further stressed upon preventive health care, change in food habits, switching over to millets, regular sleep and exercise and lifestyle changes. "One can ensure holistic health care for self and minimise incidence of hospitalisation if a healthy lifestyle is adopted with healthy habits," said Jindal.

Chairperson, JSP Foundation Shalu Jindal said, "Medical treatment in this hospital will be provided at a very affordable cost. I am sure this hospital will benefit people of not only Angul but also from neighbouring districts." "JSP Foundation is looking forward to cover the families in Plant periphery villages under group health insurance programme in subsequent years," she added.

## Venison seized near Dhamra Port; 2 held

**Bhadrak:** Forest department personnel seized about 20 kg of venison from a boat in Bhadrak district, an official said Friday. Following a tip-off, the Forest department personnel raided a boat at Kalinali Ghat near Dhamra Port here and seized about 20 kg of deer meat Thursday and apprehended two persons, said Bhadrak Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Amlan Nayak. The seized deer meat was sent for forensic examination, the DFO said.

## Minor siblings tortured by foster parents

**Dhenkanal:** Police Friday rescued two minor siblings who were allegedly subjected to inhuman torture by their foster parents at Damol village under Parjang police limits here. The rescued children were admitted to the CHC at Parjang. After beating them brutally with bleeding injuries on their bodies, the couple had reportedly locked one of them inside a toilet another inside a room.

**UCO Bank**  
Zonal Office : UCO Bank Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar Bhubaneswar-751009, Ph.: 0674-2620423  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
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Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 27.01.2023  
Sd/- Authorized Officer UCO Bank

FOCUS GLOBAL ECONOMY

# FINANCING PARADOX



In recent years, the emergence of non-traditional creditors like China has allowed low-income countries (LICs) to diversify their borrowing. But the opaque nature of resource-backed loans has raised doubts about the sustainability of such financing, which seems to have dried up

their lending to LICs, doing so is more complicated than many seem to realize. A major obstacle is these countries' limited absorptive capacity, which leads to a scarcity of bankable projects. Likewise, the fact that most LICs have underdeveloped private sectors makes it difficult to scale up investments, particularly for lenders like the World Bank's International Finance Corporation, which focuses on support for private firms. Moreover, the International Monetary Fund's strict debt-limit policies can impede developing countries' ability to borrow from MDBs - preventing LICs from accessing dozens of billions of dollars at a time when they need it most.

There is no easy solution to this conundrum. Sending MDB staff to LICs could help to build these countries' institutional capacities and implement projects. And increased coordination between multilateral lenders and the IMF could help to prevent future bottlenecks. But merely pressuring MDBs to lend more could be ineffective and even counterproductive. For example, lenders could be tempted to prioritize budget support - designed to encourage developing countries to undertake structural reforms that they might have pursued anyway - over longer-term investment projects.

Simply put, lending more is not enough. To benefit LICs and their populations, international lenders must also focus on scaling up meaningful, transformative investments. Then, and only then, will the MDB model finally reach its full potential.

*The writer, a senior fellow at Harvard Kennedy School, is a former chief economist of the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa Region.*

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Multilateral development banks (MDBs) have become the darling of policymakers nowadays. In a recent speech, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen called on the World Bank and other international lenders to support developing countries struggling with the effects of rising inflation and aggressive interest-rate hikes. And a recent independent report commissioned by the G20 concludes that these institutions are uniquely positioned to help governments achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The G20 report argues that MDBs could expand their lending without hurting their AAA credit ratings, were it not for excessive capital-adequacy requirements that limit lenders' ability to take risks. But which countries would benefit the most from an increase in multilateral financing?

While multilateral development banks play a critical role by providing long-term loans at concessional interest rates to low-income countries (LICs), the overwhelming majority of their financing goes to middle-income countries (MICs). A recent OECD report finds that 70% of MDB loans went to MICs in 2020, following a large increase in lending to lower-middle-income countries (LMICs).

In other words, the problem is one of allocation, not volume. Clearly, MDBs must significantly increase their lending to developing countries struggling with extreme poverty and limited institutional capacity. Unlike MICs, most LICs have little to no access to capital markets and are in dire need of financing, owing to the disproportionate effects on their economies of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and climate change. Why, then, is multilateral lending so skewed toward MICs?

The reason is rooted in the MDB financing model. International lenders like the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank rely on their perfect credit ratings to borrow cheaply and lend at higher rates to MICs that have not yet reached investment-grade status or lost it. At the same time, lending to LICs is somewhat separate and financed mostly by direct contributions from shareholding governments to LIC-focused bodies like the World Bank's International Development Association. Without lending to MICs, the argument goes, the MDB model will not be viable. But with more MICs graduating to investment-grade ratings, multilateral lending could eventually dwindle.

Many LICs have been trying to reduce their dependence on MDBs; several countries have even managed to borrow in international

financial markets for the first time in decades. But the current confluence of economic and geopolitical crises has stalled these plans. In the face of aggressive monetary tightening, most LICs have effectively lost access to capital markets, leading to painful negotiations with creditors and a looming debt crisis.

Ghana's recent default could be a harbinger of future financial calamities. In recent years, the emergence of non-traditional creditors like China has allowed LICs to diversify their borrowing. But the opaque nature of resource-backed loans has raised doubts about the sustainability of such financing, which seems to have dried up. There are, however, some encouraging signs that China might join the Bretton Woods institutions in allowing LICs to restructure their debts.

While MDBs should increase



Rabah Arezki

**IN THE FACE OF AGGRESSIVE MONETARY TIGHTENING, MOST LICs HAVE EFFECTIVELY LOST ACCESS TO CAPITAL MARKETS, LEADING TO PAINFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CREDITORS AND A LOOMING DEBT CRISIS**

All problems of existence are essentially problem of harmony.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Maha's Power Centres

The metaphorical 'double-engine ki sarkar' in Maharashtra is also a two-headed one - led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, with the latter as the more assertive leader and clearly the real power centre. It is an uneasy and unequal relationship between the two, which is now reflected in the state administration.

Observers point to the recent decision of the Maharashtra government to appoint Deven Bharti, an IAS officer considered close to Fadnavis, as Mumbai Police's first-ever Special Commissioner even as the present police commissioner Vivek Phansalkar is still in office, as a sign of the fierce tussle going on between Fadnavis and Shinde. Apparently, there are many more such instances babu watchers cite about a state administration torn between two political rivals-turned-allies.

Those in the know have told DKB that Shinde is widely perceived as a token chief minister whereas his deputy Fadnavis is seen as an adept administrator and the one calling the shots in the state government. The discord has percolated into the secretariat and even in the districts, with babus caught in the middle of this tussle. There is considerable discontent brewing in the babu ranks, which does not bode well for the Shinde sarkar.

### Rare Posting

When the Sikkim government appointed 1989-batch IPS officer, A Sudhakar Rao, as Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department, the move drew some comments. This is because Rao's previous posting was as Special Director General of Police, Special Branch, and even held the additional charge of DGP, Sikkim.

While nothing stops the government from appointing an IPS officer to a post traditionally held by the IAS cadre, such appointments are extremely rare, say observers. Apparently, the pay scale decides the seniority and hierarchy, not the cadre. In this instance, however, it may also be the officer's chequered past that caused tongues to wag.

When Rao was given charge of state DGP last year, the appointment was challenged in the Supreme Court due to serious allegations against the officer. Rao apparently had been found guilty by the CBI on a complaint from two junior officers and the matter was sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for action, which is still awaited.

By making Rao an interim DGP, the state government probably made his choice clear but because of the pending allegations against the cop, it clearly was finding it difficult to sustain his claim to the post. The appointment as Additional Chief Secretary (Home) is therefore being seen as a way out of the dilemma. Amrendra Kumar Singh has replaced Rao as the new DGP of Sikkim for a tenure of two years.



### BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

### Telangana for sending AP cadre officers back to allotted state

The aftereffects of the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014 are still lingering, with growing calls in Telangana state for AP cadre officers who are still continuing to serve in the state, to be repatriated to Andhra Pradesh. The issue has attained political overtones, with a senior BJP leader of Telangana, recently complaining to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) against 15 IAS and IPS officers of the AP cadre who are still working in Telangana, even though the Supreme Court had given its clarification on the issue.

Sometime ago former Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar was sent back to his allotted AP cadre, and sources say, there is growing pressure that Telangana DGP Anjani Kumar too should be sent back to Andhra Pradesh. Sources have informed DKB that many officials who belonged to Andhra Pradesh wanted to opt for Telangana and a few from Telangana also opted for the residuary state of Andhra Pradesh, which created some delays, but the process was completed, leaving aside a few officers, whose decision to stay put in Telangana is now under scrutiny.

Meanwhile, 12 IAS and IPS officers who were transferred to AP by the Centre in 2014 have now approached the Supreme Court challenging their transfer; after the High Court cancelled their stay and ordered the transfer of Somesh Kumar to the Andhra Pradesh cadre. They are clearly not giving in without a legal tussle.

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

### WISDOM CORNER

- If you cry because the sun has gone out of your life, your tears will prevent you from seeing the stars. - RABINDRANATH TAGORE
- The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper. - W.B. YEATS
- Of all creatures that breathe and move upon the earth, nothing is bred that is weaker than man. - HOMER

### WORDSWORTH

#### Animadvert

Only a writer with an extensive vocabulary and the confidence to make use of it without sounding a prat will venture this verb. One such is the British journalist and author Will Self, though he says that he started using big words because he felt insecure. His boldness is the more striking because he's using animadvert in a way that's considered obsolete - to comment upon something. Dictionaries say the only current sense is to criticise or pass censure on someone or something. This shift in sense parallels that of criticise, whose standard sense less than a century ago meant to judge the value of a work, a view that might be either positive or negative. Though that survives in literary and similar criticism, our carping age permits everyday criticism to be solely censorious. Those rare persons who - at the risk of sounding pompous - animadvert or create animadversions do so to disapprove. The verb is from Latin animadvertere, to notice something or remark on a subject. It was created from animus, the mind, and advertere, to pay attention, hence to turn one's mind to something. Even two thousand years ago, the Romans were using animadvertere to mean (adversely) criticise or even punish, so it's surprising that animadvert ever had a neutral sense in English. Its second element is the root of advertise and advertisement, which at their most neutral contain the idea of making something known. Ivor Brown, who wrote many books on the oddities of English, remarked of animadvert that "Surely the word animadvertisement should also exist" in the sense of a warning announcement or admonition. He surely hadn't checked his Oxford English Dictionary, for it includes the word, though it's firmly marked as obsolete and has its most recent example from 1661.

#### Whiffler

Students of Shakespeare will know of whifflers from Henry V. Whifflers went in front of a procession to clear spectators from its path. In early times, they would have been men-at-arms, wielding their customary weapons such as javelins or swords to keep back the mob. By the time of Shakespeare, they had taken on a formalised role and by the next century had degenerated into being merely part of the ritual of events such as civic parades. They survived until the middle of the nineteenth century in the procession of the London craft guilds to the Guildhall banquet on Lord Mayor's Day, in which young freemen called bachelor whifflers carried flags to lead each guild. Oxford English Dictionary finds the word's origin in the Old English wifla for a spear or battleaxe.

### SPECTRUM MONOPOLY LAWS

# Checking malpractices of internet giants

Multinational technology companies, search engines in particular, are having fortunes in India for weak anti-trust or monopoly laws. Google alone repatriates ₹64 billion or \$9 lakh in 2021. In contrast Microsoft earned ₹9,475 crore. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) found Google has a monopolistic anti-competitive policy edging out others in competition and slapped ₹2274.2 crore penalties in two separate cases. It moved the Supreme Court, which refused stay on one penalty payment of ₹1337.76 crore for abusing the tech giant's dominant position in the Android system and Play Store policies. This has raised a glimmer of hope against checking the malpractices of internet giants.

The watchdog CCI's order issued in October 2022, is an indication how the country is being bled by tech giants of billions or more every year. It calls for a massive overhaul of the competition, monopolistic, restrictive trade practices and related laws. India liberalised and replaced the MRTPC Act 1969 with Competition Act 2002 and implemented it in September 2009.

Additional Solicitor General N Venkatraman and senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared for a private company, OS Labs Technology, told the court that Google was discriminating against a "third world country" like India. The CCI's landmark order swoops down on the internet giant for virtually preventing a competitive atmosphere or having monopolies for earning higher profits.

The European Commission in 2020 told Google to pay Euro 8 billion for anti-trust breaches in three cases. In yet another case, the EC found that Google's favouring of Google Shopping had a negative impact on consumers and innovation. Google has faced many such cases against it, including from Microsoft since 2009. India is learning from the EC rulings. The US Justice Department's lawsuit, filed by the Trump administration, alleged that Google violated anti-trust law in how it maintained dominance in search engines and advertising.

The CCI order is only indicative of the losses that the internet giant's activities caused to the Indian users of the search engines. The practitioners find that it denies them access to another system and even discriminates against various other players like Yahoo or other non-Google mailing systems even prevents joining various conference applications or registrations.

This apart, each of its applications demanding access to critical personal contact and other details breach privacy, personal safety and is hazardous. The apprehensions are that such prospected data boosts profits and incurs heavy losses to each user.

Even otherwise the Telecommunication Department can act to prevent the irrational and illegal demands of the apps to access personal contacts, photographs and sensitive documents. The CCI, in its October 20 press release says that it examined various practices of Google licensing of Android mobile operating sys-

tem and various proprietary mobile applications of Google (e.g. Play Store, Google Search, Google Chrome, YouTube, etc.).

The CCI found that Google contravened provision of the Competition Act and perpetuated its dominant position in the online search market resulting in denial of market access for competing search apps in contravention of Sec 4 (2)(c) of the act preventing abuse of dominant position.

In real application this gives a company an advantage and prevents benefits that could have accrued to other players. The CCI order is a pointer to the need for stricter implementation of the law to safeguard the interests of the users. It wants Google to follow the same set of compliance in the Indian market as directed by European Commission (EC) in July 18 on a finding of dominance by Google in the Android ecosystem.

Since 2010, the European Union has investigated several antitrust complaints against Google alleging abuses of its dominant position in breach of the EU's competition laws - relating to Google shopping, the Android operating system and to Google AdSense.

The apps, according to an online Google answer, can rake in billions of dollars each year though it claims that "majority of apps don't make any sort of money at all". Google in 2016 earned \$19 billion - \$ 602 per second, or about \$ 3600 a minute. In 2021, it earned \$ 76 billion. The EC actions are to check aggressive and non-competitive practices that may be pay-

ing it large dividends.

Each time Google faces such cases it seeks time for implementation of orders. It has done it in Europe and the US as well. Its lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi sought 45 days from the Supreme Court to comply with its orders and to provide a choice screen for customers to allow customers default search engines. He said it needed four months citing that even in Europe the company was given nine months to implement it.

It means that despite the CCI order and stay refusal by the SC, the customers would have to wait. The choice-based search-engine system is not foolproof as it would be offered only once at the time initial device set up, as per Singhvi's submission to the court.

Singhvi's offer is a devious method of denial. This calls for a revamp of the competition, IT and other laws for ensuring level playing field and safeguards.

Since computer applications are being extended to various kinds of machines and even cars, the violations by companies are becoming hazardous. Tesla is known to misuse to the extent of locking the car systems, it has sold to anyone. It unlocks the system after a heavy "user fee" extortion.

The misuses of the information technology are wider than can be anticipated. India must enact new anti-trust laws to ensure safer search-engine internet uses and related computer safety.

*The writer is Professor, Indian Institute of Mass Communication*

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Shivaji Sarkar

**EACH YEAR GOOGLE EARNS ₹64 BILLION FROM INDIA. IN 2018, IT HAD THE HIGHEST EARNINGS OF ₹94 BILLION**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST  
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#### Climate reparations needed

Sir, Climate reparations refer to a call for money to be paid by the developed countries to the developing countries as a means of addressing the historical contributions that the developed countries have made towards climate change. According to the framework for climate change, it is the wealthy nations that have contributed the majority of greenhouse gas emissions since 1850, which is generally regarded as the start of the industrial age. Only 3% of historical emissions are accounted for by a nation like India, which is currently the third largest emitter. Since 1840, China, which has been the world's largest emitter for more than 15 years, has contributed about 13% of all emissions. China is receiving funds towards climate change, whereas our country hasn't received anything from developed countries. Therefore, we need climate reparation to combat pollution.

VijayKumar H K, RAICHUR

#### Snake catchers recognised

Sir, Turning heads from across the nation, two snake catchers - Vadvivel Gopal and Masi Sadaiyyan - from the Irula tribal community in Tamil Nadu - that drawn a big attention through Surya-starred film Jai Bhim - have been conferred with Padma Shri awards. Both have pushed their boundaries and proved that their work in the woods has drawn national attention to the extent of winning the fourth-highest civilian award. Despite their lack of formal education, for years the duo has been travelling around the world to catch snakes, and teach finer techniques and subtleties on this dangerous art. Significantly, these two snake catchers have been trained by the celebrated American-Indian herpetologist Romulus Whitaker.

Ranganathan Sukumar, CHENNAI

#### More institutional holidays

Sir, The offices of the state government, banks and insurance companies remain closed on every second and fourth Saturdays of the month. But, colleges, both government and private, remain open on these days. Government lecturers are deprived of this facility although appointed by Odisha Public Service Commission like other state government officers. Not only government lecturers but also students and office staff will be benefitted by this decision. The state government is urged to declare second and fourth Saturdays as holidays in colleges both government and private. It will be a step in the right direction.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

of the day quote

Every drop of blood and tears shed in Jammu and Kashmir due to the barbaric killings of innocents at the behest of the neighbouring country will be avenged



MANOJ SINHA | J-K LG

There has been a change in the mindset of people and this change should reflect in the ULFA (I), too. I appeal to them to return and work together for laying the foundation of a progressive Assam



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

There should be no restrictions on creativity



ANURAG THAKUR | UNION INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Ashish Mishra released from jail

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP): Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni and an accused in the Tikunia murder case, was released from jail Friday evening after the Supreme Court granted him an interim bail of eight weeks. Mishra was taken out of the jail from the rear gate to avoid the media which had gathered at the main gate and taken to his residence. Family members refused to disclose where he would relocate to after one week as per Supreme Court directives. The Supreme Court has directed Mishra to leave Uttar Pradesh within one week after his release from jail.

Techie murder: All accused acquitted

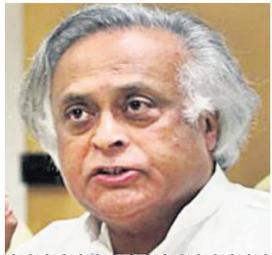
Pune: Nine years after the murder of an IT professional Mohsin Shaikh rocked Maharashtra, a Pune Sessions Court acquitted all 20 accused including the Hindu Rashtra Sena (HRS) President Dhananjay Desai, here on Friday. Reading out the verdict on Friday, Pune Additional Sessions Judge S.B. Salunkhe said that the evidence brought on record was not strong enough to convict Desai and other co-accused and the prosecution had failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubts, lawyer Sudhir Shah said for one of the accused.

Ex-BJP councillor, family found dead

Bhopal: In a shocking incident, a former BJP councillor in Madhya Pradesh Sanjeev Mishra and his wife and their two sons were found dead in an alleged case of mass suicide. The incident took place on Thursday in Vidisha, around 60 km away from state capital Bhopal, police said.

New missive to Sen

Kolkata: In a fresh missive to Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, Visva-Bharati university on Friday asked him to immediately hand over parts of a plot he was allegedly occupying in an "unauthorised manner" at Santiniketan. This is the second such letter from the central university to the noted economist in three days. Sen earlier asserted that most of the land he is holding in the Santiniketan campus was purchased from the market by his father while some other plots were taken on lease. "The annexed letter dated January 24 and other documents are self-explanatory. You are in possession of 1.38 acre of land which is in excess of your legal entitlement of 1.25 acre. Kindly return the land to Visva-Bharati as early as possible since application of the laws of the land will cause embarrassment to you and also to Visva-Bharati which you endeavor so much," the letter dated January 27 said.



Wherever we went, the yatra has been received well. People of all ages, genders and from all walks of life have realised that the message of Rahul Gandhi is one of unity, love and harmony

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

UP SHOCKER

In a shocking incident, a 70-year-old man has married his 28-year-old daughter-in-law in Chhapiya Umarao village in Gorakhpur. Photographs of the 'couple' are now going viral on the social media



ROW OVER BBC SERIES

Cops called to maintain law and order: Registrar



Police personnel detain members of Bhim Army Student Federation for planning to screen the BBC documentary film 'India: The Modi Question', at Delhi University Arts Faculty, in New Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: Police were called to the Delhi University campus to maintain law and order after "outsiders" tried to screen a controversial BBC documentary at the Arts Faculty on Friday, Registrar Vikas Gupta said after several students were detained. This comes days after a similar ruckus at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia over the screening of the documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots. Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said 24

students were detained from the DU's Arts Faculty and the situation is now back to normal. Police were seen dragging students away as they had gathered outside the Arts Faculty building to protest against not being allowed to screen the documentary. "We got to know that some students were trying to screen the documentary, so our proctor informed the police. There were many outsiders among those who tried to screen the film," Gupta said. "Police came to maintain the law-and-order situation in the area," Gupta added. Kalsi said police per-

This comes days after a similar ruckus at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia over the screening of the documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots. Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said 24 students were detained from the DU's Arts Faculty and the situation is now back to normal.

sonnel are at the spot monitoring the situation. "We were told by the university that there is a possibility of a disruption on the campus. They wrote to us and urged us to handle the situation. So we entered the campus and the situation was brought under control," he added. "Around 4 pm, some 20 people came outside the Arts Faculty gate to screen the BBC documentary. As it can cause disturbance of peace and tranquillity in the area, they were asked to disperse from there. When they did not, they were peacefully detained," the DCP said. Earlier in the day, the university authorities wrote to the Delhi Police about the proposed screening. Delhi University Proctor Rajni Abbi said they would not allow the screening and stressed that the students' outfits had not sought the administration's permission.

Go First fined ₹10L



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: Aviation regulator DGCA Friday imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Go First for the incident at Bangalore airport where 55 passengers were left behind in a passenger coach on January 9, citing various lapses, including "improper communication" between the staff concerned. This is the third time in a span of eight days that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed penalties on an airline. On January 20 and 24, the watchdog penalised Air India for reporting lapses related to incidents of unruly passenger behaviour onboard two international flights last year. Following the Go First incident at the Bangalore airport on January 9, the regulator issued a show-cause notice to the airline and the latest enforcement action has been taken after perusing its response. Go First

had apologised for the incident, that happened on January 9, wherein the passengers who were to board a Delhi flight were left behind in the passenger coach at the Bangalore airport. The airline had also derostered the staff involved in the incident pending an inquiry. "Perusal of reply of Go First reveals that there was improper communication, coordination between terminal coordinator, commercial staff and crew regarding boarding of passengers in the aircraft. The airline failed to ensure adequate arrangement for ground handling, preparation of load and trim sheet, flight dispatch and passenger/cargo handling and therefore, enforcement action in the form of financial penalty of Rs 10,00,000 has been imposed..." DGCA said in a statement. The show cause notice was issued to the airline's accountable manager as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for the dereliction of their regulatory obligations.

Go First had apologised for the incident, that happened January 9, wherein the passengers who were to board a Delhi flight were left behind in the passenger coach at the Bangalore airport

Student killed, body burnt by family

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nanded (Maharashtra), Jan 27: In a suspected case of "honour killing", a 23-year-old medical student in Maharashtra's Nanded was allegedly killed by her kin for having a love affair; her body burnt, and buried in an onion field, police said Friday. The incident happened January 22 but came to light only Thursday after her anxious friends and classmates informed the local police that Shubhangi Jogdand, a BHMS student, was "missing" for several days. The woman lived with her family in Limbegaon village, around one hour's drive from the pilgrim centre of Nanded, famed for its Hazur Sahib Gurudwara. According to Nanded police, after the preliminary investigations based on her friends' tip-off, the incident was thoroughly confirmed and her father, brother and three other relatives have been arrested. The probe revealed that she was in love with a boy, reportedly a distant relation, but her family objected as they had already fixed



The probe revealed that she was in love with a boy, reportedly a distant relation, but her family objected as they had already fixed her marriage with another man from the village

her marriage with another man from the village. When the man's family learnt of her affair; they called off the alliance, enraging the Jogdande family. Unable to bear the social ridicule they faced, Shubhangi's father, brother, an uncle and cousins ab-

ducted her and took her to a farm on Sunday night. There they allegedly strangled her to death, burnt her body and disposed off some of the remains in a nearby drain and the rest they ploughed in an onion field. Shockingly, the village, with a population of around 2,000, had no inkling of the ghastly developments in their neighbourhood until Shubhangi's concerned college friends stepped into the picture. One of the friends informed the Limbegaon police of their missing classmate (Shubhangi) and the local Police Patil who rushed to the Jogdande home and verified the matter. "We have arrested five family members. They have been booked for murder, criminal conspiracy and other relevant provisions of the laws," an official of Nanded police told the media. Maharashtra Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Dr Neelam Gorhe of Shiv Sena-UBT, Nationalist Congress Party MP Supriya Sule and other women politicians have condemned the incident.

Held hostage in Goa property, claims French actress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, Jan 27: A 75-year-old French actor has alleged she is being held "hostage" in her house at Calangute in North Goa since earlier this week over a property dispute and finds herself in a "dangerous situation". The Goa police have expressed reluctance to intervene in the matter, saying the dispute related to the house is civil in nature and is being heard by a court. In a video released to the media on Thursday, actor Marianne Borgo has claimed she is in a "scary and dangerous situation" at her residence in Calangute, a beach town near Panaji which is popular with tourists. People staking claim to her property have disconnected electricity and water connections to her home and she has been forced to live in dark, she said. The actor alleged she is being held "hostage" in the house for the last three days. Borgo said she had bought the house for "happiness, peace and for retirement", but the last few days had been horrendous. One of Borgo's friends said the septuagenarian actor had filed a case for injunction in the trial court to support her legal claim to the house that she bought in 2008 from a lawyer, Francisco Sousa, who has since died. The main gate of the house has been blocked and no one except the maid is being allowed to enter the premises, she said. The actor's lawyer, Benny Nazareth, said the matter is sub judice and pending before the civil court in Mapusa town.

Oreva MD named in chargesheet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Morbi, Jan 27: Police Friday filed a chargesheet in the suspension bridge collapse incident that had occurred in Morbi town of Gujarat in October last year, in which 135 people were killed and scores injured. In addition to the nine arrested accused, Jaysukh Patel, manag-

ing director of Oreva Group that operated the bridge, has been named as the tenth accused in the

MORBI BRIDGE COLLAPSE

chargesheet, said advocate Dilip Agechaniya, who is appearing for the victims. A magistrate's court has al-

ready issued an arrest warrant against Patel. Ajanta Manufacturing Limited (Oreva Group) was responsible for the operation and maintenance of the British-era suspension bridge on the Machchhu river that collapsed, days after its repairs, on October 30 last year when nearly 250 persons were on it.

TIPRA to contest Feb 16 polls alone, all parties anxious

The TIPRA, since 2021, has been demanding elevation of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) as a separate state for the tribals. All major parties, however, are opposing the demand

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, Jan 27: With the BJP-led Central government rejecting its separate "Greater Tipraland" state demand, the influential Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) an-

nounced to contest the February 16 Tripura Assembly elections alone, leading to a new political dimension ahead of the polls. While all the parties in Tripura - the BJP, the CPI-M, the Congress, and the Trinamool Congress - had been trying to forge alliance with the TIPRA to get majority of the 20 vital tribal reserved seats, the latter held several meetings with BJP's junior ally Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) for a seat-sharing deal. The TIPRA, since 2021, has been demanding elevation of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) as a separate state for the tribals. All major parties, however, are opposing the demand. At the instance of the state and Central BJP leaders, the Union



Home Ministry had called the TIPRA leaders to Delhi on Wednesday to discuss the demand and Union Home Minister Amit Shah was to meet the tribal leaders led by TIPRA chief Pradyot

Bikram Manikya Deb Barman. However, these did not bear fruit. "Union Home Minister Amit Shah rejected the demand for Greater Tipraland. The Home Ministry officials handed over a

four-page draft of promises aiming to develop the tribal areas and socio-economic development of the tribals. We did not accept the MHA proposals mentioned in the draft promises," a TIPRA leader said. After returning to Agartala from Delhi, Deb Barman told the media that his party would field candidates in 40 to 45 seats out of the total of 60 seats of Tripura assembly. "We have repeatedly said that until we don't get written assurance from the government of India on the constitutional solution to our demand, we will not go in for any alliance, leave alone seat-sharing. Please don't jump the gun and relax - we know how to negotiate for our people to the maximum," Deb Barman said. Posting video messages in various social media ac-

counts, he also tweeted: "No alliance -my heart does not agree and so I have made my decision that I cannot accept New Delhi's offer ! Jitega toh jitega harega toh harega but one last fight to karko rahega ! I can't betray our cause and our people !" Another TIPRA leader earlier said that they are unhappy with the way the Home Ministry has treated their leaders in Delhi. The MHA proposals typically made during peace talks with militant groups, he said. The IPFT, since 2009, has been demanding to make the areas under TTAADC a full-fledged state while the TIPRA, since 2021, has been demanding elevation of the TTAADC areas by granting 'Greater Tipraland State' under Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution.



## Social worker, weaver, mask maker among Padma awardees



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 27: A social worker committed to preserving an indigenous religion, a mask maker from Majuli and a weaver known for weaving religious texts on silk were among the Padma Shri awardees from Assam this year.

Ramkuiwangbe Jene, who was a close associate of renowned freedom fighter Rani Gaidinliu, was conferred the award in the social work segment.

The Dima Hasao resident has been promoting and preserving the Heraka religion, which has a few thousand ad-

herents left in Nagaland, Assam and Manipur, for the last five decades. Hem Chandra Goswami, a mask maker from Majuli, was selected for the award for promoting and preserving this centuries-old art form, for which he has also received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2018.

Master weaver Hemoprava Chutia, known for weaving religious texts including the Bhagavad Gita in Sanskrit on silk, has also been honoured. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma congratulated the awardees for bringing laurels to the state. "Heartiest congratula-

tions to Padma Shri awardees from Assam - Smt Hemoprava Chutia (Art), Shri Hem Chandra Goswami (Art) and Shri Ramkuiwangbe Jene (Social Work). You have made significant contributions in your respective fields and we are truly proud of you at this moment," he tweeted.

## SMASHING STEREOTYPES

# Mohali armed forces institute prepares girls for guns, glory



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Jan 27: Preparatory school for girls -- the very words conjure an image of upper-crust young women getting ready for marriage. But the Punjab government-run Mai Bhago Armed Forces Preparatory Institute is breaking every stereotype to pave the way for girls from villages and semi-urban areas to join the armed forces.

Named after Mata Bhag Kaur, who valiantly led 40 Sikh fighters against the Mughals in the Battle of Muktsar in 1705, the institute in Mohali selects only 25 girls annually for its three-year preparatory course for a career in the armed forces.

For Anika, a resident of Hoshiarpur and a daughter of an ex-Armyman, no other profession is as empowering as the armed forces.

"I know there is no limit to my capabilities. Every morning I wake up that motivation that the dream of donning the olive green is just one more step away. I will be there in the (defence) academy," she said with conviction.

Last month, two alumni of the Mai Bhago institute were commissioned as officers in the Indian Air Force -- one as a transport pilot and the other as a navigator.

The institute's director, Major General J S Sandhu (retd), said, "The first batch of the institute

- Only girls who are Punjab residents can enrol at the seven-year-old institute where the training is free.
- The entrance exam for the institute is tough and sees 1,200 to 1,400 applicants each year
- It has been set up on the lines of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute for Boys, also in Mohali
- Many girls at the institute aspire for combat roles in the armed forces

passed in 2018. The focus is to provide a platform and opportunity (for girls) to compete and become commissioned officers in the armed forces."

The multi-layered selection process involves a written test, followed by an interview and certain psychometric tests, and a medical exam. The medical exam is done to ensure the girls selected at the institute should also be fit for their selection in the armed forces as per the set parameters, he told PTI.

More than a year ago, the National Defence Academy opened its doors for female cadets with just 19 vacancies out of the total strength of 400.

The Mai Bhago Armed Forces Preparatory Institute has entered into an MoU with MCM DAV College for Women in Sector 36 in Mohali so that girls enrolled there can simultaneously train at the institute.

## New phase of bike sharing system launched in C'garh

A major achievement has been the 750 plus tonne CO2 emission saved from December 2020 till this month

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Jan 27: Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator, Banwarilal Purohit, Wednesday launched the Public Bike Sharing System (Phase III), adding 1,250 more bicycles at 155 new docking stations to the earlier fleet.

The Project of Chandigarh Smart City was started in December 2020 on a pilot phase with 250 bicycles and 25 docking stations, followed by Phase I in August 2021 with 1,250 bicycles and 155 docking stations.

The project's second phase began in February 2022, with the addition of 1,250 new bicycles to the fleet. A total of 3,750 bicycles are now available at 465 docking stations across the city with the launch of Phase III.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Users can pick up a cycle for ₹10 for half an hour from any of the docking stations, while the charge drops to ₹5 per half an hour for those with annual membership of ₹500

The bicycles can be used after registering on the Smart Bike App. Listing the benefits of the project from pilot phase till date, CEO Smart City Chandigarh, Anindita Mitra, said there were 2,00,000 plus registered users and 8,30,000 plus rides, covering 33,00,000 km.

Purohit congratulated the Chandigarh Smart City and said the Public Bike Sharing Project is a step in the right direction towards reducing air pollution and promoting a healthy lifestyle among the residents of Chandigarh.

## Punjab govt opens 400 new mohalla clinics across state



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann during the inauguration of Aam Aadmi Clinics across Punjab, in Amritsar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar, Jan 27: AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Friday launched 400 more 'Aam Aadmi' clinics in the state, calling the event here the fulfilment of another 'Kejriwal ki guarantee'.

Kejriwal, the AAP convenor and Delhi chief minister, said he was happy to note that the Punjab government opened 500 mohalla clinics in just 10 months.

"I am happy to say that Bhagwant Mann has fulfilled one more 'Kejriwal ki guarantee (Kejriwal's guarantee)'," the AAP chief said while referring to the party's promises made to the people of Punjab in the run up to

the 2022 Assembly elections.

Five hundred mohalla clinics have been set up in Punjab and, in the time to come, more such facilities will come up, Kejriwal said. Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh and AAP MP Raghav Chadha were also present at the event.

Kejriwal said all the party's "guarantees" would be fulfilled and asked the people of Punjab to "have patience" as he targeted the previous dispensations for "destroying" the system. The AAP has already fulfilled its poll promise of 300 units of free electricity per month, the Delhi chief minister said.

The Mann government is taking action against corruption and will

not spare anyone found to be involved in corrupt practices, he added. Heaping praise on the Mann regime, Kejriwal said 26,000 government jobs had been provided in just the past 10 months and called it a "big thing".

Jobs here are being provided on the basis of merit, he asserted. Contractual employees are also being regularised,

Kejriwal said. On the education front, the Mann dispensation is sending 36 government school principals to Singapore for training, the Delhi chief minister added. Punjab will also begin doorstep delivery of government services along the lines of Delhi, Kejriwal said, adding that this move would create around 6,000 jobs.

On law and order, Kejriwal said police had been given a free hand. Strict action is being taken against gangsters, he added while hitting out at the previous regimes for allegedly giving political patronage to criminals. Kejriwal said Tata Steel would set up a plant in Ludhiana and more companies had shown interest in setting up their units in Punjab, for which he credited the efforts of Mann.

The 400 new 'Aam Aadmi' clinics take the total number of these neighbourhood health centres in the state to 500

## Initiatives taken to create awareness about govt schemes in remote villages

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhubri, Jan 27: The administration in Assam's Dhubri district has reached out to people residing in the remote villages along the India-Bangladesh border to generate awareness about government schemes, besides learning about their living conditions, officials said.

Dhubri Deputy Commissioner Diwakar Nath, during the visit, interacted with the beneficiaries of government schemes, and sought to know about the difficulties faced by them in every-

Dhubri Deputy Commissioner Diwakar Nath, during the visit, interacted with the beneficiaries of govt schemes, and sought to know about the difficulties faced by the villagers in everyday life

day life. District development commissioners, along with other senior officials, also apprised them of the central schemes that have been launched for their welfare. Nath said the initiative will encompass 90 villages of the district.

Officials Tuesday and Wednesday enquired about the education facilities available to the villagers, the average age of marriage in the locality and the conditions of the anganwadi centres, he stated.

The administration will soon submit a report to the Assam government on the state of affairs in these villages and the problems faced by the bordering population so that necessary measures can be taken to address their woes, Nath added. Dhubri shares a 56-km-long border with Bangladesh.

## GOVT EMPLOYEES TO INTENSIFY AGITATION IN ASSAM

ASSAM HAS AROUND 5 LAKH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, OUT OF WHICH AROUND 2.4 LAKH ARE UNDER THE NPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 27: Assam government employees, who have been pressing for reintroduction of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), Tuesday said they would intensify agitation if the government does not fulfil their demands.

"We have been holding protests for replacing the New Pension Scheme (NPS) with the old one. The government has failed to heed to our demands even after repeated assurances from their side," Achyutananda Hazarika, president of the All Assam Government NPS Employees Association (AAG-

NPSEA), said at a press conference here.

"As part of our next series of protests, we will observe a 'black day' on February 1 and a one-day strike February 10," he said.

The AAGNPSEA claimed that retired employees under the NPS get a very nominal amount every month as pension, through which sustenance is not possible.

Hazarika also said that the governments of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh "have already restored" the OPS.

"If the government fails to act, we will intensify our protests," he added.

The AAGNPSEA had organised a 'foot march' in Guwahati November 8 last year, which was attended by over 20,000 government employees, as well as leaders and members of workers' federations from other states. A sit-in demonstration was also held here December 21 by the AAGNPSEA.

Assam has around 5 lakh government employees, out of which around 2.4 lakh are under the NPS.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

## Over 4L voters added to Assam's electoral roll



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 27: Assam has registered an increase in the number of voters by over four lakh in the past one year, with the total number of electorate climbing to 2,41,11,743, an official statement said Friday.

Of these, 1,21,28,543 are male, 1,19,82,804 female and 396 of third gender, a release issued by the state's chief electoral officer (CEO) said.

"The final electoral roll with respect to 126 Assembly Constituencies of Assam has been published. The total number of electors in the roll is 241,11,743

as on 1st January 2023," CEO Nitin Khade said in the release. The total number of electors in the age cohort 18 to 19 years stood at 4,01,571.

As many as 3,11,032 voters are over 80 years of age. Voters classified as Persons with Disabilities (PwD) are 1,69,573, of which 86,105 are male, 83,458 female and 10 of third gender.

The Integrated Draft Electoral Roll for the state was published on November 9 last year, consisting names of 2,38,81,196 voters. Thereafter, the process of filing claims and objections commenced, which lasted till December 8.

## Silchar's coaching maintenance depot still going strong at 125 yrs

THE FACILITY, ONE OF THE OLDEST COACHING MAINTENANCE DEPOTS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE FIRST IN THE NORTHEASTERN REGION, IS LINKED TO THE BEGINNING OF TRAIN SERVICES DURING BRITISH RULE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 27: Though 125 years have passed, the Coaching Maintenance Depot at Silchar is still used for the maintenance of coaches and rolling stock.

The facility, one of the oldest coaching maintenance depots in the country and the first in the northeastern region, is linked to the beginning of train services during British rule in the region, railway spokesperson Sabyasachi De said. The depot started functioning in 1898 under Assam-Bengal Railway.

Coaching Maintenance Depots are primarily responsible for the maintenance of rolling stock, passenger-carrying vehicles and other types of coaches such as DEMU and EMU. Currently, this is one of the three coach maintenance depots under the Lumding division of



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) and plays an important role in Assam-Mizoram and Assam-Manipur Railway connectivity, he said.

The depot has a covered shed of 85m length and 18m width, equipped with upgraded maintenance infrastructure having two maintenance bays and two examination pits, De said. It plays a vital role in the maintenance of

all local and long-distance trains operating from Silchar Railway station.

The Assam Bengal Railway route that reached Badarpur via Karimganj of the then Cachar district from Sylhet district had opened to traffic December 4, 1896. It was the first time that a part of the northeast was directly linked by rail with the rest of India. This route

later extended up to Lumding via Haflong and was popularly called the Badarpur-Lumding Hill section. This necessitated the setting up of a coaching depot for the maintenance of coaches in the area. De pointed out.

Initially, it started functioning as a metre gauge coaching depot. In 2015, it was converted to a broad gauge facility, De added.

of the day quote

Ongoing interviews for Assistant Professors in different colleges of DU have been catastrophic, reports say 70% ad-hoc teachers being displaced. We believe that ad hoc teachers should be absorbed in permanent recruitment

We will give a report about all that during the budget, what we have done. We will give an action taken report

The Sangh Parivar and the RSS have made it clear that their aim is to turn India into a 'Hindu rashtra'. They are attacking the very roots of our country, its democracy and the Constitution

SHORT TAKES

Lawyer falls to death in Noida

Noida: A 27-year-old woman lawyer died after falling from the 15th floor of a society in Sector-74, Noida. The police is investigating the matter and is questioning the deceased's family members. The incident occurred in Supertech Cape Town Society on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Soma. On Thursday night, at around midnight, the deceased was talking to someone on her phone, standing on the balcony of the tower where she lived with her family. The body has been sent for postmortem. The police is checking the CDR of the mobile phone and an investigation in the matter is underway.

Nigerian national held in Delhi

New Delhi: The Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested a Nigerian national for supplying drugs in the national capital and seized 1.01 kg of heroin worth crores in the international market from his possession. The accused has been identified as 51-year-old Pascal Ezeigbo alias Prince, a resident Nigeria's Imo state. According to Ravindra Singh Yadav, the Special Commissioner of Police (crime), specific inputs were received that some foreigners were involved in supplying narcotics in the garb of other business.

Two arrested

Ranchi: Two ultras of the banned outfit People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI) including a regional commander carrying a Rs 10 lakh reward on his head were arrested in Jharkhand's Ranchi district, police said Friday. The ultras were identified as Tilkeswar Gope alias Rajesh Gope, regional commander-cum-press spokesperson of the organisation, and Suraj Gope, an active member of the organization. Ranchi, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kishor Kaushal said that Tilkeswar was wanted in 68 cases in five Jharkhand districts—Ranchi, Khunti, Simdega, Gumla and Chaibasa. He was carrying a Rs 10 lakh bounty on his head, the SSP said.

Three drown

Chandrapur: Three boys drowned while swimming in a pond at a village in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district, police said Friday. The incident took place in Awararpur village of Korpana tehsil on Thursday and the bodies were fished out from the pond on Friday, said an official from Gadchander sub-division police office.



I am waiting for the yatra to be over and for a meeting of parties (opposed to the BJP) to be convened. There, we shall chalk out the strategy for the Lok Sabha polls which is, now, not far away

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

JACQUELINE TO VISIT DUBAI

A Delhi court Friday allowed actor Jacqueline Fernandez to travel to Dubai. The court was hearing her application seeking permission to travel abroad for a conference



India tells Pak of modifying Indus Waters Treaty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: India has issued a notice to Pakistan for modification of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in view of Islamabad's "intransigence" in the implementation of the pact, inked over six decades back for matters relating to cross-border rivers, government sources said Friday.

The notice sent on January 25 through respective commissioners for Indus waters, is set to open up the process for making changes to the treaty that was inked on September 19, 1960, they said. India and Pakistan signed the treaty after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory of the pact which sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two sides on the use of waters of a number of cross-border rivers.

"The objective of the notice for modification is to provide Pakistan an opportunity to enter into inter-governmental negotiations within 90 days to rectify the material breach of IWT. This process would also update IWT to incorporate the lessons learned over the last 62 years," said a source.

It is learnt that India issued the notice in view of Pakistan's "intransigence" on a solution to the dif-



India and Pakistan signed the treaty after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory of the pact which sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two sides on the use of waters of a number of cross-border rivers

According to sources, despite repeated efforts by India to find a mutually agreeable way forward, Pakistan refused to discuss the issue during the five meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission from 2017 to 2022

ferences over the Kishenganga and Ratle Hydro Electric Projects. The notice was sent as per provisions of Article XII (3) of IWT. India has always been a steadfast supporter and a responsible partner in implementing IWT in letter and spirit, sources asserted.

"However, Pakistan's actions have adversely impacted on the provisions of IWT and their implementation, and forced India to

issue an appropriate notice for modification of the pact," said another source.

In 2015, Pakistan requested the appointment of a neutral expert to examine its technical objections to India's Kishenganga and Ratle Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs). In 2016, Pakistan unilaterally retracted this request and proposed that a Court of Arbitration adjudicate on its objections, the sources said.

UNNAO RAPE CASE

Delhi HC shortens Sengar's interim bail



The victim, who was present in the court, said, "If Kuldeep Sengar is granted bail, I and the witnesses will be in danger. All the government appointees. I request not to release him or else he can get me killed"

the politician shall surrender before jail authorities on February 1 as the 'tilak' ceremony is scheduled on January 30.

It said Sengar shall be again released from jail on February 6 and surrender on February 10 as the wedding is fixed for February 8. The victim, who was present in the court, said, "If Kuldeep Sengar is granted bail, I and the witnesses will be in danger. All the government officials there are his appointees. I request not to release him or else he can get me killed."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: The Delhi High Court Friday modified its earlier granting interim bail to expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar, serving life term for raping a minor in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao in 2017, by asking him to surrender after his daughter's 'tilak' ceremony and then be released again before her marriage.

The court had earlier granted interim bail to Sengar for two weeks. The high court, which was informed that Sengar has been released from Tihar jail this morning, passed the modification order on an application by the victim seeking to recall the interim bail order as she and her family faces threat.

A bench of Justices Mukta Gupta and Poonam A Bamba, which had on January 16 granted interim bail to Sengar from January 27 to February 10 on account of his daughter's marriage, directed that

Senior advocate Pramod Dubey, appearing for Sengar, opposed the victim's plea saying the court has imposed sufficient conditions on the leader while granting him the relief and court may ask him to stay in his house instead of reducing the period.

Sengar has been granted interim bail to attend his daughter's marriage in the rape case as well as in the case in which he is serving 10 years' imprisonment for the death of the Unnao rape victim's father in custody. The victim has sought recall of the January 16 order by which Sengar was granted interim bail in the rape case. The CBI, which had earlier verified the factum of marriage of Sengar's daughter, told the court in a latest status report that it may reconsider and recall its interim bail order.



Locals take part in a protest rally against the NTPC project in landslide-hit Joshimath town of Chamoli district, Uttarakhand

PTI PHOTO

Motorcyclist dies after falling into pit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Rajkot, Jan 27: A motorcyclist died after falling into a pit near Raiya circle in Rajkot Friday.

The accident occurred when Harsh was proceeding towards his workplace. Harsh's father Ashwin Davda alleged that he lost his son due to the "negligence" of Municipal Corporation.

Ashwin Davda said that 30 to 45 minutes after Harsh left for office, he received a call by an unknown person informing that his son had suffered injury in accident. Ashwin Davda further said, "When I reached, I saw my son's body lying on the road, 108 emergency ambulance doctors told me that my son died because of internal bleeding." An eyewitness said Harsh Davda fell in the pit while overtaking another vehicle. "Construction work is going on in the pit, iron rod frames are fixed and it was lying open, there were no barricades...had barricades been put around the pit, my son would not have died. Because of the Municipal Corporation's negligence, I lost my son," Ashwin Davda claimed.

Don't look for shortcuts: PM to students

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: Never take the shortcut, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his message to students Friday, cautioning that cheating may help them in an exam or two but not in the long run.

Responding to questions from students during the sixth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha, his annual interaction with students on issues such as exam stress, at Talkatora Stadium here, he said they should maintain focus on their work.

He cautioned students against excessive use of gadgets and asked them to believe in their smartness and not of their mobile phones. "Don't be distracted by technology. Keep a separate time when you will use mobile phones for interaction on social media platforms," he said.

The prime minister also spoke strongly against the use of unfair practices in exams and advised students against boasting about how well their exam went to avoid stress. "Cheating may help someone



in an exam or two but not in life in the long run. Never take the shortcut. The hard work of students will always help them advance in life. Students should at times analyse the pressure applied on them to see if they are underestimating their strengths," he said. Modi said it is natural for family members to have expectations but it is wrong if they are linked to consciousness about social class or status. "Exam results are not the end of life," he told the

students. Students should concentrate on their studies like a batter focuses on the ball thrown to him, ignoring the shouts for fours and sixes from the crowd, he added. "One of the reasons for stress is boasting about

Cheating may help someone in an exam or two but not in life in the long run. Never take the shortcut. The hard work of students will always help them advance in life. Students should at times analyse the pressure applied on them to see if they are underestimating their strengths

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

how well we did in our exam. Parents start believing in what the children say and start telling this to people around them. Avoid giving a wrong impression about your performance in exams," the PM said.

Underlining the need for students to expand their horizons, Modi advised parents to give their children some money after class 10 and 12 exams to travel to a few places and ask them to write about it. "Students should be encouraged to go and meet people from different strata of society. Students should not be bound by many restrictions. We should allow them to expand their horizons," he said.

The prime minister advised teachers to welcome students who ask questions. "When a student asks questions, that means he or she is inquisitive. This is a good sign," he said.

2,967 tigers in India: Centre to SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 27: The Centre Friday told the Supreme Court that there are 2,967 tigers in the country spread across 53 tiger reserves, according to a 2018 report.

The apex court was hearing a petition filed by Advocate Anupam Tripathi in 2017 seeking to save endangered tigers whose numbers are dwindling across the country. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati told a bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna that a lot of work has been done for the conservation of tigers and increasing their population.

The top court took note of the submission and adjourned the matter till March as Tripathi was not present.

"Heard ASG Aishwarya Bhati. As per the 2018 census, India has 2,967 tigers spread out in 53 tiger reserves. This number constitutes 70 per cent of the global number and figures point to the growth of the tigers. In the interest of justice, to give an opportunity to the petitioner, list on March 3," the bench said.

12 more cheetahs to be brought to India in Feb

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Jan 27: After months of delay, a dozen cheetahs from South Africa are likely to be finally flown into India next month and housed in the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh, where eight such felines from Namibia were brought last year under a project, an expert said.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between New Delhi and Pretoria (South Africa's administrative capital) last week, the expert associated with India's cheetah revival project said over phone on the condition of anonymity.



"I think the cheetahs from South Africa will land in India around mid-February," he said. South Africa

has donated these big cats to India. But India has to pay USD 3,000 for the capture of every cheetah to

the African nation before they are translocated, he said.

KNP director Uttam Sharma said, "We are waiting for the arrival of 12 South African cheetahs. We have set up 10 quarantine bomas (enclosures) for them. In two of these facilities, two pairs of cheetah brothers would be kept." "We have come to know that Pretoria has issued an order for the translocation of cheetahs after signing the MoU," another official of the MP forest department said.

Due to the delay in the signing of the MoU for the inter-continental translocation of these big cats, some experts had last month expressed concern over the health

of the South African cheetahs as these animals have been quarantined there since July 15.

As a result of long quarantine, these animals might have lost their fitness, they had said. Prolonged quarantine could be taking a toll on the health of these big cats, who are slated to join the eight cheetahs imported from Namibia and released into the KNP in Sheopur district mid-September, the experts had said. In fact, the 12 South African cheetahs - seven males and five females - have not hunted for themselves even once after being kept in bomas, wildlife experts in the know of India's cheetah reintroduction plan, had said.

Three of them have been kept in Phinda quarantine boma in KwaZulu-Natal Province and nine in Rooiberg Quarantine boma in Limpopo Province since July 15, they said. They have lost fitness to a considerable extent as they have not hunted even once since July 15, one of the experts told PTI last month. They might have put on weight like humans sitting idle, he said.

Last month, South African Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Barbara Creecy cleared the Indian proposal on translocation of cheetahs so that the South African president signs the final agreement, he added.

# international



Sweden has to decide. Does it want to join NATO or not? One of the aims of these incidents is to prevent Sweden from joining NATO  
MEVLUT CAVUSOGLU | TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER

## SL PARL PROROGUED TILL FEB 8

The Sri Lankan government Friday decided to prorogue Parliament till February 8 when President Ranil Wickremesinghe will make a special address on the implementation of the India-backed 13th Amendment to the Constitution and other issues concerning the minority Tamil community



## of the day quote

If Allah can create Pakistan then He can also protect, develop, and make it prosper  
ISHAQ DAR | MINISTER OF FINANCE OF PAK

Across the country, every state premier, every Chief Minister, is supporting yes at this referendum (Proposal for Indigenous Voice to Parliament) because this is about progress going forward. It is about reconciliation  
ANTHONY ALBANESE | AUSTRALIAN PM

India envisages a free, open, inclusive and peaceful Indo-Pacific built on a rules-based order, sustainable and transparent infrastructure investment  
S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Mysterious illness claims 18 lives in Pak

**Karachi:** A mysterious illness has killed 18 people, mostly children, in Karachi's Kemari area with health officials in this southern Pakistani port city still unable to find the cause of the deaths. Director Health Services Abdul Hameed Jumani confirmed Friday that 18 people, including 14 children, died from the mysterious illness in the Mawach Goth area in Kemari between January 10 and 25. Mawach Goth is a slum area with inhabitants mostly daily wage earners or fishermen.

### Explosion in Polish parish house kills 2

**Warsaw:** Two people were killed Friday when a suspected gas explosion demolished half of an old Evangelical parish house in the southern Polish city of Katowice, officials said. The morning blast injured seven other people, according to the regional governor, Jaroslaw Wiecezorek.

### Nepal's Home Minister resigns

**Kathmandu:** Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Rabi Lamichhane, accused of holding dual Nepali and American citizenship, Friday lost the citizenship battle, as the Supreme Court annulled his status as a lawmaker. A constitutional bench, headed by Acting Chief Justice Hari Krishna Karki and comprising Justices Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha, Ishwar Khattiwada, Ananda Mohan Bhattarai, and Anil Sinha, held that the citizenship certificate he produced to contest the parliamentary election was invalid.

### Senior IS leader killed in US ops

**Washington:** A US military operation in Somalia has killed a number of Islamic State (IS) members, including a key leader of the terror group, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced. "On January 25, on orders from the President, the US military conducted an assault operation in northern Somalia that resulted in the death of a number of IS members, including Bilal-al-Sudani, an IS leader in Somalia and a key facilitator for IS's global network," Austin said.

### Jeff Zients new White House chief of staff

**Washington:** US President Joe Biden Friday appointed his long-term aide Jeff Zients, a former Obama administration official who ran his massive Covid-19 response operation, as the new White House Chief of Staff. Zients will replace Ron Klain, who has served in the position for over two years now. Biden said that an official transition ceremony would be held at the White House next week.



An Afghan girl carries empty water containers on a snow-covered street in Kabul, Afghanistan

## Israel hits Gaza as conflict flares after West Bank clashes



REUTERS

**Jerusalem/Gaza, Jan 27:** The Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement in Gaza claimed responsibility Friday for rockets fired on Israel overnight amid international efforts to defuse tensions following one of the deadliest raids in the occupied West Bank in years.

Israeli jets struck Gaza Friday in retaliation for the rockets, which had set off alarms in Israeli communities near the border with the blockaded southern coastal strip that is controlled by Islamist movement Hamas.

There were no reports of casualties on either side and there was no immediate sign of escalation into a more serious conflict of the kind seen repeatedly over recent years with Palestinian groups firing hundreds of rockets and Israel pounding Gaza.

The overnight exchange followed an Israeli raid on a refugee camp in the West Bank Thursday that killed at least nine Palestinians, bringing the Palestinian death toll so far in 2023 to at least 30. The deaths, which included militant

gunmen as well as at least two civilians, left the highest single-day death toll in the West Bank in years, with another man killed in a separate incident in al-Ramm outside Jerusalem.

The raid, the latest in a nearly daily series of clashes in the West Bank over the past year, came days before US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was due to visit Israel and the West Bank. Washington called for calm from both sides. In Gaza, thousands of Islamic Jihad supporters rallied following Friday prayers, calling for the fight against Israel to be stepped up in the wake of the Jenin raid.

Islamic Jihad, an Iranian-backed movement dedicated to overthrowing Israel, is active in both flashpoint West Bank centres like Nablus and Jenin as well as Gaza, where it exists alongside the larger and more powerful Hamas group. In August, Israeli jets bombed targets in Gaza associated with the group during a week-end confrontation that saw hundreds of Islamic Jihad rockets launched against Israel, most of which were intercepted by air defence systems.

## WORST ELECTRICITY CRISIS

**AFRICA'S MOST INDUSTRIALISED NATION HAS BEEN HIT BY CRIPPLING BLACKOUTS, PUSHING THOUSANDS OF CONSUMERS TO TAKE TO THE STREETS IN PROTEST THIS WEEK**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Johannesburg Jan 27:** From dairy farms failing to keep milk refrigerated to chickens suffocating en masse due to failing ventilators and undertakers struggling to preserve bodies, South Africa is buckling under its worst power crisis in years. Africa's most industrialised nation has been hit by crippling blackouts, pushing thousands of consumers to take to the streets in protest this week. Here's what you need to know about the crisis:

**EIGHT LEVELS OF MISERY**  
The state-owned utility Eskom imposes blackouts, called load-shedding, when supply fails to meet demand. There are eight levels of these scheduled cuts, with outages

ranging from two-and-half hours to slightly more than 12 hours in total in a day. This month, the blackouts have oscillated between stages three and six. The last two stages have never been implemented but there has been a record number of stage-six days in recent months.

At such times, the power goes off for half a day, and only those with generators, solar panels or a wind turbine can get relief. Mounting anger has led to several protests in recent days and lawsuits against the authorities. Outages cost hundreds of millions of dollars in lost output each day, according to opposition estimates.

**HOW DID SOUTH AFRICA GET HERE?**  
The crisis besetting Eskom has

REUTERS

**Kyiv, Jan 27:** Ukraine Friday battled Russian troops trying to pierce its lines in the east and northeast before Kyiv takes delivery of tanks from its Western allies, saying the fighting showed it needed more weapons to repel the invaders. Kyiv said fierce battles were under way, a day after at least 11 people were killed in missile and drone strikes which were widely seen in Ukraine as a response to the promises by important allies to send it tanks.

After weeks of wrangling, Germany and the United States this week said they would send Ukraine dozens of modern tanks to help push back Russian forces, opening the way for others to follow suit. Poland gave Ukraine a further boost Friday by promising an additional 60 tanks on top of 14 German-made Leopard 2 tanks it had already pledged.

Both sides in the war are widely expected to launch spring offensives though Washington has advised Ukraine against doing so until the latest weapons are in place and training has been provided - a process expected to take several months. Russia said the United States was "pumping weapons into Ukraine", which Moscow says does Washington's bidding, and chided President Joe Biden, saying he held the key to ending the conflict but had not used it.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy thanked allies for their support but renewed calls for tougher sanctions on Moscow and more weapons in the twelfth month of the war.

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

# Fighting fierce after tank pledges



A house burns after a military strike, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, near the city of Vuhledar, Donetsk region

Fighting intensifies in east Ukraine - Ukrainian officials

Ukraine says it needs more weapons, calls for sanctions

Western allies agreed this week to provide tanks

Russia says US President holds key to ending fighting

### POWER SHORTAGES

Millions of Ukrainians faced electricity shortages after Thursday's missile and drone strikes, the latest to target energy facilities and deprive people of heat, light and water. Ukraine has repeatedly accused Russia of targeting civilian infrastructure, a charge that Moscow denies. Russia said the strikes focused on "facilities that operate Ukraine's defence industrial complex and transport system," and limited Ukraine's ability to repair military hardware and transport arms provided by its allies.

Front lines have been largely frozen for two months, with Russia trying to gain ground in the east after occupying swathes of territory there and protect a corridor of land it has seized in southern Ukraine.

Britain said in an intelligence update that Russian forces had prob-

## Boeing pleads not guilty

Family members of passengers who died gave emotional testimony, calling for criminal prosecution of top officials

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Fort Worth, Jan 27:** Boeing pleaded not guilty Thursday to a charge that it misled regulators who approved its 737 Max, the plane that was involved in two crashes that killed 346 people.

US district Judge Reed O'Connor took the plea from Boeing, which was represented by its chief safety officer and a bevy of lawyers, and ordered the company not to break any laws for the next year. The judge delayed ruling on a request by the families to appoint a special monitor to examine safety issues at the aerospace giant. Boeing and the Justice Department opposed the request.

Investigations into the 2018 and 2019 crashes led to a flight-control system that Boeing added to the Max without telling pilots or airlines. Boeing downplayed the significance of the system, then didn't overhaul it until after the second crash. The Justice Department investigated Boeing and settled

## DEADLY MAX CRASHES



Family members hold photos of their children and others killed in the 2019 crash of Ethiopian Airlines 737 Max aircraft before they head into federal court in Fort Worth, Texas

the case in January 2021. After secret negotiations, the government agreed not to prosecute Boeing on a charge of defrauding the United States by deceiving regulators who approved the plane. In exchange, the company paid \$2.5 billion — a \$243.6 million fine, a \$500 million fund for victim compensation, and nearly \$1.8 billion to airlines whose Max jets were grounded. The families are still stunned.

## Fatal shooting at Azerbaijan Embassy in Iran raises tensions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dubai, Jan 27:** A gunman stormed the Azerbaijan Embassy in Iran's capital on Friday, killing its security chief and wounding two guards in an attack that spiked long-simmering tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said it would evacuate the diplomatic post, accusing Iran of not taking reported threats against it seriously in the past that include inciting comments in hard-line media over Azerbaijan's diplomatic ties to Israel. Tehran's police chief, Gen. Hossein Rahimi, initially blamed the attack on "personal and family problems," something quickly repeated across Iranian state media. But within hours Rahimi would lose his position as police chief after footage emerged that appeared to show a security force member doing nothing to stop the attack.



"Previously, there have been attempts to threaten our diplomatic mission in Iran, and it was constantly raised before Iran to take measures to prevent such cases, and to ensure the safety of our diplomatic missions," the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry said.

## Shehbaz expresses hope for early settlement with IMF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, Jan 27:** Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday expressed hope for an early agreement with the IMF to unlock the much-needed foreign loans, a day after the global lender announced its plan to send a staff mission to the cash-strapped nation.

The remarks from Sharif came as the country's economy is precariously tethering with just \$3.7 billion in foreign reserves, which is considered a critical level by experts. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced Thursday to field its staff mission to Pakistan January 31 for talks on the ninth quarterly review of a funding program pending for almost four months. The successful completion of the review would release \$ 1.2 billion for the country.



several causes. The end of apartheid in 1994 was followed by a push to connect areas where the black majority previously had no mains electricity. This, coupled with economic growth and a surging population, which has swelled from less than 45 million to 60 million, has fed demand.

In 2007, the year power cuts were first implemented, Eskom began building two new coal-powered stations to try to keep pace. But older plants are plagued by breakdowns and are in constant need of main-

of money to buy diesel, which it burns to make up for production shortfalls caused by breakdowns. South Africa uses coal, which it has in abundance, to generate about 80 percent of its electricity.

**IS THERE A SOLUTION?**  
The government, which the opposition blames for the crisis, put forward a plan last July.

This includes improving maintenance, importing electricity from neighbouring countries and speeding the rollout of renewables, a process that has long been braked by protection for the coal industry, which employs almost 100,000 people. A licensing threshold for private power generation projects has been removed and a pricing structure to let private firms sell electricity generated by rooftop solar panels is soon to be completed, President Cyril Ramaphosa said this week. The president has warned the crisis cannot be solved overnight although some of his cabinet ministers have boasted it could be over in six to 18 months.

## of the day quote

We estimate our revenue in 2022-23 to be \$751 million on the back of which it expects to post its first operating profit in a full year

**RITESH AGARWAL** | OYO FOUNDER AND GROUP CEO

It has been a strong year for Porsche India with a 69 per cent growth in the sales of our SUV models, highlighted by our top-selling model, the Cayenne, ending the year with 399 retail units

**MANOLITO VUJICIC** | BRAND DIRECTOR, PORSCHE INDIA

We are planning to launch next month a premium residential project in Sector 63 Gurugram. The estimated sales realisation of this project will be around ₹7,500 crore

**AAKASH OHRI** | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER, DLF GROUP

## SHORT TAKES

### Vedanta profit plummets 41%

**Bangalore:** Indian metals-to-oil conglomerate Vedanta Ltd reported a near 41% drop in third-quarter profit Friday, hit by a fall in commodity prices. The Anil Agarwal-led firm's consolidated net profit fell to ₹24.64 billion for the quarter ended December 31 from ₹41.64 billion a year earlier, Vedanta said in an exchange filing. Prices of zinc, aluminium have fallen from their peaks by over 15% in 2022 from a year earlier, while total expenses have surged 17%, it said.

### Bids invited for ₹41K-cr project

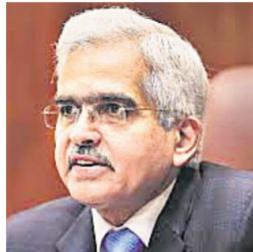
**New Delhi:** The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways will invite expressions of interest (EOI) from interested players for a ₹41,000 crore international transhipment port project at Great Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal. The ministry in a release Friday said that the project is expected to be completed with an investment of ₹41,000 crore (\$5 billion), including investment from both government and PPP concessionaire. The EOI will be released Saturday (January 28).

### AI to seal 50% of jumbo jet order

**New Delhi:** Air India will Friday seal half of an order for some 495 jets with Boeing and engine suppliers General Electric and CFM International, industry sources said, as its new owner seeks to revive the airline and compete with larger rivals. After months of closely guarded, tough negotiations, Air India is set to place an order for 190 Boeing 737 MAX narrowbody planes as well as some 20 Boeing 787s and 10 Boeing 777X on a day marking one year since Tata Group took control of the former state-run carrier, two sources told Reuters.

### PE/VC investments declined by a third

**Mumbai:** Investments by private equity and venture capital funds declined by nearly a third to \$54.2 billion in 2022, which was characterised by a 'funding winter' after consecutive years of surge. Even after the decline, the year was the second best for India in terms of bets taken by such long term investors on growing Indian companies. The investments by value were down 29 per cent as compared to \$75.9 billion in 2021, while by volumes there was a 4.6 per cent decline at 1,211 transactions as against 1,269, the report said.



**Our financial system remains robust and stable. Banks and corporates are healthier than before the crisis. Bank credit is growing in double-digits. We are widely seen as a bright spot in an otherwise gloomy world**

**SHAKTIKANTA DAS** | GOVERNOR, RBI

## TATA TO HIKE CAR PRICES

Tata Motors said Friday it would hike prices of its passenger vehicles by 1.2% on a weighted average basis from February 1, citing a rise in overall input costs. Earlier this month, rival and India's top car maker Maruti Suzuki raised prices by an average of 1.1% across its models, blaming similar cost pressures



## BLOODBATH ON D-STREET

**ADANI SHARES WERE IN THE LINE OF FIRE FOLLOWING THE HINDENBURG REPORT ACCUSING THE GROUP OF SERIOUS IRREGULARITIES AND MASSIVE SELLING ADDED TO THE OVERALL BEARISH TREND IN THE EQUITY MARKET**

**Mumbai, Jan 27:** Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty plunged over 1 per cent to close at three-month lows Friday due to selling in banking, financials, utilities and oil shares triggered by an unfavourable report on Adani group as well as FIIs taking a cautious stance ahead of the Union Budget.

Continuing its decline for a second session, the 30-share BSE benchmark tanked 874.16 points or 1.45 per cent, its biggest single day loss in more than a month, to

# Adani massacre drags shares



## Investors' wealth erodes over ₹10.73trn

Investors' wealth eroded by more than ₹10.73 lakh crore in just two trading sessions as the market slumped and benchmark BSE Sensex slid 1,647.85 points. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by ₹10,73,957.29 crore to ₹2,69,65,965.18 crore during these two trading days.

settle at 59,330.90. This is the lowest closing level since October 21.

During the day, Sensex plunged 1,230.36 points or 2.04 per cent to 58,974.70. The broader NSE Nifty fell 287.60 points or 1.61 per cent to end at a three-month low of 17,604.35, also marking its worst single-day fall since December 23, 2022.

According to him, FIIs' cautious stance ahead of the Union Budget and FOMC (Federal Open

Market Committee) meetings also fuelled the collapse.

From the Sensex pack, SBI fell the most by 5.03 per cent. ICICI Bank by 4.41 per cent, IndusInd Bank by 3.43 per cent, Axis Bank by 2.07 per cent, Kotak Bank by 2.03 per cent, HDFC Bank by 1.96 per cent, Reliance by 1.9 per cent and HDFC by 1.87 per cent.

Bucking the trend, auto stocks Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra closed with gains.

The sharp slump in the Indian market was triggered by an unfavourable research report on Adani group companies. This is also affecting the banking stocks, especially PSU banks due to their high exposure to the group

**VINOD NAIR** | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Tata Motors, which returned to profitability in the third quarter of FY23, rose the most by 6.34 per cent among Sensex shares. Mahindra & Mahindra advanced 0.71 per cent.

ITC and UltraTech Cement were also among the winners. FMCG, healthcare and auto ended in the green.

Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended in the green. European benchmarks were trading higher during mid-session deals. Markets in the US had ended higher Thursday.

Stock markets were closed Thursday on account of Republic Day. International oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.35 per cent to \$88.65 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) off-loaded shares worth ₹2,393.94 crore Wednesday.

## ADANI STOCKS BLEED

Adani group stocks took a beating falling up to 20 per cent after the US-based investment research firm Hindenburg Research made damaging allegations.

The group's flagship Adani Enterprises, which launched the ₹20,000 crore IPO Friday, tanked 18.52 per cent. Adani Ports plunged 16 per cent, Adani Power by 5 per cent, Adani Green Energy by 19.99 per cent, and Adani Total Gas by 20 per cent.

In two days, the Adani group firms have lost a whopping ₹4,17,824.79 crore from their market valuation. The market valuation of Adani Total Gas plummeted ₹1,04,580.93 crore while that of Adani Transmission by ₹83,265.95 crore.

Adani Enterprises market capitalisation fell by ₹77,588.47 crore, Adani Green Energy lost ₹67,962.91 crore and Adani Ports by ₹35,048.25 crore.

The market valuation of Ambuja Cements declined by ₹23,311.47 crore, Adani Power by ₹10,317.31 crore, ACC by ₹8,490.8 crore and Adani Wilmar by ₹7,258.7 crore.

## Intel's 'historic collapse' triggers selloff in chip stocks

REUTERS

**Washington, Jan 27:** Five of the biggest US chipmakers were set to erase nearly \$15 billion in market value on Friday after Intel Corp stumbled Wall Street with dismal earnings projections, fanning fears around a slump in the personal-computer market.

The company predicted a surprise loss for the first quarter and its revenue forecast was \$3 billion below estimates as it also struggled with slowing growth in the data center business.

Intel shares fell 10% before the bell, with rival Advanced Micro Devices, Nvidia, Applied Materials and Qualcomm losing between 0.8% and 3.2%. Intel supplier KLA Corp fell 5% after its own dismal forecast.

"No words can portray or explain the historic collapse of Intel," said Rosenblatt Securities' Hans Mosesmann, who was among the 21 analysts who cut their price targets on the stock.

The poor outlook underscored the challenges facing Chief Executive Pat Gelsinger as he tries to reestablish Intel's dominance of the sector by expanding contract manufacturing and building new factories in the United States and Europe.

The company has steadily been losing market share to rivals like AMD, which has used contract chipmakers such as Taiwan-based TSMC (2330.TW) to make chips that outpace its technology.

"AMD's Genoa and Bergamo (data center) chips have a strong price-performance advantage compared to Intel's Sapphire Rapids processors, which should drive further AMD share gains," said Matt Wegner, analyst at YipitData.

Analysts say that puts Intel at a disadvantage even when the data center market bottoms out, expected in the second half of 2022, as the company would have lost even more share by then.

"It is now clear why Intel needs to cut so much cost as the company's original plans prove to be fantasy," brokerage Bernstein said. "The magnitude of the deterioration is stunning, and brings potential concern to the company's cash position over time."

## Delhivery launches training, recruitment programme



AGENCIES

**Gurugram, Jan 27:** Delhivery, India's largest fully integrated logistics provider, has announced the launch of the 'Delhivery Training and Recruitment Program', an initiative to empower young jobseekers to build a career in the logistics industry. The programme ensures guaranteed jobs for recruits in entry and mid-level operational roles.

The company will conduct a national entrance exam with an initial focus on 25-tier 2 and tier 3 cities such as Ganganagar, Ujjain, Kurur, Purulia, and Srinagar, among many more, on February 19, 2023, to select candidates for a 5-week training program in Gurgaon.

The training is both classroom and practical in-center covering subjects such as operational processes, software tools, soft skills, and people management. After successfully completing the training, the recruits will be on-boarded for open managerial roles at Delhivery facilities across India.

Candidates between the ages of 22 to 32 who are 10th/12th pass or diploma holders and have basic English reading and writing abilities are eligible to apply for the programme.

Commenting on the initiative, Pooja Gupta, Chief Human Resources Officer, Delhivery, said, "This initiative is in line with our long-term vision to connect with talent across the country and create secure employment opportunities in one of the fastest growing sectors in India. We are looking forward to welcoming our first set of recruits and investing in their growth and success at Delhivery."

Talking about the programme, Suraju Dutta, Head of Delhivery Academy, said, "Our 5-week training is a comprehensive, in-house program designed by Delhivery academy, focused on creating a ready talent pool in logistics. The depth and breadth of the programme will empower the youth with all the necessary skills to excel in logistics."

## Forex kitty swells to \$573.727bn

THIS IS THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE WEEK OF A RISE IN THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 27:** India's forex reserves increased by \$1.727 billion to \$573.727 billion in the week ended January 20, the Reserve Bank of India said Friday.

This is the second consecutive week of a rise in the kitty after the \$10.417 billion jump to \$572 billion during the preceding week.

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



In October 2022, the reserves had swelled by \$14.721 billion during a week.

During the reporting week, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, in-

creased by \$839 million to \$506.358 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI Friday.

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.

The gold reserves continued to rise, jumping by \$821 million to \$43.712 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$68 million to \$18.432 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was down by \$1 million to \$5.226 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

## REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

### MCL celebrates Republic Day

**Sambalpur:** Patriotic fervour and gaiety marked the 74th Republic Day celebrations at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) with Chairman-cum-Managing Director OP Singh unfurling the Tricolour in the presence of large number of people at Anand Vihar grounds here. The CMD also inspected the ceremonial parade and took the salute of smartly marching contingents of MCL Security, NCC boys and girls, scouts & guides and students of various schools. Extending his greetings on the occasion, Singh expressed his gratitude towards the armed forces for their valour and service to the nation.



### SBI celebrates 74th R-Day

**Bhubaneswar:** 74th Republic Day was celebrated at SBI Local Head Office Bhubaneswar Circle. At the auspicious event, CGM Chandrasekhar Sharma hoisted Indian National Flag at SBI LHO Building in the presence of GM Ponnambalam Murugan, CDO Manoj Kumar Singh, other DGMs and around 200 staff members. After the unfurling, winners of drawing competition held earlier this week were felicitated in the programme and winners of staff security awareness quiz were also felicitated.



Pranab Bhattacharyya, Chief Manufacturing Officer and Unit Head of PARADEEP PHOSPHATES LIMITED unfurled the National Flag on the Occasion of 74th Republic Day

# Despite robust rise, Ola Electric still marred with problems

IN 2022, THERE WERE SEVERAL REPORTS OF ELECTRIC SCOOTERS FROM VARIOUS INDIAN PLAYERS BURNING DUE TO TECHNICAL GLITCHES WHICH FORCED THE GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE AND ORDER THE FIRMS TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENTS PROPERLY

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Jan 27:** Even though Ola Electric, one of the leading electric two-wheeler makers, has been registering strong growth, it continues to be plagued by both software and hardware issues. The company reported that its market share grew to 30 percent in 2022.

In 2022, there were several reports of electric scooters from various Indian players burning due to technical glitches which forced the government to interfere and order the companies to investigate into the matter properly.

In a recent incident involving Ola S1 Pro, the rider suffered serious injuries when the front fork sus-

pension broke off. The owner claimed that the mechanical failure occurred when the scooter's speed was just 35 kmph. However, as per Ola's preliminary investigation, it is claimed that the incident actually involved a high-impact road accident. It is to note that several other users have reported similar cases of front forks breaking off. However, as earlier cases did not involve any major mishaps, they were not widely covered.

The recent case was different, as the rider had suffered life-threatening injuries and was admitted to ICU. In its official statement, Ola has stated that they have provided all the necessary support to the family of the rider involved



in the accident. Ola has also informed that the rider is safe and is recovering.

Talking about the incident, Ola says that vehicle safety and quality

standards are their highest priority. Top-spec Ola S1 Pro electric scooter has the highest quality standards in all aspects. Moreover, it has been tested across challenging

terrains and all-weather conditions. The scooter has been rigorously tested for more than 5 million km.

Ola's view about the front fork breakage issue is that such cases are rare and involve high impact accidents. Ola has more than 1.5 lakh scooters on the roads and only a few had the front fork issue. Ola says that the front fork arm has been tested with loads that are 80% more than the loads usually encountered by such scooters.

However, as a precautionary measure and to assure community members, Ola has offered to get the scooters checked via their service network. Ola has also urged users to follow road safety protocols and wear a helmet.

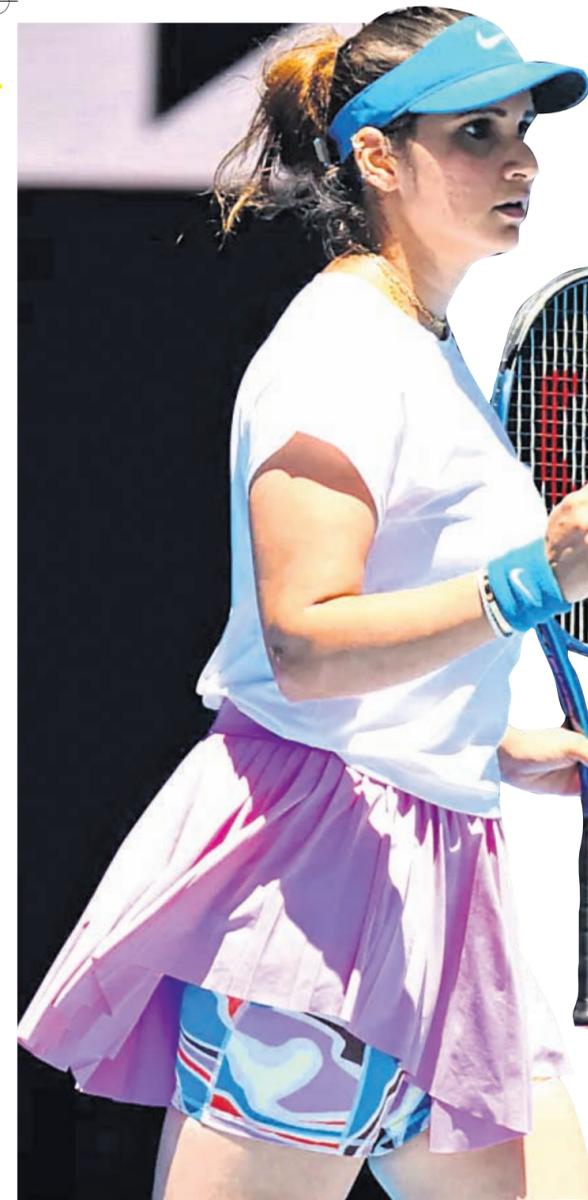
### Possibility of mfg defects?

As other users have also reported similar cases, it is possible that a specific batch of front forks may have manufacturing defects. Some people are also pointing fingers at the fact that Ola S1 and S1 Pro have only a single fork setup. However, Ola has already clarified that the front fork has been adequately tested.

A more detailed investigation needs to be done, as breaking of front suspension is not a common phenomenon. If we consider popular scooters like Honda Activa, there's hardly any reported case of front fork breaking off. Even in accident cases, the front forks don't just break off. This is true even when the scooter may be badly mangled.

# SANIA'S GS run ends in agony

# Djoko sails into Oz Open final



That's just a disclaimer. I'm still going to play a couple of more tournaments but my journey of my professional career started in Melbourne," an emotional Sania said as she struggled to hold back tears.

"Rohan was my first-ever mixed doubles partner when I was 14 and we won the nationals, it was 22 year ago and I couldn't think of a better person, he's my best friend and one of my best partners to finish my career," Sania said, thanking Bopanna, who has one French Open mixed doubles title to his credit.

The 36-year-old, who earlier announced that the WTA event in Dubai next month will be her swansong, is India's most accomplished woman tennis player, having won six Grand Slam titles, including three mixed doubles trophies.

She had won the mixed doubles titles at the 2009 Australian Open and the 2012 French Open with Mahesh Bhupathi and the 2014 US Open with Brazilian Bruno Soares.

The Rod Laver Arena has been a happy hunting ground for the Hyderabad. She has a women's doubles and mixed doubles title

each and has finished runner up four times at the Australian Open.

"It started in 2005 when I played Serena Williams in the third round as an 18-year-old and that was scary enough 18 years ago. I have had the privilege to come back here again and again, win some tournaments here and play some great finals amongst you all.

"Rod Laver Arena has really been special in my life and I couldn't think of a better arena to finish my career at in a Grand Slam," Sania said.

The presence of her son Izhaan, alongside family and friends made the occasion sweeter. "I never thought I'd be able to play in front of my child in a Grand Slam final, so it's truly special for me, to have my four-year-old here and my parents here, and Rohan's wife, my trainers, my family in Australia who made me feel like home away from home.

"Cara Black who is my best friend and one of my first partners, it's been truly special I wouldn't be able to achieve anything without you all," Sania said.

The Indians were on the back foot from the beginning as they were broken in the very first game and were down 0-2. But the two veterans managed to settle down after a nervy start, winning three games in a row to quickly take a 5-3 lead. The Brazilians, however, forced a tiebreak capitalising on Bopanna's poor service games.

With the momentum on their side, Stefani and Mataos took the tiebreak after saving a set point in the 12th game. The Indians let the Brazilians dominate them in the second set as Sania failed to hold serve in the fourth and eighth game to concede the fixture.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Jan 27: Novak Djokovic put aside some shaky play in the early going and took over his Australian Open semifinal against unseeded American Tommy Paul Friday, winning 7-5, 6-1, 6-2 to close in on a 10th championship at Melbourne Park and 22nd Grand Slam title overall.

Djokovic's parents and brother are in town for the tournament for the first time since he claimed major trophy No.1 there back in 2008, but his father stayed away from this match after getting caught up in a flap connected to spectators

who brought banned Russian flags on site earlier in the week.

Forget about that potential distraction. Forget about the heavily taped left hamstring that was an issue last week. Forget about how Djokovic produced twice as many unforced errors, 24, as winners, 12, in the opening set. Forget that he dropped four games in a row in one stretch. As usual, Djokovic summoned what it took to extend his Australian Open winning streak to 27 matches, the longest in the Open era, which dates to 1968.

There was a pause in that string of victories a year ago, of course, when Djokovic was deported from Australia before competition began because he was not vaccinated against COVID-19. He still has not gotten the shots, but the strict border controls established by the country during the pandemic have been eased.

Sunday, No.4 seed Djokovic will take on No.3 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, who eliminated Karen Khachanov

7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-3 to reach his first final at Melbourne Park and second at a Slam.

Whoever wins the final will rise to No.1 in the ATP rankings. For Djokovic, that would mark a return to a spot he has occupied for more weeks than anyone; for Tsitsipas, it would mark a debut there.

Djokovic has never lost a semi-final or final in Melbourne, going a perfect 19-0, and his nine triumphs there already are a men's record. If he can add one more to go alongside his seven titles at Wimbledon, three at the U.S. Open and two at the French Open, the 35-year-old from Serbia would equal Nadal for the most Grand Slam trophies earned by a man.

Djokovic is 10-2 against Tsitsipas, taking the last nine encounters in a row. Tsitsipas' other major final came at the 2021 French Open, when he grabbed the first two sets before blowing that big lead and losing to Djokovic in five.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Melbourne, Jan 27: Trailblazing Indian tennis star Sania Mirza capped off her glorious Grand Slam career with a runner-up finish alongside 'best friend' Rohan Bopanna in the Australian Open

mixed doubles final here Friday. Pairing up with her first-ever mixed doubles partner Bopanna, the unseeded Indian duo went down 6-7 (2), 2-6 to the Brazilian pair of Luisa Stefani and Rafael Mataos in the final at the Rod Laver Arena. "If I cry, these are happy tears.

# Conway, Mitchell, spinners lift NZ



Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell punch gloves during their partnership

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Jan 27: Devon Conway (52, 35b, 7x4, 1x6) and Daryl Mitchell (59 n o, 30b, 3x4, 5x6) conjured up fluent and fiery half centuries before the spinners choked the hosts as New Zealand outplayed India by 21 runs in the opening T20I to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series here Friday.

Asked to take first strike, opener Conway continued his purple patch, while Mitchell smashed Indian bowlers all around the park, including a last-over thrashing of Arshdeep Singh for 27 runs, to power the Black Caps to a challenging 176/6.

The Kiwi bowlers, led by Mitchell Santner (2/11) and Michael Bracewell (2/31), then spun a web

around the home batters, restrict India to 155/9.

India had a disastrous start to their chase with both Ishan Kishan (4) and Rahul Tripathi (0) sent back to the pavillion by the third over. Shubman Gill (7) too perished soon after being deceived by Santner as India slumped to 15/3.

Suryakumar Yadav (47, 34b, 6x4, 2x6), however, looked in good touch. Hardik Pandya (21) joined Surya at the middle as India reached 74/3 in 10 overs. NZ then struck twice in five balls to remove both the set batters with India slipping to 85/5.

Deepak Hooda smacked one over the rope before being stumped. Santner then ran out Shivam Mavi. Lockie Ferguson bowled a wicket maiden, removing Kuldeep. Washington Sundar smashed a fighting 28-ball 50 (5x4, 3x6) but it was too late.

Earlier, Indian bowlers struggled to get their line and length, allowing New Zealand to get off to a good start. Finn Allen (35) kept most of the strikes in 43-run opening stand. Sundar's double strike leave NZ struggling at 43/2. Later, Conway and Mitchell show propped the visitors.

# India U-19 eves in title clash



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Potchefstroom (South Africa), Jan 27: Opener Shweta Sherawat smashed an unbeaten fifty after Parshavi Chopra's triple strike as India notched up a comprehensive eight-wicket win over New Zealand to storm into the final of the inaugural U-19 Women's T20 World Cup here Friday.

India restricted New Zealand to 107 for nine with Parshavi (3/20)

leading a disciplined bowling effort after skipper Shafali Verma won the toss and elected to bowl in the first semifinals.

The 16-year-old leg-spinner broke the backbone of the Kiwi batting line-up with three successive wickets to storm into the final of the inaugural U-19 Women's T20 World Cup here Friday.

For NZ, Georgia Plimmer (35), Isabella Gaze (26) and Izzy Sharp

(13) and Kayley Knight (12) reached double figures as they struggled to score runs at the Senwes Park.

Chasing 108, the women in blue romped home comfortably after Sehrawat produced a scintillating 45-ball unconquered knock which was studded with 10 hits to the fence.

Following the early exit of Shafali (10), who has not performed as per expectations in the tournament, Sehrawat and Soumya Tiwari (22) added 62 runs to take them to the threshold of victory.

Sehrawat and Gongadi Trisha (5) then completed the job with the former bringing up the winning runs with a four off Browning as India scored 110/2 in 14.2 overs. Parshavi was adjudged the Player of the Match for her three-wicket haul.

India will face the winner of the other semifinal between England and Australia.

**BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand Women 107/9 (Georgia Plimmer 35; Parshavi Chopra 3/20) lost to India Women 110/2 (Shweta Sherawat 61; Anna Browning 2/18) by 8 wickets.

# PICTURE CORNER



1 Australian players look disappointed after their loss against Germany in the first semifinal

2 A couple of fans show their match tickets wearing glasses having the shades of Germany national flag

3 The Dutch players look dejected after losing the semifinal against Belgium, Friday

4 Fans pose with the Australian national flag to show support to their team at Kalinga Stadium

5 Fans of the Netherlands pose for a group photo ahead of the team's match against Belgium