

No to privatisation

Citizens of Keonjhar oppose the government decision to manage the Government Engineering College of Keonjhar on PPP mode

STATE | P6

Putin's power-play

Former TV journalist Yekaterina Duntsova has been disqualified from running against Russian President Vladimir Putin in the upcoming election

INTERNATIONAL | P8

First Airbus A350-900

The first ever Airbus A350-900 aircraft, under the Air India flag, lands at Indira Gandhi International Airport

BUSINESS | P9

Kaur comes to rescue

Harmanpreet Kaur comes to India Women's rescue with two late wickets on a tough 3rd day of their one-off Test against Australia

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

SHORT TAKES

Credit card fraud racket busted; 6 held

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police Saturday claimed to have busted a major credit card fraud syndicate with the arrest of 6 persons, including the mastermind, identified as Biju Tripathy, 58, a resident of Pipili. Around 450 credit (and debit) cards, along with Rs 7.8 lakh cash have been seized from the syndicate members who obtained the electronic payment cards by preparing fake identity documents of hundreds of people.

Hindu temple vandalised in US

New York: A prominent Hindu temple was vandalised with anti-India graffiti in the US state of California and the police are investigating the matter as a possible hate crime. The City of Newark Police Department in Newark, Newark, California said in an emailed statement that Friday at approximately 8:35 am, they received a report of graffiti at the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu Temple.

Karnataka u-turn on lifting hijab ban

Mysuru: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Saturday clarified that the administration was only contemplating lifting the ban on wearing hijab in educational institutions in the state and a decision will be taken after holding discussions at the government level. The Congress government in the state has come under sharp criticism from the opposition BJP over the announcement on hijab.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



A wrestler has returned his Padma award, sir. Shall we give it to Brij Bhushan Singh ji?

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	27.4°C	26.6°C
Min Temp	14.8°C	14.4°C
Humidity	88%	77%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FOG/MIST IN THE MORNING

US WOMAN BORN WITH TWO UTERUSES BECAME PREGNANT IN BOTH

Double womb mom delivers 2 babies

Washington, Dec 23: In a rare incidence, a 32-year-old woman from Alabama who was born with two uteruses and became pregnant in both gave birth to twin girls on different days. Kelsey Hatcher arrived at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital December 19 for a scheduled induction for her fourth pregnancy. Many would assume Kelsey's fourth time giving birth would be a walk in the park, and some may consider her an expert since she had three prior typical, healthy pregnancies, said UAB News. However, Kelsey walked into UAB with a pregnancy classified as truly one in a million: She has a rare double uterus and was pregnant with a baby on each side. After 20 combined hours of labour, she gave birth to two girls. For Kelsey



and her family, this rarity meant double the uterus, double the labour, double the babies and double the birthdays. "Our miracle babies were born," Kelsey, who is documenting her story on her Instagram account "doublehatchlings", wrote in a post. She added that the girls "decided they were rare enough statistically that they should just go ahead and have their own birthdays too". The first one, named Roxi Layla, was

born Tuesday at 7:49pm (0149 GMT). She was joined by Rebel Laken Wednesday at 6:09 am. Doctors had estimated a Christmas due date, but the sisters arrived just in time to be at home for the holidays with their siblings. The mother and daughters have been discharged from the hospital, with Hatcher, promising to share details about the delivery in future. Hatcher knew from the age of 17 that she has "uterus didelphys," a rare congenital condition thought to affect about 0.3 per cent of people born female. "Never in our wildest dreams could we have planned a pregnancy and birth like this; but bringing our two healthy baby girls into this world safely was always the goal, and UAB helped us accomplish that," Kelsey said. "It seems appropriate that they had two birthdays, though. They both had their own 'houses,' and now both have their own unique birth stories," she added.



WINTER WONDERLAND: Koksar during snowfall, in Lahaul and Spiti district, Saturday

Ship with 21 Indians hit by drone; no casualties

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 23: A suspected drone attack on a merchant vessel with 21 Indian crew in the Arabian Sea off India's west coast caused an explosion Saturday, but there was no report of any casualties in the incident, according to military sources and a maritime agency. A P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, deployed by the Indian Navy after the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, or UKMTO, reported the incident, ascertained the safety of the vessel and its crew, Indian military sources said. The

22-member crew and the vessel, Chem Pluto, are 'safe', the Coast Guard said. An attack by Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) on a vessel 200 nautical miles South West of Veraval, India, caused 'an explosion and fire', the UKMTO said on its website. Sources said the vessel is now heading towards the nearest port. It was reportedly bringing crude oil from a port in Saudi Arabia to Mangalore port. The Navy has dispatched a frontline warship, while the Coast Guard diverted ICGS Vikram to the area where the merchant ship is located.

MASK UP AGAIN

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 23: Following the detection of a fresh Covid-19 case in the state and the spread of JN.1 variant in some parts of southern India, the Odisha government Saturday advised elderly persons and those with comorbidities to wear masks. Taking to its official 'X' handle, Odisha Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department wrote, "With the emergence of #JN1CovidVariant, #Odisha Government has advised the elderly people and those with comorbidities to wear a facemask while going out and avoid visiting crowded places. #OdishaCares."

VIRENDER SINGH TO RETURN PADMA SHRI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 23: Deaflympics gold medallist Virender Singh Yadav, better known as Goonga Pehlwan, has now decided to return his Padma Shri to the government, showing solidarity with the country's top wrestlers who have objected to the election of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh loyalist Sanjay Singh as WFI president. Throwing his weight behind Olympic bronze medallist grappler Sakshi Malik, who announced her retirement from the sport soon after Sanjay Singh's victory in the recent WFI polls, Virender said he would return the honour as a mark of protest against the election of Brij Bhushan's close aide. Bajrang Punia, one of the prominent faces of the protest against the former WFI chief, had returned his Padma Shri, Friday. "I will also return the Padma Shri for my sister and the country's daughter. Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, I am proud of your daughter and my sister Sakshi Malikkh," Virender wrote on X. He also urged the country's iconic sports personalities like Sachin Tendulkar and Neeraj Chopra to give their opinion on the issue. "I would also request the top players of the country to also give their deci-

sion," Virender said in his post, tagging cricket legend Tendulkar and Olympic champion javelin thrower Chopra. Virender had received the Padma Shri, the country's fourth highest civilian award, in 2021. Before that, he was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2015. "I am returning my Padmashree award to the Prime Minister. This is just my letter to say. This is my statement," read a post shared by the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang on X. Sanjay was elected as the president of the WFI Thursday after the panel led by him won 13 of the 15 posts. Sakshi, Bajrang and Vinesh Phogat had demanded that no close associate of Brij Bhushan should enter the WFI. The three top wrestlers had accused Brij Bhushan of sexually exploiting several women wrestlers. They had even contemplated throwing away their medals into river Ganga May 30 in Haridwar, but the farmer leaders had convinced them not to take the step. Meanwhile, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur Saturday refused to involve himself in the boiling controversy over wrestler Bajrang Punia returning his Padma Shri. "I have already spoken enough. No more comments," said Thakur at the SAI centre in Bangalore on the sidelines of a function to honour eminent athletes and Asian Games medal winners.

Valley on the boil

DEATH OF 3 CIVILIANS DURING ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS IN J&K TRIGGERS MASSIVE ROW; MOBILE INTERNET SERVICES SUSPENDED IN 2 DIST; GOVT ANNOUNCES COMPENSATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Dec 23: Tension mounted in the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri Saturday after three men died allegedly during interrogation by the Army following the killing of five soldiers in a terrorist ambush, prompting the Jammu and Kashmir government to step in swiftly and announce compensation and jobs to the kin of these civilians. Authorities suspended mobile Internet services in the two districts as a precautionary measure to check rumour-mongering and prevent any law and order problem, and senior administrative and police officers have been camping in the area to monitor the situation. In a post on X, the Information and PR department of Jammu and Kashmir said, "The death of three civilians was reported yesterday in Baffliaz of Poonch District. The medico legal formalities were conducted and legal action in this matter has been initiated by the appropriate authority." "Government has announced compensation for each of the



National Conference leaders and workers during a protest against the deaths of three civilians, in Srinagar, Saturday

deceased. Further, Government has also announced compassionate appointments to the next of kin of each deceased," it stated. The three civilians, aged between 27 and 42, were found dead Friday. Their relatives and political leaders alleged that they died due to 'custodial torture' as they were among the eight people picked up by the Army for questioning during an ongoing search operation to track down the terrorists involved in the ambush of Thursday. The Jammu and Kashmir Police are preparing an inquest report under Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which gives powers to police to

inquire and submit a report to executive magistrate when a person has died under circumstances raising a reasonable suspicion that some other person has committed an offence. This may lead to the registration of a case in the matter, officials said. The Army's public information wing tweeted Saturday saying it would extend all cooperation in the conduct of the investigation into the civilian deaths. Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Anand Jain have been camping in Poonch and are monitoring the situation, officials said. Additional police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed in sensitive pockets of the districts to maintain peace. Videos of the alleged custodial torture surfaced Friday, after which the authorities suspended mobile Internet services in the two districts, the officials said. Meanwhile, several political parties in Jammu and Kashmir Saturday staged protests and demanded an impartial probe into the death of three civilians.

CAPTURING THE BEAUTY OF ODISHA IS TRULY REWARDING.

CONGRATULATING THE WINNERS OF

Oh, My Beautiful ODISHA

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

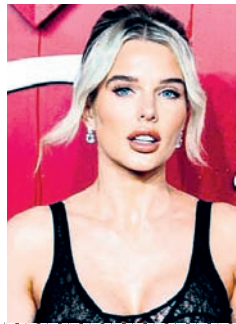
WINNERS

- Priyanka Dharua
- Udit Narayan Dhar
- Mirza Aftab
- Chandrakant Patnaik
- Arijeet Palit
- Biswa Prakash Mallik
- Motilal Kalo

- Laxmi Prasad Maharana
- Ashutosh Behera
- Dinesh Mishra
- Amiya Panda
- Sritam Kumar Sethy
- Abhishek Kumar

TPC^{ODL} | TPN^{ODL} | TPS^{ODL} | TPW^{ODL}

(A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)



FLANAGAN HINTS AT BEING SINGLE

Actress Helen Flanagan has hinted that she is single. This comes after reports of her being in a throuple with David Haye. The 33-year-old *Coronation Street* star was linked to 43-year-old boxer David earlier this month with suggestions she had folded into his relationship with girlfriend Sian Osborne, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

ACTOR RYAN O'NEAL DIED OF CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE

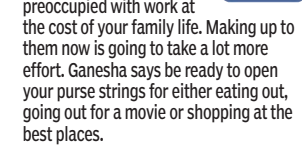
Actor Ryan O'Neal's cause of death has been officially revealed, two weeks after the actor died December 8. The *Love Story* actor died at the age of 82, reports *Mirror.co.uk*. His death was announced by his son Patrick O'Neal, 56, who shared the sad news in a post on Instagram.



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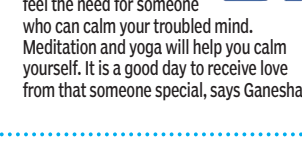
ARIES
Now at last you have realised that you have been preoccupied with work at the cost of your family life. Making up to them now is going to take a lot more effort. Ganesh says be ready to open your purse strings for either eating out, going out for a movie or shopping at the best places.



TAURUS
This day has been earmarked for beautification, a makeover, says Ganesh. You are likely to remain preoccupied with ways to enhance your looks and appearance. A new, stylish hair do, face packs and massages, trendy outfits and accessories could be in store.



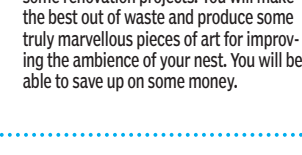
GEMINI
You will feel lonely and unwanted today. You will feel the need for someone who can calm your troubled mind. Meditation and yoga will help you calm yourself. It is a good day to receive love from that someone special, says Ganesh.



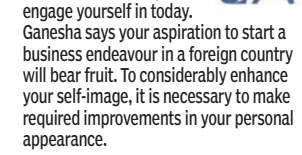
CANCER
You will succeed in a new venture and will brim with radiance and energy. Ganesh says this is the best time for get-together and kindle contact with friends and relatives.



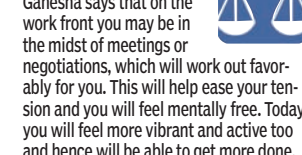
LEO
You will look to give your house a new appearance by decorating it or undertaking some renovation projects. You will make the best out of waste and produce some truly marvellous pieces of art for improving the ambience of your nest. You will be able to save up on some money.



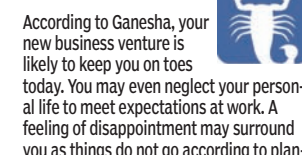
VIRGO
You will excel remarkably in whatever work you prefer to engage yourself in today. Ganesh says your aspiration to start a business endeavour in a foreign country will bear fruit. To considerably enhance your self-image, it is necessary to make required improvements in your personal appearance.



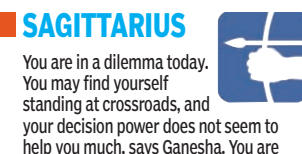
LIBRA
Ganesh says that on the work front you may be in the midst of meetings or negotiations, which will work out favorably for you. This will help ease your tension and you will feel mentally free. Today you will feel more vibrant and active too and hence will be able to get more done.



SCORPIO
According to Ganesh, your new business venture is likely to keep you on toes today. You may even neglect your personal life to meet expectations at work. A feeling of disappointment may surround you as things do not go according to planning and your efforts may go in vain. No pains, no gains reminds Ganesh.



SAGITTARIUS
You are in a dilemma today. You may find yourself standing at crossroads, and your decision power does not seem to help you much, says Ganesh. You are likely to become controversy's favourite child; this may add fuel to the fire. Be wise, and take guidance of experienced people.



CAPRICORN
God helps those who help themselves, likewise, your sincere efforts will be paid off well, today. If you're dealing with shares and stocks, it may be your day, today. Your life partner will prove to be lucky for your success, so give him/her the credit he/she deserves, suggests Ganesh.



AQUARIUS
You always see the larger picture, and desire to channelise all your energies towards making things better. Such positive approach makes you an excellent team player, and enables you to bring novel ideas and effective solutions to the table, says Ganesh.



PISCES
This day promises to be filled with much romance, laughter, and fine dining, says Ganesh. You will seem irresistible to the opposite sex. You might also find yourself falling for someone. A breathe of fresh air could waft into old relationships, or new ones could be formed. However, this is likely to be a drawn out process.



Ananya to be consistent with therapy

Mumbai: Ananya Panday is all set for the release of her upcoming film *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan* on Netflix and the actress revealed she relates 'a little too much' with the character she plays in the film. In a free-wheeling conversation, Ananya spoke about her character Ahana, her resolution for the year 2024 and much more. Talking about identifying with her character, she said, "I identify a little too much with Ahana. It feels as if Arjun was stalking me or spying on me. But I feel it was real pertaining to that particular age group. 'Ahana was dealing with some things in life, in that pocket of time, so I could relate to her a lot. But because I have lived

that character now, I feel more grown up and mature." Opening up on her resolution for 2024, Ananya said, "I will be more consistent with therapy. I started this year and want to carry it forward. It has made a big difference in my life. I want to be mentally stronger." *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*, to be released December 26, is a coming-of-age drama directed by Arjun Varain Singh. It narrates the story of three best friends who manage their goals, relationships and emotions together.



Adarsh shares his New Year resolution

Mumbai: Adarsh Gourav, who's awaiting the release of his next film *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*, a Netflix year-ender, has said that his resolution for the year 2024 is to channelise his anger in the right direction.

Baby, the film also features Ananya Panday, and Siddhant Chaturvedi in lead roles.

Much appreciated for the way he essayed his character in *The White Tiger*, the actor said, "I want to channelise my anger in the right way. I know it is a natural emotion to have but it is self-destructive. I want to channelise it effectively."

Moving on to how far he could relate to his character Neil from the film, he said, "I genuinely feel Arjun, Nandini, Karan and Zoya, when they cast us, saw the essence of each of the characters that the three of us are playing in the film. "I instantly related to Neil's feeling of inadequacy and insecurity -- the feeling of financial insecurity in the midst of the people he is surrounded by. I felt that when I first came to Mumbai. I got a culture shock. So I connected with these qualities."

Produced by Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar, Reema Kagti and Zoya Akhtar under the banners of Excel Entertainment and Tiger



Mumbai: Triptii Dimri has been drowning in the fame and stardom that her latest release *Animal* brought to her. The actress played the love interest of Ranbir Kapoor's character and immediately became the national crush of the country. In a recent interview, she shared how her life has changed after the action drama.

Triptii on how her life changed post Animal

Asked what changed for her after the release of Sandeep Reddy Vanga's film *Animal*, with a broad smile, she said, "I've been getting a lot of love from people which is always special, a beautiful feeling. And yeah, my phone has been constantly ringing, I am getting sleepless nights because you know the excitement of reading the messages it keeps you up all night. So, all is all good. I'm getting a lot of love which is always a good feeling."

In the same interview, the *Qala* actress spoke highly of her co-star Ranbir Kapoor. Dimri said that she has always been a fan of his work and how he looks at art and acting. "He's just, I feel, someone who's very honest with his performances. Whichever film you watch of his, he's too good, and that is something I want to crack also as an actor—that whatever you do is good. So, it was amazing," she divulged.



Sriti desperate to be on big screen again

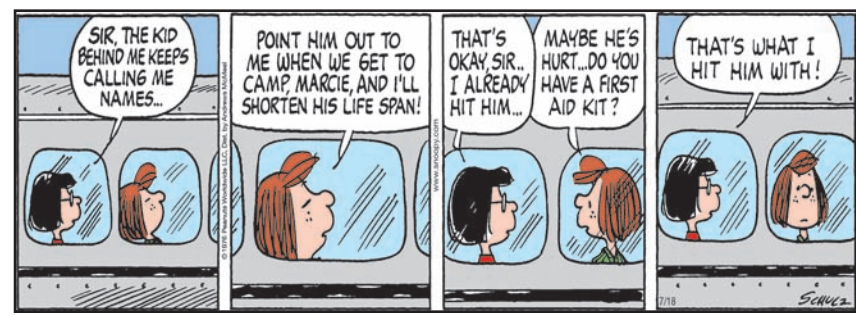
Mumbai: Sriti Jha, who made her big screen debut with Karan Johar's *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani*, says she really enjoyed the experience and there's a growing hunger inside her to be on the big screen again.

excited about it and it did feel good. There is a hunger inside me to be on the big screen again. I really hope I get an opportunity to work in a film soon."

Now playing the female lead since last month on the Zee TV show *Kaise Mujhe Tum Mil Gaye*, Sriti spoke about her co-star Arjit Taneja, on working with Karan Johar, and much more. Talking about her big screen debut, Sriti said, "I had never seen myself on the big screen so I was really

On Arjit, who is her co-star on the show and her best friend too, Sriti said, "When I came to know that Arjit is playing Virat's role, I was pleasantly surprised. The sense of comfort that I feel working with him is unparalleled. I have never felt like this in my career before." *Kaise Mujhe Tum Mil Gaye* is the story of Amruta and Virat played by Sriti and Arjit Taneja. The show has been produced by Mukta Dhond and airs on Zee TV, Monday to Friday at 10 p.m.

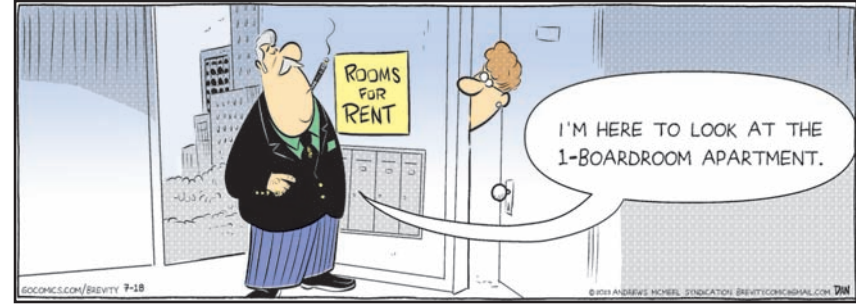
PEANUTS



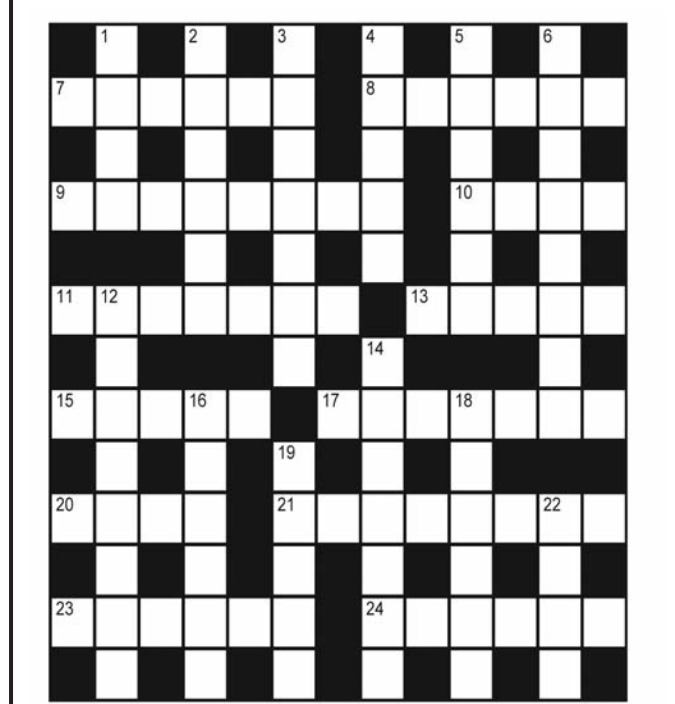
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



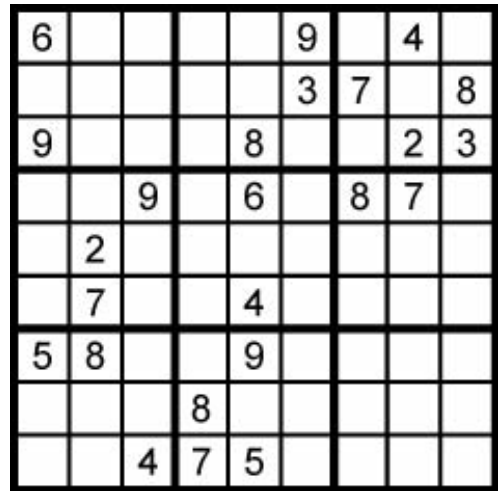
FUN post CROSSWORD



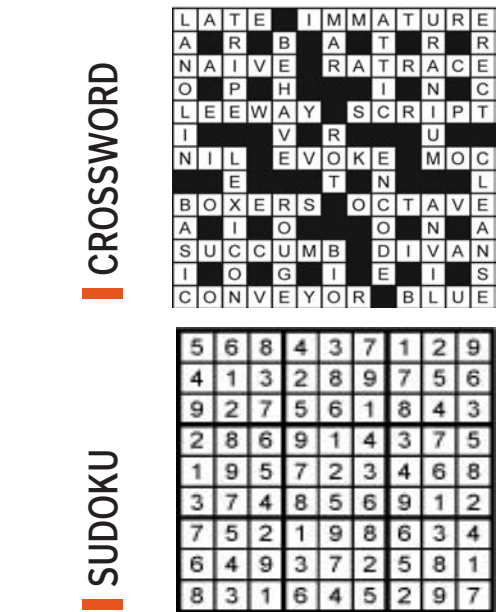
- Across**
7 Libra is part of it
8 Badger
9 Computer accessory
10 Lollygag
11 Sweet liqueur (4,3)
13 Watch part
15 In reserve
17 Oscillate
- Down**
20 Passport endorsement
21 Barbecue need
23 Chest of drawers
24 Light-sensitive membrane
3 Doubter
4 Parasol purpose
5 Panther cat
6 Enjoyable
12 Delectable
14 Competition
16 Wrapped
18 Narrate
19 Pathfinder
22 Family member

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

SHORT TAKES

Ex-Guv Rajendran passes away at 88

Bhubaneswar: Former Governor of Odisha MM Rajendran breathed his last while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Chennai, Saturday. He was 88. He is survived by his wife Suseela Rajendran, two sons and a daughter. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed deep condolence over his demise. Taking to X, Naveen said, "His long years of experience as a career bureaucrat had made him carve a niche for himself as an Administrator. He will be always remembered for his dedication and service to the people."



Fog alert: DMs asked to prevent mishaps

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 23: With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting prevalence of dense fog in various parts of the state Sunday, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu has asked all the district Collectors to heighten vigil and take measures to prevent road accidents in view of the prediction.

The SRC, in a letter to all the Collectors Friday night, asked police and transport officials of the districts to take necessary steps for controlled plying of vehicles on highways during foggy conditions to prevent any accident.

The weatherman said dense fog will prevail in Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Rayagada and Koraput districts Sunday.

Meanwhile, the state experienced a slight rise in minimum temperatures in the last 24 hours.

However, the mercury is likely to dip by 2 degrees Celsius over the next 24 hours with no significant change thereafter for a few days, the



Dense fog will prevail in Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Rayagada and Koraput districts Sunday, said the IMD

Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, said Friday.

At least 10 places in the state recorded temperatures below the 10 degrees Celsius mark in the last 24 hours, it said.

G Udayagiri in Kandhamal district recorded the lowest temperature of 5.8 degrees Celsius Saturday. The area had recorded 4 degrees Celsius Thursday and Friday.

G Udayagiri was followed by Phulbani (Kandhamal) at 7, Kirei (Sundargarh) at 7.7, Semiliguda (Koraput) and Daringbadi

(Kandhamal) at 8 each, Keonjhar at 8.8, Sundargarh at 8.9, Angul and Nabarangpur at 9 each and Bhawanipatna (Kalahandi) at 9.5 degrees Celsius, Saturday.

The twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded 14.8 and 14.4 degrees Celsius respectively, the met office said.

The weather office said dense fog was witnessed in Koraput, reducing visibility to 50 metres. Bhawanipatna, Keonjhar and Rourkela also experienced shallow to moderate fog.

Israel strikes kill 90 Palestinians

Rafah: More than 90 Palestinians, including dozens from an extended family, were killed in Israeli airstrikes on two homes, rescuers and hospital officials said Saturday, a day after the UN chief warned again that nowhere is safe in Gaza and that Israel's ongoing offensive is creating "massive obstacles" to the distribution of humanitarian aid. Also Saturday, the Israeli military said troops arrested hundreds of alleged militants in Gaza over the past week. **PH**

Death row man set free by sniffer dog

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Dec 23: A two-judge bench of Patna High Court recently set aside the death penalty awarded to a man for the rape and murder of a girl after finding that the prosecution's case was based only on the fact that a sniffer dog had entered the accused's house.

The two-member bench of Justice Ashutosh Kumar and Justice Alok Kumar Pandey said that the de-

pendency on specialisation of a sniffer dog cannot be right.

The case was reported in 2019 when a minor girl was gangraped and murdered in Bihar's Araria district.

The police brought a sniffer dog which smelt the body and then went into the house of a person who was sleeping in a locked room.

Police arrested that person on the charge of gangrape and murder. The trial court of Araria in

The two-judge bench of Patna High Court said that dependency on specialisation of a sniffer dog cannot be right

October 2021 convicted him guilty of the crime and awarded him death penalty.

The man then filed a plea in the Patna High Court.

During the hearing Friday, the double bench said that the prose-

cution has no more evidence than a sniffer dog which went inside the house of a person.

A sniffer dog cannot be the evidence and dependency on the specialisation of a sniffer dog is not right, said the court. Unless and until the court investigates the efficiency, reliability, previous performance, patterns and the capability of its handler, it would not be the solid proof, the court said.

The bench refused the argument of prosecution and immediately acquitted the accused.

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Mukta Vati & BPGrit

BPGRIT
Rejuvenates Pancreatic cells to turn Diabetics into Non-Diabetics
Madhunashini Vati & Madhugrit

MADHUNASHINI VATI EXTRAPOWER

MADHUGRIT

SWASARI GOLD
Strengthen Respiratory System to render it disease-free. For treatment of Cough, Cold and Asthma
Swasari Gold, Swasari Vati, Swasari Avaleha, Swasari Pravahi and Bronchom

SWASARI VATI

BRONCHOM

SWASARI AVALEHA

ORTHOGRIT
For repairing damaged cartilage and regulating all pain markers to rid patients of Arthritis and all other Vaat diseases
Orthogrit and Peedanil

PEEDANIL GOLD
Make the kidneys completely healthy by reversing renal disorders and chronic kidney diseases.
Renogrit and Trighan Vati

TRIGHAN VATI

Renogrit

MEMORYGRIT
For Insomnia, Tension, Depression, Migraine and Increasing Memory
Memorygrit, Medha Vati & Neurogrit Gold

MEDHA VATI EXTRAPOWER

NEUROGRIT GOLD

Nutrela

LIVOGRIT VITAL
Best for Fatty Liver, Liver Cirrhosis, Hepatitis and all diseases of the Digestive System
Livogrit Vital and Livamrit

LIVAMRIT ADVANCE

LIPIDOM
Use of allopathic medicines causes irregularity in blood profile. Reduce cholesterol naturally with Lipidom

THYROGRIT
For Thyroid

MEDOHAR VATI
To reduce 10-15 Kg body weight within a month, take Medohar Vati with Godhan Ark and Weight Go with Bottle gourd juice along with Yoga and intermittent fasting.

Weight Go

Honey
World's best and purest Honey and Chyawanprash. Consume these winter superfoods to enhance your immunity and fight diseases.

CHYAWANPRASH

All our medicines are available at Patanjali Stores, Leading Medical, Ayurvedic and others stores across India. In case of non-availability, please ask your shopkeepers to provide it. They'll definitely procure it from our distributors and provide the same.

The usage of the medicine mentioned above is suggestive in nature and it is the choice of the treatment in the management of above-mentioned diseases. Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision.

FOCUS CRISES

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED



The human species is inherently autoregressive, always looking to the recent past as the best predictor of the future

Needless Change

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' The dictionary says this is a proverbial saying whose popularity is attributed to an official in former US president Jimmy Carter's administration. It is 'used to say that one should not try to change something that is working well.' The Indian Penal Code is 150 years old. It has worked not only in India but also in the rest of South Asia. Though it calls itself an Islamic republic, almost all of post 1947 Pakistan's laws have remained the same that the British had left behind and are common to the subcontinent, going back to the Penal Code written by Thomas Macaulay in the 1830s and enforced from 1862 onwards. Even in 2023, the Indian Penal Code and the Pakistan Penal Code remain almost identical. The changes that came in after 1947 are few on either side. The natives of Lahore know what the number 144 (Section 144 which criminalises assembling of people under certain circumstances) means in law just as well as those of Chennai. The laws were familiar and they were functional. Everyone from the thanedar and the constable to the citizen knew them. For Pakistanis, just as for Indians, the law that deals with punishing murder is called 302 and the one for cheating is 420. These are numbers of the Indian Penal Code that have been used on the subcontinent even after independence in 1947. Why? Because the laws work. If there is a problem of courts clogged with cases it is not because the laws are flawed and the new laws will not change that (in fact the contrary, as we will see). If the issue is that colonial laws are unsuitable for a free nation and we need a more liberal order then also the Sanhita does not change that.



Aakar Patel

The simplest way of understanding masterstrokes is to accept they are masterstrokes and not question their necessity or wisdom

There was no demand in India that the laws be changed. We are not referring to tinkering, meaning removing and adding that which becomes necessary with changing time. We are referring to changes brought about from whole cloth. Taking down an edifice fully and dismantling it without reason. The question is of course: Why change something that is working? The answer to that we do not have and will not get. The script writers of Bollywood will need to change their dialogues and get their screen judges and cops to memorise some new numbers but deeper problems are anticipated. First that the new laws would likely increase litigation. Lawyer Sanjay Hegde has pointed out that after making bounced cheques a criminal offence, courts have been flooded with new litigation on this. Lawyer Colin Gonsalves has asked why the police were being given more arbitrary power over the citizen than even in the colonial period. Lawyer and Congressman Abhishek Manu Singhvi has asked why the non-existent (according to the government itself) phenomenon of 'love jihad' was being added to offences with a 10 year sentence. Yet others have pointed out that sedition, under a new name, remains under the penal code. The simplest way of understanding masterstrokes is to accept they are masterstrokes and not question their necessity or wisdom. Former Army Chief MM Naravane has written his memoirs and if they are allowed to be published they contain the revelation that the Agniveer scheme was a 'bolt from the blue.' Something modest by way of a short service commission that the Army had proposed was first inverted. Instead of retaining three fourths of the inductees, only one fourth would be and the rest out to pasture, retired at ages as young as 22. And the plan was extended to the Navy and Air Force, which had no inclination toward or need for this 'reform.'

Meaning it was a top-down and unexpected stroke of genius from the Prime Minister (since nobody else counts). This has changed the face of an Army that has been functioning competently since the 18th century meaning for over 200 years. Why agitate and disturb something that works? That question could also be asked of the brilliant decision to abolish currency. Who was asking for ₹1000 and ₹500 notes to be banned? Not the Reserve Bank of India, which resisted and warned, correctly as it turned out, that this was a dumb move that would damage the economy. Not the economists and not the business community and certainly not the citizens. It came because of whim. The same mentality is at work with the new criminal laws. They will not only require the judiciary, the police, the lawyers and the public to know new laws but it will also endanger settled jurisprudence on the old laws and open up all sorts of minor and major problems that currently do not exist. Precedents, the basis of Common Law, which we follow, will come undone. Whose then was asking for change? Not the judges or police or lawyers or citizens. Lawyer Sanjay Hegde has warned that once introduced, our new Sanhita will be even more disruptive than demonetisation. One hopes that this is not the case and hopes also, despite the evidence of the last decade, that adequate thought and preparation have gone into this introduction of change where none was really required. And for those who remain puzzled and still ask the question: Why are we doing this? the answer appears to lie in a mindset that believes 'it ain't broke then break it.'

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WISDOM CORNER

- Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all. EMILY DICKINSON
- The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance. ALAN WATTS
- You can have everything in life you want, if you will just help other people get what they want. ZIG ZIGLAR

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1814: Treaty of Ghent signed. The United States and Great Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium, ending the War of 1812, marking a decline of American dependence on Europe, and stimulating a sense of US nationalism.
- 1865: Ku Klux Klan created. The extremist white supremacist organisation, also known as the Klan, was created in Pulaski, Tennessee by Confederate Army veterans.
- 1914: Christmas Truce begins. A much-studied event in war and peace studies, the Christmas Truce was a brief unofficial ceasefire between British and German troops along the Western Front of World War I. During the truce, soldiers from both sides sang carols, shared food, exchanged gifts and played football (soccer). Subsequent attempts to hold similar ceasefires around Christmas time failed.
- 1951: Libya gains independence from Italy. The North African country had been ruled by Italy since 1912. After independence, it became a constitutional monarchy under King Idris. King Idris was overthrown in a military coup led by Muammar Gaddafi in 1969.
- 1979: The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan to aid the Afghan communist government in its conflict with anticommunist Muslim guerrillas during the Afghan War.



Stephen S. Roach

SHOCKS ARE HERE TO STAY, AND OUR TASK IS NOT TO PREDICT THE NEXT ONE

I have been in the forecasting business for more than 50 years. Over that period, I have heard the constant refrain that the world is in the midst of "unprecedented changes." This popular trope frequently resulted in equally hyperbolic corollaries: breathless claims that we have never faced greater risks or such an uncertain future, that forecasting has never been harder. Repeat it enough, and it starts to become believable. Confession: my crystal ball has been cracked so many times by purportedly unprecedented developments that I have lost count. The 1970s was a decade of extraordinary turmoil: the oil shock of 1973 was swiftly followed by the "Great Inflation" and a period of stagflation, setting the stage for the first seemingly unprecedented phase of the post-World War II era. The subsequent disinflation of the 1980s allowed the horror movie of the 1970s to run in reverse well into the 1990s, which came to an end with the Asian financial crisis, ushering in what was initially billed as the first crisis of globalisation. But today, we look back on these episodes as mere tremors preceding the seismic shocks to come. The information-technology revolution and the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s and early 2000s hinted at the profusion of asset bubbles that afflicted global property markets and many financial instruments, from sub-prime mortgages to broader credit flows and equities. When the music stopped, the resulting cross-border and cross-instrument contagion fuelled the global financial crisis of 2008-09 - another extraordinary upheaval for what had become, at that point, a crisis-battered world. Just when everyone thought global conditions couldn't get much worse, a once-in-a-century pandemic and extreme weather events fuelled by climate change turned conventional thinking on its head, as did the rising tide of protectionism, trade and tech wars, and a potential superpower collision between the United States and China. Add to that the outbreak of war in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and the unprecedented has become the new norm. Books on the "permacrisis" and the "polycrisis" now make the bestseller list. The cynic in me says, "Been there, done that." But just because I have plied my trade as a forecaster during a half-century of turmoil doesn't mean I have a unique understanding of what comes next. Bearing in mind Mark Twain's observation that history often rhymes, I offer three key lessons from my experience in attempting to make sense of what may lurk in the uncertain future: First, learn to expect the unexpected. The human species is inherently autoregressive, always looking to the recent past as the best predictor of the future. Policymakers are especially prone to this myopic approach - repairing flaws in systems that led to the last crisis but never considering what could spark the next one. For example, in the late 1990s, Asian economies built up large reserves of foreign-exchange reserves - a move that would have helped prevent the next Asian financial crisis but did nothing to stop the one that actually occurred, which arose from the bursting of an equity bubble. Second, there is an unmistakable continuum from one so-called unprecedented era to another. One crisis tends to beget the next. Led by the great Paul Volcker, the US Federal Reserve took tough measures to arrest the Great Inflation (as did other central banks). But despite winning the war, policymakers squandered the peace - taking interest rates far too low to preserve financial stability. Similarly, as global capital markets seized up during the Asian financial crisis, central banks discovered the miracle drug of near-zero policy interest rates. That, in turn, set the stage for the profusion of asset bubbles to come - not just equities but also bonds and credit - that culminated in the global financial crisis a decade later. Third, crises and the "extraordinary" developments they spawn are now the rule, not the exception. In recent decades, there has been an average of one catastrophe every three or four years. The Latin American debt crisis in 1982 was followed

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by the 1987 stock-market crash and the 1986-95 savings and loan crisis in the US; implosions in Japan (1990), Mexico (1995), and Asia (1997); the near-collapse of the hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management (1998); the collapse of the dot-com bubble (2000); Enron's accounting scandal (2001); the sub-prime mortgage disaster (2007); the eurozone's sovereign-debt crisis (2010), the "taper tantrum" spurred by fear of policy normalisation by the Fed (2013); a Chinese stock-market crash (2015), a US-China trade war (2018), COVID-19 (2020), and deglobalisation (2023). It is against this background that forecasters face the seemingly impossible task of predicting the future. Of course, public policymakers face an equally profound challenge: While another crisis is coming, probably sooner rather than later, aligning forward-looking policy with the pitfalls of a highly uncertain future is the functional equivalent of balancing a heavy weight on the head of a pin. But that hardly justifies self-serving excuses for policy mistakes, or portraying asset-market mispricing and economic dislocations as unavoidable accidents arising from so-called unprecedented circumstances. I have run out of patience with policymakers, corporate decision-makers, and investors who collectively throw up their hands and say, "Don't blame me." This is largely a cop-out. Shocks are here to stay, and our task is not to predict the next one - although someone always does - but to sharpen our focus on resilience. Staying the course of politically mandated policies while minimising the inevitable dislocations is easier said than done. But that is no excuse to fall for the myth of being victimised by the unprecedented.

The writer is a faculty member at Yale University.

SPECTRUM FOSSIL FUELS

The beginning of the end



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

A COMMITMENT TO TOTALLY MOVE AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS IS NOT EASY TO ACCOMPLISH

As temperatures around the world have been soaring to unprecedented levels unleashing a flurry of climate-related disasters like wildfires, flash floods, intensifying cyclones and many more, the COP28 climate summit in Dubai concluded with many positive outcomes. In a historic and comprehensive document called the UAE consensus, around 70,000 delegates from 198 stakeholder countries joined together to identify for the first time that fossil fuels were indeed the major culprit for the current climate crisis and called for a transition away from the fossil fuels in an orderly, just and equitable manner with a goal to achieve the net zero status by 2050. This is despite the initial hesitation from some oil-producing countries including the UAE itself with the President of the Summit, Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber, reportedly voicing concern over the scientific rationale of the fossil fuel link to the climate crisis. Having reached the consensus, the big question that now lurks in everybody's mind is by how much it will be delivered in action in the light of the fact that most of the previous sum-

mits, from Copenhagen to Madrid to Glasgow, were basically non-performers. However, a commitment to totally move away from fossil fuels is not easy to accomplish as an estimated 80% of the world's total energy production is based on fossil fuel sources like coal, petroleum and natural gas. It is the fossil fuel that triggered the Industrial Revolution in the eighteenth century ushering in a world of rapid economic growth leading to a better quality of life. However, it is lamenting to note that the world has not done anything significant to find solutions to economically viable alternative green sources of energy. The harnessing of energy from solar sources using photovoltaic technology is too expensive due to very high investment costs. Similarly, other renewables like wind, tidal, hydel, geothermal, and biomass are quite difficult to harness and, hence, gather no steam. The nuclear option, although a clean one, also has its own limitations owing to the limited abundance of nuclear fuels like uranium in nature. The fossil fuels, on the other hand, are so easy to access and handle that they have gained wide popu-

larity in these 300 years of time so much so that these are now almost impossible to relinquish. A climate justice can be delivered only when developed nations extend adequate financing and technology transfer to developing ones to achieve a smooth transition from a fossil fuel economy to a non-fossil fuel status. This will ensure their long-term growth and sustainable development by strengthening their climate resilience. Moreover, the poor nations are to be adequately compensated for climate-induced disasters they have been battling for decades as a result of the vigorous industrialisation activities of their developed counterparts. For a developing country like India, it is not possible to abandon fossil fuel with immediate effect or as fast as the US could do for example, as most of the electricity production in our country is still coal-based thermal power. Hence, to be true to the word 'just' as envisaged in the consensus, an abandonment has to first come from developed nations which should be followed by developing ones in a reasonable timeframe. It is imperative that phasing out fossil fuels will require the

exploration of new alternative renewable sources of energy which are clean and green and also the use of energy-efficient devices for cutting down wastage. The UAE consensus encourages parties to triple their renewables and double energy efficiency by 2030. The agreement to set up a \$450 million 'Loss and Damage' fund to serve as a compensation measure to vulnerable communities of poor countries falling victims to the climate crisis was a move in the right direction. The unprecedented consensus reflects a paradigm shift in climate action in terms of inclusivity, collaboration and empowerment. Under these circumstances, although the days of fossil fuels are numbered, the world is eagerly awaiting to see how fast the implementation can happen. With the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel reign, days are not far when we will see the lost spring coming back again with crickets dancing and the cuckoo's sound reverberating in a soothing afternoon breeze!

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

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

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Time to mask up

Sir, This refers to "22 cases of JN.1 found so far, Kerala woman recovers," Orissa POST, Dec 23. The rapidly increasing spread of the JN.1 variant across the globe has led to the prevalence of this variant, a descendant of the BA.2.86 Omicron lineage, reaching over 27%, marking an eight-fold increase in just a month. Like other Omicron sublineages, the JN.1 variant too has high transmissibility. The winter season in the northern hemisphere will thus make it easier for the virus to spread. Despite increased immune escape capability and transmissibility, no major outbreak has been reported so far. Based on available limited evidence, the global health body has noted that JN.1 is not associated with increased disease severity compared with other circulating variants. Evidence from countries that have reported a surge in cases and hospitalisations driven by the JN.1 variant does not suggest higher fatality. In the last fortnight, India has registered a sharp increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. While universal masking should surely not be made mandatory at this point in time, it is highly desirable that high-risk individuals mask up especially in poorly ventilated closed spaces as COVID-19 deaths in people with comorbidities are still being reported in India. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Educated & unemployed

Sir, Behind the viral images and discussions on the recent security breach in the Parliament, there lies an important and ignored story of India's educated unemployment. The intruders did meet online and did conspire to enter the Parliament and sprayed relatively harmless yellow smoke inside. However, by reprimanding the accused under the UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act), we are missing the key issue that they were trying to raise. While we see the problem of India's educated unemployment, which runs into several lakhs as per reports from the Labour Department and the Human Resource Development Ministry, these educated unemployed youths do occasionally find the guts to rear the heads and draw their attention towards themselves as the security breach in the Parliament suggests. Our netas must understand that they need to seriously address the real and larger issue of the unemployment of the educated youth. Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Cops crack cyber fraud; 6 held



DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 23: In a major haul, Commissionerate Police seized 450 credit and debit cards, along with a cash amount of Rs 7.8 lakh from a person, who allegedly impersonated hundreds of people and transacted from their bank accounts money to the tune of several crores. The accused, Biju Tripathy, 58, a native of Pipili has been arrested, along with other accomplices, including Prasanjit Dash, Pradeep Kumar Samantara, Mukesh Mantri, Abdul Rahman and Rajesh Das. Giving more details, Bhubaneswar DCP, Prateek Singh said Saturday, that a complainant, Rakesh Kumar had lodged a case last week, alleging that a fake credit card has been

During raid at the residence of accused, Biju Tripathy, police found 6 mobile phones, 450 credit cards, 50 cheque books, 78 passbooks, 3 bags of transacted money receipts and 6 cash swiping machines

issued in his name by a miscreant. The complainant came to know this when he approached the bank for a loan, and was surprised to learn that an amount of Rs 1,40,000 lakh was deducted in a newly issued credit card in his name, he added. As police swung into action, it found prima facie that the accused, Prasanjit Dash, regularly used to retrieve personal credentials of victims and shared them with another accused, Pradeep Kumar Samantara, who is also a bank employee at ICICI bank. Subsequently, Pradeep used to process these details for issuing a new credit card under several other individuals' name. The primary investigation of the police has unveiled that, Biju Tripathy, the main conspirator, used to keep account of detailed

transactions made with every credit card. At regular intervals, Biju used to visit, Abdul Rahman and Rajesh Das, who were working at accounts section of a private hospital, and fraudulently transact money against the issued credit cards. DCP Singh also informed that the search raid at Biju's residence found 6 mobile phones, 450 credit cards, 50 cheque books, 78 passbooks, 3 bags of transacted money receipts and 6 cash swiping machines. The Commissionerate Police has booked six accused individuals under sections 419, 420, 467, 468 and 34 of IPC provisions along with Section 66 (D) of IT act. The accused has been produced before a local court today, said an official.



GRACEFUL MOVES: Artistes perform at the first Prabasi Nritya Sangam organised at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

ORISSA SALES TAX ACT SC to hear case Jan 9

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Dec 23: A seven-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court will decide appeals from Odisha challenging the validity of Section 5A of Orissa Sales Tax Act, 1947 after a period of 29 years, January 9, 2024. The Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud will hear the case. Earlier in October, the Supreme Court had said that it would keep the pleas for directions immediately to see if the matter survives. "We will keep it for directions immediately to see if the matter survives. If it doesn't then we will close it since it is now a legacy issue," the Constitution bench had said. Significantly, the court was hearing a petition filed by Arjun Flour Mills in 1994 challenging the validity of section 5A of the Orissa Sales Tax Act, 1947. The primary question to decide in the matter is whether a surcharge can be imposed on sales tax. The apex court in October 1999 had referred the case to a bench of seven judges for consideration. The papers and proceedings may be placed before the Chief Justice for appropriate directions, the court had said.

CM to tribal students: Excel in chosen careers



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 23: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday urged students of tribal communities to excel in studies and their chosen careers by utilising opportunities presented by schemes of the state government that have enabled them to avail education in mother tongue and computer skills. The CM asked the students to cultivate knowledge about their culture, traditions and values while pursuing their day-to-day studies. Understanding these aspects would enable them to make more valuable contributions to society, state and the nation, he said while addressing the state-level felicitation ceremony of Zonal Sargiful, 2023 winners here, Saturday. "Achieving personal success in life is great, but when we accomplish something unique for

our state and nation it adds greater meaning and success to our lives," Patnaik said as he extended his best wishes to the participants. Addressing the gathering, ST & SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Jagannath Saraka said, "The two zonal-level Sargiful-2023 events held in Sundargarh and Gajapati have shown innovative ways to explore the talents of students from across the state." Similarly, School and Mass Education, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marandi said, "There was a time when I was also a student in a tribal school, but then opportunities to explore the talents of students were scarce. However, through the initiatives of the Chief Minister, especially English language education, there has been a sea-change in success of tribal kids." Department commissioner-cum-secretary Roopa Roshan Sahoo said, "During Sargiful, 2023, all 30 districts were grouped into two zones, Gajapati and Sundargarh. Over 1,300 students participated, engaging in more than 18 workshops and 13 competitions."

KIIT Int'l School holds 17th annual day celebrations

Bhubaneswar: KIIT International School organised its 17th annual day celebrations 'IKIGA' here, Friday. The event was inaugurated by KIIT & KISS president Saswati Bal. Joining the event as the chief guest, KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta, in his address, threw light on school's remarkable growth and underlined the school's efforts in special child education, asserting its significance as a beacon in nurturing students in the current age of knowledge and holistic development. School chairperson Monalisa Bal pointed out the innate qualities within every child, advocating for the cultivation of higher thinking coupled with multi-faceted abilities. School principal Sanjay Suar presented the annual report while the founder released the CARINAE platform. Exceptional students who excelled in academic and sports events at home and on the international stage were felicitated.



18 teams play in 14th CCCL

Bhubaneswar: On 2nd day of the 14th Charitable Corporate Cricket League (CCCL), being organised at the HITech Medical College ground here Saturday, several teams from corporate houses participated in friendly cricket matches. The teams included those from PPL, Sunshine Hospital, HYSCALE, ODM, Media XI, Acre Rise, Vedanta, Chubb, JSPL, ABFRL, Motwani Construction, KHMJI Group, Canara Bank, IDBI Bank, ABFRL and OMC. The 2nd day the event, being organised to bring together corporate teams in a friendly competition, fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, and networking among professionals, was inaugurated by Pradeep Ghoshal of TPCODL. A total of 18 corporate teams have been participating in this league organised by We4You Bhubaneswar. The matches have been exciting and engaging, showcasing the cricketing talent within the corporate community in Bhubaneswar.

Nasreen's biopic to be screened at Cuttack event

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 23: Kho-Kho Federation of India Saturday announced that a biopic on Nasreen Shaikh will be screened during the opening ceremony of the 'Ultimate Kho-Kho' tournament, scheduled to be held in Cuttack from Sunday. Nasreen, who was recently named for the prestigious Arjuna Award in the sport of Kho-Kho, has become a source of pride and inspiration for those aspiring to succeed in this sport. To celebrate Nasreen's outstanding achievement and to further support the ongoing campaign of the Kho-Kho Federation of India, which aims to empower economically deprived children by involving them in the sport, a biopic is in the works, centred on Nasreen's inspirational journey.



In a world where challenges seem insurmountable, Nasreen Shaikh found strength in her unwavering spirit. Raised in the face of adversity, Nasreen's unwavering determination led her to the Arjuna Award, a testament to her relentless hard work and capabilities. Her story is a beacon of hope, demonstrating that courage can triumph over life's trials.

Nasreen's journey, rooted in the streets of Delhi where her father sold utensils to make ends meet, is a testament to her unwavering determination. It was during these challenging times that Nasreen discovered the sport of Kho-Kho, and under her captaincy, India clinched the gold medal in the South Asian Games, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The announcement of the upcoming biopic, which will focus on Nasreen's extraordinary life and achievements, will be a highlight of the inauguration ceremony of 'Ultimate Kho Kho,' the second edition of the Kho-Kho League, set to be held in Cuttack.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Berhampur, vide No.- A1558 dated 22.12.2023 I, VENERABLE DHAMMASUBODHI THERO, S/o Narasingh Behera, At: Kanchuru, P.S.: Hinjili, District: Ganjam of Odisha have changed my name from Bhante Dhamma Bodhi to VENERABLE DHAMMASUBODHI THERO. Henceforth, I shall be known as VENERABLE DHAMMASUBODHI THERO for all purpose.

LOST

Notice is hereby given from Sri Paresh Kumar Dash that at present, I have lost the Original RSD No. 4427, Plot No.- 649/2061, which was kept in my hand bag while travelling from Badasankha to Market Chhaka, Puri in my bike on dated 15.12.2023 and despite my best efforts. I failed to trace the same. Therefore, if any body has found the same, Please contact with Mobile No.- 9892509101.

Seminar held on career opportunity

Bhubaneswar: A seminar on 'Business Analytics: A Career Opportunity' was held at UN Autonomous College of Science and Technology, Adaspur in collaboration with Interscience Institute of Management & Technology (IIMT), Kantabada. College Principal Arun Kumar Swain presided over the seminar. Joining the seminar as chief guest, IIMT Director Srikanta Patnaik said that business analytics create career



opportunities for the students by analysing data on crime records of individuals, credit appraisal of loan on bank statement, pathology report of patient, working activities undertaken by employees and rendering report on incident in systematics. In present time, students should study data science for building their career, he added. Commerce HOD Laxmidhar Sahoo said that students should opt for management studies for building their career and getting employment. Jagamohan Pattanaik, Dean, Admin and Student Welfare, IIMT, said students should not run after government jobs, rather they should set up startups so that everyone can be entrepreneur and can provide employment to others.

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AM/NS India is proud to once again sponsor the Odisha Juggernauts as they continue their strong run in Season 2 of Ultimate Kho Kho.

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ULTIMATE KHO KHO

December 24, 2023 – January 13, 2024
J. N. Indoor Stadium, Cuttack

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Supporters of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro storm the Ministries Esplanade in Brasilia, Brazil after the inauguration of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who defeated Bolsonaro in a runoff election



Anti-war protesters raise their "bloody" hands behind US Secy of State Antony Blinken during a Senate hearing on President Biden's \$106 billion funding request to support Israel and Ukraine on Capitol Hill in Washington DC



Palestinian woman Inas Abu Maamar, 36, embraces the body of her 5-year-old niece Saly, who was killed in an Israeli strike, at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, October 17



People wait in the rain to receive free food distributed from volunteers outside a camp for people displaced from coastal areas in Sujawal, Pakistan, June 15, as Cyclone Biparjoy was approaching

If a picture is worth a thousand words, these are the compelling stills that tell the narrative of 2023. The year saw life, death, and the struggle in between -- to protect loved ones, to navigate a warming and changing planet, to escape strife and oppression -- as the world juggled with wars that have just begun, wars that continue & wars already almost forgotten. As Aristotle said, the soul never thinks without a picture, Orissa POST presents the time-capsules that bring into the canvas of our mind the myriad spectrum of human experience, making us ponder what a poignant year we all lived...



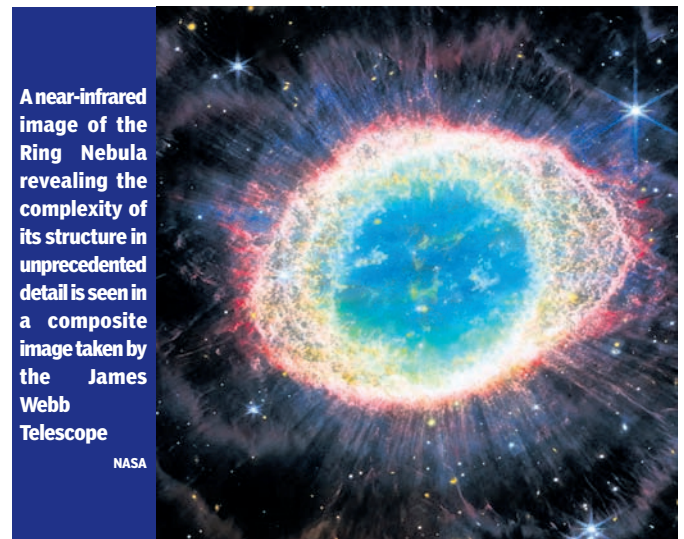
An off-duty member of Israel's security forces joins worshippers at the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, Nov. 14, 2023. Tens of thousands of Israeli reservists had been called up for action for the war against Hamas



This booking photo of former US President Donald Trump was taken in Atlanta after he was booked on more than a dozen charges stemming from his efforts to reverse Georgia's 2020 election results. He is the first former US president with a mug shot



Palestinians inspect the rubble of the Yassin mosque after it was hit by an Israeli airstrike at the Shati refugee camp in Gaza City



A near-infrared image of the Ring Nebula revealing the complexity of its structure in unprecedented detail is seen in a composite image taken by the James Webb Telescope



Abdulaim Muaini lies under the rubble next to the body of his wife Esra, in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake in Hatay, Turkey, February 8



A tribal woman tries to catch small fish as her granddaughter dozes on her back in a paddy field in Assam, India



The 'Motherland' monument is seen through a tattered tarpaulin, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv. Kyiv replaced the communist symbol on the shield of the Soviet-era monument earlier this year with the Ukrainian national emblem



King Charles and Queen Camilla pass protesters as they travel by carriage to the State Opening of Parliament in London, Britain, November 7



Workers install lighting on an X sign atop the San Francisco headquarters of the company formerly known as Twitter



Anastasia, 4, stands next to an artwork of the famous street artist Tboy in the town centre, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Bucha, outside Kyiv, Ukraine



Israeli soldiers take positions near the Gaza border in southern Israel before a raid



Indian wrestlers Sangeeta Phogat (L) and Vinesh Phogat (C) are detained by the police while attempting to march to India's new parliament, just as it was being inaugurated, during a protest against Brij Bhushan Singh, the WFI chief, over allegations of sexual harassment and intimidation, in New Delhi on May 28



Hindu devotees daubed in colour throw a fellow devotee in the air as they celebrate Holi, the festival of colours, at a temple premises in Salangpur in the western state of Gujarat, India



The hall of the historic Waiola Church and the nearby Lahaina Hongwanji Mission are engulfed in flames in Lahaina, Hawaii



Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system intercepts rockets launched from the Gaza Strip, as seen from the city of Ashkelon, Israel



A woman transports the coffin of her son, who was killed while fighting Russian soldiers, across the Siverskiy Donets river, Ukraine



Palestinians enjoy a day on the beach in Gaza City before the beginning of war



Girls attend the first day of school in Kabul, Afghanistan. But high school remained closed for girls for the second year since the Taliban returned to power



A man talks on his phone as he looks through smoke from wildfires in Canada at the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee



A Palestinian girl reacts as a child is carried from the rubble of a building after an airstrike in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip



A man talks on his phone as he looks through smoke from wildfires in Canada at the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee

VFR facility soon at Rourkela Airport



RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Dec 23: The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has planned to train four air traffic control officers posted at Rourkela Airport and provide them with special visual flight rules (VFR) training so as enable them to handle approaching aircraft during landing in any weather conditions.

The four ATC officials were identified as David Topno, Amit Tigga, N Muralidhar, and Akhilesh Kumar of the airport. All of them have undergone aerodrome controller (ADC) training at different domestic and international airports of the country.

They will be provided with one day of training at Rourkela

by Saroj Kumar Sahu, AGM (ATC) December 26. After the practical training, they will go to Bhubaneswar for further verification, which will be over by January 2, 2024.

The VFR training will not cost much to the AAI and the persons will be able to land a plane with 1,500 meters of visibility. Jeypore and Utkela airports already have VFR-trained staff.

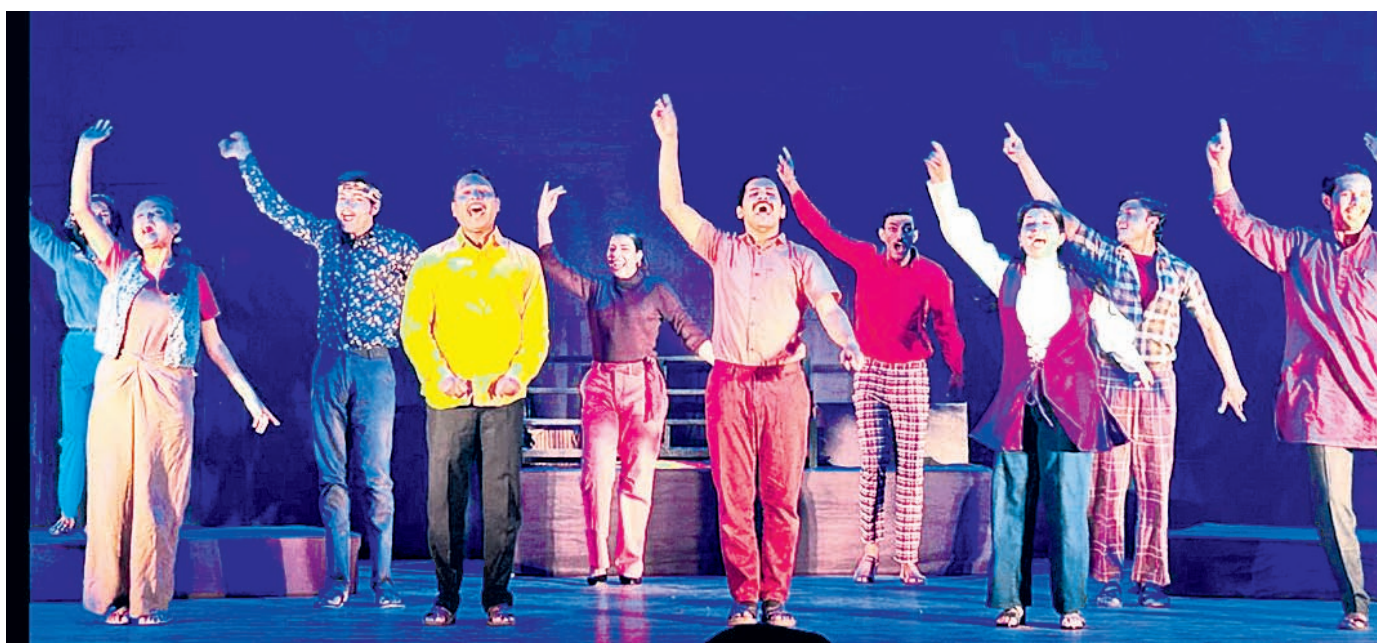
However, only the 19-seater plane can land in these airports as their runways are much smaller in comparison to Rourkela airport. At Rourkela, the capacity is much larger and in future with a 1,800-meter runway the airport will be able to handle the landing of more than 100-seater capacity flights.

The development has come

after Usha Padhee, principal secretary of state Commerce and Transport department wrote to Nibedita Dubey, Regional Director of AAI, Eastern Region December 14. The letter specially made request for establishment of an approach control unit at Rourkela Airport for the approval of a special VFR.

The benefit of the VFR is almost free of cost apart from the training. However, the Rourkela Airport requires an instrument landing system (ILS), so that larger planes can land during nighttime. The ILS, apart from its installation cost requires ₹2 crores for annual maintenance.

Reacting to this, Bimal Bisi, the president of the Sachetana Nagarika Mancha and former secretary of the Steel Executive Federation of India (SEFI) said, "We welcome this move. However, our fight will continue for installation of ILS at Rourkela Airport. Without the ILS Rourkela Airport will not be able to operate bigger flights. Our city is poised to become an IT hub in near future and the efforts will suffer due to lack of ILS."



MESMERISING ACT: Artistes from Bhopal staging a Hindi play 'Prem Patang' on the second evening of Natyarashmi Prafulla Rath Smaraki National Theatre Festival held at Town Hall in Bhawanipatna, Saturday

Elderly man gets 20-yr jail for rape of minor girl

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Dec 23: Additional District & Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge (POCSO) court of Kendrapara Pranati Patnaik has sentenced a sexagenarian to 20 years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) for raping a 12-year-old girl.

The judge also imposed a fine of ₹3,000 on the convict for his involvement in raping a minor girl, said Manoj Kumar Sahoo, the

Special Public Prosecutor of the Special Judge (POCSO) Court of Kendrapara, Friday.

According to the prosecution, the FIR at Kendrapara Sadar police station May 19, alleging that while her daughter was returning from the shop, accused Prahallad Behera called her, offered bananas and fruits, and raped her.

The accused threatened to kill her daughter if she disclosed the

matter to anyone. The minor girl later disclosed the matter to her mother.

The Sadar police later registered a case against the accused under Section 376(2)(n), 376-AB, 506 of the IPC, Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and arrested him.

While adjudicating the case the judge sentenced the man to 20 years RI and a fine of ₹3,000

after verifying the evidence and hearing the testimony of witnesses. The judge further ordered that, in default of the fine amount, the convict would undergo RI for another six months.

The court also directed that the entire fine amount of ₹3000 be paid to the victim after recovery as per the provision under Section 357(1) of CrPC, Special Public Prosecutor Manoj Kumar Sahoo said.

Robbers' gang busted; 6 held

Bhadrak: Sabarang police in this district successfully busted a robbery racket involved in many looting activities in Bhadrak and Balasore districts and arrested six persons, Bhadrak SDPO Sourav Otta said in a press conference organised at Sabarang police station, Saturday. The arrested accused included five robbers and a jewellery shop owner who illegally purchased stolen jewellery from the gang members. All the accused were arrested Friday night and forwarded to court Saturday. According to sources, armed robbers barged into the house of one Kamalakanta Nayak of Chandigaon village under Sabarang police limits and looted gold jewellery and ₹8,000 in cash December 14 night. In another robbery attempt the same night, armed miscreants looted gold and cash from the house of one Nabaghana Rout of the same village. A written complaint was lodged by Kamalakanta at Sabarang police station in this regard. Police then started an investigation after registering a case (284/23). Acting on a tip-off, police seized the looted gold from the jeweller Ramakanta's possession and during questioning he confessed that he had purchased the gold from the arrested accused.

Ponzi firm director gets 7-yr RI



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 23: OPID Court, Balasore Saturday held Prince Kumar, the director of Digital Revolution Technologies Limited, guilty of duping hundreds of investors by giving false assurances of high returns under different schemes involving various digital products.

The court while holding Prince Kumar guilty U/s 406/420/467/468/471/120-B IPC, Sec. 66

The company used forged documents to cheat the investors spread in Maharashtra, Bihar, UP, Delhi, West Bengal, Odisha and Chhattisgarh

used forged documents to cheat the investors of IT Act, Sec. 4/5/6 of Prize Chits & Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act & Sec 6 of Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors Act, sentenced him to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) for 7 years and imposed fine of ₹3,33,000.

The court further ruled that in default of fine, the accused Prince Kumar will undergo further imprisonment of one year.

The Economic Offences Wing

(EOW) of Bhubaneswar arrested Prince Kumar, a resident of Muzaffarpur, Bihar, May 18, 2022 and a prime accused in the case from Brindaban, Mathura in Uttar Pradesh.

The company used forged documents to cheat the investors. The invested money is far higher as the company has victims spread in many states especially in Maharashtra, Bihar, UP, Delhi, West Bengal, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

Prince Kumar, EOW sources said, had given false assurances to the investors that investment amount would be double within one year and could be able to induce the investors to invest in the company although the company has no commensurate/real business activity to pay high returns.

He also used glamorous propaganda using website, YouTube, Facebook and conducted meetings at Balasore and Bhadrak to convince the gullible investors. During investigation, it was found that the deposits collected by the company under the cover of Direct Digital Marketing are nothing but Ponzi schemes.

Citizens decry privatisation of Govt Engineering College

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Dec 23: Citizens of Keonjhar district have opposed the government decision to manage the Government Engineering College of Keonjhar in public private partnership (PPP) mode.

Sources said after taking the decision, the Skill Development and Technical Education department has written a letter Monday to the Information and Public Relation department to invite a request of proposal for DEA empanelled transaction advisor for providing advisory services for the above college through PPP. After this letter was issued, many civil societies in Keonjhar district expressed their

strong resentment.

According to sources, the college is conceived in the campus of Orissa School of Mining Engineering, Keonjhar with a single subject that is mining under the Ministry of Industry. Later it was closed in 1999. After several protests, the admissions again started from the year 2001 as self-financing Engineering Degree College. Later other subjects were opened.

After several student strikes and local movements the college got government status as 'Government College of Engineering' and moved to its own building located near Dhrupada of Keonjhar. After several demands, the infrastructure of the college has been expanded with

crores of rupees. Instead of enriching the quality of technical education, the management is trying to privatise it, sources added.

According to the college sources, there are about 1,500 students studying in Mining, Mineral, Civil, Mechanical, Computer Science, Metallurgy and Electrical streams. Due to shortage of staff and other issues many student movements are taking place. At present, the college is running with only 19 permanent faculties including the principal, 17 contractual and 20 guest faculties.

It is the only government engineering college in northern Odisha. "This is the first step to operate the college in PPP mode by inviting bids to engage advisory services.

The college has faced several struggles to become a government institute from a self-financing college. Hence the government should operate the college under its management," said Amit Das Mohapatra, ex-student and member of Board of Governors.

"The government is trying to encourage privatisation of education like other sectors. We protest such steps of the state government. We have seen failure of PPP mode in health, communication and other sectors. Instead of this, the government should ensure better education with engaging better faculties, facilities for the students" said Ajay Sahu, President Citizen Forum, Keonjhar.

Hopes soar high for bridge on Gobari as diver examines soil

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Dec 23: Hopes soared high for construction of a bridge on river Gobari connecting Chandiapali with Mahakalapara block in Kendrapara district after a diver went inside the crocodile infested river for soil examination.

The bridge between Chandiapali and Mahakalapara block will connect 10 riparian panchayats and will be constructed at a plan outlay of ₹47 crore.

The foundation stone for the bridge was laid by the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in 2016. The construction of the bridge got delayed as the consultancy agency dilly-dallied in starting the works.



department floated a fresh tender. In the bid, a Noida based agency Naren Das Construction Pvt Ltd was awarded the contract at a cost of ₹47 crore. Later, the agency started the construction works.

Meanwhile, an international scuba diver Rajendra Nayak went inside the crocodile infested river in a protective iron fence and examined the soil on the bottom of the river to further proceed on the bridge construction, Friday.

Provided with oxygen, he remained inside the river for over an hour and examined the soil in various parts of the riverbed. Notably, Rajendra has successfully performed scuba diving in Qatar, Dubai and other countries.

However, when important tests are being conducted for the bridge construction, senior officials' absence at the site has sparked resentment among the people. Efforts to contact the higher-ups of Works department over phone failed to yield any result.

KVB Karur Vysya Bank Smart way to bank	THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD., Aska Branch Binayak Bazar, Besides Sree Jewellers Aska, Orissa, 761110	POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
Issued under [Rule 8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002		
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED , under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 05.10.2023 calling upon 1) Sri Sai Sudha Pharmaceuticals (Borrower) , At Holding No H No: 113/58 Bani Vihar, Aska Ganjam Odisha - 761110 2) Mr Sivaram Rath (Borrower) , At Holding No H No: 113/58 Bani Vihar, Aska Ganjam Odisha - 761110 and 3) Smt. Sabita Rath (Guarantor) , Bani Vihar 2nd Lane, P/5/T/5: Aska, Dist: Ganjam Odisha - 761110, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.7,28,309.59 (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Nine and Paise Fifty Nine Only) together with further interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.		
The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 21st day of December of the year 2023 .		
The borrowers/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED for an amount of Rs.7,28,309.59 (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Nine and Paise Fifty Nine Only) and interest thereon, cost and expenses.		
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.		
Description of the Immovable Property		
All that piece and parcel lying and situated at KHATA No. 57, PLOT No. 323, MEASURING ABOUT AC.0.233DC, Two storied House SITUATED IN NORTHERN ROW OF MAJHI SAHI, BANI VIHAR, VILL/MOUZA- KHAMBESWARIPATNA UNDER SRO/TAHASIL-ASKA, BEARING N.A.C. HOLDING NO. 113/58 IN WARD NO. 2, ASKA, GANJAM, ODISHA-761110.		
On the North: N.A.C. NALA (DRAIN) On the South: BANI VIHAR MAJHI SAHI DANDA (ROAD)		
On the East: SITE OF SAHASRANAMA TRIPATHY On the West: SITE OF SAROJINI NANDA		
Place: ASKA Date: 21.12.2023 Authorized Officer The Karur Vysya Bank Limited		

KVB Karur Vysya Bank Smart way to bank	THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD., Cuttack Branch Plot No.1254/P, Bajrakabati Road, Near Board School, Bajrakabati Road, Cuttack Orissa-753001	POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
Issued under [Rule 8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002		
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED , under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 23.08.2023 calling upon 1) Mrs. Nayana Mahapatra , Guarantor as well as Legal Heir and Wife of Late Fakir Charan Mohapatra (Borrower), Plot No-32, Ananta Vihar, Naya Bazar, Mahanadihar, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha-753004 2) Mr. Anup Kumar Mohapatra , Legal Heir and Son of Late Fakir Charan Mohapatra (Borrower), Plot No-32, Ananta Vihar, Naya Bazar, Mahanadihar, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha-753004 3) Mr. Arup Kumar Mohapatra , Legal Heir and Son of Late Fakir Charan Mohapatra (Borrower), Plot No-32, Ananta Vihar, Naya Bazar, Mahanadihar, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha-753004 4) Mr. Swarup Kumar Mohapatra , Legal Heir and Son of Late Fakir Charan Mohapatra (Borrower), Plot No-32, Ananta Vihar, Naya Bazar, Mahanadihar, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha-753004 5) Mrs. Bishnupriya Senapati , Legal Heir and Daughter of Late Fakir Charan Mohapatra (Borrower), Plot No-32, Ananta Vihar, Naya Bazar, Mahanadihar, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha-753004 and 6) Mr. Rajendra Kumar Mohapatra , Guarantor as well as Legal Heir and Wife of Late Fakir Charan Mohapatra (Borrower), Plot No-32, Ananta Vihar, Naya Bazar, Mahanadihar, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha-753004 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.6,16,972.82 (Rupees Six Lakh Sixteen Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Two and Paise Eighty Two Only) together with further interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.		
The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 20th day of December of the year 2023 .		
The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED for an amount of Rs.6,16,972.82 (Rupees Six Lakh Sixteen Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Two and Paise Eighty Two Only) and interest thereon, cost and expenses.		
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.		
Description of the Immovable Property		
All that piece and parcel of homestead land building situated at District-Cuttack DSRO-Cuttack Sabik Settlement Thana No.68, Vill-Kanheipur, Stitiban Khata No.30, Area A0.24Dec. 4 Kadi Plot No.32(P) now appertaining to Hal Settlement Thana No.68, Vill-Kanheipur, Hal Khata No.242/358 Plot No.32/1147 Area A0.24D.4K.out of which Ac.A0.04D.06G having rented Rs.2.15, standing in the name of Late Fakir Charan Mohapatra and property is butted and bounded:		
On the North: Janaki Ballav Satapathy On the South: Natabara Ghadei		
On the East: Plot No-33 On the West: Nayana Mahapatra and others		
Place: Cuttack Date: 20.12.2023 Authorized Officer The Karur Vysya Bank Limited		

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB), Plot No.: 778, First Floor, Maharshi College Road, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar- 751007	POSSESSION NOTICE [RULE-8(1)] For Immovable Property
Publication of Notice regarding possession of Properties u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act, 2002	
Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice under section 13(2) was issued on the date mentioned against below accounts and stated hereinafter calling upon the following Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower 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 properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Act on the date mentioned against below accounts. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India , for an amount stated below with interest, costs and expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.	
Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Description of the Properties Mortgaged / Charged
Borrower: M/s. Sweta Marketing, Partners: 1) Kanchada Goutam Subudhi, S/o.: Sri Kanchada Sivanarayan Subudhi, 2) Smt. Kanchada Soudamini, W/o.: Sri Kanchada Sivanarayan Subudhi. Guarantors: 1) Kanchada Goutam Subudhi, S/o.: Sri Kanchada Sivanarayan Subudhi, 2) Sri Kanchada Sivanarayan Subudhi, 3) Kanchada Raghunatham Subudhi, Both are S/o.: Kanchada. Rama Chandra Rao, 4) Smt. Kanchada Soudamini, W/o.: Sri Kanchada Sivanarayan Subudhi	Property-1) All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Berhampur, Tahasil: Berhampur, Dist: Ganjam, Khata No.: 1433/129, Plot No.: 645, Area: Ac. 0.005 Dec & Plot No.: 647, Area: Ac. 0.064 Dec., Total Area: Ac. 0.069 Dec. , standing in the name of Kanchada Sivanarayan Subudhi & Kanchada Raghunatham Subudhi . Both are S/o.: Kanchada. Rama Chandra Rao, Bounded by North: Public Road, South: Compound wall of Jata Dhareswar Swamy Temple, East: House of S. Raghunatham, West: House of Laxmi Narayan Subudhi, Property-2) Residential Vacant Land situated at Mouza: Pathara, Tahasil: Kanis, Dist: Ganjam, Khata No.: 849/992, Plot No.: 364/4059, Area: Ac. 0.031 Dec., Plot No.: 590/4060, Area: Ac.0.010 Dec., Total Area: Ac. 0.041 Dec. , Standing in the name of Smt. Kanchada Soudamini, W/o.: Sri Kanchada Sivanarayan Subudhi . Bounded by North: Land of Smt. Rina Behera, South: Road, East: Land of Raghunath Bisoyi, West: Land of Mr. S. Rabi Kumar
Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
06.10.2023	22.12.2023
Dues Amount	
₹1,76,86,512/- as on 06.10.2023 + further interest, incidental expenses, cost etc thereon	
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 23.12.2023	
Sd/- Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, SARB, Bhubaneswar	

national

of the day quote

It is a matter of concern that a section of people in the country, who are not many, have no respect for India's 5,000-year-old culture or its glorious past. They have a scornful attitude towards it and keep tarnishing the country's image. They are either misled or misguided. They deserve to be retaliated against by people who take pride in our own culture and roots

Nirmala Sitharaman targets Stalin attending I.N.D.I.A meet when Tamil Nadu battered with rain, floods. Instead worry about: 1) underemployment 2) unemployment 3) India's mounting debt 4) undernourished children 5) hunger, poverty. If you have time: Women wrestlers!

KAPIL SIBAL | RAJYA SABHA MP



India's economy is growing but the wealth is getting concentrated in a few hands and the challenge of unemployment continues
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

NEW INITIATIVE

Bihar cops have decided to make it binding on investigators to complete investigation of cases within 75 days of registration of FIR from January 1 next year, a senior officer said



'Fake' medicine row: Congress seeks probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 23: The Delhi BJP Saturday demanded the sacking of Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj after Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena recommended a CBI inquiry into the alleged supply of drugs that failed quality standard tests in Delhi government hospitals.

The Delhi Congress said it is a "serious matter" and action should be taken against the culprits after an investigation. Addressing a press conference, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva blamed the Aam Aadmi Party government for the situation. "We have the lab and vigilance report. The samples of the medicines being provided in Delhi government hospitals have failed. We demand that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal immediately sack his health minister," Sachdeva said.



Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that the investigation should be completed swiftly. He emphasised that the issue of substandard medicines is not just a matter of corruption as it puts people's lives at risk. "Those responsible for this should face strict action," he said. Reacting to the development, Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely demanded the setting up of a medical board to look into the issue. "It is a serious problem and a probe must be conducted... A medical board should be constituted by the government so that other medicines

It is a serious problem and a probe must be conducted... A medical board should be constituted by the government so that other medicines can also be tested, and action should be taken against those found guilty," he said.

Northeast Delhi MP and BJP leader Manoj Tiwari said this episode of the Delhi government distributing substandard medicines has exposed the Kejriwal government's claim of world class health services. The Chief Minister should come back from his Vipassana and "answer on this issue", he demanded. Kejriwal left for an undisclosed location for his Vipassana course Wednesday.

ED summons Tejashwi again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 23: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav in the railway land-for-jobs scam case, asking him to appear January 5, official sources said Saturday.

He was earlier called to appear December 22 but the 34-year-old skipped the summons. He had called the ED notice a routine affair.

In the same case, his father and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav has been asked to depose December 27 at the ED headquarters in Delhi.

The alleged scam pertains to the period when Prasad was the railway minister in the UPA-I government.

"There is nothing new in the summons. All these agencies -- ED, CBI and I-T department -- have summoned me so many



times in the past and I have duly appeared every time. But now it seems to have become routine," the RJD leader said December 21 in Patna.

It is understood that the summons come following the questioning of an alleged "close associate" of the Lalu Prasad family, Amit Katyal.

He was arrested by the ED in November. It is alleged that from 2004 to 2009, several people were appointed to Group "D" positions in various zones of the Indian Railways in return for land they transferred to the family members of Prasad, the then railway minister, and a linked company named A K Infosystems Private Limited.

Cong's big reshuffle ahead of LS polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 23: In a major organisational rejig ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the Congress Saturday appointed Avinash Pande the general secretary in-charge of Uttar Pradesh, replacing Priyanka Gandhi Vadra while Sachin Pilot was made the general secretary in-charge of Chhattisgarh.

Priyanka Gandhi will now be a general secretary "without any assigned portfolio", according to a statement issued by the party. Pilot, along with GA Mir, Dipak

Barbaria, and Deepa Dasmunshi, was appointed as general secretaries, while Tariq Anwar was dropped from the list.

Pande was earlier AICC in-charge of Jharkhand. The appointments come two days after a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body, which was chaired by party president Mallikarjun Kharge and attended by senior leaders, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Pilot, a former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan, replaces

Kumari Selja, who has now been given the role of general secretary in-charge of Uttarakhand, the statement said. Congress leader Mir is the general secretary in-charge of Jharkhand with the additional charge of West Bengal, it said.

Dasmunshi has been given the charge of Kerala and Lakshadweep with additional charge of Telangana. Senior leaders Jairam Ramesh, K C Venugopal, Mukul Wasnik, and Randeep Singh Surjewala remain the general secretaries in-charge of communication, organisation, Gujarat and Karnataka, respectively.

Bindra booked for domestic violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Noida, Dec 23: Entrepreneur and motivational speaker Vivek Bindra has been booked for allegedly assaulting his wife in Noida, police officials said Saturday.

The police said they are investigating the allegations and would take action upon probe. Bindra could not be contacted immediately for his response.

The FIR was lodged at the Sector 126 police station December 14 after a complaint by Vaibhav Kwatra, brother of Bindra's wife Yanika. Bindra and Yanika got married December 6 and were living in a posh society in Sector 94 here, he said.

"On the morning of December 7, my brother-in-law Vivek Bindra was arguing with his mother Prabhaji. When my sister Yanika intervened in this matter, my brother-in-law locked the room with my sister, abused her and beat her a lot, due to which she has wounds all over her body, she is unable to hear, and her hair were also torn out," Kwatra claimed. "Due to the head wound, she was feeling quite dizzy. She was being treated at Kailash Deepak Hospital in Delhi," he claimed. Kwatra also alleged that during the fight Bindra broke his sister's mobile phone. He urged the police to take strict action in the case.

SNIPPETS

752 new Covid cases, 4 deaths reported in 24 hours

New Delhi: India saw a single-day rise of 752 coronavirus infections, the highest since May 21, 2023, while the active cases have increased to 3,420, according to Union health ministry data updated Saturday. The death toll was recorded at 5, 33,332 with four new deaths -- two from Kerala, one each in Rajasthan and Karnataka -- reported in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am stated. The country's Covid case tally stood at 4.50 crore (4, 50, 07,964).

Infiltration bid foiled; terrorist killed

Jammu: One terrorist was killed as army troops guarding the International Border (IB) scuttled an infiltration attempt here early Saturday, officials said. The operation happened when a group of four heavily-armed terrorists was noticed sneaking into this side from across the IB in the Khour sector of Akhnoor in the early hours, the officials said. Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said the suspected movement of terrorists was captured through surveillance devices during the intervening night of December 22 and 23. "Effective fire brought down. Terrorists seen dragging one body back across the IB," it posted on X.

ED arrests three Vivo-India executives

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested three Vivo-India executives in connection with its money laundering probe against the Chinese smartphone maker and some others, official sources said Saturday. Interim CEO of vivo-India Hong Xuquan alias Terry -- a Chinese national -- Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Harinder Dahiya and consultant Hemant Munjal have been taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. They were presented before a court which sent them to ED custody for three days, the sources said.

Rat-hole miners not to encash cheques

Dehradun: The rat-hole miners who played a vital role in the evacuation of 41 workers trapped in the Silkyara tunnel have refused to encash the cheques of Rs 50,000 given to them recently by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. The rat-hole miners said the Chief Minister's gesture was "not commensurate" with the role they had played. "It was a desperate situation. We chipped in when the machines had failed to reach the trapped workers. We drilled manually through the debris risking our lives without putting any preconditions. We appreciate the gesture of the Chief Minister but are not satisfied with the amount that was given to us," Vakil Hassan, who headed the team of the rat-hole miners, said. "The role of rat-hole miners in the operation was heroic but what they got from the government was sadly not adequate," he said. The 12 rat-hole miners honoured by the state government have collectively decided not to encash the cheques, he said.

'Extreme cold raises risk of brain stroke'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 23: As the winter settles in different regions, experts have expressed concern over the correlation between the cold weather and an elevated risk of brain haemorrhage, presenting a critical nexus between temperature and health issues.

Dr Manish Vaish, senior director, neurosurgery, at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Delhi, said that a series of pivotal studies published in esteemed medical journals, including ScienceDirect, American Heart Association Journals, and PubMed, have unearthed an alarming connection - cold weather significantly amplifies the vulnerability to brain haemorrhage, impacting individuals with hypertension and normotensive individuals alike.

In a compelling case-crossover analysis featured in ScienceDirect, researchers have revealed that cold



temperatures pose a heightened risk for haemorrhagic stroke compared to snowfall. "This study emphasises the potent role of cold weather as a risk factor for brain haemorrhage, suggesting a potential trigger for this," Dr Vaish said. "Cold weather appears to act as a catalyst, particularly in individuals with hypertension, elevating the risk of brain haemorrhage. The correlation between cold weather and heightened risk demands proactive preventive measures, especially for those with existing health conditions," added Dr Vaish. Furthermore, a study in the

American Heart Association Journal highlighted a disconcerting link between cold temperatures and increased blood pressure in normotensive individuals, said Dr Yashpal Singh Bundela, senior consultant, Sushrut Brain and Spine, Delhi.

He emphasised, "Even normotensive individuals face an increased risk of high blood pressure in colder temperatures, significantly heightening the risk of cerebral haemorrhage. This underscores the need for timely interventions to mitigate potential health hazards during cold weather."

The implications of these findings are clear and pressing. Timely intervention, including managing blood pressure levels and adopting protective measures against extreme cold, is crucial to minimise the potential risks associated with brain haemorrhage during colder seasons, he stated.

Office of the Notified Area Council, Bijepur
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. C-2194:- Sealed bid in conformity with detailed tender call notice are invited for "Providing Manpower Sanitation Services (Driver-09 Nos. & Sanitation Supervisor-03 nos. & Sanitation Workers-03 nos.) in Ward No.1 to 11 of Bijepur N.A.C." Percentage rate contract from intending registered firms/Agency/NGOs/Private companies working within the jurisdiction of Odisha, having eligibility criteria as stipulated in DTCN, for execution of the under mentioned work apply through e-Tender of bid document shall start from dt. 25.12.2023 at 10.00 AM & closing on dt.03.01.2024 at 5.00 PM and bid documents will be opened on 04.01.2024 at 11.00 AM in presence of the bidder or their authorized representatives who wish to remain present during opening of tender. Further, the details can be seen from the procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in OIPR-13123/11/0021/2324

Hinjilicut Municipal Council
E-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.- HIN-MUN-02/2023/24
No. C-2195- The Executive Officer, Hinjilicut Municipality on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage bid in double cover system for bidder of eligible Class registered with State Government and bidders with equivalent grade/class registered with Central Govt. / MES / Railways according to norm of e-procurement system in online mode for the work as per DTCN.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT announces SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 26 LAKH STUDENTS belonging to Scheduled Castes & Other Disadvantaged Groups to pursue School Education under the Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SCs & Others for the Year 2023-24

Eligibility	Scope	Entitlement
Component-I <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students belonging to SC categoryParents'/Guardians' annual income not exceeding Rs 2.50 lakhs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students studying in class 9 and 10 in recognized schoolsApplications are accepted and verified by the State Government/Union TerritoryCoverage of the poorest households	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Academic allowance ranging from ₹ 3500 to ₹ 7000 per annum10% extra allowance for Divyang (specially abled) students
Component-II <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students whose parents/guardians are engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazardsNo income limit criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students studying in classes 1 to 10 in recognized schoolsApplications are accepted and verified by the State Government/Union TerritoryCoverage of the poorest households	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Academic allowance ranging from ₹ 3500 to ₹ 8000 per annum10% extra allowance for Divyang (specially abled) students

Students to apply on their respective State Scholarship Portals
Student should have a valid Mobile number, Aadhaar number (UID), Aadhaar seeded Bank Account, Income Certificate and Caste Certificate

Scheme guidelines and detailed eligibility criteria available on <http://socialjustice.gov.in/schemes/23>

cbc 38101/11/0056/2324

international

of the day quote

We might have a slight (Covid-19) surge, but I think more or less, we are seeing the peak of this wave

Today I informed President Zelenskyy of our government's decision to prepare an initial 18 F-16 fighter aircraft for delivery to Ukraine

We (US and Mexico) are going to reinforce everything we can to help maintain the flow but in an orderly manner

SHORT TAKES

Russia buys 92 jets from foreign firms

Moscow: Russia has bought out another 92 planes from foreign leasing companies, airlines and aircraft leasing company AerCap said. The planes have been bought out using money from Russia's National Welfare Fund, 190 billion roubles (\$2.06 billion) of which has been allocated for the purpose. Ownership will now pass to Russia's state insurance company NLK-Finance, which will transfer them to the airlines. Airline S7 said 45 of its formerly foreign-owned planes had been bought out, while national flag carrier Aeroflot said deals had been completed for 28 of its aircraft, with another 19 for Ural Airlines.

Quake toll rises

Beijing: The death toll from the 6.2-magnitude earthquake that jolted northwest China earlier this week has risen to 148, with as many as 117 persons dead in the worst-hit Gansu province, authorities said. The quake, the worst in nine years in the region, struck midnight on December 18 at a depth of 10 kilometres. In Qinghai province, which borders Gansu, 31 people were killed in the earthquake. As of Friday, the earthquake had injured 781 people in Gansu, according to the provincial earthquake relief headquarters, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported Saturday.

Madrid rolls back on trans, LGBTQ rights laws

THE BILL, WHICH AMENDED A REGIONAL TRANS RIGHTS LAW AND AN LGBTQ RIGHTS LAW - BOTH PASSED IN 2016 - MAKES MADRID THE FIRST SPANISH REGION TO ROLL BACK SUCH LEGISLATION

REUTERS

Madrid, Dec 23: Madrid's regional assembly Friday passed a proposal by the Spanish capital's ruling conservative People's Party (PP) to strip back protections for transgender people, sparking outcry from the opposition and LGBTQ activists.

It was approved with 80 votes in favour and 53 against thanks to the absolute majority the PP holds in the chamber. It was also supported by the far-right Vox party, which governs in coalition with the PP in some Spanish cities and regions but not in Madrid.

Under the reform, discriminating against workers on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity is no longer a punishable offence. It is also no longer a punishable offence to beat a person without causing injury on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Amid jeers from the opposition, the PP's Monica Levin defended the reform as a way to stop what she described as "social engineering" and "getting into people's privacy and manipu-

NO MERCY BY ISRAEL

OVER 20,000 PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN ISRAEL'S WAR TO DESTROY HAMAS AND MORE THAN 53,000 HAVE BEEN WOUNDED, A BESIEGED TERRITORY RULED BY THE ISLAMIC MILITANT GROUP FOR THE PAST 16 YEARS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rafah, Dec 23: More than 90 Palestinians, including dozens from an extended family, were killed in Israeli airstrikes on two homes, rescuers and hospital officials said Saturday, a day after the UN chief warned again that nowhere is safe in Gaza and that Israel's offensive is creating "massive obstacles" to distribution of humanitarian aid.

Also Saturday, the Israeli military said troops arrested hundreds of alleged militants in Gaza over the past week and transferred more than 200 of them to Israel for further interrogation, providing rare details on a controversial policy of mass roundups of Palestinian men.

The army said more than 700 people with alleged ties to the militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad have so far been



There is no effective protection of civilians. Intense Israeli bombardment and ground operations continue

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

sent to Israeli lockups.

Israel declared war after Hamas gunmen stormed across the border October 7, killing some 1,200 people and taking some 240 hostages.

Despite mounting international calls for a cease-fire, Israel has vowed to keep up the fight until Hamas is destroyed and removed from power in Gaza and all the hostages are freed.

The Biden administration has shielded Israel in the diplomatic arena. On Friday, the UN Security Council adopted a watered-down resolution that calls for immediately speeding up aid deliveries to desperate civilians in Gaza, but not for a cease-fire.

The Health Ministry in Gaza Saturday evening said 201 peo-



Should we assume that the elections that will be conducted in Pakistan will be the most controversial and rigged elections in the history of Pakistan

OMAR AYUB KHAN | PTI SECRETARY GENERAL, PAKISTAN

CHINA CYBER CRACKDOWN

In a bid to ensure sustained social stability, security officials across China have shut down 34,000 online accounts for spreading rumours and punished more than 6,300 people since the start of a crackdown campaign in April



HATE CRIME

US decries vandalism of Hindu temple in Calif

The word 'Khalistan' was spray-painted on a sign post outside the temple along with other objectionable graffiti

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New York, Dec 23: The US Saturday condemned the vandalism of a Hindu temple in California and welcomed efforts by the police to ensure those responsible are held accountable.

The Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu Temple in Newark, California was vandalised with anti-India graffiti and the police are investigating the matter as a possible hate crime.

"We condemn the vandalism of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu Temple in California. We welcome efforts by the Newark Police Department to ensure that those responsible are held accountable," the US State Department's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs said in a post on social media platform X.

In an emailed statement to PTI, the City of Newark Police Department in Newark, California, said that Friday at approximately 8:35 am, Newark Police received a report of graffiti at the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu Temple. Officers responded and met

with temple leaders who described the vandalism as meant to intimidate them.

"Based on the content of the graffiti it is believed that the defacement was a targeted act, and the vandalism is being investigated as a possible hate crime," the statement said.

The Consulate General of India in San Francisco strongly condemned the defacing of the temple. "We strongly condemn the defacing of SMVS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir at Newark, California with anti-India graffiti," the Consulate posted on X.

"This incident has hurt the sentiments of the Indian community. We have pressed for quick investigation and prompt action against the vandals by the US authorities in this matter," the Consulate said.

According to images posted on social media, the word 'Khalistan' was spray-painted on a sign post outside the temple along with other objectionable graffiti.

UP IN ARMS

Biden signs \$886bn defence bill into law

Washington: President Joe Biden Friday signed into law the US defence policy bill that authorizes record \$886 billion in annual military spending and policies such as aid for Ukraine and push-back against China in the Indo-Pacific. The National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, passed Congress last week. The Democratic-controlled US Senate approved the legislation with a strong bipartisan majority of 87 to 13 while the House of Representatives voted in favor 310 to 118. The act, nearly 3,100 pages long, called for a 5.2% pay raise for service members and increased the nation's total national security budget by about 3% to \$886 billion. It also lists certain Chinese battery companies that it says are ineligible for Defense Department procurement. The bill extends one measure to help Ukraine, the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, through the end of 2026, authorizing \$300 million for the program in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and the next one.

Japan approves record military budget

Tokyo: Japan's Cabinet Friday approved a hefty 16% increase in military spending next year and eased its postwar ban on lethal weapons exports, underscoring a shift away from the country's self-defence-only principle. The moves came as Japan accelerates the deployment of long-range cruise missiles that can hit targets in China or North Korea while Japanese troops increasingly work with allies and take on more offensive roles. In a latest step under a new security strategy that Japan adopted a year ago, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government also allowed the export of weapons and components made in Japan under foreign licenses to the licensing nations. The controversial move is the first major revision of Japan's arms export ban since an earlier easing in 2014. "In taking the action, we hope to contribute to defend a free and open international order based on the rule of law and to achieve the peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region," Kishida told reporters. "There is no change to our principle as a pacifist nation."

DUNTSOVA BARRED FROM RUNNING AGAINST PUTIN

REUTERS

London, Dec 23: Former TV journalist Yekaterina Duntsova was disqualified Saturday from running against President Vladimir Putin in an election next March because of alleged flaws in her application to register as a candidate.

Video from a meeting of the central electoral commission showed members voting unanimously to reject the candidacy of Duntsova, who had wanted to run on a platform to end the war in Ukraine and release political prisoners.

Her disqualification was seized on by Putin's critics as proof that no one with genuine opposition views will be allowed to stand against him in the first presidential election since the start of the 22-month war. They see it as a fake process with only one possible outcome. The Kremlin says Putin will



Election commission finds flaws in registration papers

Campaign torpedoed after less than 72 hours

Putin faces no real opposition in bid for new six-year term

win because he enjoys genuine support across society, with opinion poll ratings of around 80%.

The head of the electoral commission, Ella Pamfilova, offered words of consolation to Duntsova after her rejection.

"You are a young woman, you have everything ahead of you. Any minus can always be turned into a plus. Any experience is still an experience," Pamfilova said.

Screenshots posted by a telegram channel representing Duntsova showed documents that it said the commission had highlighted as lacking proper signatures.

Duntsova, 40, told reporters

her team had assembled the application in a hurry and had trouble finding a lawyer to certify the bid, after dozens of others declined.

She said she had approached veteran liberal politician Grigory Yavlinsky about the possibility of submitting a new application to stand as a representative of his Yabloko party.

"I hope there will be some kind of reaction... We have similar values in principle," Duntsova said.

But Yavlinsky said in an interview on a YouTube channel that Yabloko would not back her "because we don't know her".

Cuba authorises euthanasia

REUTERS

Havana, Dec 23: Cuba Friday became the second country in Latin America and the Caribbean to authorize euthanasia, following Colombia.

The Communist-run country's National Assembly passed the measure as part of legislation updating the nation's legal framework for its universal and free healthcare system.

"The right of people to a dignified death is recognized in end-of-life decisions, which may include the limitation of therapeutic effort, continuous or palliative care, and valid procedures that end life," the final draft of the legislation stated.

Euthanasia and medically assisted suicide, opposed by most religions, sparks huge controversy around the world where just a handful of countries allow the practice and some equate it with murder.

At Havana's Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology, the country's leading cancer center, Dr Alberto Roque, who has a masters in bioethics, welcomed the measure and said it established the "legal framework for future euthanasia in any of its forms, that is, active euthanasia or assisted suicide."

There was barely a mention in Cuba's state-run media that the



government would approve the practice, and no public debate, though Dr Roque said that would change as regulations were drawn up.

Outside the cancer institute, 47-year-old nurse Suaima Lopez, suffering from rectal cancer, said she favored euthanasia in case she or other patients did not recover.

"Families want to keep loved ones alive until the very, very last moment but one has to think of those suffering," Lopez said.

"If only we could have a dignified death... at a certain moment when nothing can be done anymore... let me die peacefully, in peace and harmony," she said.

Switzerland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada, Australia, Spain, Germany, New Zealand and some states in the United States also allow euthanasia and, in some of these countries, medically assisted suicide where there is great suffering but no terminal illness.



lating them in order to pit them against each other and then come to their rescue".

Carla Antonelli, an assembly member for the left-wing Mas Madrid party who is trans, wore red gloves symbolising bloodied hands during the raucous debate preceding the vote.

She called the bill an "abomination" and compared it to the actions of Nazi SS doctor Josef Mengele, who "also spoke of science to exterminate Jews and

LGBTQ people". "When you press that button to vote for this infamy...you will all have blood on your hands. This is terrorism towards trans people. You won't be able to wash your dirty conscience because we will remind you of it every day," Antonelli said.

Under the reform lawmakers also replaced the terms "trans people" and "gender identity" with "transsexuals" and "transsexuality", terms which activists



India is likely to see 1 crore EV sales a year and the segment is expected to generate about 5 crore jobs by 2030
NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

JET AIRWAYS IN SOUP

Insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT has dismissed the plea of Jalan Kalrock Consortium, the successful bidder of Jet Airways, challenging an NCLT order directing the sale of three aircraft of the grounded air carrier



of the day quote

Despite the projection of around 200 aircraft being grounded by March 2024, the impact on traffic is expected to be minimal, at 3-4 per cent

MAULESH DESAI | RATINGS DIRECTOR, CAREEDGE

Despite the overall growth of the sector, the industry faces a major challenge, revolving around the lack of contribution to network costs from Large Traffic Generating (LTG) digital platforms/players

SP KOCHHAR | DIRECTOR GENERAL, COAI

There are still some challenges in evacuation of coal that are being resolved on a regular basis with the help of the Ministry of Railways

PRALHAD JOSHI | COAL MINISTER

King \$ seen vulnerable in '24

THE GREENBACK HAS SOARED TO A TWO-DECADE HIGH ON THE BACK OF THE FED'S RATE HIKES IN 2022

REUTERS

New York, Dec 23: The Federal Reserve's dovish December pivot has boosted the case for the weakening dollar to keep falling into 2024, though strength in the US economy could limit the greenback's decline.

After soaring to a two-decade high on the back of the Fed's rate hikes in 2022, the US currency has been largely range-bound this year on the back of resilient US growth and the central bank's vow to keep borrowing costs elevated.

Last week's Fed meeting marked an unexpected shift, after Chairman Jerome Powell said the historic monetary policy tightening that brought rates to their highest level in decades was likely over, thanks to cooling inflation. Policymakers now project 75 basis points of cuts next year.

Falling rates are generally seen as a headwind for the dollar, making assets in the US currency less attractive to yield-seeking investors. Though strategists had expected the dollar to weaken next year, a faster pace of rate cuts could accelerate the currency's decline.



The Fed's aggressive monetary policy tightening, along with post-pandemic policies to boost US growth, fueled the notion of American exceptionalism and delivered the most powerful dollar rally since the 1980s. With the Fed set to ease policy, some of those gains should be reversed

KIT JUCKES | CHIEF FX STRATEGIST, SOCIETE GENERALE

\$ IS ON TRACK FOR 1% LOSS THIS YEAR AGAINST A BASKET OF ITS PEERS

THE EURO IS UP 2.4% AGAINST THE DOLLAR THIS YEAR

Still, betting on a weaker dollar has been a perilous undertaking in recent years, and some investors are wary of jumping the gun. A US economy that continues to outperform its peers could be one factor presenting an obstacle for bearish investors.

FADING STRENGTH?

Getting the dollar right is key for analysts and investors, given the US currency's central role in

global finance. For the US, a weak dollar would make exports more competitive abroad and boost the profits of multinationals by making it cheaper to convert their foreign profits into dollars. About a quarter of S&P 500 companies generate more than 50% of revenues outside the US, according to FactSet data.

An early December Reuters poll of 71 FX strategists showed expectations for the dollar to fall against G10 currencies in 2024, with the greater part of its

decline coming in the second half of the year.

Whether they're right may come down to how the US economy performs compared to its global peers next year and the pace at which central banks adjust monetary policy.

So far, it's been an uneven picture. In the eurozone, a downturn in business activity deepened in December, according to closely watched surveys that show the bloc's economy is almost certainly in recession. Still, the European Central Bank has pushed back against rate cut expectations as it remains focused on fighting inflation. The euro is up 2.4% against the dollar this year.

The "growth slowdown is more entrenched in other economies," said Thanos Bardas, senior portfolio manager at Neuberger Berman, who is bullish on the dollar over the next 12 months. "For the US it will take a while for growth to slow down."

Others, however, see areas of strength, particularly in Asian economies. Paresh Upadhyaya, director of fixed income and currency strategy at Amundi US, says he believes the market is "way too pessimistic" on the outlook for growth in China and India. Accelerating growth could boost the countries' appetite for

raw materials, benefiting commodity currencies such as the Australian, New Zealand and Canadian dollars.

China will step up policy adjustments to support an economic recovery in 2024, according to state media reports. Jack McIntyre, portfolio manager at Brandywine Global in Philadelphia, is counting on US growth slowing while Chinese growth picks up. He has been selling the dollar to fund the purchase of Asian currencies.

"The dollar's bull run is very mature," he said.

The International Monetary Fund in October forecast the US economy would grow by 1.5% in 2024, compared to 1.2% for the eurozone and 4.2% for China.

Of course, the dollar's trajectory could depend on how much Fed easing and falling inflation is already reflected in its price. Futures tied to the Fed's policy rate show investors factoring in more than 140 basis points in cuts next year, nearly twice as much as Fed policymakers have penciled in.

"If inflation stalls and does not continue to decline that's where the case grows for the Fed to hold off," said Matt Weller, head of market research at StoneX. "That would certainly be a bullish development for the dollar."

JSPL, RINL tie-up for Angul factory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 23: Jindal Steel Power Ltd Saturday said its partnership with Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd will ensure the supply of liquid steel to its upcoming hot strip mill at Angul in Odisha.

In a statement, JSPL said it has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with RINL for the operationalisation of the latter's blast furnace-3 (BF-3).

The tie-up with RINL will release additional liquid steel for slab casting and onward rolling into hot rolled coils from JSPL's upcoming state-of-the-art hot strip mill at Angul which is slated for commissioning soon, it said.

The blast furnace BF-3 at the RINL plant in Visakhapatnam has been closed since January 2021. The restart of the BF-3 is planned for December 30, 2023, at a capacity of 2 lakh tonnes of hot metal per month.

We extend wishes to the management and employees of RINL for embarking on this partnership, JSPL Managing Director (MD) Bimlendra Jha said.

On Friday, RINL said JSPL will provide working capital support or raw material supply of ₹800-900 crore under a pact signed between the companies.

In return, RINL will ensure the supply of 90,000 tonne of cast blooms to the private steel company, JSPL said in a statement.

SHORT TAKES

ITR forms 1 and 4 for AY'25 notified

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department has notified ITR forms 1 and 4, which are filed by individuals and entities with annual total income of up to ₹50 lakh, for assessment year (AY) 2024-25. Individuals, besides Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), firms having income up to ₹50 lakh and those having earnings from business and profession in the current fiscal (April 2023-March 2024) can start filing returns for the income earned this financial year. Usually, ITR forms for a particular financial year are notified by the end of March or early April. But last year, the forms were notified in February. However, this year, ITR forms are notified in December itself, to enable taxpayers file returns early. ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are simpler forms that cater to a large number of small and medium taxpayers. The I-T Department notified the forms Friday.

Banks to monitor top 20 IBC cases

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry Friday asked heads of public sector banks to monitor and review the top 20 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code cases as part of their bad assets management. During a meeting with managing directors and CEOs of public sector banks (PSBs), Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi asked them to review the top 20 cases monthly for their resolution. Besides, he also asked them to monitor cases long pending for admission and resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Coal imports plunge 44% in current financial year

India ranks as the world's third-largest consumer of energy, with an annual electricity demand increase of about 4.7%

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 23: India's coal imports for blending have decreased substantially by 44.28 per cent to 15.16 million tonne during April-Nov 2023 of the current financial year from 27.21 million tonne in the same period of the previous year despite the higher generation of power, data released by the Coal Ministry Saturday showed.

The decline in coal imports despite the escalating power demand shows the nation's commitment to self-reliance in coal production and minimising overall coal imports, the ministry said. While the country has ample coal, the fuel is also imported for blending to improve the calorific value of indigenous stocks and reduce emissions at thermal power plants.

India ranks as the world's third-



largest consumer of energy, with an annual electricity demand increase of about 4.7 per cent. The country witnessed a 7.71 per cent surge in power generation from April to November 2023 compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

Coal-based power generation witnessed an increase of 11.19 per cent during April-November 2023, as compared to corresponding period of previous year due to an unprecedented rise in temperature, delayed monsoons in the Northern

region of the country coupled with the resumption of full commercial activities post-Covid. The domestic coal-based power generation up to November 2023 reached 779.1 Billion Units (BU), reflecting an increase of 8.38 per cent from the 718.83 Billion Units (BU) generated in the corresponding period of last year, the ministry statement added.

POWER GENERATION UP 7.71% IN APRIL-NOVEMBER FY24

DOMESTIC COAL-BASED POWER GENERATION SURGES 8.38%

Maruti Suzuki to hike prices from Jan

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 23: Maruti Suzuki has announced that it will increase the prices of cars from January 2024.

In a BSE filing, the automaker attributed the price hike to an increased cost pressure driven by overall inflation and increased commodity prices.

"The company has planned to increase the prices of its cars in January 2024 on account of increased cost pressure driven by overall inflation and increased commodity prices. While the company makes maximum efforts to reduce costs and offset the increase, it may have to pass on some increase to the market," MSI informed the stock exchanges.

The company, which sells a



range of vehicles from entry-level small car Alto to multi-utility vehicle Invicto, priced between ₹3.54 lakh and ₹28.42 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi), however, did not specify the quantum of the proposed price hike.

The price increase will vary across models, Maruti Suzuki

added.

On 1st April this year, Maruti Suzuki increased the prices of its vehicles across all models. Prior to this in January 2023, the company had said that it hiked the prices of its vehicles across models by about 1.1%.

Notably, Maruti Suzuki India

(MSI) reported its highest-ever monthly sales at 1,99,217 units in October, a 19% year-on-year growth.

The country's largest car-maker had dispatched 1,67,520 units in October 2022.

MSI also reported its best-ever domestic monthly dispatches in October at 1,77,266 units, up 21% from 1,47,072 units in the year-ago period.

MSI said its exports in October 2023 stood at 21,951 units compared to 20,448 units in the same month last year.

The price hike is likely to have an impact on Maruti Suzuki's sales, as it could make its cars less affordable for some customers. However, the company is confident that it will be able to maintain its market share despite the price increase.

Esplanade showcases tallest Christmas tree

BHUBANESWAR:

Nexus Esplanade launched the tallest Christmas tree in the state which is 49ft height December 22. The tree was unveiled by the Centre Director Parth Pratim Nayak along with the team, retailers, customers, bloggers and media. Nayak while addressing the media said that he was happy to bring surprise and delight for the customer with the start of Christmas Carnival at Nexus Esplanade. The month is full of surprises for customers with exciting gifts on shopping. Also with the start of End of Season Sale it's a double delight for everyone visiting the mall, he added.



Flexible airspace use can save ₹1K-crore annually for airlines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 23: Airlines will have potential savings of ₹1,000 crore annually with the flexible use of airspace that helps in reducing flight time, fuel usage and carbon emissions, according to the civil aviation ministry.

In a review of the aviation sector released Saturday, the ministry also said that a record number of commercial pilot licences at 1,562 have been issued this year till December 18 by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

To address the issue of congestion at airports, the ministry said additional space has been created at various airports by restructuring the available terminal infrastructure to augment capacity at several passenger touch points.

Meanwhile, the ministry said that earlier about 40 per cent of the airspace was unavailable for civilian use, resulting in aircraft adopting circuitous routes to reach their destinations.

The Indian Air Force controls

30 per cent of the national airspace and out of that, 30 per cent has been released as upper airspace under flexible use of airspace, the release said.

As part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, IAF has agreed to release these portions of airspace for civilian use, the ministry said, adding that 129 conditional routes have been promulgated.

"This will lead to significant savings in flight time, fuel usage and reduction in carbon emission. The potential savings to the airlines will be to the tune of ₹1,000 crore per annum. Total savings so far from August 2020 ₹640.7 crore and total CO2 reduction is 1.37 lakh tonne," the release said.

During the year, domestic air passenger traffic rose significantly.

"On November 19 this year, airlines in India flew 4,56,910 domestic passengers. This was the highest single-day air traffic since the pandemic hit, marking a remarkable 7.4 per cent surge above pre-Covid averages," the release said.

India's 1st wide-body A350-900 aircraft

IN A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE TATA-OWNED AIRLINES, AIR INDIA GOT ITS FIRST EVER WIDE-BODY A350-900 AIRCRAFT IN ITS FLEET, MAKING THIS THE FIRST AIRCRAFT OF ITS KIND TO BE IN ROTATION IN AN INDIAN AIRLINE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 23: Air India's first wide-body A350-900 aircraft, sporting new brand livery, arrived here from European aviation major Airbus' Toulouse facility in France.

The aircraft, registered as VT-JRA, touched down at the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport at 1346 hrs, making the Tata Group-owned airline the first aircraft operator in India to have this type of aircraft in its fleet, a statement said.

The delivery flight is operated using a special call sign AI350, it said.

The aircraft is the first of Air India's 20 Airbus A350-900 on order, with five more scheduled



for delivery through March 2024, the airline said.

As part of its now rejigged 250 aircraft order with Airbus, Air India will acquire 40 A350s, comprising 20 each A350-900 and

A350-1000 aircraft, along with 140 narrow-body A321neo and 70 A320neo planes.

The arrival of the first Airbus A350-900 is, in many ways, "a declaration of Indian aviation's

The arrival of the first Airbus A350-900 is, in many ways, a declaration of Indian aviation's resurgence on the world stage

CAMPBELL WILSON | CEO AND MD, AIR INDIA

resurgence on the world stage," Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said.

"As a symbol of the new age of flying, the A350 promises a world-class, long-haul travel experience on our non-stop routes. Its excellent flight economics and technology underscore our dedication to commercially successful operations and to achieving our sustainability goals," Wilson added.

The airline has already an-

nounced that initially this aircraft will be operated on short-haul routes and later be deployed for long-haul flights.

The new aircraft will enter commercial service in January next year, initially operating domestically for crew familiarisation, followed by longer-haul flying to destinations across continents, the airline said.

It also said that the schedule of commercial operations of the A350 will be announced in the coming weeks.

The 316-seater A350-900 aircraft comes in a three-class cabin configuration with 28 private business class suites with full-flat beds, 24 premium economy seats with extra legroom and 264 spacious economy class seats, Air India said.



Kaur leads India fightback

Odisha Juggernauts all set to defend their title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 23: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's (2/23) golden arm came to India Women's rescue with two late wickets as the hosts endured a challenging outing in the one-off Test here Saturday, with Australia leading by 46 runs at stumps on the third day.

Kaur brought herself on in the third session after India tried almost every trick in their arsenal with the ball but failed to make inroads, as a resolute Australian side overhauled the hosts' 187-run lead in the first innings with consummate ease.

Kaur cleaned up Tahliha McGrath (73, 177b, 10x4) who hit a second consecutive fifty in the Test and snaffled the dangerous Alyssa Healy (32, 101b, 1x4) after a sudden burst of aggression.

Before dismissing her counterpart, Kaur fired a sharp return throw at Healy, who took an evasive action and the ball raced to the ropes as it deflected off the



Harmanpreet Kaur reacts after getting a wicket; (inset) Ellyse Perry (L) and Tahliha McGrath look on during their partnership, Saturday

Australian skipper's bat.

Kaur appealed against Healy for obstructing the field which was rejected by on field umpires Anil Chaudhary and N Janani. On the next ball, Kaur had Healy out leg-before while attempting to sweep.

Annabel Sutherland (12 bat-

ting) and Ashleigh Gardner (7 batting) were at the crease at stumps with Australia reaching 233/5 in second innings.

It was Australia all the way on third day with their seamers unleashing a short-ball attack on the Indian tail, which folded in a lit-

tle over half an hour into the day's play with 30 runs added for the loss of last three wickets.

Sutherland (2/41) was Australia's primary weapon as she claimed two wickets in the form of overnight batter Pooja Vastrakar (47, 126b, 7x4) and Renuka Singh (8), while Kim Garth accounted for Deepti Sharma (78, 171b, 9x4) but not before the Indians reset a couple of records.

India's first-innings total of 406 is now their highest ever in Test cricket against Australia. A 122-run stand for the eighth wicket between Deepti and Vastrakar is India's highest in the format and second best for any side in the world.

With 187 in deficit, Australia openers Beth Mooney and Phoebe Litchfield began well but both were guilty of throwing away their starts. Richa Ghosh deserved full credit for running out Mooney for 33 (37b, 7x4) after the batter carelessly ventured out of her crease after defending a delivery from Sneha Rana (2/54). Match to continue.

Ghosh, positioned at silly point, hurled the ball back at the wicket while Mooney seemed to have lacked awareness of getting back into the crease. Litchfield (18) was cleaned up by Rana when the batter attempted a reverse sweep but missed connecting completely.

Australia star Ellyse Perry (45, 91b, 5x4) put on 84 for the third wicket with McGrath. But India wicketkeeper Yastika Bhatia was sharp enough to follow a delivery from Rana which kept drifting down the leg, collecting a faint edge off Perry's bat.

Kaur got the breakthrough when an inside edge off McGrath's bat trickled onto the wickets much to the dismay of the batter.

BRIEF SCORES

Australia Women 219 & 233/5 (Tahliha McGrath 73, Ellyse Perry 45, Alyssa Healy 32; Harmanpreet Kaur 2/18, Sneha Rana 2/54); India Women 406 (Deepti Sharma 78, Pooja Vastrakar 47; Annabel Sutherland 2/41). Match to continue.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 23: Odisha Juggernauts are all set to defend their Ultimate Kho Kho crown as the second season of the competition kicks off December 24, Sunday at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack. The tournament will conclude January 13.

All eyes will be on the home team who will be eager to replicate their exploits from their impressive inaugural season. At the recently concluded player draft, the reigning champions have strengthened their team, retaining four players and adding young players.

The Odisha Juggernauts will be joined by Chennai Quick Guns, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Khiladis, Rajasthan Warriors, and Telugu Yoddhas as the six teams compete for supremacy. The Odisha Juggernauts will be in action on the opening day when they take on Rajasthan Warriors.

Returning to the squad will be the 20-year-old all-rounder, Dilip Khandvi, along with all-rounder Dipesh More. The Juggernauts have also retained the services of defenders Gowtham MK and Vishal.

Notably, Odisha secured the silver medal in men's and women's kho kho at the recently concluded National Games in Goa. This year, the Juggernauts team will feature five Odia players who were also a part of the National Games squad, including Debendra Nath, Vishal Oram, Deepak Kumar Sahoo, Niranjan Samal and Siddheshwar Tudu.

The impending second edition pledges an even more en-

riching spectacle as uniformity in points system has been introduced wherein two points will be attributed to all attacking moves to the teams.

While addressing the media during a press conference here Saturday, Tenzing Niyogi, the CEO and Commissioner of the Ultimate Kho Kho League, commented: "Ultimate Kho Kho's unparalleled success in the inaugural edition is the testament to the potential of this indigenous sport. It also attracted immense interest from the corporate world and fans which is quite inspiring for all those associated with the league."

"We plan to expand Ultimate Kho Kho in 2025 with the addition of two more teams. Considering the support and love of fans from across the country and globe, I am confident that Season 2 will surpass the success of the inaugural season. Season 2 is going to be bigger and more exciting. I wish the best luck to all teams," he said further.

The captains of the six participating teams graced the press conference with their presence, affording valuable insights into the preparatory measures undertaken by their respective contingents.

JUGGERNAUTS SQUAD

Dilip Khandvi, Dipesh More, Gowtham MK, Vishal, Omkar Sonawane, Rohan Shingade, Akshay Masal, Mahesha P, Manoj Patil, Avinash Desai, Manoj Kumar, Visag S, Debendra Nath, Nikhil Kumar, Vishal Oram, Sanjay Kumar V, Deepak Kumar Sahoo, Nikhil B, MD Mirajul, Sushant Kaldhone, Sobhag V Sriganda, Niranjan Samal, Savir Ahmad, Suresh Kumar and Siddheshwar Tudu.

INDIAN TEAM TO VISIT PAK FOR THEIR DAVIS CUP MATCH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 23: The ITF tribunal has rejected AITA's contention that its Davis Cup team could face security concerns during the World Group I Play-off tie in Islamabad, paving the way for an Indian team's visit to Pakistan for the first time in 60 years.

If the Indian team fail to travel to Pak, the tie will be awarded to the hosts and India will be relegated to World Group II. The last time an Indian Davis Cup team travelled to Pak was way back in 1964 when they beat the hosts 4-0.

All India Tennis Association (AITA) secretary general Anil Dhupar confirmed to PTI that ITF has rejected their appeal. "AITA's appeal has been rejected by the ITF Tribunal. We will approach Sports Ministry Monday and seek guidance if we will

send a team," told Dhupar.

AITA had recently announced a five-member squad for the February 3-4 World Group I play-off tie and said that if ITF rejects its appeal, it will send the Davis Cup team to Pakistan.

AITA's request for a neutral venue was rejected by the 15-member Davis Cup Committee (DCC) and later the national federation approached the ITF Tribunal. AITA's contention was that India should not be treated like other countries since the bilateral relations are tense between the two nations.

AITA had also contended that Pakistan will have its General Election February 8, so the Indian team should not travel. The DCC had ruled that there is no such situation in Pakistan where an Indian team cannot travel and participate in the Davis Cup tie.

Milestone for Kalinga Indoor Athletics Arena

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 23: Kalinga Indoor Athletics Arena, India's first indoor athletics stadium, at the Kalinga Sports Complex in Bhubaneswar, has proudly secured the esteemed Category 1 certification from World Athletics, the sports governing body for track and field. This recognition marks a significant milestone, further elevating the Kalinga Sports Complex prominence on the global sporting stage.

The Category 1 certification signifies that the arena adheres to the highest standards set forth by World Athletics, meeting stringent criteria related to infrastructure, facilities, and technical capabilities. This accreditation opens doors for hosting prestigious events, nurturing athletics talent of the country.

High five for City in 2023

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), Dec 23: Manchester City were just too good and a bit lucky for over-matched Fluminense in the Club World Cup final by winning 4-0 and taking a fifth title in 2023 Friday.

The Citizens led after just 40 seconds to make it a match mostly free of tension. Julian Alvarez followed up fastest to meet a rebound off a post from Nathan Ake's shot.

An own goal in the 27th by Fluminense captain Nino decided the game long before Phil Foden's goal in the 72nd, guiding an Alvarez pass into an open net. Alvarez struck again in the 88th.

It gave City a first Club World Cup title and Europe a 16th in 17 editions of FIFA's competition for continental champions.

Temper flared after the game

with City captain Kyle Walker confronting Fluminense players including veteran defender Felipe Melo. Walker appeared to take offense at rough tackling that forced key midfielder Rodri off the field injured.

Rodri later took part in celebrations with the trophy and received an award as best player at the tournament. City losses this season have typically come when the Spaniard has missed games.

Victory made Pep Guardiola the first coach to win the Club World Cup with three different teams. He led Barcelona to titles in 2009 and 2011, then Bayern Munich in 2013 with a team that won the Champions League under outgoing coach Jupp Heynckes.

This year, the Citizens won the Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup, UEFA Super Cup and now the Club World Cup to complete their 2023 cabinet.

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