



## Paradox of fame

Actor Kangana Ranaut reflects on the best part of being an actor, which is getting fan attention whenever she steps out in public

LEISURE | P2



## B'desh elections

PM Sheikh Hasina secures a record fourth straight term as her Awami League party won two-thirds of the seats

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## TN a safe haven

Tamil Nadu signs investment pacts worth over \$4.39bn with firms such as Apple suppliers, Tata Electronics, Pegatron and others

BUSINESS | P11



## Rybakina reigns supreme

Elena Rybakina claims her sixth career title with a victory over top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka at the Brisbane International tennis tournament

SPORTS | P12

## Now, transport workers' body starts indefinite strike

### FUEL CRISIS LOOMS



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 7:** A day after Odisha Drivers' Mahasangha called off its strike following assurance from the state government that their demands would be looked into, the Odisha Motor Transportation Workers' Association has called for an indefinite strike from Monday against the revised hit-and-run penalty rules under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

President of the association Janardan Pati informed about their planned strike in a presser Sunday. As part of the strike, the workers of the association will stop loading petrol and diesel from oil depots.

Ahead of the strike, general secretary of Utkal Petroleum Dealers' Association Sanjay Lath predicted a scarcity of fuel across the state due to the

General secy of Utkal Petroleum Dealers' Association Sanjay Lath predicted a scarcity of fuel across state from either Monday evening or Tuesday morning

strike from either Monday evening or Tuesday morning.

"The stock of oil has already been reduced at several petrol pumps due to the strike by the drivers. However, only 25 to 30 per cent oil has been loaded as the strike was called off. If the Odisha Motor Transportation Workers' Association goes ahead with its strike, there will be a severe scarcity of fuel across Odisha as the supply will be severely affected. The government should take necessary steps to normalise oil supply in the state," said Lath.

Earlier, the association of commercial drivers in Odisha withdrew its strike, as the cease work affected passenger bus services and transportation of petroleum products and milk.

The Odisha Drivers' Mahasangha announced the withdrawal of the strike on Saturday night, the third day of the agitation, after getting assurance from the state government that their demands would be looked into.



PAPER BIRDS: Kite flying enthusiasts fly kites during the International Kite Festival, in Ahmedabad, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We're looking for a suitable candidate for moon mission, but all in north India only wants to go towards the sun

## WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	28.4°C	27.0°C
Min Temp	14.4°C	15.4°C
Humidity	71%	69%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FOG/MIST IN THE MORNING

## Captured tusker succumbs to tranquiliser OD

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, Jan 7:** The wild tusker, which was shifted from Boudh district to the elephant rescue centre at Kapilash Zoo in Dhenkanal district, died during treatment from suspected overdose of tranquiliser late Saturday night.

The tusker reportedly destroyed acres of farmlands, attacked many people and damaged houses after entering human settlements. It was captured following joint efforts of the Forest department staff and security forces. The tusker, after being tranquilised Thursday, was transported on a truck Friday night and reached the elephant rescue centre.

After reaching the rescue center in the zoo, the elephant was undergoing treatment in an enclosure by veterinary doctors. However, it breathed its last late Saturday night.

## MALDIVES GOVT SUSPENDS 3 DEPUTY MINISTERS OVER REMARKS

# Beach war boils

AGENCIES

**New Delhi/Male, Jan 7:** Chorus to boycott Maldives as a tourism destination grew louder Sunday in India amid a 'beach war' fueled by some Maldivian politicians' derogatory and racist posts on 'X' in reaction to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tweet last week showcasing Lakshadweep.

Reacting to the outrage, the Maldivian government Sunday reportedly suspended three deputy ministers after the Indian High Commission in Male raised the issue with the foreign ministry even as the island nation's key opposition leaders slammed the ruling establishment over the row.

The three deputy ministers criticised Modi's post on 'X', inferring that it was an attempt to project the Union Territory as an alternative tourist destination to the Maldives.

A number of media outlets, quoting officials, reported that some deputy ministers in the youth ministry, Malsha Shareef, Mariyam Shiuna and Abdulla Mahzoom Majid, have been suspended over their posts. The row erupted on a day President Dr Mohamed Muizzu embarked on a week-long visit to China.

The disparaging remarks by



Indian celebrities urged people on 'X' to explore domestic tourist destinations instead of going to the Maldives

There were also posts on social media claiming that some Indians are cancelling their scheduled trip to the Maldives

the ministers have drawn flak in India, with many celebrities urging people on 'X' to explore domestic tourist destinations instead of going to the Maldives.

There were also posts on social media claiming that some Indians are cancelling their scheduled trip to the Maldives.

The Maldivian foreign ministry said the government is aware of "derogatory remarks" on social media platforms against foreign leaders and that the personal views do not represent its position.

"Authorities in Maldives on Sunday suspended three deputy ministers who have come under fire for their posts on 'X' in which they are seen verbally abusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India," the Atoll Times reported.

Sources said the Indian mission in Male took objection to the social media posts against the prime minister.

"The government of Maldives is aware of derogatory remarks on social media platforms against foreign leaders and high-ranking individuals. These opinions are personal and do not represent the views of the government of Maldives," the Maldivian foreign ministry said in a statement.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the new president, Mohamed Muizzu, is seen to be close to China.

## Seat-sharing talks start in INDIA bloc

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 7:** After extensive internal consultations, the Congress has begun seat-sharing talks in some states with like-minded parties of the INDIA bloc for Lok Sabha elections.

Sources said senior leaders of the party have been told to reach out to other leaders of the alliance and talks with some parties have begun.

Formal negotiations for seat-sharing with Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab and Delhi will begin Monday, the sources added.

The Congress' five-member committee on seat-sharing - which has Mukul Wasnik as convener and senior leaders Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel among members - has already held internal consultations with state Congress chiefs and handed over its findings to party chief Mallikarjun Kharge.

The seat-sharing talks with other parties come after the 28-party Opposition grouping decided to unitedly take on the BJP in upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The INDIA bloc has agreed to have a single opposition candidate in Lok Sabha election seats against the BJP in a bid to defeat it in 2024. The sources said Congress president Kharge has entrusted the responsibility to

## Boat carrying Union min gets stuck in Chilika

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 7:** A boat carrying Union Minister Parshottam Rupala got stuck in Chilika lake for around two hours Sunday evening allegedly because of nets laid by fishermen in the waters, an official said.

However, the administration sent another vessel which rescued the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and took him to his destination. He was accompanied by BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra and a few other local party leaders while being stranded on the boat.

The incident took place when the minister started his journey from Balugaon in Khurda district and was on his way to Satapada in Puri district through the blue lagoon.

In the middle of the lake, near Nalabana bird sanctuary, the motorised boat got stuck for around two hours allegedly due to a fishing net laid in the waters, a security official deployed in the minister's convoy duty said.

The administration quickly sent another vessel from Satapada, and the minister and his associates boarded it to reach the destination, he said.

The Union minister is visiting Odisha to interact with fishermen as part of the 11th phase of 'Sagar Parikrama' programme.

## In a first, IAF lands C-130J Super Hercules near LoC at night

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 7:** For the first time, a C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out a night landing at the high-altitude Kargil advanced landing ground near the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan.

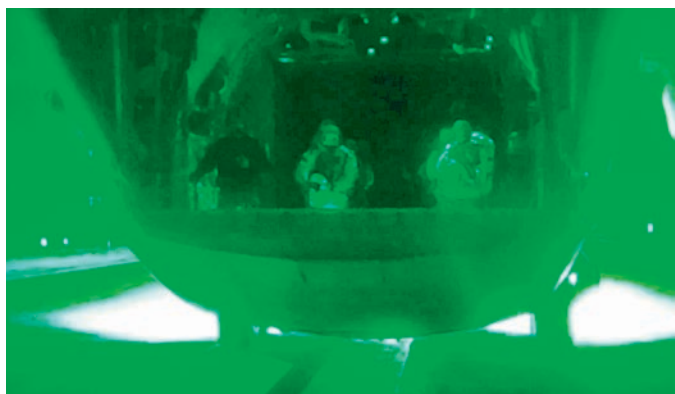
The night landing of the tactical lift aircraft with the elite Garud commandos on board at the Kargil airstrip demonstrated the IAF's operational capabilities in the strategically crucial sector, people familiar

with the matter said.

The night landing was carried out recently. While IAF aircraft have operated from the advanced landing ground before, it was the first time that a transport plane made a night landing.

"In a first, an IAF C-130 J aircraft recently carried out a night landing at the Kargil airstrip. Employing terrain masking enroute, the exercise also dovetailed a training mission of the Garuds," the IAF said on 'X'.

The Kargil airstrip is located at an altitude of around 10,500 feet.



The defence ministry has also been focusing on enhancing in-

frastructure at almost all airfields along the Line of Actual

## What Is Terrain Masking?

Terrain Masking is a technique used by pilots to evade hostile radar by blocking the line of sight of radar with natural or man-made terrain. The technique can involve mountains, hills, forests, and other geographical features to hide military movements or positions. This technique can be achieved successfully by carefully executing movements to take advantage of the natural features of the terrain.

Control (LAC), including the Advanced Landing Grounds

(ALGs) as per operational requirements.

It is especially boosting infrastructure at the Daulat Beg Oldi Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) as well as the Nyoma airstrip.

The Daulat Beg Oldi ALG is located close to the LAC at an altitude of 16,700 feet and is known as the highest airfield in the world.

Temperatures in Daulat Beg Oldi drop up to minus 40 degrees Celsius during harsh winter months.

The Nyoma airfield is located at a height of around 13,000 feet.



## JODIE FOSTER FINDS GEN Z REALLY ANNOYING TO WORK WITH

Actress-filmmaker Jodie Foster said that Gen Z can be really annoying to work with. "They're really annoying, especially in the workplace. They're like, 'Nah, I'm not feeling it today, I'm gonna come in at 10.30 a.m.'" Foster told *The Guardian*.

## THE LAST OF US LEADS WITH 8 WINS

The Creative Arts Emmy Awards saw *The Last of Us*, *The White Lotus*, *The Bear* and *Beef*, gaining momentum as each show picked up big wins at the Awards. *The Last of Us* was by far the dominant favourite with eight wins on the first night of the two-night Creative Arts Awards at the Peacock Theatre in downtown Los Angeles, reports *Variety*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You will be indecisive today, which is not usually the case with you. Ganesh says this could lead you to indulge in speculation, which is not so bad unless you risk all your money in it. Besides, when it comes to matters of the heart, you must exercise a great deal of caution.

**TAURUS**  
All is not likely to go well during this day says Ganesh. Though you will sail smoothly most of the day, problems are very likely to come up. At the professional level you are not likely to face obstacles or difficulties. Your relations with your parents turn awkward and unpleasant.

**GEMINI**  
You will be surrounded by conflicts today. However, you will come to realise within a short while the solutions required to troubleshoot your way out of your difficult circumstances. You will desire solitude and peace so much so that you will not find even your family members welcome company, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will put your heart and soul into whatever task you take up. And, that's a great thing to do, says Ganesh. Don't lose heart though, if despite the best efforts, the results of your efforts are not too forthcoming. Feeling dejected is only going to hamper your progress.

**LEO**  
You need to keep your temper in check and guard against being aggressive today. You need to channelise your energies towards some productive pursuits, otherwise you may make someone the target of your anger. The good thing about the day is you will make satisfactory progress on work related issues.

**VIRGO**  
You are renowned for your leadership qualities and today they will be much appreciated for the way you manage your team. You will get a long-due promotion, and will come in for some extra cash. Ganesh says you received all this by wisely balancing work and home, so be careful not to slip up on this front.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says beware of overspending today. Those of you having close ties abroad may find them beneficial. Ganesh says you should always remain optimistic.

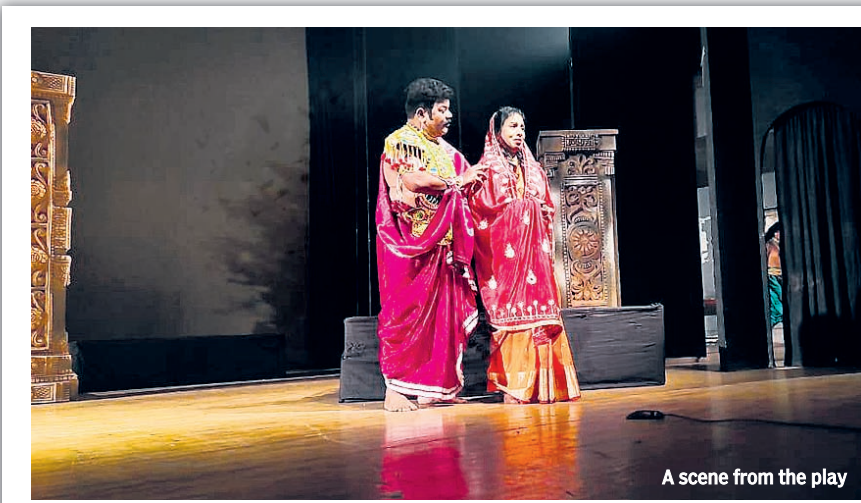
**SCORPIO**  
Socially, you enjoy being in limelight as all the eyes are focused on you. However, beware of evil eyes that may not have good intentions towards you. You are a good soul and never hurt anyone. But, at times, it's important to know your foe's weakness to be on the safer side.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Brace yourselves; the day has a lot of uncertainties today. First being financial. You may have to shell out money for unexpected expenses. But, this may also teach you to be economically independent. Always look at the brighter side, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
You will be a live wire, today. With amazing exuberance you have completed mammoth tasks and have spread the energy around. It will give you tremendous job-satisfaction, foresees Ganesh. Everything seems well and good the personal front, too.

**AQUARIUS**  
You are a strong-willed person, and during the toughest of times you remain focused. A constant smile on your face and positive attitude will help you win the hearts and minds of people at work as well as at home. Such a feeling of contentment and happiness motivate you to do your best.

**PISCES**  
Today you will feel like sharing your innermost feelings with those that you are close to. You will find yourself communicating better and this will result in attracting intellectual people towards you. You will get an opportunity to work with very educated and well established people. This will result in personal progress at work, says Ganesh.



## Curtains down on state-level drama fest with Sambalpuri play *Trishanku*

**Bhubaneswar:** A five-day theatre festival, organised by Manana Natya Sanstha to commemorate its 45th Foundation Day, concluded here at Rabindra Mandap, Sunday. Sambalpur-based drama troupe Shree Cultural Association staged Sambalpuri play *Trishanku*, the plot of which was adapted from mythology involving the plight of Sharmistha, Jajati and Debajani. Written by Ashis Kumar Sonar, the play was directed by Satyaranjan Behera. Among the dignitaries, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Vice-President Manmath Kumar Satpathy, District Culture Officer Choudhury Arabinda Das and Srian Founder and Odissi dance Guru Ratikanta Mohapatra, graced the event as guests while **Orissa POST** Features Editor Bijay Mandal was honoured with Manana Samman on the occasion.



## Alia shares her learnings from SRK

**Mumbai:** Actress Alia Bhatt divulged significant insights into her experiences working alongside industry stalwarts Shah Rukh Khan and Ranveer Singh.

In an interview with Raya Abirached, Alia reflected on her association with Shah Rukh Khan in *Dear Zindagi*, claiming the experience as a pivotal learning curve in her career.

Commending King Khan's demeanour and interactions with people, she expressed, "Working with SRK was one of the most crucial learning experiences of my life. The way he conducts himself and his personality, it's inspiring."

Also elaborating on her vibrant bond with Ranveer, the *RRR* actress emphasised the comfort and trust that define their collaborations, labelling it a safe place for creative exploration. The actress lauded Singh's spontaneous energy, attributing their seamless on-screen chemistry in *RRKPK* to their innate synchronicity.

On the work front, Alia was last seen in *Heart of Stone*. AGENCIES

## 'Myth of a star is the sweetest lie ever'

**Mumbai:** Actress Kangana Ranaut, who will be seen next in *Emergency*, penned a note revealing the best part of being an actor, which she said is getting fan attention whenever actors step out in public.

She took to Instagram stories Sunday, where she penned the note expressing that it is sort of a small miracle that has happened whenever they spot an actor in public.

The *Queen* actress wrote: "The best thing about being an actor is

that whenever people see you at the airport in the lounge, in the aircraft, or even in a shop or restaurant, simply strolling around in the streets, their faces light up with a big, unexpected smile as if a small miracle has happened, as if a good omen has bestowed upon them, as if the glamorous world of the celluloid has collided with their mundane life, leaving a haze of stardust."

"They often smile with twinkling eyes, sometimes even cry at times, fumble with their words or shake with their attempts at selfies, suddenly you too feel the sparkle of your own presence through their eyes and wonder what exactly is happening and what is the most appropriate way to be, it's impossible to be in control of that which isn't even there," she added.

"The myth of a cinema star is the sweetest lie ever, I wonder and wonder at this silly business of smiles and tears," she concluded.

**Mumbai:** Actress Konkona Sensharma, who made her critically acclaimed debut as a director

with the film *A Death in the Gunj* and followed it up with *The Mirror* and *Lust Stories 2*, says she has ideas for a series and a feature film, but she will not go forward with them unless she is completely convinced.

"I am trying to develop a series, and I have an idea for a feature, but I don't like to put any pressure on myself because if it does not turn out nicely, then I will be the first person to abandon it. My standards are quite high," the 44-year-old actress told PTI.

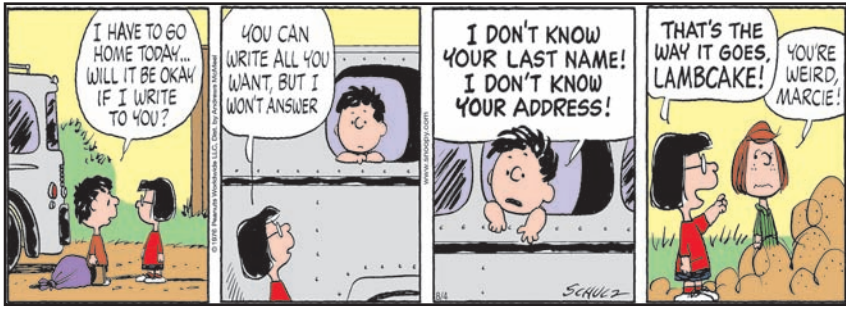
"Imagine directing something you are not entirely convinced of and wasting everyone's time and money; the whole thing makes me shudder. In that sense, it is easier to act than to direct," she said.

Acting is where Sensharma wants to focus, and she is looking for well-written characters, which are hard to come by. And the actor found one in the Abhishek Chaubey-directed *Killer Soup*. Also starring Manoj Bajpayee, *Killer Soup* will premiere on Netflix on January 11.

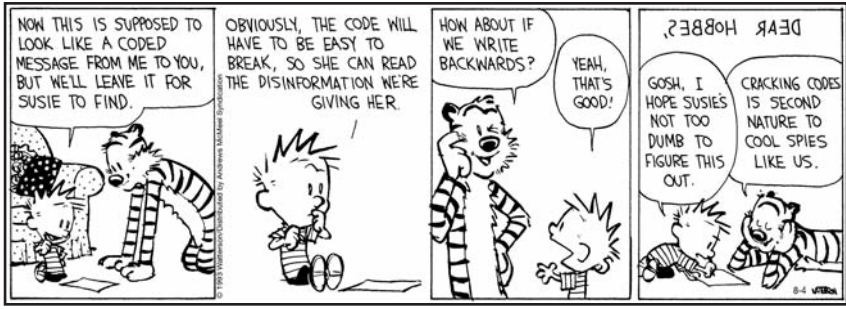


**I don't like to put pressure on myself: Konkona**

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

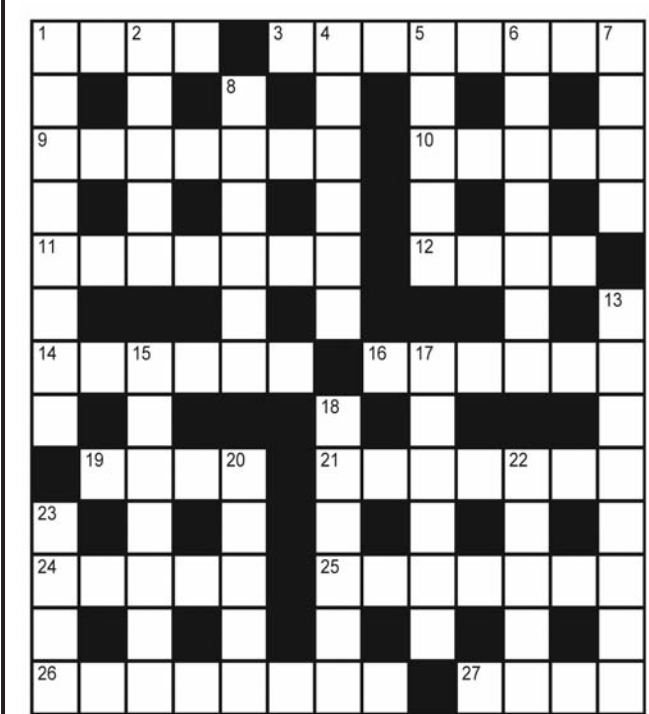


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD



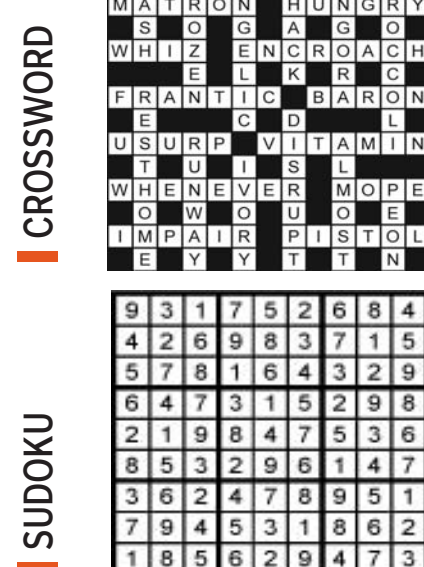
- Across**
- 1 Barbershop emblem
  - 3 Consecrated
  - 9 Paradise
  - 10 "Rabbit food"
  - 11 Answer
  - 12 Presently
  - 14 Gully
  - 16 A small cave
  - 19 Former Russian monarch
  - 21 Trade barrier
  - 24 Ancestors
  - 25 Greatcoats
  - 26 Type of weapon
  - 27 Theories
  - 7 Extinct heavy flightless bird
  - 8 Clunker
  - 13 Goliath
  - 15 Minced cooked meat or fish
- Down**
- 1 Duct gland
  - 2 Fishing gear
  - 4 Medals
  - 5 Leans
  - 6 Strike
  - 17 Full-bodied
  - 18 Cloud
  - 20 Hindu sage
  - 22 Stinks
  - 23 \_\_\_ the Red

### 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



Huge rush at national-level trade fair cum exhibition, Sisir Saras 2024, organised by ORMAS at Biju Patnaik playground in the Baramunda area of Bhubaneswar, Sunday

# downtown

## Complete Kalamandal in 4 months: 5T Chairman



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 7:** 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian directed officials of Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) here Sunday to complete the Kalamandal project within four months.

Pandian issued the directive while reviewing the progress of work at Kalamandal, which after inauguration will be the state government's largest convention centre, and Akhaya Bhoomi, an area being developed for the 1st World Odia

Language Conference. The 5T Chairman Sunday paid a visit to the 2,000 sitting capacity convention centre, being constructed by IDCO for the Odia Language Literature and Culture department, near Sainik School in the City. He also suggested the IDCO managing director to collaborate with the Culture department and use aesthetics of Odia culture as inspiration while designing the interiors of Kalamandal. Pandian also visited the Akhaya Bhoomi project site where the construction is being handled by the Works depart-

5T CHAIRMAN REVIEWED PROGRESS IN CONSTRUCTION OF KALAMANDAL AND AKHAYARA BHOOMI IN THE CAPITAL CITY

WHILE AKHAYARA BHOOMI WILL BE THE CENTRAL ATTRACTION AT THE 1ST WORLD ODISIA LANGUAGE CONFERENCE, KALAMANDAL IS SET TO BE THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S LARGEST CONVENTION CENTRE AFTER INAUGURATION

ment. "Akhayara Bhoomi will commemorate the 1st World Odia Language Conference to be held in City from February 3 to 5. A commemorative arch reflecting Kalingan style of architecture will adorn the place, making it an attraction for the youth, reminding them of the rich heritage of classical Odia language," said a government official. As per source, it has been decided to leave space for future expansion at the Kalamandal building and to keep the basement reserved for vehicle parking for convenience of visitors to the convention centre. The 5T Chairman also suggested the IDCO officials to plant trees in the space so that the entire campus looks green and feels eco-friendly.

## GOA CM SAWANT VISITS SRIMANDIR

**Puri:** Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant Sunday visited the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri and offered prayers. Sawant visited the temple along with his family members in the morning. Speaking to reporters, he said he came to Odisha only to offer prayers at the temple. "I have prayed for the realisation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream for a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) in this 'Amrit Kaal,'" he said. He said that he also prayed for the well-being of the people of his state and the country. Sawant said that his government was now promoting wellness and spiritual tourism in Goa. He lauded the various developmental initiatives around the Srimandir.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Need to uphold state's pride: Kumar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 7:** The ruling BJD and opposition BJP were working against Odisha's self-esteem by involving 'outsiders' in the state's affairs, senior Congress leader Ajoy Kumar alleged Sunday. Raising the slogan of 'Odisha for Odias', he claimed that 'outsiders' were now playing a bigger role in the state's politics, economy and bureaucracy while the importance of Odias was diminishing day-by-day. "Government work contracts of ₹35,000 crore have been



awarded to outsiders. Odisha does not have a contractor? The state is being run by outsiders. Where have the MLAs, MPs and ministers of the state disappeared?" he asked. Kumar, who is on a maiden

visit after being appointed the Congress in charge of Odisha, alleged that people from outside the state have 'captured' important jobs, mining contracts and businesses, besides political posts. "There is a need to uphold the Odia pride. Our concern is that politicians should run the political system and the Odias should run their state," he added. Kumar claimed that the BJD was working with the BJP, and will help its candidates get elected in 15 of the state's 21 Lok Sabha seats. "Have you seen any raid by CBI and ED in Odisha? The

Central agencies, which are conducting raids in various states, have forgotten Odisha. This proves the close link between the BJD and the BJP," he told reporters, maintaining that the Congress is the only alternative. Rejecting the allegations, state BJP spokesperson Biranchi Tripathy said, "Before pointing fingers at others, the Congress needs to clarify the relation between its MP Dhiraj Sahu and the BJD. Sahu had illegally kept ₹350 crore in cash in Odisha." The ruling BJD is yet to react to the allegations levelled by the Congress leader.

## VAISHNAW HEARS PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AT MIDNIGHT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 7:** Minister of Railways, Communication and Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav, who is on a three-day visit to Odisha, received the grievances of Gobra Gram Panchayat of Athagarh block in Cuttack district in the midnight of January 6.

The villagers apprised the minister of water-logging problems near the underpass at level crossing near the

Gurudujhatia railway station. Vaishnav, while discussing the problems with the locals, assured them to sort out the inconvenience and directed railway officials to work on it. As per the instructions of Vaishnav, a divisional team of Khurda Road division headed by the Additional Divisional Railway Manager visited the site in the forenoon Sunday and action was taken immediately by the departmental officials to resolve the problem faced by the residents.

## Cong, JMM hold seat-sharing talks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 7:** Congress leaders held a meeting with functionaries of the state unit of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Sunday and discussed the sharing of seats for the Lok Sabha elections and assembly polls, which will be held simultaneously in the state. The closed-door meeting was attended by JMM's state president Anjani Soren, its Odisha unit in-charge Shivaji Moulik, Congress general secretary in-charge of Odisha Ajoy Kumar and state Congress president Sarat

Pattanayak, among others. The leaders of the two parties held initial discussions on seat-sharing for Lok Sabha elections and assembly polls. Soren told Congress leaders that she would speak to her brother and Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, besides the central committee of JMM, about the seat-sharing talks. Another round of discussion will be held January 10, where it is likely to be finalised which party will fight on how many seats in the state, sources said. Discussions were also held about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's

visit to state as a part of the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra'. The JMM's best performance so far in the state has been in the 2004 assembly elections, in which it won four seats. The party drew a blank in the 2019 assembly elections, but it has a significant presence in Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh and parts of Keonjhar district since the years of the Jharkhand movement. These districts were part of its 'greater Jharkhand' demand. The Congress is part of the Hemant Soren government in neighbouring Jharkhand.



**FUN TIME:** Girls perform body-stretching activities at the second edition of Patha Utsav organised from Sikharchandi hill to Infocity square in Bhubaneswar, Sunday. OP PHOTO

## Words learnt early in life endure test of time

Why people remember some words and use them all through their lives while some other words slip out of their vocabulary? A study has found that words learnt early in life and words that are 'arousing' and evocative are among those that endure in a 'survival of the fittest' way. It also found that words associated with what people can see or imagine, which has been described as 'concrete' words, are also more likely to endure the natural selection process. For example, 'cat' is said to be more concrete than 'animal', which was more concrete than 'organism'. 'Sex' and 'fight' were some of the examples the researchers cited of words that tend to be more arousing and evocative. The study from the University



of Warwick in the United Kingdom delved into the aspect of why some words survive in the modern linguistic landscape, while others don't. "Our study finds that properties like early acquisition, concreteness, and arousal give linguistic information a selective advantage," said Thomas Hills, a professor of

Psychology at the University of Warwick and lead researcher of the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). The researchers said that the findings help shed light on how the human brain processes and filters information, a process they said is known as 'cognitive selection'. "Languages change due to social, cultural, and cognitive influences. Information environments evolve due to war, disease, population changes, and technological innovations. However, the mind remains relatively stable, capable of exerting lasting impacts on language evolution," said Hills. This becomes crucial in today's world, where various information forms continually compete for our attention, the researchers said. "This cognitive selection influ-

ences what, in an information marketplace, will endure," said Hills. The first part of the study involved a story-retelling experiment where more than 12,000 people were asked to retell or reproduce a collection of thousands of short stories, each on average 200 words long, the researchers described. They thus analysed the survival of words in the context of interpersonal communication. For the second part of the study, the psychologists quantitatively analysed millions of words of language from fiction and non-fiction books, newspapers, and magazines, over hundreds of years, from 1800 up to 2000. Early acquisition, concreteness and high arousal predict increasing word frequency over the past 200 years, they found.

INTRODUCING

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# BJD's women aspirants outnumber men in Udala



Municipal Corporation (BMC) deputy mayor, Bharati Singh has emerged as one of the front-runners for the seat. She had earlier worked as an observer for this constituency in 2019. Bharati, who is currently a councillor from Ward No-12 in Bhubaneswar, has been camping here for quite some time now. She has been actively mixing with residents of this town to bolster her chances.

However, also in the running is Sabita Hansda, president of Biju Mahila Janata Dal of Mayurbhanj-1. Sabita was the Udala block chairperson in 2007 and was elected as the Samiti member from Kundabai pan-chayat from 2017 to 2022. She also served as the party's coordinator for Khunta and Kaptipada blocks in the district in 2021 and 2022. Despite being belittled by her detractors, she is one person who may pip Bharati in the race.

As far as the BJP is concerned, no strong woman aspirant has emerged. There is a buzz that Sulamani Madhei, daughter-in-law of former MLA Ravaneswar Madhei, may be nominated by the saffron party. Pusheswari Singh has emerged the front-runner for getting a nomination from the Congress. Her face has become very visible with the posters that she has put up at Gopabandhu block of this constituency.

hopefuls far exceeds their male counterparts.

Srinath Soren was elected from this constituency in 2009 on a BJD ticket. Former minister late Golak Bihari Naik defected from the BJP to BJD and won from this constituency in 2014. In 2019 however, BJP's Bhaskar Madhei defeated BJD's Soren by a slender margin. Amid this backdrop the BJD is determined to wrest the seat back from BJP. Aspirants for the constituency have already started lobbying to catch the eye of the BJD's top brass. Hopeful women candidates are also doing the same. Speculation is rife as to who will be nominated by the BJD, if this turns out to be a reserved seat for women.

If BJD sources are to be believed, then former Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Udala, Jan 7:** The Udala Assembly constituency in Mayurbhanj district is always considered a citadel of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD). Except in 2019, the BJD candidates have always emerged victorious from this constituency. This time however, there is a strong speculation that Udala may be reserved for women.

Keeping this in mind many women aspirants for a BJD ticket in the 2024 Assembly elections have started promoting themselves to attract attention. Many of them with their pictures adorning posters wished the residents of the town a 'Happy New Year'. Yes, there are male aspirants too for this constituency. However, the number of women



**MATTER OF LIVELIHOOD:** A fisherman casts his net while another looks on at the left dyke of Hirkud reservoir in Sambalpur, Sunday

OP PHOTO

## Sagar Parikrama: Rupala interacts with fisherfolk in Ganjam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Berhampur, Jan 7:** Union Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala kicked off the 11th phase of 'Sagar Parikrama' from the Gopalpur harbour in Odisha's Ganjam district Sunday.

'Sagar Parikrama', which was launched from Mandvi in Gujarat March 5, 2022, is aimed at direct interaction with fisherfolk in their village to understand their issues and to improve their liveli-

hood, he said. Rupala interacted with the fisherfolk in Arjipalli village and handed them documents related to PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, Kisan Credit Card and group accident insurance scheme. He assured the people that he would help in clearing hurdles for setting up the fishing harbour near Arjipalli.

A plot has been identified for the harbor, which would cost Rs500, but the work has not progressed as clearance has not

been given since it is forest land, officials said.

Ganjam Zilla Matsya Jivi Forum urged the minister to increase the livelihood support for fisherfolks from Rs15,000 to Rs35,000 when fishing is banned in the region for the breeding of olive ridley turtles.

They also urged him to increase the group accident insurance scheme benefit from Rs5 lakh to Rs10 lakh and provide diesel at a subsidised rate for

mechanised boats.

After the completion of the 10th phase of 'Sagar Parikrama' at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh Saturday, Rupala arrived at the Gopalpur port by sea on a two-day visit to Odisha.

He visited Nairi, Balugaon, Satapada and Puri later in the day.

He would visit Paradip, Kendrapara, Dhamara, Chudamani and Chandipur Monday and interact with the fisherfolk there before moving towards West Bengal.

### Youth dies in jumbo attack

**Dhenkanal:** A youth was allegedly trampled to death by an elephant at Chaulia village under Sadar police limits in Dhenkanal district, Sunday morning. The deceased has been identified as Brahmananda Nayak, a resident of Chaulia village in this district. Reports said that Brahmananda was going to his paddy field Sunday morning when he encountered a wild elephant, which trampled him to death.

## TWO HELD FOR DUPING JOB SEEKERS

PNN & AGENCIES

**Berhampur, Jan 7:** Two persons were arrested in Ganjam district on charge of duping several job-seekers by promising them to provide employment at a private bank in lieu of money, police said Sunday.

The accused were apprehended Saturday, for "cheating several persons by impersonating as the managers of the private bank", a senior police officer said.

The two persons had allegedly cheated around Rs 6.50 lakh from the complainants by giving fake job letters and identification cards, he said.

"We are yet to ascertain the number of persons cheated by them. We suspect that they might have defrauded several unem-



ployed youths and college students. At least 37 resumes of job seekers were seized from their possession," Berhampur Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M said.

He appealed to the youths, victimised by the accused persons, to approach the police.

After registering a case against them at Berhampur Town Police

Station, a team raided their office and seized fake letter heads, ID cards from the bank, two stamps, a bank passbook, 37 resumes of various college students and a tablet from their possession, he said.

One of the two accused took a franchise of a private bank to open accounts and facilitate transactions. He engaged an-

other person to assist him in the bank business.

The duo, however, planned to impersonate the human resource managers of the lender and dupe job seekers by promising them employment at the private bank, the SP said.

To execute their plan, they prepared fake documents and offered fabricated appointment letters to the unemployed youths, he said. After giving such forged documents, they allegedly collected Rs 2,500 to 3,000 each for providing the job.

It was suspected that the duo might have been doing this illegal business for a few months after opening an office of the private bank at Gandhi Nagar area in Berhampur town, the police added.

## Bird census at Hirkud Reservoir begins today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Jan 7:** The census of migratory birds at Hirkud Reservoir in Sambalpur district is scheduled to start from Monday, and will continue till January 10, informed the DFO, Hirkud Wildlife Division, Sambalpur Anshu Pragya Das Sunday. The counting of the avian guests will be conducted from 6 am to 5 pm during these days.

Reportedly, migratory birds in large numbers have flocked to the Hirkud Reservoir since October, 2023 and will stay here till March 2024 before returning to their original habitats, she added.

Special teams of Hirkud Wildlife Division - as the nodal division - along with Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Bargarh divisions will participate in the exercise.

The whole stretch of Hirkud Reservoir, starting from Hirkud Dam up to Odisha-Chhattisgarh border, has been divided into 21 sectors. A total of 78 Forest personnel including 33 bird experts will participate in the census. Fishermen who have knowledge on bird nesting sites have been primarily chosen for this task. All teams have been equipped with binoculars and lifesaving jackets. 32 fishing boats will be en-

gaged in the exercise.

All fishing and tourism activities have been stopped inside the reservoir from Sunday. The locals have been sensitized about the census and a training programme for the enumerators were conducted, Sunday

Notably, 1.24 lakh birds of 98 different species were recorded in 2021 census, while in 2022, the number increased to 2.08 lakh (of 104 species). As per the last year census, more than 3 lakh of avian guests of 108 species had flocked to the reservoir, the DFO said, adding that the result of this year census will be out January 11 or 12.

### Fisherman drowns in sea

**Basudevpur:** The body of a fisherman who had gone into the sea for fishing and died after accidentally falling down from the boat in the mid sea was recovered Saturday. The deceased was identified as Rabindra Kumar Mallick, 60, a resident of Uhad village under Basudevpur police station limits in Bhadrak district. According to information, Rabindra left for sea for fishing from Chudamani jetty along with his associates on a fishing boat named Gayatri, Tuesday. However, while fishing in the mid sea, he accidentally fell down into the sea water. His associates rescued him from sea and after coming to shore, they rushed him to Basudevpur community health centre where the doctors pronounced him brought dead.

## Land issues plague installation of ILS



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Jan 7:** Lack of co-ordination between various Central ministries has only increased the plight of the airport here. Flight cancellations are now a routine affair with passengers suffering.

The installation of the instrument landing system (ILS) remains a distant dream despite assurances from various quarters.

Failure of the Odisha government to provide land to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for installation of the ILS has turned out to be the greatest hurdle. The airport area has been leased out to SAIL by the Odisha government. To provide the land to AAI, the Odisha government first has to acquire the land from SAIL again. However, it is not happening due to various technical issues.

Only after the Ministry of Steel (as SAIL is a state-run organisation) provides land to the Odisha government, then only the latter can transfer the same to Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation will then provide the land to AAI for installation of the ILS. Despite numerous correspondences between the two ministries and the Odisha government the original process is yet to begin. The neat result is that there is no end to the plight of the passengers.

Sundargarh MP Jual Oram, in a letter dated December 14, 2023, to Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of both Civil Aviation and Steel had highlighted the problem the Rourkela Airport is facing due to the absence of an ILS. He had highlighted the issue of land acquisition and had asked the minister to expedite the matter as Scindia heads both the ministries.

Replying to Oram, Scindia in another letter dated January 3, 2024, stated, "I am informed that due to non-availability of adequate land, night landing facility at Rourkela Airport does not appear to be feasible at present. However, AAI may consider the feasibility of installation of ILS at the airport if a proposal is received from the airport operator (SAIL)."

However, now the ball is in Scindia's court as he also heads the Ministry of Steel. He can expedite the process of land transfer by asking SAIL to take up the process on an immediate basis. Till that happens, the installation of the ILS will continue to languish in files.

## FOUR RARE MELANISTIC TIGERS CAUGHT ON CAMERA

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Jan 7:** At least four rare melanistic tigers have been caught on camera in a forest in the state, a report said, Sunday.

The matter came to the fore after Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) Susanta Nanda took to X (formerly known as Twitter) and shared a stunning video of the four melanistic tigers of a family. The video of

the four rare tigers has been caught in the trap cameras installed inside the forest.

The video has spread cheers among the nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts. The video has been gaining a lot of traction online with social media users falling in love with the sight.

It is assumed that the PCCF tweeted about the melanistic tigers after spotting them in Simlipal during his visit to the



sanctuary. Social media users also assume that the video of four rare tigers is from Simlipal Tiger Reserve despite Nanda's

post in X has no mention about the forest where the tigers were spotted.

The tiger census report had mentioned about the presence of 16 Royal Bengal Tigers in Simlipal out of which 10 are melanistic. Residents said that the Centre and state government should join hands and work in tandem to protect wildlife in Simlipal wildlife sanctuary.

However, the growth in pop-

ulation of melanistic tigers and its protection has concerned the wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers. Residents said that not only Royal Bengal Tigers but efforts should be made to protect all the wildlife species failing which the animal population in Simlipal will soon be extinct due to loss in food chain of the animals.

Notably, around 10 rare melanistic tigers are seen in

Simlipal wildlife sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district. The Centre in a reply to a question to Rajya Sabha had said that all the melanistic tigers are in Simlipal wildlife sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district, December 21.

The Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Aswini Kumar Choubey had also confirmed in the Parliament that all the melanistic tigers are in Simlipal.

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# Sri Danda: Bringing devotees closer to the Lord

One of the key components of the ambitious Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa is the Sri Danda, an alternative route for devotees that is aimed at ensuring hassle-free darshan of the holy Trinity.

The 40-ft-wide, 750-metre-long four-lane road, which is presently at the final stages of construction, is being specifically built to ease the traffic load in Bada Danda (Grand Road) while providing a memorable experience to visitors to the 12th century shrine.

The road begins at the Jagannath Ballav Pilgrim Centre that can accommodate a record 1,400 four-wheelers and over 500 two-wheelers.

Visitors leaving their vehicles at the parking area after reaching via Sri Setu can straightway head to the temple on battery-operated vehicles

which will be plying in adequate numbers on the Sri Danda. Necessary traffic control measures will be in place at the junction.

The exclusive road for pilgrims runs through Jagannath Ballav, Chudanga Sahi and Dandimala Sahi. The journey will culminate near the AC shaded pathway. From there, the devotees will reach the Reception Centre near Srimandir. Thereafter, they will proceed for darshan via Sana Chhata Mutt along the Meghanada wall.

The state government has allocated Rs 14 crore for the construction of Sri Danda. While 68 per cent land on which the road is being built belongs to the temple and government, the rest 32 per cent is private land. Those include 0.8798 acre belonging to residents



of Chudanga Sahi, 0.265 acres belonging to residents of Dandimala Sahi, totaling 1.448 acres. 66 families of Chudanga Sahi and 18 families of Dandimala Sahi who had donated land for the purpose have been adequately compensated.

Significantly, the necessary land survey for the road and public hearing had been completed in just four days time. The construction of Sri Danda was given a go ahead only after taking the opinion of locals into consideration.

The Sri Danda construction is unique in many ways. Granular Sub-Base (GSB) GSB forms the bottom layer of the pavement structure for

provision of drainage and transportation of heavy goods. Wet Macadam has been used in the subsequent layer, while high quality paver blocks have been laid on the surface. Apart from pedestrian way, the Sri Danda will boast of amenities like visitors' rest rooms, shoe/mobile stand as well as clean drinking

water facility.

The Sri Danda, which is a part of the historic Srimandir Partikrama Prakalpa - a transformative initiative of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to regulate traffic in the Pilgrim City - will act as a shortcut bridge for the devotees' rendezvous with the Lord.

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## Cool comfort

Standing in long queues for hours on Grand Road under blazing sun or pounding rains to enter the Srimandir for a darshan of the sibling deities has become a thing of the past with the state government recently setting up a tunnel-like air-conditioned (AC) corridor for devotees.

Devotees, especially the elderly and children, had been facing difficulties while standing in endless queue for hours before getting a chance to step into the 12th century shrine. To address the issue, the state government, under the visionary leadership of Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik, installed the AC tunnel in record time. Covered from three sides, the tensile fabric shed - 84-metre in length and 12-metre wide - has come up near Marichikot Square up to Srikrushna Cinema Hall, said Prabhakar Panigrahy, a senior engineer of Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) Limited, the executing agency of the ambitious Srimandir Heritage Corridor Project in the Pilgrim City.

As many as 12 rows of steel bars

**Earlier, we had to wait under blazing sun and even rain to enter Srimandir for having a darshan of the Trinity. Now, the waiting doesn't feel that tiresome, thanks to the AC tunnel with seating facility. This is a very noble initiative by the Odisha government under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik**

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ridicades have been installed in the AC tunnel to facilitate easy flow of devotees. The tunnel can accommodate 2,500 devotees at any point of time. The rows also offer seating facilities for devotees.

Visitors to the temple can enter the AC tunnel at Marichikot Square to reach the ground floor of the Shree Jagannath Temple Office, where adequate resting facility has been made. From there, devotees can head to Srimandir through Bada Akhada Mutt.

Facilities like drinking water and resting areas for the elderly as well as frail devotees are a part of the tunnel. The temple administration has installed adequate CCTV cameras in the tunnel for the safety and security of devotees.

The structure will be removed during the annual car festival of Lord Jagannath and His siblings for smooth movement of the majestic chariots on the Grand Road.

The state government's noble initiative has been appreciated by people from various walks of life. Paramita Mukherjee, a teacher in West Bengal who had been to Srimandir with her elderly parents, hailed the facility.

"Earlier, we had to wait under blazing sun and even rain to enter Srimandir for having a darshan of the Trinity. Now, the waiting doesn't feel that tiresome, thanks to the AC tunnel with seating facility

This is a very noble initiative by the Odisha government under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik," Mukherjee said.

## ARPANA RATH MARCHES AHEAD



## FOR TOTAL CONVENIENCE

The Jagannath Ballav Pilgrim Centre (JBPC) in Puri, which is being developed as part of the Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa, will have meditation area, commercial space and multi-level vehicle parking facility.

Being built under the Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme that aims at developing Puri as a world class heritage city, JBPC is coming up on the premises of Jagannath Ballav Mutt with an allocation of Rs 230.62 crore.

According to Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) Limited, the project executing agency, JBPC construction is on the verge of completion.

JBPC is a G+4 structure with basement. It will have amenities like reception centre, cloak-rooms and bathing complexes on 5,000 sq metre plinth area.

It will also accommodate 188 shops, lobby area on all floors and food court and entertainment zone on 1,840 sq metre area. The top floor will house a meditation centre on 6,937 sq metre area.

The multi-level vehicle parking facility can accommodate 1,420 two-wheelers and 308 two-wheelers at any point of time. "While the basement can hold 350 four-wheelers, the ground floor can accommodate 260 four-wheelers. The first, second and third floors can hold 270 four-wheelers each," an official said.

The official added that 74 two-wheelers can be parked at the basement. While the ground floor can accommodate 72 two-wheelers, the first, second and their floors can hold 54 bikes each, said the official.

While the ground floor will have space for 10 shops, the first and second floors will house 18 shops each. The third and fourth floors will have space for four and 134 shops, respectively.

The lobby, shops and food court will be air conditioned. The top floor of the JBPC, which will have meditation centre and lounge, can accommodate 6,694 people. More than 2,200 people can sit at the facility at any point of time.

Feeding room, resting room for drivers, toilet and drinking water facilities have also been ensured at the pilgrim centre that will be equipped with 11 elevators. Eight elevator will be exclusively for devotees, two for goods and one for four-wheelers.

Two ramps run along the eight flights of staircases for entry and exit. Fire extinguishers and 2000 KV diesel gen sets have also been provided along with complete illumination of the structure.

OBCC General Manager Sridhar Rout said the work is on at wartime footing.

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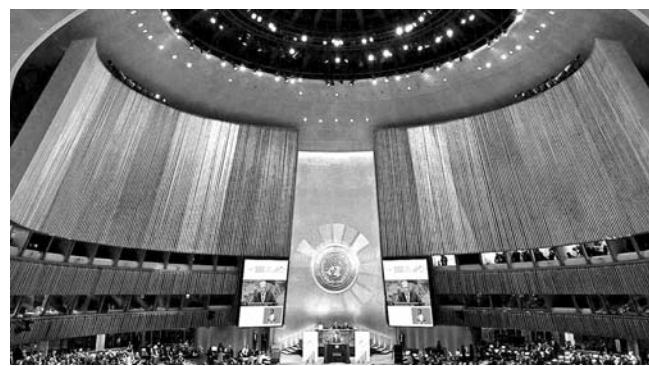
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FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

# NEW NARRATIVE NEEDED



The UN's Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 shows that achieving the agreed targets requires sweeping reforms, not incremental steps. To ensure broad-based support for wholesale change, policymakers will need to create new narratives and pursue an equitable and just transformation

long-term strategies that can achieve a just green transformation, and being proactive about identifying and resolving conflicts over the distribution of costs. It also means working with civil society, the private sector, and trade unions to identify implementation problems and adjust policies accordingly. Developing partnerships that enable mutual learning and exchange within and across regions can help build this capacity.

Democratic processes are fundamental to designing policies that fairly distribute the costs of transformation. The magnitude of the change required, however, is so enormous that anyone whose business or livelihood is affected will resist reform. Especially in societies with high levels of income and wealth inequality, people are more likely to believe that they will be worse off during such a paradigm shift.

That is why policymakers must put equity and justice at the centre of this transformation and commit to transparency and accountability in determining how costs should be shared across different income groups and generations. Monitoring progress against agreed targets, in particular, would enable the public to hold government accountable, strengthening the rule of law and building trust in institutions.

As much as achieving the SDGs depends on democratic consensus, pursuing these radical but necessary reforms could in turn strengthen democracy.

*The writer is Co-Chair of the UN Independent Group of Scientists which authored the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023.*

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Imme Scholz

**DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO DESIGNING POLICIES THAT FAIRLY DISTRIBUTE THE COSTS OF TRANSFORMATION**

In 2015, all 193 members of the United Nations agreed to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a broad policy agenda aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and promoting well-being for all – by 2030. Now, eight years on, the UN's Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 (GSDR) warns that the world is far from meeting these targets. Poverty and hunger are increasing, greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions have continued to rise, and, at the current rate of progress, it will take 300 years to achieve gender equality.

The COVID-19 pandemic's devastating social and economic impact certainly pushed us off track, as did the war in Ukraine. But the transformative action required to meet the SDGs has also been lacking. As the GSDR shows, incremental steps and targeted interventions will not suffice. Instead, we need sweeping reforms that pursue several SDGs at once.

According to the GSDR, the sustainability transformation is a process in which new technologies, infrastructure, and decision-making approaches replace old ones, addressing the negative effects of the existing versions and producing better results. This change is usually met with resistance and can lead to conflict, because it has a cost: companies need to find new business models and markets, and workers are forced to retrain and then find new jobs. Policymakers should anticipate and plan for these outcomes.

One such innovation is renewable energy. But in most countries, renewables are a complement rather than replacement for fossil fuels. Making a full switch, however, is necessary to reach net-zero GHG emissions, which the European Union aims to achieve by 2050. In addition to the large-scale de-

ployment of renewables and clean technologies such as electric vehicles, it will be crucial to scale up investment in energy infrastructure, especially in Africa, and improve energy efficiency. Social innovations that emphasise the collective provision and use of space and mobility services can also help reduce energy use.

Sweeping changes are also needed to end hunger and halt biodiversity loss. People in wealthy countries should drastically reduce their meat consumption, adopt plant-based diets, and halve food waste. Globally, agriculture must adopt low-input and multifunctional production systems that preserve land, water, and biodiversity, and the use of persistent pollutants such as heavy metals and plastics must be cut significantly to ensure a healthy environment.

To promote human well-being and inclusion, policymakers must relentlessly pursue gender-

equality objectives, which requires strengthening women's legal status and economic autonomy. Moreover, putting a price on carbon in high-emitting countries could generate revenue for a global fund for social protection that low-income countries can use to improve education and health services. This would go a long way toward reducing poverty.

Transformation on this scale will not be easy to achieve. That is where the power of narrative comes in: people must be convinced that these changes are the best way to build a livable future, and that our current trajectory leads only to catastrophic outcomes that threaten human existence.

To shift the narrative, policymakers will have to learn how to shore up and maintain broad-based political and societal support for wholesale change. That means focusing more on common purpose than partisan conflict, developing

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

# Inequality beyond methodology



Satya Narayan Misra

**TO MOST PEOPLE, THE FEAR THAT INCOME INEQUALITY IS RISING SEEMS SELF-EVIDENTLY TRUE**

Academic disputes are so vicious precisely because the stakes are so low. But in a scholarly battle over income inequality, the stakes are rather higher. Research by the French economist Thomas Piketty has propagated the notion that income inequality in America is soaring since 1970. It was indeed Piketty who turned the seminal contribution of Simon Kuznets, a Nobel laureate, upside down, who had contended that inequality would initially increase with the increase in per capita income and then decrease. This gave rise to a perception that the developed society would move towards greater equality. In a seminal book 'Capital in the 21st Century' Piketty brought out, based on tax data, how inequality of income and wealth was sharply increasing after the 1970s. For Piketty, inequality was not an accident but a feature of capitalism, which can be reversed through appropriate policy intervention like wealth tax, and progressive income tax on the highly rich.

Sustainable Development Goal 10 calls upon the countries to reduce income inequalities, promote universal economic inclusion, ensure economic opportunities and adopt fiscal policies that promote equality. The Global Income and Wealth Inequality Report, 2021, brings out how the

bottom 50% own only 2% of total wealth, while the top 10% own a humongous 76% of global wealth. In the context of India, the report brings out how the poor are becoming poorer, the middle-income group suffering badly and the top 10% gaining disproportionately after economic reforms were introduced. While the bottom 50% accounted for 21% of income in 1990, it has come down to around 50% by 2019. Similarly, the middle class (40%) which accounted for 45% of income has come down to 30% by 2019. On the other hand, the top 10% who had a share of 34%, now seem to have 65% of total income. To most people, the fear that income inequality is rising seems self-evidently true.

In a stirring research, Gerald Auten of the US Treasury Department, and David Splinter find that the methodology adopted by Piketty is defective and have come to the conclusion that America's post-tax income inequality has hardly risen at all since the 1960s. They believe that while tax return is a useful basis for assessing income inequality they can be also misleading. They bring out how Americans who are partners in a company or hold investments often have trouble in estimating their income. 30-40% of income that they earn in this manner is not even reported on tax

returns which includes some employer-provided benefits and government welfare.

Nobel laureate Daron Acemoglu has tried to assess the findings of Auten and Splinter by bringing out how the notions of inequality can be different, by applying different matrices to income. If labour income inequality is taken into account, workers with a college education seem to fare better than those with a high school diploma or less. Some very highly paid individuals deploy strategies to make their labour income look like capital income which is taxed at a lower rate.

There is a contrasting perspective on income inequality, with right-wingers like Milton Friedman believing that inequality is inevitable and may even be beneficial. Social leveling, they believe, leads to economic stagnation as it caps aspiration and removes incentives for hard work. Equality for market fundamentalists is less important than economic freedom. On the other hand, left-wingers like Piketty and Richard Wilkinson believe that inequality breeds resentment, hostility and strives. The poor feel disempowered and marginalised. Therefore, they plead for a more equal and inclusive society based on progressive public policy like high tax rates on the super-rich

and increased social sector spending on quality education and skilling of all. Acemoglu believes that the recent analysis of Auten and Splinter must not obscure our understanding of what happened to the US economy after World War II. As Paul Krugman brings out the benign tax policy on the highly rich segment of society, coupled with the union-bashing during the time of Ronald Reagan as President in the 1980s witnessed a sharp spurt in income inequality.

In India, inequality has sharply increased after liberalisation. This is largely because of our inadequate investment in providing quality education to the poor at affordable cost. Early intervention in primary education is the best way to correct scholastic inequality between students from different social backgrounds. Tax rates which were 40% in 1993 went down to 30% in 2004 and wealth tax has been abolished. The recent Oxfam report recommends that if India imposes a 5% wealth tax, it will earn the government \$1.27 trillion, which will be enough to take away about 200 million people out of 330 million who are languishing below the poverty line. The debate on income inequality must not get caught up in methodology.

*The writer teaches Macro Economics.*

Witness and stand back from Nature, that is the first step to the soul's freedom.

SRI AUROBINDO



# Taiwan's Fate

Among the series of elections due in 2024 across the globe with far-reaching consequences, the presidential fight in Taiwan on 13 January will be one of the most closely watched and significant. The political future of the island and its inimical relations with China will shape not only the fate of Taiwan's nearly 24 million citizens, but also redefine global security and prosperity. China considers Taiwan as a rebellious province rather than an independent country. Beijing's longstanding position is that the two should be reunified. What has caused tension in Taiwan and its allies, including the US, is Chinese President Xi Jinping's rather belligerent posturing in his New Year address in which he described this reunification as a "historical inevitability."

Taiwanese voters vehemently oppose this reunification. China has so long been telling the world that this should be accomplished by peaceful means. While at the same time it has not ruled out using force. Evidence of the possibility of such an eventuality is the military and economic pressure China has mounted on the island. This has alarmed governments and military leaders around the world, given the real possibility that a war over Taiwan could draw in other countries, including the US, that will devastate the global economy.

Unlike elections everywhere else, social and economic issues are not dominating electoral campaign in Taiwan. It is the question of Taiwan's future without Chinese domination or reunion with China that is the main issue for the election this time around. What has injected further tension is the warning issued by a senior Chinese official asking Taiwanese voters this week to make the "correct" choice. He even termed the election as a decision between "peace and war, prosperity and decline."

The main contenders for the election are the current Vice President Lai Ching-te, also known as William Lai, of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), Taipei Mayor Hou You-ih of the Kuomintang (KMT), and Ko Wen-je, of the Taiwan People's Party (TPP).

Lai has forged ahead of his rivals in the opinion polls till date. He has already benefitted when an attempt by the two opposition parties to form an alliance and put up a common candidate fell through in November. But the race has been tightening in recent weeks. Lai led by 5 points at the end of December. This means though Lai is a hot favourite to win the election, one cannot rule out a surprise.

The KMT is descended from the nationalist party that led mainland China for two decades before it took refuge in Taiwan after the communist takeover in 1949. The KMT controlled Taiwan as an autocratic, one-party state until the island's transition to democracy in the 1990s. However, in a new turn of events the KMT is now favouring closer economic and political ties with Communist ruled China. On the other hand, the DPP, which has held the presidency since 2016, advocates the policy that Taiwan should build closer ties with other international powers. Under the outgoing DPP President Tsai Ing-wen, Taiwan deepened its ties with the US in such a manner that China responded with threatening and highly provocative military drills around Taiwan in recent times.

More than 80 per cent of Taiwanese people oppose reunification and any attempt to revive the idea by either of the two Opposition parties is expected to be rejected outright. In fact, Lai has contended that the KMT's embrace of Beijing is the most dangerous path and it would put the country's hard-fought sovereignty at risk. "Instead of countering the communists, they now befriend the communists," he said.

The last time the KMT was in power from 2008 to 2016, then President Ma Ying-jeou took a more conciliatory tone and forged a number of trade deals with China. But Beijing eventually had to eat dust as there was a huge public backlash in Taiwan. Since then China under Xi has become even more authoritarian, sending alarm bells ringing in highly democratic Taiwan.

The developments in Hong Kong where Beijing-backed authorities ruthlessly cracked down on the democratic institutions and the Opposition seem to have made the majority of Taiwan's population even more determined than ever before not to succumb to China's pressure for reunification. According to recent polls, 66 per cent of the population now identifies as solely Taiwanese against 28 per cent as both Taiwanese and Chinese and just 4 per cent as solely Chinese. Only 2.3 per cent of Taiwan's population is Indigenous and not ethnically Chinese.

If these are any indications, the Taiwanese people seem determined to be opting for a status quo, keeping China at bay on the other side of the bays.

WISDOM CORNER

In order for the light to shine so brightly, the darkness must be present. FRANCIS BACON

If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world. JRR TOLKIEN

Take care of all your memories. For you cannot relive them. BOB DYLAN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1790: US President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union, the annual address to Congress.

1912: The African National Congress (ANC) is founded. The ANC, whose most famous member is Nelson Mandela, played an important role in the fight against the South African apartheid regime and it is now the country's governing political party.

1994: Russian cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov begins his record spaceflight. Polyakov stayed aboard the Mir space station for a record-breaking 437 days and 18 hours.

1998: Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, convicted of plotting the 1993 terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, was sentenced to life in prison.

2016: Mexican criminal Joaquín Guzmán ("El Chapo"), head of the Sinaloa drug cartel, was captured in Los Mochis after escaping prison some six months earlier; he was later extradited to the United States, where he was convicted of various crimes.

LOL

## Want to be healed?

Three guys were fishing in a lake one day, when an angel appeared in the boat.

When the three astonished men had settled down enough to speak, the first guy asked the angel humbly, "I've suffered from back pain ever since I took shrapnel in the Vietnam War ... Could you help me?"

"Of course," the angel said, and when he touched the man's back, the man felt relief for the first time in years.



The second guy who wore very thick glasses and had a hard time reading and driving. He asked if the angel could do anything about his poor eyesight. The angel smiled, removed the man's glasses and tossed them into the lake. When they hit the water, the man's eyes cleared and he could see everything distinctly.

When the angel turned to the third guy, the guy put his hands out defensively - "Don't touch me!" he cried, "I'm on a disability pension."

# Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST  
B-15, Rasulpur Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

## Resilient Japan

Sir, It was a forgettable new year for Japan as earthquakes rattled the country one after another in quick succession. Being situated in a very high risk seismic region, ensconcing on the convergence of four tectonic plates, Japan's nuclear energy landscape cannot miss the eye. But people of the country have consistently displayed the wherewithal to withstand pain and shock that have surrounded them at alarming frequency. Residents are highly conversant with the dos and the don'ts following an earthquake. They rely on the country's highly efficient public broadcasters than paying heed to rumours. The contribution of the leaders of the country and its public service experts cannot be side-tracked. Japan has a robust building code now with the older wooden structures giving way to steel and concrete ones. Earthquake warning systems have considerably been improved upon. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida lost no time in pumping up the spirit of the common man.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

## Geopolitical manoeuvre

Sir, EAMS. Jaishankar's recent visit to Nepal holds profound implications, transcending mere diplomatic exchanges to delve into the intricate interplay of geopolitics, economics, and cultural ties in the region. The cornerstone of this diplomatic foray was the seventh meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission, co-chaired by Jaishankar and his Nepali counterpart, NP Saud. From a broader geopolitical perspective, India's proactive engagement with Nepal is aimed at preventing it from becoming overly reliant on China. This approach contributes to maintaining a balance of power in the region, with implications for regional security and stability. The visit reaffirms India's commitment to its "Neighbourhood First" policy and its leadership role in South Asia. It sends a strong message to other regional players about India's influence and interest in shaping the dynamics of the region. Furthermore, enhanced India-Nepal ties have the potential to pave the way for greater regional cooperation. The volatile situation in the Himalayas, including border disputes and China's assertiveness, makes Nepal's stability even more critical for India's security interests. The visit acknowledges the uncertainty in the region and emphasizes the need for diplomatic efforts to ensure stability and peace in the Himalayan region.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

# Srinagar records coldest night of season thus far

AGENCIES

**Srinagar, Jan 7:** The Srinagar city recorded the coldest night of this season thus far as the bone-chilling cold wave conditions continued in Kashmir with the Mercury plunging more than five notches below the freezing point, officials said here Sunday.



A thin layer of ice formed on the surface of the Dal Lake here and other water bodies in Kashmir due to the intense cold wave that is gripping the region, the officials said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period, when a cold wave sweeps the region and temperatures drop considerably, leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water in pipes.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, particularly the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

The Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.6 degrees Celsius Saturday night, down from minus 5.4 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said.

They said Qazigund recorded a low of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius, while in the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir it was 4.4 degrees Celsius Saturday night, a notch down from the previous night. Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 6.3 degrees Celsius, they said.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 2.7 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 5.3 degrees Celsius.

People who live in houseboats at the Dal Lake had a tough time breaking the layer of ice over the water body to reach its banks. Water in pipes also froze in several parts of the Kashmir valley.

Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell and a 79 per cent deficit in rainfall was recorded for December.

There has been no snowfall in most plain areas of Kashmir, while the upper reaches of the valley have received less than usual amount of snow. The meteorological department has forecast mainly dry weather till January 12.

Srinagar 'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day 'Chilla-i-Khurud' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

# UP: 112 helpline attended over 68L emergency calls in 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Noida, Jan 7:** Uttar Pradesh police's helpline number 112 received over 68 lakh emergency calls in 2023, an average of over 18,800 daily or more than 780 every hour, according to official data.

In 2023, the 112 helpline received 68,71,717 calls while the figures stood at 70,60,492 in 2022 and 66,87,137 in 2021, showed the data accessed by PTI.

The maximum number of such calls were received from state capital Lucknow (3,18,877), followed by Gorakhpur (2,35,597), Prayagraj (2,28,048), Kanpur (2,00,591), Gautam Buddh Nagar (1,92,325), Ghaziabad (1,87,785),

Agra (1,81,468), Aligarh (1,57,197), Jaunpur (1,53,043), and Varanasi (1,49,558), it showed.

Additional Director General of Police (UP 112) Neera Rawat said the large number of events is a result of wide scope of emergencies that the unit tends to address through police response vehicles (PRVs).

UP police's 112 was launched to subsume the roles of helpline numbers 100 (police), 101 (fire) and 102 (ambulance) during emergencies, providing citizens with one-stop solution.

"UP-112 is very sensitive regarding the safety and dignity of the citizens of the

state. After integration with various government institutions by making maximum use of technology, the scope of help to citizens by 112 has also increased. As a result, PRV personnel have provided help/assistance to more than 68

lakh citizens in one year," ADG Rawat told PTI.

Additional Superintendent of Police (112) Mohini Pathak said there are a total of 4,800 PRVs, of which 3,200 are four-wheelers and 1,600 are two-wheelers.

"This includes 316 PRVs which have female personnel responding to emergencies," Pathak said.

Currently there are 31,200 personnel attached to the PRVs, excluding those on desk duties, the officer added. Karuna Shankar Singh, the media cell in-charge at 112, said the department is also carrying out awareness campaigns time to time to apprise the general public of this emergency service and how to quickly avail help during distress.

**पावरग्रिड POWERGRID**

**NOTICE**

1. The applicant above-named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of Transmission Tariff from DOCO to 31-03-2024 Asset-1: Phase-I Unified Real Time Dynamic State Measurement (URTDMS) For NLDC, Backup NLDC And NTAMC System-Phase-I Unified Real Time Dynamic State Measurement (URTDMS) For NLDC, Backup NLDC And NTAMC System-Phasor Data Concentrator (PDC) At NLDC, Backup NLDC And NTAMC System and Asset-2: URTDMS System (Control Center equipment, PMUs and associated equipment integrated and commissioned at ERLDC (07 PMUs) under "Phase-I-Unified Real Time Dynamic State Measurement (URTDMS)"

2. The beneficiaries for Combined Assets of the above-mentioned Transmission system are: (1) Ajmer Viduyt Vitran Nigam Ltd. (2) Jaipur Viduyt Vitran Nigam Ltd. (3) Jodhpur Viduyt Vitran Nigam Ltd. (4) Punjab State Electricity Board. (5) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (6) Jammu & Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd. (7) Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (8) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (9) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (10) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (11) Chandigarh Electricity department (12) Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd. (13) North Central Railway (14) New Delhi Municipal Council. (15) Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board. (16) Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd. (17) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (18) Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (19) Damodar Valley Corporation. (20) Power Department, Govt of Sikkim, Gangtok. (21) Jharkhand Biji Vitran Nigam Ltd. (22) Grid Controller of India Limited.

S.No.	Particulars	Petition-1
1.	Approved apportioned capital cost of the project. (Rs. in Cr)	374.63
2.	Authority which has approved the Capital Cost	Board of Directors
3.	Scheduled date of commercial operation	12.04.2016
4.	Date of commercial operation	Asset-1: 05.03.2023 Asset-2: 31.12.2023 (Anticipated)
5.	Capital cost on DOCO (Rs. in Crs)	Asset-1: 76.54, Asset-2: 1.37

3. Details of tariff: (Rs. in lakhs)

Asset	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Asset-1	30.37 (Pro-rata)	553.65	896.94	756.41
Asset-2	-	-	-	3.32 (Pro-rata)

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at [www.powergrid.in](http://www.powergrid.in)

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd and 4th Floor, Chandrak Bhawan, 36, Janpath, New Delhi -110001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurugram Sd/-  
Date: 01.01.2024 Senior General Manager (Commercial)

**POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
Reg. Office: B-9, Outab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110 016.  
Corp. Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001, (Haryana) Tel.: 0124-2571700-719  
[www.powergrid.in](http://www.powergrid.in), CIN : L40101DL1989GO308121  
A Maharatna PSU

**यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India**

**REGIONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR**  
3/1 A CIVIC CENTRE, IRC VILLAGE, NAYAPALLI,  
BHUBANESWAR-751015,  
Email ID: [crl.d.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank](mailto:crl.d.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank)

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s)/Co-applicant(s)/ Co-obligant(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on below mentioned dates, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s) . The Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount are also mentioned hereunder .

**MADHUSUDAN NAGAR BRANCH , Plot No.269, Sachivalaya Marg, Madhusudan Nagar, Unit-4, Bhubaneswar, Pin-751022, Mob.: 8260489595, E-mail Id- [ubin0808954@unionbankofindia.bank](mailto:ubin0808954@unionbankofindia.bank)**

Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant(s)/Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s):	Amount Due
(1) M/s Steel Tech, Prop.: Sri Ashutosh Padhi, S/o: Mr Dinabandhu Padhi, L3/3, Labour Colony, Kharvel Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751001, (2) Smt Subhalaxmi Mishra, W/o: Mr Ashutosh Padhi, L3/3, Labour Colony, Kharvel Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751001 .	<b>Rs.46,19,627.90</b> as on 16.04.2021 with further interest, Cost and expenses

**Property No.1 :** All that piece and parcel of property belonging to Mr Ashutosh Padhi situated at Flat No.B/002, Block-II, Jagannath Enclave, Khata No.611/1174, Plot No.234/4368, Khata No.611/1175, Plot No.234/4268/4524, Khata No.611/1725, Plot No.235/5834, near Damana Square, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751016, measuring 1200.44 Sqft .

**Type of Possession :** Symbolic / Reserve Price : **Rs.57,61,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs.5,76,100/- / Bid Increment Amount : Rs.60,000/-**

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 14.02.2024 from 12:00 Noon to 05.00 P.M.**  
(with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension), E-Auction Website : [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction**

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit :  
<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in  
<https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/home.aspx> or [https://ibapi.in/Sale\\_Info\\_Home.aspx](https://ibapi.in/Sale_Info_Home.aspx)

This may also be treated as Notice under rule 8(6) or rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s)/Co-applicant(s) / Co-obligant(s) of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 06.01.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

**यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India**

**REGIONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR**  
3/1 A CIVIC CENTRE, IRC VILLAGE, NAYAPALLI,  
BHUBANESWAR-751015,  
Email ID: [crl.d.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank](mailto:crl.d.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank)

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Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s)/Co-applicant(s)/ Co-obligant(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on below mentioned dates, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s) . The Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount are also mentioned hereunder .

**PURI MAIN BRANCH , Lokanath Lodge, Infront of Town Thana, Grand Road, Puri , Mob.:7000355515, E-mail Id-ubin0539449@unionbankofindia.bank**

Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant(s)/Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s):	Amount Due
(1) Mr Trilochan Mohapatra, of Markandeswar Sahi, Radhagobinda Lane, Puri- 752001, (2) Manorama Mohapatra, of Markandeswar Sahi, Radhagobinda Lane, Puri- 752001, (3) Rakesh Kumar Mohapatra, of Markandeswar Sahi, Radhagobinda Lane, Puri- 752001 .	<b>Rs.11,46,479.29</b> as on 06.09.2022 with further interest, Cost and expenses

**Property No.1 :** Land of area 1394 Sq.ft with G+2 RCC Roof Residential Building thereon having floor area G + 1st floor of 1298 Sq.ft and 2nd floor of 1261 Sq.ft bearing Khata No. 445, Plot No. 356/1313, Mouza: Markandeswar Sahi-2 situated at Hadagodia Sahi, Radhagobinda Lane, Puri - 752001, Bounded by: North- Karunakar Dutta, South- Manoj Kumar Pursty, East- Road, West - Sweeper passage.

**Type of Possession :** Symbolic / Reserve Price : **Rs.66,11,220/- / Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs.6,61,122/- / Bid Increment Amount : Rs.70,000/-**

Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant(s)/Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s):	Amount Due
(1) M/s Laxmi Nursingha Store, Prop.: Mr Ranjan Kumar Nayak, At: Madhuban Lane-2, Nabakalber Road, Puri- 752002, (2) Mr Sujit Kumar Nayak, S/o: Mr Bhikari Charan Nayak, At: Jagannathpur, Tadas Ramhanspur, Dist: Puri, Odisha .	<b>Rs.7,04,967.99</b> as on 11.04.2022 with further interest, Cost and expenses

**Property No.2 :** All that piece and parcel of Land at Khata No.231/298, Plot No.364/904, Stitiban Right, Area: A0.0015 dec., Sub Divisional Basti Plot No.1/C, Village/Mouza: Alikia, P.S No. Puri Sadar 148, Tahasil: Puri Sadar No.712, DSRO: Puri, State: Odisha, Pin- 752002 standing in the name of Mr Ranjan Nayak .

**Type of Possession :** Symbolic / Reserve Price : **Rs.4,95,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs.49,500/- / Bid Increment Amount : Rs.5,000/-**

Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant(s)/Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s):	Amount Due
(1) Mr Chittaranjan Sahoo, of P.O. Gopalji Nagar, Bramhan Pokhari, Balighat, Puri-752001, (2) Mr Nrusingha Sahoo, of P.O: Gopalji Nagar, Bramhan Pokhari, Balighat, Puri-752001, (3) Mr Basanta Chhinera, S/o: Kedarnath Chhinera, of Gachhakoli Lane, Dist: Puri, Pin- 752001 .	<b>Rs.2,70,000/-</b> as on 21.07.2022 with further interest, Cost and expenses

**Property No.3 :** Land & building at mouza Balukhand, Khata no. 57, plot no. 225 & 226, area A 0.025 decimal, belonging to Mr. Chitranjan & Nrusingha Sahoo, (Sale deed No. 1376 dated 05-04-2003) and total property bounded by: East: Akshay Kumar Dalabehera, South: Open Plot, West: Shri Tripathy , North: Basti Road .

**Type of Possession :** Symbolic / Reserve Price : **Rs.9,35,200/- / Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs.94,000/- / Bid Increment Amount: Rs.10,000/-**

**OMC CAMPUS BRANCH , OMC Campus, OMC Ltd Office, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751001 Mob.: 9338897029, E-mail Id-ubin0810592@unionbankofindia.bank**

Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant(s)/Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s):	Amount Due
(1) Mrs Suryakanti Routray, W/o: Mr Soubhagya Kumar Routray (2) Mr Soubhagya Kumar Routray, S/o: Mr Kailash Chandra Routray, both are Address at Plot No. 686/2179, Brahmeswarpatna, Tankapani Road, Badagada, Bhubaneswar-751018 .	<b>Rs.34,50,996.95</b> as on 06.02.2023 with further interest, Cost and expenses

**Property No.4 :** All that piece and parcel of Land Area: Ac.0.50 dec. or 2178 Sft with building of G+1 of 1300 sft each at Plot No.68/2179, Khata No. 604/302, in Mouza: Bhubaneswar Sahar, Unit No.36, Rajarani, Brahmeswarpatana, PO : Badagada, PS: Sri Lingaraj, Bhubaneswar, Khurda belonging to Mrs Suryakanti Routray and Bounded by: North- Road, South- Sudhansu Mohan Panda, East- Sub Plot No.5, West- Road .

**Type of Possession :** Symbolic / Reserve Price : **Rs.83,70,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs.8,37,000/- / Bid Increment Amount : Rs.80,000/-**

**MADHUSUDAN NAGAR BRANCH , Plot No.269, Sachivalaya Marg, Madhusudan Nagar, Unit-4, Bhubaneswar, Pin-751022, Mob.: 8260489595, E-mail Id- [ubin0808954@unionbankofindia.bank](mailto:ubin0808954@unionbankofindia.bank)**

Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant(s)/Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s):	Amount Due
(1) M/s Steel Tech, Prop.: Sri Ashutosh Padhi, S/o: Mr Dinabandhu Padhi, L3/3, Labour Colony, Kharvel Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751001, (2) Smt Subhalaxmi Mishra, W/o: Mr Ashutosh Padhi, L3/3, Labour Colony, Kharvel Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751001 .	<b>Rs.78,24,597.32</b> as on 16.04.2021 with further interest, Cost and expenses

**Property No.5 :** All that piece and parcel of property at Khata No.474/1607, Plot No.6, IDCO Plot No.A, 24/D, Mouza: Patia, Chandaka Industrial Estate, P.S: Infocity, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist: Khurda, Odisha- 751024, Total Land Area: Ac.0.197 dec. (8581 Sqft)

**Type of Possession :** Symbolic / Reserve Price : **Rs.1,76,16,357/- / Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs.17,61,635/- / Bid Increment Amount : Rs.2,00,000/-**

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 25.01.2024 from 12:00 Noon to 05:00 P.M.**  
(with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension), E-Auction Website : [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction**

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit :  
<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in  
<https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/home.aspx> or [https://ibapi.in/Sale\\_Info\\_Home.aspx](https://ibapi.in/Sale_Info_Home.aspx)

This may also be treated as Notice under rule 8(6) or rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s)/Co-applicant(s) / Co-obligant(s) of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 06.01.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

**यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India**

**REGIONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR**  
3/1 A, CIVIC CENTRE, IRC VILLAGE, NAYAPALLI,  
BHUBANESWAR - 751015, Ph. No.: 0674-2541936/2538502/26,  
E-mail: [crl.d.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank](mailto:crl.d.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank)

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) / 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 25.01.2024, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit & Bid increment amount are also mentioned hereunder .

**KHURDA BRANCH, Near New Bus Stand, Khurda, Odisha, PIN-752055, Ph. No.: 9861822269, Email: [ubin0813737@unionbankofindia.bank](mailto:ubin0813737@unionbankofindia.bank)**

Name & Address of Borrowers/Co-applicants/Co-obligants/Mortgagors/Guarantors:	Amount Due
1) Mohammad Abdul Siraj, S/o.: Abdul Rahim, At: Saradhapur, P.O. / Dist.: Khurda, PIN- 752056, 2) Rogida Begum, W/o.: Mohammad Abdul Siraj, At: Saradhapur, P.O. / Dist.: Khurda, PIN - 752056	<b>₹ 10,03,088/-</b> as on 21.07.2022 with further interest, Cost and expenses

**Property No.1 :** All that piece and parcel of property consisting of Land & Building in the name of Rogida Begum situated at Mouza: Saradhapur, P.S. / Dist.: Khurda, bearing Khata No.: 375, Plot No.: 1300, Area : Ac. 0.020 Dec, Plot No.: 1288, Area : Ac. 0.140 Dec, Plot No.: 1297, Area : Ac. 0.070 Dec, Plot No.: 1300 is Bounded by North: Plot No.:1301, South: Plot No.: 1298, East: Road, West : Plot No.:1299 and Plot No.:1288, 1297 is Bounded by North: Plot No.:1301, 1302, South: Plot No.: 1289,1292,1293 and 1296, East: Plot No.:1298, West: Plot No.:1287.

**Reserve Price: ₹28,48,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹2,85,000/- / Bid Increment Amount : ₹30,000/-**

**BALUGAON BRANCH, Main Road, Near HP Petrol Pump, At/P.O.: Balugaon, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN-752030, Ph. No.: 9113382741, E-mail: [ubin0807427@unionbankofindia.bank](mailto:ubin0807427@unionbankofindia.bank)**

Name & Address of Borrowers / Co-applicants / Co-obligants / Mortgagors / Guarantors:	Amount Due
1) Mrs. Reena Behera, W/o.: Mr. Dusashan Behera, At: Biswal Apartment, Near Ruchi Road Hotel, Main Road, Balugaon, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, 2) Mr. Dusashan Behera, S/o.: Purusottam Behera, Village/P.O.: Hatabaradi, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha	<b>₹ 18,07,847/-</b> as on 31.01.2019 with further interest, Cost and expenses

**Property No.2:** All that piece and parcel of Land at Plot No.: 168, Khata No.: 276/108, Mouza: Singeswar, Balugaon with extent of Ac. 0.220 Dec., in the name of Mr. Dusashan Behera.

**Reserve Price: ₹9,89,100/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹98,910/- / Bid Increment Amount : ₹10,000/-**

Name & Address of Borrowers / Co-applicants / Co-obligants / Mortgagors / Guarantors:	Amount Due
1) M/s. Shree Rameswar Traders, 2) Mr. Shiba Prasad Das, S/o: Rajni Kanta Das, 3) Mr. Rajni Kanta Das, S/o: Chintamani Das, 4) Mr. Biswajit Das, S/o: Rajni Kanta Das, All are At: Badakul Main Road, P.S: Balugaon, Khurda - 752030	<b>₹ 52,00,544.47</b> as on 31.12.2022 with further interest, Cost and expenses

**Property No.3:** All that piece and parcel of Land at Plot No.: 605 and 614, Khata No.: 658, Mouza: Badakul, Balugaon, Dist.: Khurda with extent of Area: Ac. 0.300 Dec in the name of Mr. Rajni Kanta Das.

**Reserve Price: ₹1,02,94,200/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹10,29,420/- / Bid Increment Amount : ₹1,00,000/-**

Name & Address of Borrowers / Co-applicants / Co-obligants / Mortgagors / Guarantors:	Amount Due
1) M/s. Omm Nilakantha Medicine Store, 2) Mr. Purushottam Khuntia, 3) Mr. Jagannath Khuntia, All are At/PO: Nachuni, Gangadharpur, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-752039	<b>₹ 21,29,066.53</b> as on 27.04.2023 with further interest, Cost and expenses

**Property No.4:** All that piece and parcel of Land and Building (House) at Khata No.: 641, Plot No.: 1708, Area: Ac. 0.065 Dec. (Gharabani) & Khata No.: 642, Plot No.: 1707, Area: Ac. 0.040 Dec., Mouza: Nachuni, At/PO: Bhabanipur, Nachuni, PS: Banpur, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN- 752039.

**Reserve Price: ₹69,30,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹6,93,000/- / Bid Increment Amount : ₹70,000/-**

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 25.01.2024 between 12:00 Noon to 05:00 P.M.**  
(with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension), e-Auction Website : [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction**

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit :  
<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in  
<https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/home.aspx> or [https://ibapi.in/Sale\\_Info\\_Home.aspx](https://ibapi.in/Sale_Info_Home.aspx)

For further details please contact to Respective Branch

This may also be treated as Notice under rule 8(6) / rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Place : Bhubaneswar Sd/- Authorised Officer  
Date: 06.01.2024 Union Bank of India



People take a boat ride as migratory birds fly over the Yamuna river on a hazy winter morning in New Delhi



A shopkeeper arranges kites ahead of Makar Sankranti in Mumbai



Villagers compete in a horse race during Epiphany celebrations in Pietrosani, Romania



A visitor looks at paintings at a stall during the annual 'Chitra Santhe-Art Carnival', organised for artists to showcase and sell their artwork, in Bangalore



Miss Winter Queen winner Nisha Thakur along with first runner-up Kohinoor Sirkaik and second runner-up Bhavya Pandit poses for photographs at the presentation ceremony of Miss Winter Queen 2024, in Manali



Tourists at a frozen stream at Chandanwari in Anantnag district, Jammu and Kashmir



A vendor sells traditional caps on a cold day in Kolkata



Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu ahead of its inauguration in Maharashtra



# national

## of the day quote

In the last few days, there have been reports of differences between the old and new members of the party. However, I want to emphasise that the party remains united under the leadership of our supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | TRINAMOOL CONGRESS LEADER

Drinking water facilities have reached 72 per cent households in the country and the remaining will be completed by December 2024

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION JAL SHAKTI MINISTER

There (in the northeast) you talk to militants while in Jammu and Kashmir you have branded ordinary people as militants. You have filled the jails by carrying out (indiscriminate) arrests. The Enforcement Directorate, NIA, SIA raids ... Does anyone treat their own people like this?

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### 5 Maoists held

**Chatra:** Five Maoists were arrested in Jharkhand's Chatra district, police said Sunday. Superintendent of Police Rakesh Ranjan said a 'sub-zonal commander' was among the five people belonging to Tritiya Sammelan Prastuti Committee, a splinter group, arrested from the Tandwa police station area Saturday evening. The 'commander', identified as Adesh Kumar Ganju alias 'Prabhakar Ji', was wanted in several cases of arson and extortion in the Tandwa coalfield area, he said. Arms and ammunition were also seized from them. Among these were a rifle, two pistols, 14 live cartridges, a knife and pamphlets of the banned organisation, the SP said.

### ATS nabs six

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) Sunday arrested six persons and recovered country-made weapons and ammunition after raiding a guesthouse in the western suburb of Borivali here, an official said. The men, who hail from New Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, were allegedly planning to commit dacoity in the city, the official said. A team from the ATS conducted a raid at Ellora Guesthouse near Borivali railway station and nabbed the accused in the morning, he said. The team recovered a country-made revolver, two pistols, four magazines, 29 bullets, a knife, a car and other materials from the accused, the official said.

### Cong appoints coordinators

**New Delhi:** The Congress Sunday released a list of coordinators for 539 Lok Sabha constituencies who will assess the political situation in their respective areas and give feedback to the leadership for seat-sharing talks in the INDIA bloc. The announcement comes as the principal opposition party steps up preparations for the Lok Sabha polls. In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "The Congress party has just released the list of coordinators covering 539 Parliamentary constituencies with 4 more to come soon." "Hain Taiyaar Hum! Badlega Bharat. Jeetega INDIA!" In his remarks at a press conference Saturday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had said that the party will decide on how many seats it would contest but in all the 500 plus constituencies, it has finalised its observers.



**The BJP is against the tribal community. It hates the tribal community and is against the community from the beginning. Give it another 30 years and it will destroy the tribal community**

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

## PM TO VISIT GUJARAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat from January 8-10 during which he will hold bilateral meetings with world leaders, CEOs of top global corporations, and inaugurate the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit



# Arrest TMC leader, probe his terror links: Guv

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Jan 7:** Expressing concern that TMC leader Sahajahan Sheikh, the prime accused in the case of assault on ED officials, may have "crossed the border", West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose has instructed authorities to arrest him immediately and investigate his alleged connections with terrorists.

His remarks that Sheikh has links with terrorists drew sharp criticism from the ruling TMC Sunday. The statement issued by Raj Bhavan late Saturday night highlighted that the Governor, upon receiving a complaint in the Peace Room, instructed the police chief to arrest the culprit promptly.

"On receipt of a complaint in the Peace Room of Raj Bhavan that Sahajahan Sheikh is supported by some political leaders with the connivance of some police officers, Hon'ble Governor instructed the police chief to arrest the culprit forthwith and report compliance," the state-



**THE GOVERNOR EMPHASISED ON THE NEED TO ASCERTAIN SHEIKH'S WHEREABOUTS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION**

**HIS REMARKS THAT SHEIKH HAS LINKS WITH TERRORISTS DREW SHARP CRITICISM FROM THE RULING TMC SUNDAY**

ment said.

The Governor emphasised on the need to ascertain Sheikh's whereabouts and take appropriate action. The complaint alleging that Sheikh may have "crossed the border" and "liaison with the terrorists" may be "enquired into immediately", the statement added.

Responding to the Governor's comment, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "We don't know what is the basis of his remarks. According to the Constitution, the Governor

works in consultation with the state government. So how can he make such remarks without any concrete report or evidence? He is not here to run a parallel government."

Incidentally, the Bengal BJP had also alleged the involvement of cross-border elements and Rohingyas in the mob attack on the Enforcement Directorate officials. "We have been alleging that cross-border elements and Rohingyas were involved in the Friday's attack on ED officials. We support what the Governor has

## Rajnath to leave for UK today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 7:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will embark on a two-day visit to the UK Monday to rejuvenate strategic and security ties between the two countries, including possible collaboration to jointly develop fighter jets and other military platforms.

The defence ministry, announcing the visit, said Singh and his British counterpart Grant Shapps are expected to discuss a wide range of issues in the spheres of defence, security and industrial cooperation.

It said Sunday that Singh is also expected to call on British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Foreign Minister David Cameron. The defence minister will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising senior officials from the three services, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and department of defence production.

"He will also interact with the CEOs and industry leaders of UK Defence Industry and meet with the Indian community there," the ministry said in a statement.

Singh's talks with Defence Secretary Shapps would largely focus on sharing of critical technology and expanding bilateral industrial defence cooperation, people familiar with the matter said.

The two sides are expected to discuss collaboration in joint development of fighter aircraft and other military platforms, they said. Singh and Shapps are also expected to delve into the situation in the Indo-Pacific, West Asia and Ukraine, the people said.

In April 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his then British counterpart Boris Johnson had agreed on a new and expanded India-UK defence partnership.

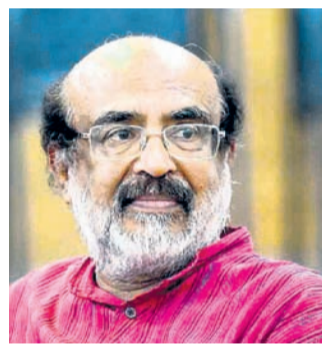
## ED summons Thomas Isaac

**THE 71-YEAR-OLD POLITICIAN HAS BEEN ASKED TO DEPOSE AT THE AGENCY OFFICE IN KOCHI JANUARY 12**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, Jan 7:** The Enforcement Directorate has summoned senior Kerala CPI(M) leader Thomas Isaac for questioning in a FEMA case linked to probe into the alleged violations in the financial dealings of KIIFB during his tenure as the finance minister in the previous LDF government, official sources said Sunday.

The 71-year-old politician has been asked to depose at the agency office in Kochi January 12, they said. The central agency in December had informed the Kerala High Court that it has



withdrawn the summons issued to Isaac.

The submissions were made during hearing of a plea by Isaac and a KIIFB official alleging that only personal information was sought through the summons by ED and seeking quashing of the same. In view of the agency withdrawing the summons, the HC disposed of the petitions but at the same time, the court also said the ED was free

to continue with its investigation in the matter.

ED sources said the fresh summons to Isaac has been issued in light of the HC allowing the agency to go ahead with the investigation, under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), into the end use of Rs 2,000 crore raised by KIIFB through masala bonds and its compliance with the FEMA norms.

Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) is the primary agency of the state government for financing large and critical infrastructure projects and had raised Rs 2,150 crore in 2019 through its debut masala bond issue as part of its plan to mobilise Rs 50,000 crore to fund large and critical infrastructure projects in the southern state. The ED suspects contravention of the FEMA here and hence initiated a probe.



A vendor arranges 'puja' material at her stall ahead of Gangasagar Mela at Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas district

## 12-yr-old gangraped

The incident took place January 2 in the Sadar bazar area when the victim, who is a ragpicker, had come to the Sadar bazar area for collecting garbage, a senior police officer said



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 7:** A 12-year-old girl was allegedly gangraped by a man and three juveniles after a woman lured her to a secluded place in north Delhi, police said Sunday.

The man and woman were arrested and the three accused teenagers were apprehended January 4, they added. The incident took place January 2 in the Sadar bazar area here when the victim, who is a ragpicker, had come to the Sadar bazar area for collecting garbage, a senior police officer said.

"A 29-year-old woman who is a regular customer of a tea stall, and known to the girl, allegedly lured her to a secluded location, where three juveniles aged - 12, 14 and 15 years - along with the 38-year-old tea stall owner Suresh were waiting," the officer said.

The woman allegedly took the victim to a makeshift tent where the man and the three teenagers

gangraped her, the officer added. "The victim was threatened of dire consequences if she would report the matter to anyone," said the police officer.

The matter came to light when the girl again came to the Sadar Bazar area January 4 to collect garbage and shared the incident with her cousin who later informed others and the matter was reported to the police.

A team was immediately formed at the Sadar Bazar police station here and sent to the spot. The tea stall owner, identified as Suresh, and the woman who lured her were arrested. The three accused juveniles were apprehended, the police officer said.

The victim's statement has been recorded under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Her medical examination and a counselling session have been conducted, he added.

## Ajit targets uncle Sharad Pawar again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 7:** NCP leader and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar Sunday took a veiled jibe at his uncle Sharad Pawar over his age, saying some people are not ready to retire even though they are in their 80s.

"Employees of Maharashtra government retire at the age of 58. Most people normally stop their active professional life after turning 75. But there are a few (Sharad Pawar) who, even after crossing 80 years of age and now 84, are not ready to retire," said Ajit Pawar while addressing a gathering of party workers in Thane district.

Ajit Pawar and some MLAs loyal to him had joined the Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra last July. He subsequently staked a claim to the Nationalist Congress Party's name and poll symbol. The move was challenged in the Election Commission by NCP founder Sharad Pawar.

"We are here to work and we can perform," Ajit Pawar said, adding that he joined the stated government to serve the people whose problems and other issues cannot be solved without power.

In a veiled warning to Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange who has announced a march to



Mumbai, Ajit Pawar said nobody will be allowed to take law into his hands. "A debate on the Maratha community's demand for reservation is underway these days. Some people talk of coming to Mumbai to raise their demand. Nobody will be spared if an attempt is made to take the law into their hand. Nobody is above the law," he added.

He also said the government was committed to granting reservations to the Maratha community within the Constitutional framework. In an apparent reference to NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) MLA Jitendra Awhad, whose remarks on Lord Ram had created a huge row, Ajit said some people are diverting discussions from developmental issues to unnecessary controversies, and urged people to ignore such distractions.

He appealed to NCP workers to unite ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, showcasing NCP's strength in the district, and supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's candidacy for a third term.

# Forest logging, climate change take a toll on birds: Study

Forest loss and climate change present major threats to these ecosystems and there are few studies that have investigated their joint effect, the researchers said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 7:** Logged forests and climate change are driving birds in tropical mountains to higher elevations due to rising temperatures, a research by the Indian Institute of Science has found.

While smaller bird species are able to withstand higher temperatures, and thus colonise these logged forests better, the larger ones appeared to be increasing in the primary (undisturbed) forests, researchers found after analysing 10 years of data.

Logged forests refer to the commercial cutting of trees for sale as timber or pulp. Such forests have higher average temperatures and lower humidity than primary forests, thus hastening the movement of birds

to higher elevations, the researchers said.

Logging can thus lead to the loss of large-bodied, old growth-dependent species, and decrease the overall biodiversity, they said. Further, logged forests also have fewer foliage-dwelling insects, reducing the available resources for the birds. As large species require more energy, this disproportionately reduces the number of large species, the team said in its study published in the journal 'Global Ecology and Conservation'.

Tropical mountain forests are unique ecosystems that can start at about 150-200 metres and reach up to 3,500 metres on mountains around the world, and are critical to biodiversity. "Birds - and indeed much of the flora and fauna - of tropical mountain



ranges are extremely temperature-sensitive and are responding to global warming rapidly. Also, most of the world's terrestrial biodiversity is concentrated in tropical mountains," said Umesh Srinivasan, Assistant

Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), IISc, and an author of the study.

"In tropical mountains, each species has a particular niche where it is found. This restriction creates much more diversity

in a small space," said Ritobroto Chanda, former project associate at the CES and the study's corresponding author.

Forest loss and climate change present major threats to these ecosystems and there are few studies that have investigated their joint effect, the researchers said. For the study, the team collected data from the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, situated in the biodiversity hotspot of the eastern Himalayas and home to more than 500 bird species.

Each day, after setting up the mist nets, the team checked them every 20-30 minutes, weighed and labelled the birds, and released them immediately. In their final analysis, they included 4,801 understory insectivores - insect-eating birds that live

under the canopy of large trees - belonging to about 61 species.

The researchers found that understory insectivores, often found only in specific niches, are negatively influenced by logging and show steep declines in numbers. They said that the findings highlighted the need to safeguard primary forests in order to mitigate the effects of climate change.

"Logging managers should ensure that undisturbed forests across large elevational gradients are protected," said Srinivasan. He explained that this will allow species to shift their ranges upwards in response to climate change and maintain survival. "If species encounter degraded forest while they shift upwards, certain species will most likely go locally extinct," he said.

# international



The government has paid out about GBP 150mn to thousands already. Of course, we want to get the money to the people as quickly as possible, that's why there are interim payments of up to, I think, GBP 600,000 that can be made  
RISHI SUNAK | BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

## MAJOR FIRE IN REFUGEE CAMP

A fire raged through a crammed camp of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's southern coastal district of Cox's Bazar, gutting more than 1,000 shelters and leaving thousands homeless, a fire official and the United Nations said Sunday



### of the day quote

The security of Gaza and the West Bank is interconnected with that of the region and war is not the solution  
HOSSEIN AMIR-ABDOLLAHIAN | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

It can be said that China-US cooperation is no longer an option for the two countries and even for the world, but an imperative that must be seriously addressed  
WANG YI | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER

A country cannot expect to be taken seriously on a global stage if neighbouring countries are upset with it  
NAWAZ SHARIF | FORMER PAKISTAN PM

### SHORT TAKES

#### Qureshi ineligible to contest election

Lahore: Pakistan's former foreign minister and Tehreek-e-Insaf party's Senior Vice President Shah Mahmood Qureshi has been declared "ineligible" to contest the February 8 general elections by a poll tribunal, a media report said Sunday. An appellate election tribunal Saturday rejected Qureshi's appeal against the rejection of his nomination papers, The News International reported. While Qureshi was cleared to contest polls from the NA-214 constituency in Sindh's Umarkot city, the appellate election tribunal turned down his appeal filed against the returning officer's (RO) decision to reject his nomination papers for two National Assembly and as many Punjab Assembly seats in Multan in Punjab province. Qureshi, 67, is currently lodged in Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi in a cipher case. The former foreign minister had filed nomination papers for NA-150 Multan-III, NA-151 Multan-IV and PP-218, PP-219 constituencies.

#### 12 killed in Russia's strike on Donetsk

Kiev: At least 12 people were killed and 12 others injured in Russia's missile strike on Donetsk region of Ukraine. Russia shelled Pokrovsk district in which six people were killed and eight wounded. In the shelling, 134 private houses and 15 high-rise buildings were damaged, the Donetsk Regional Military Administration posted on Telegram, Ukrinform reported. In Rivne, five people were killed and two wounded, 80 houses, a paramedic and obstetric center, and an administrative building were damaged. In the Bakhmut district, one person was killed, one was wounded, and five houses were damaged.

## Hasina wins re-election

Hasina's party won 200 seats in the 300-seat parliament while counting is still underway after the end of the day-long voting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Jan 7: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Sunday secured a record fourth straight term as her Awami League party won two-thirds of the seats in the general elections marred by sporadic violence and a boycott by the main Opposition BNP and its allies.

Hasina's party won 200 seats in the 300-seat parliament while counting is still underway after the end of the day-long voting Sunday.

"We can call Awami League winner with the already available results but the final announcement will be made after the end of the counting of votes in the rest of the constituencies," an election commission spokesman told reporters.

Hasina won the Gopalganj-3 seat for the eighth time since 1986. She bagged 2,49,965 votes while her nearest rival M Nizam Uddin Lashkar from the Bangladesh Supreme Party secured just 469 votes.

The 76-year-old leader, who has been ruling the strategically located South Asian nation since 2009, secured a record fourth consecutive term and fifth overall term in the one-sided election, which witnessed a low turnout. Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader claimed that the people have rejected the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami's boycott of the election by casting their ballots.

"I sincerely thank those who braved the fear of vandalism, arson, and terrorism to participate in the 12th national parliamentary elections," Quader said. Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader won the Rangpur-3 seat in the 12th national parliamentary election.

According to the initial estimates, the voter turnout was around 40 per cent but the figure



could change after the final count, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal earlier said. The 2018 general election recorded an overall turnout of more than 80 per cent.

Despite the largely peaceful voting, officials and the mainstream media reported at least 18 arson attacks across the country since late Friday, with 10 of them targeting polling places.

Former premier Khaleda Zia-led Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leaders said the party plans to intensify its anti-government movement through a peaceful public engagement programme from Tuesday as it dubbed the polls as "fake." The BNP boycotted the 2014 election but joined the one in 2018. This time, they boycotted the polls. Fifteen other political parties also boycotted the election.

The party leaders claimed that the low turnout was evidence that their boycott movement had been successful.

They said that peaceful democratic protest programmes will be accelerated, and the people's right to vote will be established through this programme.

The BNP is observing a 48-hour nationwide general strike which began at 6 am Saturday and will end at 6 am Monday. It had called upon voters to shun the election to mark the beginning of an end of what it calls a "fascist government." Earlier,

an election commission spokesman said that other than some sporadic incidents of violence, the voting was largely peaceful in 299 of the 300 constituencies.

The Commission suspended polling in one seat because of the death of a candidate.

The election commission cancelled the candidature of a ruling Awami League candidate in northeastern Chattogram at the far-end of the voting hours as he "scolded and threatened" a police officer.

The usual election-day fervour was nowhere to be seen. Even in front of the election campaign booths, there was no presence of voters except the ruling party-backed supporters and election agents.

Voters cast their votes without any disruption in the absence of long queues, leaving presiding officers with idle time.

Prime Minister Hasina cast her vote at Dhaka City College polling centre soon after the voting started. Her daughter Saima Wazed accompanied her.

She alleged that the Opposition BNP-Jamaat-e-Islami alliance does not believe in democracy. "People will vote as they wish. And we were able to create that voting environment. Although the BNP-Jamaat alliance has caused many incidents, including arson attacks," she told reporters.

## Blinken meets Jordan's king, foreign minister

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amman, Jan 7: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Sunday with Jordan's king and foreign minister and visited a World Food Program warehouse in Amman as he pressed ahead with an urgent Middle East diplomatic mission to prevent Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza from spreading.

On his fourth visit to the region in three months, Blinken stressed the need for Israel to adjust its military operations to reduce civilian casualties and significantly boost the amount of humanitarian aid reaching Gaza while highlighting the importance of preparing detailed plans for the post-conflict future of the territory, which has been decimated by intensive Israeli airstrikes and ground offensives.

After a day of talks with Turkish and Greek leaders in Istanbul and Crete, Blinken met Sunday with Jordan's King Abdullah II and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi seeking buy-in for US efforts to tamp down resurgent fears that the three-month-old war could engulf the region, ramp up aid deliveries to Gaza and prepare for the eventual end of hostilities.

King Abdullah II "warned of the catastrophic repercussions" of the war in Gaza while calling on the US to press for an immediate cease-fire, a statement by the Royal Court said.

Jordan and other Arab states have been highly critical of Israel's actions and have eschewed public support for long-term planning, arguing that the fighting must end before such discussions can begin.

They have been demanding a cease-fire since mid-October as civilian casualties began to skyrocket. Israel has refused and the US has instead called for specified temporary "humanitarian pauses" to allow aid to get in and people to get to safety.

## N KOREA VOWS MILITARY STRIKE



AGENCIES

Seoul, Jan 7: North Korea will launch a military strike immediately in response to any provocation, Kim Yo Jong, the sister and key ally of leader Kim Jong Un, said Sunday, as it fired artillery shells near its border with the South for the third day in a row.

The remarks come after South Korea's military said the North had fired more than 60 artillery rounds Saturday near their disputed maritime border, following a similar volley of more than 200 the previous day.

North Korea again fired about 90 rounds Sunday, the South said. The North's army said they did not pose any threat to the South as the firing drill was conducted parallel to the border.

"I make myself clear once again that the safety catch of trigger of the Korean People's Army (KPA) had already been slipped," Kim Yo Jong, one of the most powerful members of Kim Jong Un's regime, said in a

statement carried by state news agency KCNA.

"As already declared, the KPA will launch an immediate military strike if the enemy makes even a slight provocation," Kim said, using the official name of the North Korean army.

Although South Korea held its own fire drills in the sea Friday in response to the artillery shells, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said there was no plan to do so after Saturday's events.

The drills on both sides of the border Friday sparked warnings for residents of South Korean border islands to seek cover in bomb shelters, although there were no reports of shells crossing the maritime border.

In the statement, Kim denied the artillery shell firings on Saturday and said the North had detonated explosives as a deception tactic.

South Korea's military rejected Kim's statement as low-level psychological warfare, urging North Korea to cease military activity that raises tension near the border.

NORTH KOREA FIRED MORE THAN 90 ROUNDS NEAR THE RIVALRY'S DISPUTED WESTERN SEA BOUNDARY SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
NORTH KOREA'S MILITARY LATER CONFIRMED IT USED COASTAL ARTILLERY SYSTEMS TO CARRY OUT LIVE-FIRING EXERCISES

### SNIPPETS

#### Australia to expose cos' gender pay gaps

Canberra: The Australian government will publish the gender pay gaps at large companies in a bid to improve income equality, a Minister revealed Saturday. From February 27, the pay discrepancies between male and female employees at every company with over 100 employees in Australia will be made available online under legislation aiming to improve pay transparency and female participation in the workforce, reports Xinhua news agency. Katy Gallagher, the Minister for Women and Minister for Finance, said in a statement.

#### Japan: Arrest in political fundraising scandal

Tokyo: Japanese prosecutors made their first arrest Sunday in connection with a major political slush funds scandal that has rocked Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's already unpopular government. Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office apprehended former vice-education minister Yoshitaka Ikeda on suspicion of failing to report fundraising proceeds he received from his faction within the governing Liberal Democratic Party, according to officials and local media reports. Ikeda's faction, which used to be led by the late former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who was assassinated in 2022, has remained the largest and most influential within Kishida's ruling party.

#### IS claims responsibility for Kabul bus explosion

Islamabad: The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a minibus explosion in the Afghan capital late Saturday that killed at least five people. The Sunni militant group said its members detonated an explosive device on the bus carrying Shiite Muslims, whom they called disbelievers, in a statement released shortly after the explosion Saturday. It was the first attack in the country in 2024.



Turkish President and leader of the Justice and Development Party, or AKP, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, center, talks next to party candidates for March's nationwide elections during an event in Istanbul, Turkey. The ruling party will try to recover cities lost to the opposition's Republican People's Party, or CHP, five years ago, including the country's largest city, Istanbul, and the capital, Ankara

## Trump downplays Jan 6 on anniversary of Capitol siege

JUST OVER A WEEK BEFORE THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION PROCESS BEGINS WITH IOWA'S KICKOFF CAUCUSES, TRUMP CONTINUED TO CLAIM THAT COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN EMPTYING JAILS AND MENTAL INSTITUTIONS TO FUEL A RECORD NUMBER OF MIGRANT CROSSINGS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS THE CASE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newton, Jan 7: Former President Donald Trump, campaigning in Iowa Saturday, marked the third anniversary of the January 6, 2021 assault on the US Capitol by casting the migrant surge on the southern border as the "real" insurrection.

Just over a week before the Republican nomination process begins with Iowa's kickoff caucuses, Trump continued to claim that countries have been emptying jails and mental institutions to fuel a record number of migrant crossings. There is no evidence that this is the case.

"When you talk about insurrection, what they're doing, that's the real deal. That's the real deal. Not patriotically and peacefully — peacefully and patriotically," Trump said, quoting from his speech January 6, before a violent mob of his supporters stormed the Capitol as part of a desperate bid to keep him in power after his 2020 election loss.

Trump's remarks came a day after Biden delivered a speech near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, where he cast Trump as a grave threat to democracy and called January 6 a day when "we nearly lost America — lost it all."

With a likely rematch of the



2020 election looming, both Biden and Trump have frequently invoked January 6 on the campaign trail. Trump, who is under

federal indictment for his efforts to overturn his 2020 loss to Biden, has consistently downplayed or spread conspiracy theories about a riot in which his supporters — spurred by his lies about election fraud — tried to disrupt the certification of Biden's victory.

Trump also continued to bemoan the treatment of those who have been jailed for participating in the riot, again labelling them "hostages." More than 1,230 people have been charged with federal crimes connected to the violence, including assaulting police officers and seditious conspiracy.

Trump was holding a pair of commit-to-caucus events in Newton in central Iowa and Clinton in the state's far east just over a week before voting will

begin January 15.

Earlier Saturday, he courted young conservative activists in Des Moines, speaking to members of Run GenZ, an organization that encourages young conservatives to run for office. Many in the audience at the Embassy Suites hotel in Des Moines seemed surprised to see Trump, whose visit had not been previously announced.

Trump's campaign is hoping to turn out thousands of supporters who have never caucused before as part of a show of force aimed at denying his rivals momentum and demonstrating his organizing prowess heading into the general election.

## Israel signals it has wrapped up combat in northern Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, Jan 7: The Israeli military signalled that it has wrapped up major combat in northern Gaza, saying it has completed dismantling Hamas' military infrastructure there, as the war against the militant group entered its fourth month Sunday.

The military did not address troop deployments in northern Gaza going forward. Its spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said late Saturday that forces would "continue to deepen the achievement" there, strengthening defenses along the Israel-Gaza border fence and focus on the central and southern parts of the territory. The announcement came ahead of a visit to Israel by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

## of the day quote

India is among three important regions for firm headquartered in Osaka, Japan, and it is in the process of building and bringing many more products and high-tech solutions which did not exist in the past in this country

**MANISH SHARMA** | CHAIRMAN, PANASONIC LIFE SOLUTIONS

India's food processing industry faces a number of difficulties such as outdated equipment, ineffective supply chains, poor infrastructure, and restricted finance availability

**PARDEEP KUMAR YADAV** | FOUNDER, KRINI SPICES

Investments by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) will also be monitored

**PRAVESH GOUR** | SENIOR TECHNICAL ANALYST, SWASTIKA INVESTMART

## SHORT TAKES

### FPIs' buying spree

**New Delhi:** Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) continued their buying spree and poured close to ₹4,800 crore in the Indian equity markets in the first week of January driven by confidence in the country's robust economic fundamentals. Additionally, they injected ₹4,000 crore in the debt market during the period under review, data with the depositories showed. According to the data, foreign investors made a net investment of ₹4,773 crore in Indian equities this month (till January 5). This came following a massive investment of ₹66,134 crore in December and ₹9,000 crore in November. Overall, the total FPI flows for 2023 stood at ₹1.71 lakh crore in equities and ₹68,663 crore in the debt markets. Together, they infused ₹2.4 lakh crore into the capital market.

### Top cos' mcap dips

**New Delhi:** The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 most valued firms declined ₹57,408.22 crore last week, with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and HDFC Bank taking the biggest hit, in-line with muted trends in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark declined 214.11 points, or 0.29 per cent, even after hitting an all-time high of 72,561.91 January 1. The market valuation of TCS fell by ₹20,929.77 crore to ₹13,67,661.93 crore, the most among the top-10 firms. Reliance Industries continued to rule the chart of the most valued firms followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India and LIC.

### IIFCL to raise ₹2K-cr

**New Delhi:** India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) is planning to raise ₹2,000 crore through its maiden green bonds in the next six months to fund sustainable projects. It could be a mix of both domestic and foreign issuances, depending on the cost of funds, IIFCL managing director PR Jaishankar told PTI. The state-owned infrastructure financier said it is exploring options of yen-denominated green bonds, he said, adding, it may happen in this quarter or the first quarter of the next financial year. "Sustainable green bonds are one of our major lookouts and yen is one major currency that we are considering, and we are also looking at other currencies, but it will all depend on how cost-effective it is, including the hedging cost and the overall cost of borrowings," he said.



The auto industry growth is largely dependent on the growth in the overall economy, the GDP per capita growth that's projected 6-6.5 per cent. There's a very high correlation between the two. So that is a positive side

**SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA** | SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER (MARKETING AND SALES), MARUTI SUZUKI

### RIL-BROOKFIELD DATA CENTRE SOON

Mukesh Ambani Sunday said his firm Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) in partnership with Canada's Brookfield will open a data centre in Chennai next week, marking entry into the fast-growing market



# India looking beyond 5G

The country takes the leap forward to explore 6G communication technology

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Jan 7:** While India has just achieved the world's fastest 5G rollout, the country is also playing a key role in the global telecom sector in initiating strides towards creating 6G or sixth generation communication technology as the next big thing on the communication horizon.

Despite being at a concept stage, 6G is already making waves with its promise of unified human-machine and machine-machine connectivity and offers a glimpse of the future.

The next generation 6G will build upon 5G technology and provide more reliable, ultra-low latency and affordable solutions with speeds almost 100 times faster than 5G, to enhance and drive new communication applications.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area Office & Innovation Centre in March 2023 at a programme in Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi where he also unveiled the Bharat 6G Vision Document and launched the 6G R&D Test Bed in the country.

The Bharat 6G Vision Document envisages India to be a front line contributor in design, development and deployment of 6G technology by 2030.



Emphasising the fast pace of technology adoption in the country, he pointed out, "India is discussing 6G just six months after the world's fastest 5G rollout in the country."

India has played a pivotal role in formulating the ITU's 6G Vision Framework along with the collaborative efforts of member countries of the United Nations.

The efforts of India's Department of Telecommunications in prioritising 6G standardisation, have successfully resulted in adoption of Ubiquitous Connectivity, Ubiquitous Intelligence and Sustainability as key elements of 6G Technology and also enhanced India's position in the international telecommunication space.

The 6th Generation or 6G

6G EXPECTED TO BE ALMOST 100 TIMES FASTER THAN 5G

BHARAT 6G VISION DOCUMENT ENVISAGES INDIA TO DEPLOY 6G BY 2030

Technology has been named 'IMT 2030' by ITU, the specialised agency for Information and Communication Technologies of the United Nations.

The recommendation of ITU for 6G Framework, approved June 22, 2023, will serve as a foundation document in 6G research and development (R&D) and will pave the way for development of 6G Technology worldwide.

Bharat 6G Vision is based on the principles of affordability, sustainability and ubiquity. It aims to enable India to take its rightful place in the world as a leading supplier of advanced

Indian telecom sector's success is reflected in the fact that broadband connectivity had 60mn users before 2014 but it has gone over 800mn today. The number of internet connections is over 85 crore compared with 25 crore earlier

telecom technologies and solutions that are affordable and contribute to the global good.

India's Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) has spearheaded the country's standardisation work on this 6G Framework. The inclusive approach adopted by TEC has resulted in wide stakeholder participation in the National Study Group (NSG) with the involvement of major industries, startups, and academia and R&D organisations.

The TEC-led NSG has been working on this framework for the last few years, and has been advocating for India-specific requirements at the international forum.

In the past, India, through NSG, had also contributed to the development of 5G Technology, a key outcome of which was adoption

of Low Mobility Large Cell (LMLC) by ITU as a 5G use case.

For the achievement of Mission 6G, India must focus on aligning its research on technologies in the coming decade that would bolster and propel the implementation of 6G in the country in a highly customised manner, according to the Bharat 6G Vision.

To further explore the impact of 6G in India and to investigate how the country can realise its mission of becoming a global leader in this space, the Technology Innovations Group set up six task forces to explore the major pillars of the 6G Vision Technology Innovations Group.

Based on their deliberations on the 6G ecosystem, they have recommended extensive research in mmWave and Terahertz communications, fiber-broadband, Tactile Internet and Remote Operations, multi-sensor machine interfaces and devices leveraging edge cloud computing resources.

Well-placed headways into Artificial Intelligence, Space-Terrestrial Integration, combined communication and sensing in (Sub) Terahertz bands, SoCs, and innovative solutions emanating from CoEs can further be accentuated by participation in and contribution to global standards forums and leveraging of the startups of today.

## Over 29K bogus firms caught in fake ITC claims of ₹44K-crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 7:** The government on Sunday said GST officers have detected 29,273 bogus firms involved in fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) claims of ₹44,015 crore in eight months till December 2023 during a drive against fake registration, which helped save revenue of ₹4,646 crore.

In the October-December quarter, 4,153 bogus firms that involved suspected ITC evasion of around ₹12,036 crore were detected. As many as 2,358 of these bogus firms were detected by the Central GST Authorities.

Maharashtra topped the list with 926 bogus firms detected, followed by Rajasthan (507), Delhi (483) and Haryana (424).

The detection during the December quarter protected revenue of ₹1,317 crore of which ₹319 crore has been realised and ₹997 crore has been protected by blocking ITC. As many as 41 persons were arrested in these cases while 31 of these arrests were made by Central GST Authorities, the finance ministry said.

During the December quarter, the suspected tax evasion by 926 bogus firms in Maharashtra worked out to be ₹2,201 crore. 11 persons were arrested. In case of Delhi, the suspected tax evasion by 483 bogus firms was ₹3,028 crore and 11 people were arrested.

## FY24 GDP numbers show discrepancies of ₹2.59L-cr

According to data, there were discrepancies of ₹2.59L-cr as against (-) ₹3.80L-cr in 2022-23 and (-) ₹4.47L-cr in 2021-22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 7:** Discrepancies in computation of advance estimates of the country's Gross Domestic Product for 2023-24 stood at ₹2.59 lakh crore as against (-) ₹3.80 lakh crore in 2022-23 and (-) ₹4.47 lakh crore in 2021-22, according to National Statistical Office (NSO).

On Friday, the NSO released its first advance estimates of national accounts which showed that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Indian economy will grow at 7.3 per cent in 2023-24, slightly higher than 7.2 per cent in 2022-23.

According to data, there were discrepancies of ₹2.59 lakh crore as against (-) ₹3.80 lakh crore in 2022-23 and (-) ₹4.47 lakh crore in 2021-22.

Discrepancies in the statistical GDP data refer to the difference in national income under production method and expenditure method.



According to experts, there will always be some discrepancies in national accounts because of delay in reporting of information by various agencies including state governments.

About the high level of discrepancies in the national accounts data for current fiscal, experts are of the view that discrepancies are shown to report data as accurately as possible.

However, they say that the government make all efforts to reduce discrepancies.

There are three methods of computation of national income namely, production, expenditure and income.

The NSO's first estimates of national accounts for this fiscal also showed that the country's gross value added (GVA) will grow at 6.9 per cent 2023-24, lower than 7 per cent in 2022-23.

## Investment bankers' fee income at record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 7:** Investment bankers laughed all the way to the bank as their fee income touched a new record of \$1.3 billion in 2023, growing 28 per cent over the previous year.

At \$1.3 billion in estimated fees during 2023, investment bankers collected 28 per cent more than they did last year, and this is the highest since records began in 2000, according to the data collated by LSEG Deals Intelligence, formerly Refinitiv.

The fee income of investment bankers got a boost due to higher equity and debt issuance volumes which offset the massive plunge in deal activities.

State Bank of India took the top position in investment banking fees chart with a collection of \$102.7 million, which is 7.7 per cent of the country's overall investment banking fee pool, according to the agency.

The fee income chart was led by M&As (mergers and acquisitions) contributing \$416.1 million, which was 7 per cent down year-on-year. The deal street saw a massive 51 per cent fall in value over 2022, the agency said.

## TN sees investment rain

PEGATRON, TATA ELECTRONICS, OTHERS INK PACTS WORTH OVER \$4.4BN WITH TAMIL NADU GOVT

REUTERS

**Chennai, Jan 7:** India's southern state of Tamil Nadu has signed investment pacts worth more than \$4.39 billion with firms such as Apple suppliers Tata Electronics and Pegatron, as well as auto major Hyundai Motors, it said Sunday.

Apple is counting on India as the next big driver of its growth as the tech giant looks to move some production away from China, with Pegatron working towards a second factory in the country, where Tata Group last year began to assemble iPhones.

Tata Electronics, a part of the Indian conglomerate, committed to invest ₹12,082 crore for mobile phone assembly operations, the state government said during the signing of the agreements.

"The Tamil Nadu government will support investors in every way possible," Chief Minister MK Stalin said at the Global Investors Meet, adding that it sought to play a major role in India's growth.

Pegatron, Apple's Taiwan sup-



Tata Electronics	₹12,082 crore
Pegatron	₹1,000 crore
JSW Energy	₹12,000 crore
Hyundai Motors	₹6,180 crore

also committed ₹6,180 crore, some of it earmarked for electric vehicle (EV) battery and car manufacturing, the government added.

On Saturday, Vietnamese EV maker VinFast agreed to set up its first manufacturing facilities in India and work toward an investment of up to \$2 billion in Tamil Nadu, as more companies seek to penetrate the world's third-largest vehicle market.

Reliance Industries Ltd has decided to make new investments in renewable energy and green hydrogen in Tamil Nadu said its Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani.

plier, will also invest up to ₹1,000 crore to expand production, the government added.

The pacts, unveiled at a meeting of global investors, are projected to generate thousands of jobs in the state.

Sunday's deals include an agreement with JSW Energy to invest ₹12,000 crore to develop renewable energy projects.

Auto major Hyundai Motors



India's capital market regulator SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) in recent times has been facing a crisis of credibility, especially as an investigative body. This, in turn, has left many questioning SEBI's ability to conduct periodic investigations and effectively regulate the securities market. It faced many sharp comments and notices from various legal forums, including the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), a statutory body set up to hear and decide appeals against

SEBI's orders.

The latest of such observations came from the Bombay High Court, which castigated the regulator for failing to comply with an order passed by the Court in respect of a writ petition filed by certain minority shareholders of Bharat Nidhi Limited (BNL). Noting that there has been "persistent non-compliance" of the orders passed by it, the HC observed that the SEBI has "resorted to all possible efforts, not to comply with the order" and that such an approach

in not furnishing certain documents to the petitioners despite specific directions would "cause a dent to the confidence, the investors would repose in the SEBI." This interim order of the HC was recently upheld by the Supreme Court (SC), which chose not to interfere with the observations of the Division Bench.

This is not something which has happened for the first time. In 2019, the SEBI was forced to move the SC against an order of the SAT which had labelled the SEBI's approach as being "a strange one" and which concluded that the regulator had "lost sight of the mandate provided to them under Section 11 of the SEBI Act which mandates SEBI to safeguard the interest of the investors."

While the SC held that these observations were not warranted and, consequently, "diluted" the order of the SAT, the order was otherwise affirmed.

The observations of the Bombay HC and the SAT in the above matters come weeks after an order of the SAT in an appeal filed by the promoters of Zee Entertainment Enterprises

Limited (ZEEL) against a compulsory order passed by SEBI barring them from occupying the key managerial positions in the boards of four Zee entities. In the process of that appeal, the SAT expressed concerns about the eight months that SEBI had set aside for investigating Punit Goenka and Subhash Chandra of ZEEL for alleged fund diversion. The SAT went on to comment that the confirmatory order "says eight months. Now, where do you get these eight months, and what's the certainty that you won't extend this beyond eight months?" Even in its final order passed in the above appeal, SAT had made the following remarks pertaining to SEBI's proclivity in seeking repeated extensions of time: "We have seen that on numerous occasions whenever this Tribunal or the superior Court has directed SEBI to complete the investigation within a stipulated period, the same has not been done and applications after applications are being filed by SEBI seeking."

The Expert Committee, in its report submitted before the SC

regarding the investigation of the alleged stock manipulation of the Adani Group, suggested that the SEBI's investigation into "whether one could make a case that the FPIs (Foreign Portfolio Investors) are in fact investing funds of the promoters of Adani Group and therefore could be regarded as a front for the promoters," may have hit a wall due to an amendment to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Portfolio Investors) Regulations, 2014 (FPI Regulations). The Committee went on to label that the SEBI's investigation into the alleged round tripping as an exercise that "could be a voluminous one but potentially a journey without a destination."

Through an amendment to regulation 23 of the FPI Regulations, the term "beneficial ownership" was substituted with the words "common ownership or control" in sub-regulation (4), which originally required FPIs to disclose any direct or indirect change in structure or beneficial ownership of the FPI. As a consequence, "the provision of deal-

ing with an 'opaque structure' and requiring an FPI to disclose every ultimate natural person at the end of the chain of every owner of economic interest with the FPI was done away with" on the premise that declarations of the beneficial owner flows from Rule 9 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act Rules (PMLA Rules), and that such a stipulation is sufficient for its regulatory purposes. The said amendment is also of particular significance as Rule 19(A) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957 requires every listed company to maintain public shareholding of at least 25% of shares.

The issues mentioned above serve as a warning against complacency within institutions. It is unfortunate that the SAT has criticised SEBI for its many shortcomings. Although the SAT's judicial impartiality should be praised, its harsh criticisms of SEBI completely undermine investor confidence in SEBI's ability to function as an efficient market regulator.

AGENCIES

# Aussies level series

# Rybakina, Dimitrov triumph



**SPLENDID START:** Kim Garth celebrates after dismissing an Indian batter in the second T20 in Navi Mumbai, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Navi Mumbai, Jan 7:** Deepti Sharma's all-round effort went in vain as Australia cantered to a six-wicket win against India in the second women's T20 to level the three-match series here Sunday.

After India's frontline batters cut a sorry figure squandering starts, Deepti made a vital 31 to push the team's total to 130/8. She then produced a fine spell of 2/22 to delight a nearly-packed house here at the DY Patil Stadium, but India just did not have enough on the board to challenge Australia.

With 15 needed to win off 12 balls, Phoebe Litchfield (18 n o) struck two fours in first three balls of the penultimate over from Shreyanka Patil to dash India's hopes.

Playing her 300th international game across formats, the legendary Ellyse Perry celebrated the feat with a fine knock of 34 n o and took Australia over the line with a six to win the game.

Australia knocked off 47 runs from the target in the powerplay with both Beth Mooney and Alyssa Healy (26) facing no difficulties against the Indian

bowlers. But Patil took a spectacular diving catch to help get rid of Healy in the eighth over for India's first success off Deepti. Patil, at long on, ran a few



Deepti Sharma was excellent with both and ball for India

paces in front of her and put in a dive as she collected the ball. It was Deepti again getting the second breakthrough with Mooney (20) being stumped in the 10th over. The series decider will now be played Tuesday here at the same venue.

Earlier, with the batters failing to convert starts, India ended up with a below-par total. Smriti Mandhana (23), Richa Ghosh (23) and even Jemimah Rodrigues (13) could not capitalise after making promising starts.

But Deepti fought till the end to push the team's total as far as she could, with wickets falling steadily from the other end. Kim Garth (2/27) dealt an early blow to India trapping Shafali Verma (1) leg-before wickets and had further success getting an on-song Rodrigues who got off the blocks quickly with three fours.

Having smashed almost 10 runs per over in the powerplay during the first game, India could only manage a mere 33/2 with Mandhana hitting a few attractive strokes.

However, Mandhana could not control a short ball from Annabel Sutherland in the eighth over as she pulled one straight to Perry at deep midwicket. India's misery compounded with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's yet another failure with the bat.

With all eyes fixated on the wicketkeeper-batter for a much-needed push, Ghosh was unable to connect a slower delivery from Georgia Wareham which struck her on the pads in front of the wickets.

Wareham went on to claim Pooja Vastrakar (9) for her second scalp in a fine spell of 2/17, but this time both the bowler and the skipper were on the same page for a correct DRS call.

#### BRIEF SCORES

India Women 130/8 (Deepti Sharma 31, Smriti Mandhana 23, Richa Ghosh 23; Georgia Wareham 2/17, Annabel Sutherland 2/18, Kim Garth 2/27) lost to Australia Women 133/4 (Ellyse Perry 34 n o, Alyssa Healy 26; Deepti Sharma 2/22) by 6 wickets.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Brisbane, Jan 7:** Elena Rybakina claimed her sixth career title with a 60, 63 rout of top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka to win the Brisbane International in a perfect tune-up for the first major of 2024.

Sabalenka, who had won five of her seven previous meetings against the fourth-seeded Rybakina, had no answer Sunday to the World No.4's laser-like groundstrokes and deft touches at the net as Rybakina dominated the final and stamped her credentials as one of the favourites for the upcoming Australian Open.

Almost a year after contesting the Australian Open final, where Sabalenka beat Rybakina in a tight three-setter, the tables were turned dramatically as the 2022 Wimbledon winner broke Sabalenka three times in a one-sided first set of just 24 minutes on Pat Rafter Arena in Brisbane.

The top-seeded Sabalenka finally got on the scoreboard when she broke serve in the ninth game, but Rybakina broke back immediately for a 3-1 lead in the second.

Sabalenka held serve for the first time in the match in the 11th game, but it was too little too late as Rybakina nervelessly closed out the win on her first match point opportunity when the reigning Australian Open champion pushed her attacking forehand wide.

It capped a dominant week



for Rybakina, who conceded just 15 games across five straight-set wins and was the 24-year-old sixth career title and first since Indian Wells last year.

The loss ended Sabalenka's streak of 15 wins on Australian soil, including a title run in Adelaide last year before her Grand Slam breakthrough at Melbourne Park, but the World No.2 made light of a rare heavy defeat.

The final was the first to feature the top two seeds in Brisbane since 2015, when No.1 Maria Sharapova held off No.2 Ana Ivanovic in three sets.

Second-seeded Grigor Dimitrov beat top-seeded Holger Rune 7-6(7-5), 6-4 in a tightly-fought men's final which stretched over 2 hours, 13 minutes and contained only one break of serve. Dimitrov, ranked 14th, claimed his ninth career title and his first since the ATP

finals in 2017.

The third game of the first set was indicative of the close struggle. Rune held serve in a game of nine deuces and seven-game points, finally fending off a break point at 2-1, 30-40 in a rally of 33 shots.

The 32-year-old Dimitrov finally broke Rune in the eighth game of the second set to lead 4-3. Rune saved two match points in the next game, in which he had a time violation and served an ace at 30-40.

Dimitrov then took the next game to love, serving his eighth ace of the match and finishing on his third match point. Rune had nine aces, but also three double faults. The eighth-ranked 20-year-old was bidding for his fifth career title. Dimitrov, winner in Brisbane six years ago, saved three break points in the match while Rune saved eight of nine.

## Gauff beats Svitolina for Auckland title

**AUCKLAND:** Top-seeded Coco Gauff has retained her title at the WTA Auckland Classic, beating second-seeded Elina Svitolina 6-7(4-7), 6-3, 6-3 in Sunday's final. For the first time all week, Gauff fought with her hands. She swept into the final without dropping a set; in fact, dropping only 15 games on her way through the semifinals. That followed her flawless tournament last year when she didn't drop a set at all and capped off a perfect week with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Rebeka Masarova in the final.

## Nadal withdraws from Australian Open

**MELBOURNE:** Rafael Nadal has withdrawn from the Australian Open with an injury after playing just one tournament in his comeback from 12 months on the sidelines. Nadal said he had concerns over his surgically repaired hip after needing a medical timeout in the third set of his Brisbane International quarterfinal loss to Jordan Thompson Friday. The 22-time major winner initially said it seemed like more of a muscular problem than the tendon issue that caused him so much pain this time last year. He posted on social media Sunday that scans after he arrived in Melbourne revealed a small tear in the muscle and he was flying back to Spain for treatment.

## Real, Atletico ease into Copa pre-quarterfinals



Rodrygo (No.11) reacts after scoring against Arandina, Saturday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Madrid, Jan 7:** Real Madrid easily handled fourth-division club Arandina 3-1 and moved into the round of 16 of the Copa del Rey. Also, Atletico Madrid defeated third-division club Lugo 3-1 Saturday.

Joselu, Brahim Diaz and Rodrygo scored for the defending Copa champions, who also finally debuted young Turkey international Arda Guler after a series of injuries.

Real Madrid dominated, controlled possession, didn't allow Arandina to threaten much. It was given a late own-goal by Madrid defender Nacho Fernandez.

Guler had some good scoring chances, including a free kick that struck the post in the first half. The 18-year-old midfielder started this season from Fenerbahce on a six-year contract. His debut was delayed by a knee injury in the offseason followed by a muscle problem.

Midfielder Eduardo Camavinga was back in the squad after injuring his knee while on international duty with France in November.

**DEPAY LEADS ATLETICO** Memphis Depay scored twice in the second half as Atletico

got past Lugo. Angel Correa also scored for Atletico, which was coming off a loss at Girona in La Liga. Atletico is 10 points off the lead at the league's halfway point.

Correa opened the scoring two minutes into the match, and Leandro Antonetti equalised for Lugo in the 39th. Memphis, who hasn't often started this season, put Atletico ahead again in the 66th and added to the lead in the 74th. Antoine Griezmann came into the match after halftime but failed to score, staying tied with Luis Aragones as Atletico's all-time top scorer with 173.

Other first-division clubs to win during Epiphany, or Three Kings Day — one of the biggest holidays in Spain — included Getafe, Rayo Vallecano, Real Betis and Girona, the second-placed team in the league behind Madrid.

Girona beat Elche 2-0 and Getafe edged Espanyol 1-0, while Rayo Vallecano needed late goals in extra time to get past second-division club Huesca 2-0.

In a matchup between top-flight clubs, Alaves won against Real Betis 1-0 at home. Real, Atletico, Barcelona and Osasuna are making their Copa debuts in this round, which is still played in single elimination games.

## Juggernauts rise to top of UKK standings

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Cuttack, Jan 7:** Defending champions Odisha Juggernauts rose to the top of the table in front of a passionate home crowd, downing Telugu Yoddhas 35-27 in Ultimate Kho Kho (UKK) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here Sunday. Dilip Khandavi, Omkar Sonawane and Avinash Desai all scored six attack points each as Odisha Juggernauts dominated throughout.

Odisha Juggernauts got Turn 1 off to a great start with their first batch of Dilip Khandavi, Gowtham MK and Nikhil Sodave lasting three minutes and 32 seconds on the pitch and getting a couple of three dream run points. Then Rohan Singade frustrated the Telugu Yoddhas attackers, staying unconquered and earning a dream run point. The lead



for Telugu Yoddhas, at the end of Turn 1, was just seven points.

Juggernauts consolidated that advantage with a brilliant at-

tacking turn. They sent back Telugu Yoddhas first batch in a minute and 37 seconds. Their second batch only fared mar-

ginally better, staying on the mat for a minute and 48 seconds. Batch 3 did come within fifteen seconds of a dream run point

but that did little to reverse the momentum. Odisha Juggernauts headed into the second innings with a strong 23-10 lead.

Things did not get any better for Telugu Yoddhas in Turn 3. Odisha Juggernauts' first batch of Omkar Sonawane, Dipesh More and Nikhil B lasted three minutes and 57 seconds on the mat, earning two dream run points. Their second batch did not last long but two members of their third batch remained unbeaten as Odisha Juggernauts took a 25-24 lead into the final turn. Their attackers had no problems closing the match off.

Earlier, Mumbai Khiladis recorded their second win of this season, downing Rajasthan Warriors 29-27. Telugu Yoddhas will take on Gujarat Giants while Chennai Quick Guns will take on Rajasthan Warriors.

## Chelsea advance in FA Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Jan 7:** Even while Chelsea are struggling in the English Premier League, their form in cup competitions could yet see it end the season with a trophy or two. With a place in the League Cup semifinals already, Chelsea advanced to the fourth round of the FA Cup Saturday after pasting Preston North End 4-0.

That could give US owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital cause for optimism in a crisis-ridden run since their takeover in 2022.

At 10th in the league, Chelsea look likely to miss out on qualifying for the Champions League for a second year in a row. But manager Mauricio Pochettino is finding joy in the domestic cups, extended against second-division Preston after Armando Broja, Thiago Silva, Raheem Sterling and Enzo Fernandez scored in a second-half rout at Stamford Bridge.

In the League Cup, Chelsea will face second-division Middlesbrough over two legs in the semifinals, and are favored to meet Liverpool or



Enzo Fernandez (No.8) was mobbed by his teammates after his goal

Fulham in the final.

#### UPSET AVOIDED

Alexander Isak scored twice as Newcastle won the first north-

east derby in eight years against Sunderland 3-0 in front of a fervent crowd at the Stadium of Light. Dan Ballard's own goal gave Newcastle a first half lead.

## Odisha have mountain to climb on fourth day

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 7:** Odisha have a huge task in hand in their Elite Group D encounter of the Ranji Trophy against Baroda as they need 329 runs to win with nine wickets remaining on the final day of the match, Monday.

Chasing a massive 432-run target, Odisha were 103/1 at stumps on the penultimate day of their campaign opener in Vadodara. Skipper Shantanu Mishra (41 batting, 117b, 4x4) and Anurag Sarangi (56, 113b, 6x4, 2x6) gave the visitors a solid start adding 95 runs for the opening wicket.

However, Atit Sheth (1/20) gave the home team a timely breakthrough just before the end of day's play. Shantanu was accompanied by Sandeep Pattnaik (1 batting) when umpires called off the play for the day.

Earlier, Baroda declared their innings on 258/4 just before the tea. Resuming the day's play on 43/1, the home team looked comfortable despite losing first innings' half-centurion opener Jyotsnil Singh (33), who was dis-



missed off a Debabrata Pradhan (2/20) delivery.

However, Shashwat Rawat (102, 154b, 13x4) played superbly and completed his century. He added 139 runs for the third wicket with his skipper Vishnu Solanki (79, 108b, 9x4, 2x6). Govind Poddar (1/60) broke the partnership dismissing Rawat and left Baroda reeling at 208/3.

Jayanta Behera (1/103), who conceded more than six-an over got rid of Solanki to reduce the hosts to 238/4. Abhimanyu Singh Rajput played an unbeaten 19-ball 30-run cameo to help Baroda go past 250 before they decided on declaration.