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Modi affirms India's support for Lankan Tamils



Chennai, Feb 14: India was always committed to ensuring that the Tamils there lived with equity, equality, justice, peace and dignity, he said, after launching various government projects in railways and defence sectors. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said his government has always taken care of the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils and 'consistently' flagged the issue of their rights with the leaders in the island nation. India was always committed to ensuring that the Tamils there lived with equity, equality, justice, peace and dignity, he said here, after launching various government projects

in railways and defence sectors. Modi recalled the various welfare initiatives taken by the Centre in the housing and health sectors aimed at benefiting the Lankan Tamils, and said he was the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Jaffna (in 2015) in northern Sri Lanka. "Our government has always taken care of the welfare and aspirations of Tamil brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. It is my honour to have been the only Indian PM to visit Jaffna. Through development work, we are ensuring the welfare of the Tamil community," he said. India has constructed 50,000 houses for displaced Tamils in north eastern Sri Lanka

and another 4,000 in the plantation areas while "we hope to open soon" the Jaffna Culture Centre, he added. "The issue of Tamil rights has also been taken up consistently with Sri Lankan leaders. We are always committed to ensuring that they (Tamils) live with equity, equality, justice, peace and dignity," Modi said. The Sri Lankan Tamils issue has always had an emotional connect in Tamil Nadu and has often dominated the political space here. Modi also pointed to India's efforts in railway projects for Jaffna and Mannar, air connectivity from Chennai to Jaffna and the initiatives in the health sector.

Odisha Schools To Remain Closed For Next Two Days: Minister Samir Dash

Bhubaneswar: In view of the Odisha bandh call given by State Congress party, the School and Mass Education Department has announced closure of the schools in the State on Monday. Informing about the decision, State SME Minister Samir Dash said, "Schools in Odisha will remain

closed for the next two days—February 15 and 16". He further added that while schools will remain closed on Monday owing to the six-hour bandh call given by the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC), there will be no classes on Tuesday also on account of Saraswati Puja.

'Odisha Bandh': Buses To Remain Off-Road, Schools, Colleges To Be Shut Tomorrow

Bhubaneswar: In view of 'Odisha bandh' call given by the State Congress tomorrow, the Bus Owners' Association today decided not to operate bus services across the State from 6 AM to 1 PM on Monday. The association's Treasurer Barada Acharya informed the decision to halt the bus services for seven hours during the State-wide bandh has been taken keeping in mind the safety of passengers and buses. Earlier in the day, the Odisha government said educational institutions including schools will remain

closed across the State tomorrow due to the State-wide bandh call. Also, the School and Education Department informed the schools will be shut on Tuesday and there will be no Saraswati Puja celebration. The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) said the Mo Bus service will remain suspended tomorrow in the first half. The bus service will resume at 2PM with thin frequency, it added. Worth mentioning, the Odisha Congress called for the State-wide bandh tomorrow protesting frequent fuel price

hike. Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee Chief Niranjan Patnaik informed a peaceful state-wide bandh will be observed tomorrow adding, however, ambu-

vehicles will not stopped during the shutdown. State Planning Board Vice Chairman and BJD leader Sanjay Das Burma today came down heavily on the

He stated the price hike is an attack on the kitchen of household. Also, the States are not getting anything from the fuel cess. The cooking gas price has been increased considerably



lance, milk van, hearse and marriage

Central Government over the fuel price hike.

in recent past, Das Burma stated.

'NMA Bye-Laws On Brahmeswar, Ananta Basudeba To Be Withdrawn Soon'



Bhubaneswar, Feb 14: In view of huge uproar over controversial bye-laws prepared by the National Monuments Authority (NMA) for two ancient temples in Ekamra Kshetra, the Central Government has reportedly ordered to withdraw the draft

notification. "The bye-laws on Brahmeswar and Ananta Basudeba temples will be withdrawn soon," informed Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Pratap

Sarangi today. Clarifying over NMA bye-laws that triggered controversy, he said that it was a draft notification, not a final order. "Like the heritage bye-laws were framed for Puri Srimandir, the NMA prepared the draft notification for

two temples in Bhubaneswar. We have discussed with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel in this regard and order has been given to the NMA for withdrawal of the draft bill," Sarangi told media. Opposing the bye-laws, he said that the draft notification should not have been circulated in this manner. "A draft notification has been prepared seeking public opinion for enforcing construction restrictions around national monuments. Before preparing the draft the NMA should

have consulted others. However, the Union Culture Minister has already ordered to withdraw the controversial bye-laws for two ancient temples," he said. His statement came amid wide protest by servitors of the Lingaraj Temple as well as residents demanding immediate withdrawal of the heritage bye-laws on Ananta Basudeba Temple and Brahmeswar Temple. Interfering in the matter, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik urged the Centre for roll-back of the controversial bye-laws for two ancient temples in Ekamra Kshetra.

Rain, Thunderstorm To Lash Odisha From Tuesday; IMD Issues Yellow Warning

Bhubaneswar, Feb 14: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday predicted that rain and thunderstorm will lash several parts of Odisha next week. As per the latest weather bulletin, light to moderate rain or thundershower will occur at several places in the State from Tuesday (February 16). The IMD has also issued 'Yellow Warning' (thunderstorm with lightning) for 15 districts – Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Boudh, Sonepur, Bolangir, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Angul and Dhenkanal. The warning has been



Rainfall Alert!

issued from February 17 to 0830 Hours of February 18, 2021. Here is the complete weather outlook: Day 1 (valid from 0830 hrs IST of 16.02.2021 up to 0830 hrs IST of 17.02.2021): Light to moderate rain or thundershower likely to occur at one or two places over the dis-

tricts of Sambalpur, Nuapada, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundergarh and Deogarh. Day 2 (valid from 0830 hrs IST of 17.02.2021 up to 0830 hrs IST of 18.02.2021): Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at one or two

places over the districts of South Interior Odisha, Gajapati, Ganjam, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Balasore, Bhadrak and dry weather likely to prevail over the rest of the districts in Odisha. \ Yellow Warning: Thunderstorm with lightning very likely to

occur at one or two places over the districts of Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Boudh, Sonepur, Bolangir, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Angul and Dhenkanal. Day 3 (valid from 0830 hrs IST of 18.02.2021 up to 0830 hrs IST of 19.02.2021): Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Bhadrak and Balasore.

Dharmendra Urges Odisha Govt To Take Steps On Kotia Border Issue



Bhubaneswar, Feb 14: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday urged the Odisha government to take timely steps to protect the geographical boundary of the state. He hoped the legal course of action for Kotia Panchayat would be taken to its logical conclusion by the state administration. The statement of Pradhan came a day after Andhra Pradesh held Panchayat polls in the disputed region of Kotia in Koraput

district and other bordering villages of the state. "Andhra Pradesh's effort to involve Odisha people in its Panchayat polls by invading into the geographical border in Koraput, Ganjam and Gajapati is a matter of great concern. The border dispute with Andhra and other neighbouring states has developed a bitter relationship. The situation may get worse if the Chief Minister doesn't take timely step," Pradhan tweeted.

Pradhan called upon leaders of all political parties in Odisha, social organisations and activists to work collectively for safeguarding the border. He also said that the local administration should work to implement the government welfare scheme in the border region to ensure development in these areas. Notably, the state government has moved the Supreme Court, which issued a notice to the Andhra Pradesh government to file its response on a contempt petition filed by Odisha. Odisha has sought action against the neighbouring state over its violation of the apex court order in 1968 and 2006. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the matter on February 19.

Greta Thunberg Tool Kit Case Police Arrested Bengaluru Climate Activist Disha Ravi



Begaluru, Feb 14: There has been a lot of ruckus since the disclosure of the strategy of the Kisan Andolan to allegedly surround India internationally. In fact, climate change activist Greta Thunberg tweeted a toolkit (document) that allegedly conspired to surround the Modi government and defame India over the peasant movement. In this case, now Cyber ??Unit of Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested Disha Ravi, a 21-year-old climate activist from Bangalore. According to the police, Disha Ravi will be produced in a Delhi court today. Disha is alleged to have edited a toolkit designed for

cyber strikes on the January 26 tractor rally, added some things to it and circulated it. Police said that some more names have come on the radar in this case and many others will be arrested soon. Disha Ravi is also a member of the founders of the Friday for Future Campaign. On 4 February, Delhi Police registered a case regarding this toolkit shared by Greta. This is the first arrest in a tool kit case. Disha has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Mount Carmel College. According to sources, she was working from home when the Special Cell of Delhi Police arrested her.

Will energise India's growth trajectory: PM Modi launches projects in Kerala

New Delhi, Feb 14: The Prime Minister dedicated the Bharat Petroleum's Propylene Derivatives Petrochemical Complex at Kochi Refinery and Inland Waterways Authority's Roll-on/Roll-off vessels, at Willingdon Island to the nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated a slew of projects, including a ₹6,000 crore petrochemical complex of oil major Bharat Petroleum and vessels of Inland Waterways



at Willingdon Islands, in the poll-bound state of Kerala, which he said will help the country grow. "Being among you all makes me very happy. Today, we're here to celebrate development — development of Kerala and India. The works being inaugurated today cover a wide range of sectors and will energise the growth trajectory of India," PM Modi said in Kochi. The Prime Minister dedi-

cated the Bharat Petroleum's Propylene Derivatives Petrochemical Complex at Kochi Refinery and Inland Waterways Authority's Roll-on/Roll-off vessels, at Willingdon Island to the nation. "Two years ago, I went to the Kochi refinery, one of India's most modern refineries. Today, once again from Kochi, we dedicate to the nation the Propylene Derivatives Petro-

chemical complex of the Kochi refinery," PM Modi said. The project, PM Modi said, will help India's journey towards becoming aatmanirbhar or self-reliant. "With this complex, forex will be saved, a wide range of industries would gain, and employment opportunities will be generated," he added. Lauding the state's contribution to the country through the tourism sector, PM Modi said,

"Tourists come to Kochi not only as a transit point to go to other parts of Kerala. The spiritual, market, historical and other such places are widely known." "The government of India is undertaking several efforts to improve tourism here. The inauguration of Sagarika - the international cruise terminal in Kochi - is an example of this," the PM said. PM Modi also inaugurated the Cochin Shipyard's Vigyana Sagar, campus for Marine Engineering Training Institute. Modi also laid the foundation stone of Cochin Port Trust's South Coal Berth. Oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan had said on Saturday that an investment of over ₹6,000 crore has been made in the state through these projects which are being either dedicated/inaugurated or initiated.

Disha Ravi shared Google 'toolkit' with Greta Thunberg, say Delhi Police

New Delhi, Feb 14: Ravi was arrested earlier in the day in connection with the Thunberg protest "toolkit" case and was remanded to five-day custody of Delhi Police's special cell. The Delhi Police said on Sunday Bengaluru-based climate activist Disha Ravi had shared the Google "toolkit" document with Sweden's Greta Thunberg, news agency ANI reported. Ravi was arrested earlier in the day in connection with the Thunberg protest "toolkit" case and was remanded to five-day custody of Delhi Police's special cell. "Disha Ravi, arrested by Delhi Police, is an Editor of the Toolkit Google Doc and key conspirator in document's formulation and dissemination. She started a

WhatsApp group and collaborated to make the Toolkit doc. She worked closely with them to draft the document," Delhi Police said shortly after securing Disha's remand. "She (Disha Ravi)

Khalistani Poetic Justice Foundation to spread disaffection against India, the police said. The 21-year-old climate activist was arrested from Bengaluru for being allegedly involved in sharing

business administration. Delhi Police officials had earlier said that Ravi is a key lead in the "toolkit" case as she had admitted during the initial interrogation to editing, adding some things in

nal Code (IPC) on February 4 after Thunberg tweeted the "toolkit" while expressing her support to the farmers' protest in India. Last week, the Delhi Police had sent a communication to Google seeking registration details and activity log of the account through which the "toolkit" related to the farmers' protest was created and uploaded on the social media platform. The arrest by Delhi Police comes as the ongoing stir by farmers on the borders of the national capital enters the 81st day. Seeking a repeal of the three contentious farm laws, the protesters have been camping on Delhi's borders since late November last year and have also engaged with the government in 11 rounds of talks to end the continuing standoff with little progress.



was the one who shared the Toolkit Doc with Greta Thunberg," the Delhi Police said. In the process of drafting the document, Ravi and other members of the group all collaborated with pro-

the "toolkit" related to the farmers' protest against the three farm laws on social media, police said on Sunday. She is a founder of a group named Fridays For Future and is a graduate with a bachelor's degree in

the "toolkit" and spreading it further. Earlier this month, the Delhi Police had registered a first information report (FIR) for sedition, promoting hatred among groups and criminal conspiracy under the Indian Pe-

Disengagement in areas of eastern Ladakh is surrender to China: Antony



New Delhi, Feb 14: Senior Congress leader and former defence minister A K Antony on Sunday alleged that disengagement in both the Galwan Valley and Pangong Tso Lake areas and the creation of a buffer zone was a "surrender" of India's rights. Addressing a press conference, he also said that at a time when India was facing multiple challenges at the border and was facing a two-front war-like situation, the increase in defence budget this year is meagre and insignificant and was a "betrayal" of the country. The government had on Friday emphatically stated that India has not "con-

ceded" any territory following the disengagement agreement with China in Pangong lake areas in eastern Ladakh. Antony said he was sad that the Narendra Modi government was not giving proper priority to national security at a time when China was getting belligerent and Pakistan continued to promote terrorism. He said disengagement was good as it reduced tension but it should not be done at the cost of national security. "Both disengagements in Galwan and Pangong Tso are a surrender," he alleged, adding that it amounted to surrendering of areas tradi-

tionally controlled by India. "We are surrendering our rights," he alleged, noting that Galwan Valley as Indian territory was never a disputed land even in 1962. "Disengagement and buffer zone means surrender of our land at the moment," he alleged, while warning that the government is not understanding the importance of this disengagement and creation of the buffer zone. He warned that China can play mischief anytime by helping Pakistan in Siachen. "We want to know from this government when there will be status quo ante as on mid-April 2020 in the entire India-China border," he said, asking what was the government's plan in this regard. He also said that the government must take the country and the people into confidence on restoration of status quo ante at the borders.

'New model of democracy': Omar Abdullah claims he, his family put under house arrest



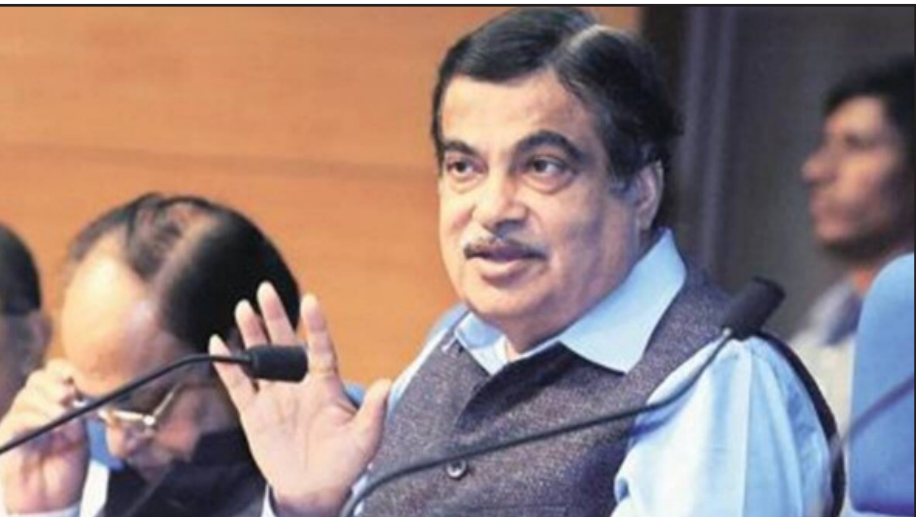
New Delhi, Feb 14: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah Sunday claimed he and his family, including his father and Member of Parliament Farooq Abdullah, have been put under house arrest by authorities. The Srinagar Police, however, claimed

that the "movement of VIPs and Protected Persons has been discouraged" due to the anniversary of the 2019 Pulwama attack. "This is the 'naya/new J&K' after Aug 2019. We get locked up in our homes with no explanation. It's bad enough they've locked my father (a sitting MP) & me in our home, they've locked my sister & her kids in their home as well," Omar wrote on Twitter. This is the "naya/new J&K" after

Aug 2019. We get locked up in our homes with no explanation. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister also posted photographs showing police vehicles outside the gates of his residence in the Gupkar area of the city here. "Chalo, your new model of democracy means that we are kept in our homes without explanation but on top of that the staff that works in the house aren't being allowed in and then you are surprised that I'm still angry & bitter," he said in another tweet.

Vehicle owners should immediately adopt FASTag, deadline won't be extended: Nitin Gadkari

Nagpur, Feb 14: Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Sunday said the deadline for implementation of FASTag would not be extended further, and the vehicle owners should immediately adopt the e-payment facility. FASTags, which facilitate electronic payment of fee at toll plazas, was introduced in 2016. Making the tags compulsory would also help in ensuring that vehicles pass



seamlessly through the toll plazas, as the fee payment would be done electronically. Replying to a

query on FASTags, Gadkari said the government had extended FASTag registration date limit

two-three times before and now, it would not be extended further. Now, everybody should

immediately buy FASTags, he added. The FASTag registration has gone up to 90 per cent on some routes and only 10 per cent people are left. FASTag is also available on toll nakas and people should purchase and use it for seamless traffic, he told reporters at the Nagpur airport. The central government extended the FASTag deadline for the vehicles from January 1, 2021, to February 15, 2021.

Youth Congress Committee Celebrate 57th Birth Anniversary and Remembrance of Late Lalatendu Bidyadhara Mohapatra



(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, Feb 14: Khordha youth Congress Committee celebrated 57 birth anniversary and Remembrance of Lalatendu B i d y a d h a r a Mohapatra in front of the town hall Khordha. On this occasions the Ex-MLA, Khordha, Dr. Dillip Srichandan, PCC, Members Sisir Kumar Parida, Senior Congress Leader Guru Charan

Pattnaik, Sanjaya Pattnaik, Ranjit Mohapatra, Bibha Basu Mohanty, Amit Mohanty, Plaban Pattnaik, Siladitya Pattnaik and others Congress leader said the life history and political career of Sri. Mohapatra. He was born on -14th February -1964 and died on 6th November -2016. Pitch forked into Odisha politics as a National Student Union of India leader in late 80s. Lalatendu B i d y a d h a r a Mohapatra very soon emerged as a henchman of former Chief Minister J. B. Pattnaik. Odisha Congress suffered a

major blow after its Congress strong man Lalatendu Bidyadhara Mohapatra passed away in the age of 52 year. Mohapatra was feared in the party for his hold over the youth masses. In 1987 he was made state President of NSUI. In 1996 he became President of Odisha Youth Congress. He was MLA from Brahmagiri Assembly as a National Constituency of Puri between 1995 and 2009. In 2014 he was tipped to become the Odisha PCC chief. Mohapatra travelled around the State to rally the youth Congress workers behind him.

Hotel Employee Held In Puri For Filming Woman Tourist While Taking Bath



(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Feb 14: Based on a complaint filed by a woman tourist from Uttar Pradesh, the Puri Sadar police today arrested a youth for allegedly filming her while taking bath at a hotel room in Puri town. As per the complaint, the woman tourist from Raibareli in Uttar Pradesh along with her family arrived at Puri by train on February 11. Her family booked two rooms at the Nilachala Bhakta Niwas, located on the Grand Road in Puri town till February 14. The complainant further stated while she was taking bath in the wee hours today inside the bathroom attached to the room No-006 that was booked by her family, a youth recorded her with a

mobile phone through the window. When the woman tourist spotted the youth filming her, she shouted at him and later narrated the matter before the hotel manager. She then lodged a police complaint at the Puri Sadar police station, on basis of which the police examined the footage of CCTVs installed in the hotel. A police official said the youth, Bikash alias Siba Prasad Mohapatra from Biraharekrushnpur was

identified as the culprit on basis of the CCTV footage. After Bikash was arrested, his mobile phone was seized. The accused was forwarded to the court later in the day, the police official added. Bikash works as an Electrician at Nilachal Bhakta Niwas in Puri town. A case No-41 under Section -354(C)/354(D)/509 IPC r/w Sec-66(E) 67 IT Act was registered at the Puri Sadar police station.

Fire Breaks Out In Nandankanan's Botanical Garden In Bhubaneswar



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Feb 14: Panic gripped visitors after fire broke out in an isolated place inside the Botanical garden of Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar on Sunday. As per preliminary reports, the fire might have spread from one of the pindis (concrete structures) where people assemble and cook meals during excursion trips here. Fire breaks out at an isolated place inside Botanical garden of Nandankanan zoo on the outskirts of

#Bhubaneswar; efforts on by #Odisha Fire services personnel to douse the flames. Details awaited Being a Sunday, there was large turnout of visitors at the Botanical garden. However, there are no reports of casualty in the fire mishap.

Jharaphula Case: Father Threatens To Set Himself On Fire Before Assembly

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Feb 14: While police are yet to reveal the details in connection with the sensational Jharaphula Nayak death case, her father Ramakant Nayak has threatened to set himself on fire in front of the Odisha Legislative Assembly here. Ramakant has blamed the Jajpur police for the alleged tardy progress in the investigation into the case. Expressing resentment, Ramakant said the Twin City Commissionerate

Police managed to crack the case of recovery of a woman's headless body in Bhubaneswar within seven days while the Jajpur police are yet to make any major headway in the Jharaphula death case despite the arrest of the accused, seizure of the scooter used for carrying the body, recovery of CCTV footage and other related evidences. Also read- Why Jajpur Police Is Mum In Jharaphula Nayak Death Case? On January 26, accused Rakesh Swain and

Jharaphula had reached OYO Shiv Sai Guest House at Dharma Vihar in Bhubaneswar and checked into the hotel. They had stayed at room no. 201 of the hotel. Rakesh found Jharaphula in an unconscious state at the hotel room in the morning of January 27. He then called up his friend Shekhar. While Shekhar drove the scooter, Rakesh rode pillion making the unconscious girl sit between them. They were spotted leaving the place around 7 AM. Rakesh initially intended to



hospitalise Jharaphula at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. He realised midway that Jharaphula had died. Rakesh and Shekhar

went all the way to Jajpur on the vehicle and allegedly dumped the body on roadside at Mulapala under Kuakhia police limits around 9 AM.

SJTA Lodges Police Complaint Against Instagram User For Uploading Inside Picture Of Shree Mandir



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Feb 14: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) today lodged a complaint with the Singhadwar police against a social media user for taking a photograph inside the Shree Mandir in

Shalini Passi for posting an inside picture of Shree Mandir on her Instagram account, reports said. Despite a complete ban on entry of camera and mobile phone into the premises of Shree Jagannath Temple, Shalini hailing from Haryana has illegally taken several photographs inside the temple premises and posted them on Instagram. This is a punishable offence under section 30-A

(4) (C) of the Shree Jagannath Temple Rules, 1955. Further, posting pictures of places inside the temple on social media has posed a threat to the security of the temple. This act of Shalini has hurt the feelings of lakhs of devotees of Lord Jagannath. Shalini has allegedly uploaded two pictures of places inside Shree Mandir in her Instagram account on February 2 in contravention of the rules, the reports added.

COVID-19 Vaccination For Healthcare Workers Extended Till Feb 25



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Feb 14: The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) Department on Sunday announced the extension of deadline for Coronavirus vaccination of healthcare workers (HCWs). The step was taken to cover the remaining HCWs who are yet to get the COVID-19 jab. Additional Chief Secretary, H&FW Department Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra has asked Collectors, Municipal Commissioners and

Chief District Medical and Public Health Officers to ensure that all the HCWs are covered by February 25. "By 13th February, all districts were supposed to achieve 100% coverage of 1st dose vaccination of HCWs. However since the districts haven't been able to achieve this, MoHFW has extended the timeline for mop-up vaccination for remaining HCW till 25th February," Mohapatra said. "All districts are to

closely monitor this to ensure that all registered left-out beneficiaries are given opportunity at least twice to come for vaccination. Message must be sent to them during session scheduling." The second dose vaccination of HCWs (which is 28 days after the first dose) will commence from 15th of February 2021. Districts' administration have been asked to ensure this and schedule sessions accordingly.

Pulwama Terror Attack: 2 Years On, Govt Promises For Odisha Martyr's Village Remain Unfulfilled

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Feb 14: Even as the country observed the second anniversary of Pulwama terror attack remembering the valour of 40 jawans who laid down their lives for the nation on this day two years ago, the native village of Manoj Behera who was one among the martyrs is still crying for administrative attention. The government had made numerous promises for the family and village of the saheed



Manoj Behera on the day when the mortal remains of the martyr had arrived at his birth place Ratanpur under Niali lock in Cuttack district.

But, the administration seems to have sat on the promises made two years ago. Family members of the jawan alleged that the government has

done nothing except construction of a statue. "The government had promised pucca road, street light, piped water connection for our house and village. But, nothing has been done so far. Only construction of a bridge has been undertaken. Though a saheed Pillar has been built in the memory of Manoj, no step has been taken for its maintenance," said Jitendra Behera, father of Saheed Manoj. Ratanpur Sarpanch

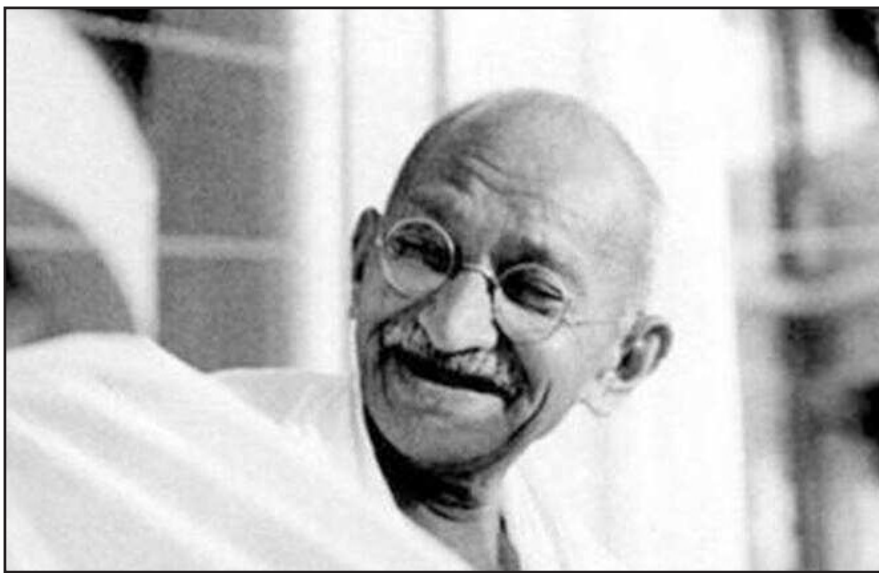
Abhimanyu Sahoo said that steps are being taken for the maintenance of his statue and fulfilment of other promises. "Delay in grant of funds had hindered the construction of roof of the statue. The work for the same will commence within next 15 days. We had promised to install lights at the statue site, which has already been fulfilled," Ratanpur Sarpanch Abhimanyu Sahoo said.

EDITORIAL

Hard to breathe

The dipping air quality in Delhi-NCR has made life difficult, and it's not abating anytime soon. The consistently deteriorating ambient air quality in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) has left most people — especially the very young, the elderly and those suffering from bronchial or respiratory disorders, such as asthma — literally breathless. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) states that an Air Quality Index (AQI) in the “very poor” category may cause respiratory ailments in people on prolonged exposure, while an AQI in the “poor” zone may lead to breathing discomfort to most people. The problem of the actual presence of particulate matter in the air is worsened by the discomfort of using masks — though it does help filter the air at one level — that has been made mandatory by legal sanction because of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The problem is not about wearing of the masks per se but about the gloomy and claustrophobic feeling it triggers in one, especially in the drab and overcast conditions much like the typical London weather. The very real melancholic emotion activated by what is called in medical parlance the Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), and commonly known as “winter blues”, is a type of depression that's related to changes in seasons — SAD begins and ends at about the same time every year. If you're like most people with SAD, your symptoms start in the fall and continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you feel moody. Apart from the prevalence of these medical conditions, the region is experiencing a host of simple irritants as temperature fluctuations and poor visibility. As children in classes above standard V have already resumed going to school, they are naturally irked by the foggy, smoggy or hazy mornings and the shivers of a frigid morning giving way to beads of perspiration by early afternoon. Besides, the air quality in the past few days has been recorded in the “very poor” category across Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Gurgaon and Faridabad. Pollutants PM2.5 and PM10 also remained in the air of the five immediate neighbours of Delhi, according to the CPCB. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the AQI has dipped on account of calm winds. Slower wind speed and low ventilation conditions are unfavourable for the effective dispersal of pollutants. In more bad news, the air quality is likely to remain in “very poor” for the next few days. As children in classes above standard V have already resumed going to school, they are naturally irked by the foggy, smoggy or hazy mornings and the shivers of a frigid morning giving way to beads of perspiration by early afternoon. Besides, the air quality in the past few days has been recorded in the “very poor” category across Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Gurgaon and Faridabad. Pollutants PM2.5 and PM10 also remained in the air of the five immediate neighbours of Delhi, according to the CPCB. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the AQI has dipped on account of calm winds. Slower wind speed and low ventilation conditions are unfavourable for the effective dispersal of pollutants. In more bad news, the air quality is likely to remain in “very poor” for the next few days.

The quintessential andolanjeevi



On the day in 1970 when the Supreme Court struck down the Executive Order withdrawing privy purses given to former rulers of princely states, another young advocate and I ‘joined’ the Youth Congress in Tamil Nadu. We joined by being part of a Youth Congress-organised protest against the judgment near the statue of Lord Munro in Chennai. We were arrested and released shortly afterwards. When privy purses were finally abolished by an amendment to the Constitution, we believed that our protest (and arrest) had led to the amendment and we had been vindicated! Our protest was a dissent to the judgment of the Supreme Court. There were similar protests at many places in the country. The Supreme Court did not haul us for contempt of court; no one labelled us as anti-national; and no police agency charged us with sedition. Bless them. The nature of dissent - A dissenting mind belongs to a thinking person. Great judges have been great dissenters: Justice Frankfurter, Justice Subba Rao, Justice H R Khanna and others. The dissenting judge, sometimes joined by other judges on the Bench, writes a minority judgment that was described as “an appeal to the brooding spirit of the law, to the intelligence of a future day”. In the field of sports, dissent is expressed by raising a clenched fist. In a business enterprise, dissent takes the form of work-to-rule or a strike. In politics and public life, dissent is expressed as a protest. Some protests garner widespread support and become an agitation, sometimes drawing thousands into the agitation. All ‘agitationists’ are passionate about the ‘cause’, many are willing to suffer and make

sacrifices, few are selfish, and only a handful formulate the strategy. The last-named are the andolanjeevis, christened as such and denounced by the Prime Minister on February 8 while speaking in the Rajya Sabha.s The Great Agitator- The quintessential andolanjeevi in the first half of the 20th century was, without question, Mahatma Gandhi. He instinctively picked the right causes — indigo cultivation and salt tax. He was a wordsmith and invested words with powerful messages — satyagraha and Quit India. He believed in the power of symbols — a fistful of salt and khadi (hand-spun and hand-woven) clothing. He forged new weapons in the struggle for Independence — indefinite fasting and Dandi Yatra. He used soft power — bhajans and prayer meetings. A lot of thought must have gone into crafting and leading the struggle for Independence. He was the original andolanjeevi; we are proud to call him the Father of the Nation. Dissent has shaped the history of nations, dissent has given birth to new religions, dissent has liberated millions of people. Lenin revolted against the provisional government installed after Tsar Nicho-

las II had abdicated, and the first Communist nation was born. Siddhartha Gautama, Martin Luther and Guru Nanak dissented from the religious order in which they were born and founded a new reformist religious order. To them we owe the birth of Buddhism, Protestantism and Sikhism. Martin Luther King Jr's dissent on the prevailing social order — and the movement that sprung from his dissent — liberated millions of black Americans, something that a civil war could not do. His passionate cry “I have a dream” was an appeal to the conscience of Americans. There were at least three watershed years in India in the first half of the twentieth century: 1920, 1930 and 1942. Each one of the years was marked by a nationwide agitation that seamlessly became a movement and transformed into a struggle for freedom. The non-cooperation movement evolved into the civil disobedience movement and culminated in the Quit India movement, which was the final blow to the imperial power of Britain. The true meaning of andolan is not ‘agitation’ but ‘movement’. There are examples of agitations evolving into people's movements in other

countries as well. The anti-Vietnam war protests that exploded on university campuses across the United States (1968) exposed the lies of the US government and, in a few years, the US beat a humiliating retreat from South Vietnam, that led to a united Vietnam. Some movements — the Velvet Revolution and the Romanian Revolution (both 1989) — succeeded in overthrowing longstanding authoritarian regimes (Czechoslovakia, Romania). Some like Arab Spring in Egypt failed (2011). The enduring lesson of these movements is that the human spirit that seeks a change for the better can never be suppressed forever. There is an interesting correlation between citizens' political rights/civil liberties and press freedom. A country that ranks higher in terms of citizens' rights will also have a better press freedom score. The conclusion is logical because it is the media that reflects and amplifies (or distorts and diminishes) the assertion of rights by citizens. Finland and several European countries are on the top in both scorecards. Near the bottom is China. India is somewhere in the middle. The hope is India's score will rise, the fear is it will slide. Ask the Editors' Guild or the Press Club of India. Every 15 days or thereabouts they complain bitterly about accusations against or the arrest of a journalist or a raid on a media organisation but, in the end, they meekly surrender or become His Master's Voice. Ramnath Goenka was the last fearless owner of a newspaper and an andolanjeevi. Andolanjeevis will ultimately prevail over those who will suppress speech, writing, expression, dissent, protests, agitations or movements.

P Chidambaram

When govt shows signs of paranoia, it has dangerous consequences

The Prime Minister inadvertently confirmed last week that if his government appears to be scared of its own shadow, the paranoia comes from him. He made two speeches in Parliament and in both he held forth against ‘professional protesters’ and said that the ‘pure’ protest of the farmers was being polluted by the appearance of this kind of ‘parasite’. In his Rajya Sabha speech he sneered at what he described as a new kind of FDI. He said this acronym now means Foreign Destructive Ideology. His paranoia has left me puzzled. I began my career in Indian journalism when Indira Gandhi was prime minister. And can confirm that even in the Emergency, when she suspended democracy and fundamental rights, she was not as powerful as Narendra Modi is today. She became deeply unpopular and despite jailing more than 100,000 people continued to face protests from political parties who carried on their work by going underground. Most newspapers accepted censorship with shameful servility. But the ones that did not, like this one, continued to challenge her through the period of censorship. When her son, Sanjay, began his campaigns to compulsorily sterilise men, and to make poverty disappear from sight by throwing people living in Delhi slums outside the city's boundaries, ordinary people began to protest publicly. In villages in Haryana, women took to thrashing officials who came to sterilise their men. When the election came in 1977, Mrs Gandhi and her son failed to win their own seats. Today, the situation could not be more different. A recent poll in



India Today says that the Prime Minister is as popular as he has ever been and would win a full majority for his party if an election was held. Most people polled said they were perfectly happy with the way in which he has handled the pandemic and the economy. He faces no threat from the Opposition, either in Parliament or in the streets, and the media is more docile than ever with our most powerful TV channels and Hindi newspapers openly on his side. What is he afraid of? Why do we see this attack on social media platforms and digital news portals? Last week, a diminutive digital platform called NewsClick was raided by the Enforcement Directorate, making it more famous than it was before. And, Twitter has been reprimanded publicly for not taking down all the accounts that the Government of India ordered it to. There has been a huge jump in the past year in the complaints filed by the Indian Government against Twitter, and the Law Minister has issued a stern warning. ‘Don't spread hatred, violence, fake news... follow the Indian Constitution and laws, we will be very strict about this.’ The attacks on people who have come to be

known as ‘urban Naxals’ began much earlier. They have been rotting in jails for years and now we learn from an American digital forensic company that the ‘evidence’ that sent Rona Wilson to jail was malware planted in his computer just before he was arrested. Some of these ‘urban Naxals’ are in their eighties and have been in jail for months on charges that seem vague and dodgy. The good news that came last week was that comedian Munawar Faruqui has been released on bail after an intervention by the Supreme Court. But, he spent six weeks in jail for jokes that he had not yet cracked. He was arrested at the behest of the son of a BJP leader and his story has brought the Modi government some really bad international publicity. When the Prime Minister himself is paranoid it stands to reason that his ministers and supporters will go further to launch their own campaigns to ferret out ‘anti-nationals’ and ‘urban Naxals’. This has been going on for a while. It began with the attacks on JNU students and then on Muslims who protested against the changes in the citizenship law. But the outrage is selective. Dur-

ing the Delhi elections last year, one of Modi's ministers riled up a public rally by getting his audience to chant with him that ‘traitors to India’ should be shot. He has not so far been charged with incitement to violence or spreading hate. When a government shows signs of paranoia, it has dangerous consequences. We are beginning to see this happen. Political activists are tossed into jail these days under stringent preventive detention laws and recently we saw journalists and an MP charged with ‘sedition’. What is going on? Does the Prime Minister truly believe that the only way he can govern India is by crushing all dissent under the jackboot? Does he not see that if Twitter is to be reprimanded for allowing offensive tweets, the first accounts that it should close are those that belong to people ‘proud to be followed’ by him. He only needs to check some of the tweets that the BJP's troll army posts against Muslims to know that they are masters of spreading ‘hatred, violence and fake news’. Why should the most powerful prime minister in Indian parliamentary history need to behave as if he is under an existential threat from shadowy foes? Why should dissent be treated as sedition? Why should protesters need to be categorised and labelled? It would have been better if the Prime Minister had not himself made clear that he approves of this kind of repression. This article first appeared in the print edition on February 14, 2021, under the title “Paranoia is infectious”.

Tavleen Singh

Local Contractors Being Exploited By Iocl's Artson Company : Alleged Sltm Threatening to journalist and social worker by Maoist



(A.O. Bureau) Paradiip, Feb 14: It has been alleged that Artson Engineering Limitd, a construction company working for the Paradiip IOCL Refinery for the past three years, but has not paid to local contractors any of their dues for a long time. Less than a month

ago, the Sri Loknath Thikadar Mahasangh (SLTM) (Sri Lokanath Contractor Federation) brought the matter to the attention of Paradiip ADM. After being convinced of the situations, the ADM called on both sides to discuss the issues. The Artson company

then promised to pay the arrears to the contractors by January 15. But till date, the company has not paid the arrears. But despite the difficulties, the contractors continue to work for the company. Meanwhile, the company which has started a new project worth Rs 120

crore in IOCL, has awarded the new project contract jobs to the outside contractors inspite provide it locals. SLTS president Dhirendra Kumar Samal, general secretary Saubhagya Biswal, secretary Chittaranjan Choudhury, advisor Narayan Sahu,

Manindra Guru, Sulekh Sahu, member Pravat Behera, Suryanarayan Tripathy, Laxmidhar Sahoo and others were demanded to local administration and IOCL authorities to intervene and resolve this issues immediately and bring justice to the local contractors. The federation has warned that hundreds of contractors will be forced to staged on hunger strike in the coming days, if the problems has not been solved yet.



Malkangiri College pays tribute to the martyrs



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Feb 14: A tearful tribute has been paid to the victims of the Fulwama attack on the premises of Malkangiri College. The Principal Ashok Kumar Sadangi was the chief guest at the function and addressed the gathering. Dr. Ranjan

Kumar Swain, Head Professor, Department of Commerce, Malkangiri College, presided over the function, while Lecture. Gautam Nayak, who was the guest of honor, briefed the participants on the sincere duties of the martyrs. Deep condolences were ex-

tended to the families of the martyrs. The meeting was attended by students from more than 60 arts and commerce departments. They sang and chanted slogans for the martyrs. The meeting was held on February 14, 2019. Finally, a tribute was paid to the martyrs.

Young girl of 16 committed suicide by hanging herself

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Feb 14: An unfortunate incident has been reported in the village of MPV 82 in Malkangiri district's Kalimela block. The minor told - Suparna

His brother later found that the door was locked inside his bathroom. He broke down the door and found no answer to his call, but found that his sister had committed suicide by



Mo Chatashali campaign launched at Malkangiri



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Feb 14: Malkangiri Workers 'Union and Women's Workers' Union have launched Mo Chatashali campaign in various villages in 4 blocks of Malkangiri. The campaign was launched by a panchayat representative and the president of the organization.

Children's education has been suspended for about a year due to the Carona epidemic. As a result, many rural children have dropped out of school. To this end, the Malkangiri organization has set up a total of 856 My Chatashali Centers to improve the education system, bring quality education to first- and fifth-

graders who are weak in education, or to ensure that there is no discrimination between urban and rural students. The campaign will benefit 100,000 students in 17 tribal and backward districts of the state, with 7,500 chatashali centers set up in the state and more than 15,000 education volunteers, the organization said.

Mandal, 16, daughter of Mahananda Mandal of MVP 82 villages. According to the information received, the girl was living in her elder brother's house in MPV 73, kunanpalli: - villages. At around 10pm last night, his brother reportedly found the younger sister's bedroom door open, and when he went to the room shortly after, his sister was not at home. He immediately asked the people around him and there were many everywhere. The search did not return any results.

hanging herself in a veil with the sound of her bathroom. The girl's family members came to the local police station and handed over a written affidavit to the police. Handed over for. To investigate the incident, the police officer filed a case of manslaughter in case no 04/13.02.21 However, the sudden death of the minor has cast a shadow of mourning over the family, with the exact cause of the incident not being clearly ascertained, the real ASI Narasimha Majhi informed.

Stuck In A House During Lockdown, Odisha Couple Ties Knot On Valentine's Day

(A.O. Bureau) Sundargarh, Feb 14: Four days prior to the announcement of nationwide lockdown due to the COVID-19 outbreak last year, Namita Majhi of Mahuldihi village under Rajgangpur block of Odisha's Sundargarh district had come to visit her friend Babulal Majhi's house at Panchara village under Kutra block in the district. Little did she know that the visit would turn into a fairytale and lead to marriage with him on Valentine's Day, this year. Both got to know each other when Namita came to Panchara for at-



tending a wedding, two years ago. Babulal and the girl exchanged contact numbers and were regularly in touch over phone during the next one year. On being invited by Babulal, Namita came to his house, last year. However, she couldn't return to her village after the announcement

of the lockdown. The two started living in the same house and subsequently fell in love. Their relationship was also approved by the family members of the two. The elated couple tied the nuptial knot today in the presence of their kin, well wishers, and friends.

Woman Dies During Attempt To Save Husband From Self-Immolation

(A.O. Bureau) Pattamundai, Feb 14: A woman died after sustaining severe burn injuries while saving her husband, who attempted self-immolation at Sanajaria village here in Kendrapara district in the early hours of Sunday. Police iden-

tified the deceased as Bandita Mallick while her husband Sailendra Mallick has been admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack in a critical condition. As per reports, the couple entered into an argument on Saturday morning over the al-



leged extramarital affair of Sailendra. After a brief gap, the duo again quarreled over the issue following which Sailendra flew into a rage and set him on fire by pouring kerosene on him. Bandita desperately tried to douse the fire and in the process, she re-

ceived severe burn injuries, added reports. Some neighbours rushed to the spot after hearing the couple's screams and managed to douse the flames. The couple was immediately taken to Pattamundai Sub-Divisional Hospital (SDH). The doctors

at the SDH referred them to SCB Hospital as their health condition deteriorated. However, Bandita succumbed on the way to Cuttack while Sailendra is battling for his life at SCB. Pattamundai Police has launched an investigation into the case.

Inside Hina Khan’s special birthday bash for boyfriend Rocky Jaiswal, there’s a Valentine’s Day pic too



New Delhi, Feb 14: Hina Khan rang in boyfriend Rocky Jaiswal’s birthday with an intimate bash, attended by close friends. The actor shared photos from the party. Actor Hina Khan on Sunday flooded her Instagram

feed with romantic posts about boyfriend Rocky Jaiswal as he celebrated his birthday. Hina, who has been dating Rocky since 2014, posted several pictures with him from his birthday bash, expressing her love for him. Hina

rang in Rocky’s birthday at midnight and the party was attended by a few close friends, including actor couple Rohan Mehraa and Kanchi Singh. In one of the pictures on her Instagram story featuring Rocky’s birthday cake, Hina wrote a

special note for him. “He’s truly in love with the stars, planets and the universe... Sometimes he pakaoes me with his universal talks. But a lot many times he amazes me. You are truly a bundle of knowledge and a

gentleman. So lucky to have this gem in my life.” Hina shared a picture of the couple enjoying a cup of coffee together during the day. She captioned the photo, writing, “Us forever.” Besides, she also posted a selfie video with Rocky where the couple is seen wishing their fans, “Happy Valentine’s Day.” Even the birthday boy wasn’t behind in making his partner feel special, as Rocky gifted a bouquet of red roses to Hina as a part of their Valentine’s Day celebration. Rocky also dedicated a few words to her, captioning one of the videos from his birthday celebrations. “You inspire the love in me and bring out the peace that soothes my life,” the filmmaker wrote.

When Ayesha Shroff wrote a letter to Jackie Shroff’s sex-girlfriend

New Delhi, Feb 14: Back in the day, Ayesha Shroff wrote a letter to Jackie Shroff’s ex-girlfriend and told her they could ‘live like sisters’ and marry him together. Jackie and Ayesha revealed this in an old episode of Rendezvous With Simi Garewal. Jackie Shroff and Ayesha Shroff’s relationship has withstood the test of time. They have been married for several decades and have two children - Tiger Shroff and Krishna Shroff. Did you know that Ayesha was so madly in love with Jackie that she was even ready to share him with another woman? The couple made this revelation during an appearance on Rendezvous With Simi Garewal in 2002. Ayesha met Jackie when she was 13 - first when she was getting off a bus, and then, at a record shop. Both times, he went up to her

and started a conversation with her. Even back then, she felt that this is the man she wanted to marry. However, sometime later, Jackie confessed to Ayesha that he is in love with his ex-girlfriend, who moved to the US for further studies. Ayesha asked Jackie if she could write a letter to

She (Ayesha) wrote a letter to her and said, ‘Why don’t you come back? We will live like sisters and get married to Jackie together.’ So I would have had two wives.” Ayesha said that she finds it hard to believe that she did something like that but she ‘just wanted’ Jackie. “If it was a choice



the girl. Jackie revealed, “She went away to the US to do some course and said she would come back. Meanwhile, I met her (Ayesha) and fell in love with her. I told her (Ayesha) that I love the girl who is in the US and she is gonna come. She (Ayesha) said let me write a letter to her.

between losing him and keeping him with her... It is as simple as that,” she told host Simi Garewal. However, Ayesha admitted that she does not know ‘how it would have worked out finally’ as she is ‘madly jealous and possessive’ about Jackie.

Valentine’s Day 2021: Love is in the air for Ram Kapoor-Gautami, Shabir Ahluwalia-Kanchi Kaul

Mumbai, Feb 14: TV stars like Sharad Kelkar, Gautami Kapoor and Kanchi Kaul have posted heart-melting posts for their better-halves to celebrate Valentine’s Day. Television couples could not get enough of each other as they made grand romantic gestures on Valentine’s Day on Sunday. Stars including Sharad Kelkar, Gautami Kapoor and Kanchi Kaul posted heart-melting posts for their better-halves to celebrate Valentine’s Day. Kanchi Kaul posted an intimate picture of herself with actor-husband

sons than one for Gautami Kapoor and Ram Kapoor, as it also happens to be their marriage anniversary. The couple celebrated 18 years of togetherness today. On the occasion, Gautami penned a beautiful post for her “mad, crazy and most loving” husband. “Through thick and thin we have been together... 18 years and counting.... looking forward to the next 118 years. Happy anniversary to my mad, crazy and most loving buddy what would I ever do without you !!!!!

Actor Sharad Kelkar thanked actor-wife Keerti Kelkar for being a constant support to him, as he penned a sweet message for her on Instagram. “I have said it many times and I’m saying it again, I love you @keertikelkar. Thank you for your constant love and support. With you, everyday is valentine’s day. I love you.” Di Luccio and their son. This is the place. The very place where we exchanged vows 2 years ago @nataliediluccio !

‘Indebted for your sacrifice’: Akshay Kumar, Varun Dhawan, Rajkummar Rao pay homage to Pulwama martyrs

Mumbai, Feb 14: Bollywood celebrities took to social media sites to tributes to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Pulwama terror attack. Several Bollywood actors, including Akshay Kumar, Varun Dhawan and Rajkummar Rao on Sunday paid tributes to the martyrs of the Pulwama terror attack and said the country will forever remain indebted to the bravehearts. Forty CRPF personnel were killed in the terrorist attack carried out by Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad in Pulwama on February 14, 2019. Kumar took to Twitter and shared a picture of the martyrs. “Remembering our bravehearts of #PulwamaAttack, we will always remain indebted for your supreme sacrifice,” the 53-year-old actor tweeted. Remembering



our bravehearts of #PulwamaAttack, we will always remain indebted for your supreme sacrifice ??? pic.twitter.com/WLGQ1QJqIX — Akshay Kumar (@akshaykumar) February 14, 2021 Dhawan shared the same image on Instagram and captioned “Jai Hind”. Actor Kartik Aaryan prayed for the families of those who were

killed in the terrorist a t t a c k . #PulwamaAttack ?? ????? ?? ????? On this day, 2 years back 40 soldiers sacrificed their lives for our nation in Pulwama attack. Prayers for the brave souls and their families. We’ll always be in debt of yours ?????? pic.twitter.com/wU0NDdmkTN — Kartik Aaryan (@TheAaryanKartik)

February 14, 2021 “On this day, two years back, 40 soldiers sacrificed their lives for our nation in Pulwama attack. Prayers for the brave souls and their families. We’ll always be in debt of yours,” the actor tweeted. Rao took to the microblogging site and wrote, “My heartfelt tribute to all our martyred brothers”

????#PulwamaAttack pic.twitter.com/ILILxaDFL5 — Rajkummar Rao (@RajkummarRao) February 14, 2021 “Rest In Power Bravehearts of Pulwama!” actor Suniel Shetty wrote. “India will Always Remember Your Sacrifice In #PulwamaAttack #JaiHind,” filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar tweeted.



Shabir Ahluwalia and Kanchi Kaul wrote that she falls in love with him every day. “A dozen valentines together and still falling for you everyday.... #lover #alwaysandforever #valentine #happyvalentinesday #myhappyplace #boyfriendvibes #butterflies @shabirahluwalia,” Kanchi wrote. Actor Gautam Rode made an adorable wish for wife Pankhuri Awasthy, writing, “Happy Valentine’s Day my Cutie Patutie @pankhuri313 I love you and I am missing you motu.” Valentine’s Day is special for more rea-

Lots of love,” Gautami wrote alongside a picture of herself with Ram. Television personality Raghu Ram posted a picture of himself with wife Natalie Di Luccio and their son. This is the place. The very place where we exchanged vows 2 years ago @nataliediluccio ! And I still remember and promise to honour my vows to you, my love! You are, and always will be my bride. My wife. Mother of my child. My Valentine... #ValentinesDay #Goa,” Raghu wrote.

And I still remember and promise to honour my vows to you, my love! You are, and always will be my bride. My wife. Mother of my child. My Valentine... #ValentinesDay #Goa,” Raghu wrote. Actor Sharad Kelkar thanked actor-wife Keerti Kelkar for being a constant support to him, as he penned a sweet message for her on Instagram. “I have said it many times and I’m saying it again, I love you @keertikelkar. Thank you for your constant love and support. With you, everyday is valentine’s day. I love you.”

New Delhi, Feb 14: A fruit for all seasons, lemon is versatile, nutrient-dense, packed with loads of vitamins, minerals essential for the body. Lemon water- the very sight and smell of this drink makes one feel fresh, rejuvenated. This greenish-yellow mix of lime squeezed in water is known to provide numerous health benefits. Be it to beat the summer heat or to jumpstart a winter morning, drinking lemon water never goes out of fashion. A fruit for all seasons, lemon is versatile, nutrient-dense, packed with loads of vitamins, minerals essential for the body. Let’s take a

quick look at the advantages of drinking lemon water: Aids in digestion and weight loss- Since ancient times, drinking warm water on an empty stomach has always been recommended. And infusing that same water with the goodness of lemon squeezed into it brings about overall wellness. It prevents acid reflux,

stimulates digestion, keeps constipation at bay, and eliminates waste. The drink washes out the toxins floating in your digestive tract, reduces bloating, relieves painful symptoms that accompany indigestion; in the process boosts up metabolism, gets rid of excess fat aiding in weight loss. Improves skin- The



fragrant, refreshing drink will not only reboot your mood, but will also flush out the toxins from the body. A glass of nice warm antioxidant-rich lemon water in an empty stomach every morning is a great detox drink to get a glowing, radiant skin. Improves immunity - This drink being an excellent source of ascorbic acid, boosts up the body’s natural immune system. Vitamin C protects you from flu, cold; builds up defence against pathogens. Prevents inflammation and anaemia Lemon water contains antioxidants, potassium, folate, fla-

vonoids, some amount of vitamin B. These prevent chronic inflammation from oxidative stress and the vitamin C helps absorb iron from food; thereby ensuring haemoglobin level in body. Prevents kidney stones Citric acid in lemons prevents kidney stones by increasing urine volume. If someone is suffering from kidney stones already, then just 125 ml of lemon juice per day would be sufficient to stop stone formation. It increases the pH level in urine thereby ensuring a healthy kidney devoid of the possibility of kidney stones to thrive.

World's largest cricket stadium at Motera gears up to welcome fans India in commanding position, lead England by 249 runs

New Delhi, Feb 14: Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) is thrilled to welcome its cricket fans for one of the most riveting series between India and England when it opens the gates of the world's largest cricket stadium at Motera in Ahmedabad after a break of six years. GCA said the booking for the 3rd test match against England will open at 11.00 am on Sunday, 2021. The authorities have decided to allow 50 per cent spectators of the stadium's capacity during the test matches at GCA's cricket stadium at Motera. England will play two test matches including a day-night test match starting from February 24 and five



Internationals. Dhanraj Nathwani, vice president of Gujarat Cricket Association, said: "We are honoured to be hosting this series after a hiatus and are excitedly looking forward to entertain gathering of cricket fans at the world's largest cricket stadium at Motera considering social distancing and safety norms. We hope normalcy returns soon and we get to see the stadium packed with fans cheering from all the stands for their

teams." "We at GCA thank Jay Shah, Secretary of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for allocating two test matches and five T20 International matches at this newly built cricket stadium," said Nathwani. "An honour for @GCAMotera to host the #INDvsENG test match at A'bad. With this, international #cricket begins at the world's largest cricket stadium. Tickets sales start on February 14 on <http://gujaratcricketassociation.com> & @bookmyshow @BCCI @JayShah @SGanguly99", Nathwani said in a tweet. For the pink ball test, the third game in the series, tickets have been priced between Rs 300 and Rs 1,000.

Chennai, Feb 14: India placed themselves in a commanding position by stretching their overall lead to 249 runs at stumps on the second day of the second Test against England here on Sunday. At the close of play, Rohit Sharma and Cheteshwar Pujara were batting on 25 and 7 respectively, as India reached 54 for one in their second innings on a day when the English batsmen were at sea against the home team's spinners, especially Ravichandran Ashwin, who returned excellent figures of 5/43. Thanks to senior off-spinner Ashwin's effort, India bowled out England for 134 in their first innings for a massive first-innings lead of 195 runs. India were all out for 329 in their first essay. Debutant left-arm spin-



ner Axar Patel picked up two wickets, including the big one of England's in-form captain Joe Root. In fact, Root turned out to be Axar's maiden Test wicket. Lead pacer Ishant Sharma also took two wickets while there was one for Mohammed Siraj. Wicketkeeper Ben Foakes top-scored for England with 42 not out off 107 balls even as his teammates struggled to get starts at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. Earlier, India added only 29 runs to their overnight score of 300 for six as Moeen Ali finished with 4/128 and Olly Stone 3/47 after Rishabh Pant's enterprising 58 with seven fours and three sixes. Brief Scores: India: 329 and 54 for one in 18 overs (Rohit Sharma batting 25) England 1st innings: 134 all out in 59.5 overs (Ben Foakes 42 not out, Ollie Pope 22, R Ashwin 5/43).

Serena Williams in Australian Open quarterfinals Priyanka Goswami walks into the record books

Melbourne, Feb 14: Serena Williams returned to the Australian Open quarterfinals by getting past No. 7 seed Aryna Sabalenka in three sets here on Sunday. The 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 victory put Williams one step closer to her record-tying 24th Grand Slam title overall and eighth championship at Melbourne Park. Her most recent major trophy came at the Australian Open in 2017. This was Williams' 62nd fourth-round match at a major tournament — and Sabalenka's second. They played a similar



brand of powerful tennis but Williams was barely better, stealing the last two games after what had been a 4-1 lead in the final set evaporated. The 39-year-old American next faces either Simona Halep or Iga Swiatek. Williams took the opening set 6-4, but Sabalenka broke serve three times in a row in the second to grab it by a 6-2 score. Williams is trying to get closer to her 24th Grand Slam singles title and eighth at Melbourne Park.

New Delhi, Feb 14: Priyanka Goswami bagged the gold, clocking a national record-shattering time of 1:28:45s and in the process earned a spot for the Tokyo Games slated for July this year. When race walker Priyanka Goswami missed the 20km Olympic cut by a narrow margin at the nationals last year February, she was left momentarily dejected. The 24-year-old walker knew it was only a matter of time that she booked a spot for the megaevent but little did she know back then that a pandemic would bring all sporting action to a halt for almost a year. Her wait ended on Saturday, at the race walk nationals in Ranchi where she bagged the gold, clocking a national record-shattering time of 1:28:45s and in the process earned a spot for the Tokyo Games slated for July this year. Priyanka erased



Bahavna Jat's 1:29:54 mark set last year at the same event where the 2020 champion missed the Games cut. In the men's 20km event, seasoned walker Sandeep Kumar also earned an Olympic sport and a national record by clocking 1:20:16s as runner up Rahul Kumar too finished within the Games mark. For 24-year-old Priyanka, earning an Olympic spot feels like a huge burden off her shoulder. She along with Sandeep

have been training under national coach Gurmeet Singh in Bengaluru since 2019. After the lockdown restrictions were lifted the first thing she had to work on was reducing her weight. Priyanka was 49 kilograms when she re-joined the camp but coach Gurmeet devised a proper diet and training plan to cut it down to 44. "I have been really working hard and this was our first event since last year and I wanted to give my best. I am

over the moon. When I took up athletics I did not even know what the Olympics was but today I have earned a berth for it," says Priyanka in her typical jovial tone. Priyanka is very popular among the campers and has sizeable fan-following, 11,100 followers to be precise, on Instagram. Priyanka believes all athletes, owing to their grueling training schedules, need to have a life beyond sports. The Uttar Pradesh girl's second love is fashion and

clothing and her mother is her mentor. "I wanted to take up fashion designing but then things did not fall in place. Now my mom tells me about the latest fashion trends. She watches a lot of television and that's where she learns from," Priyanka says. Her photoshoot sessions have taken a backseat for now due to the lockdown but she promises to post more regularly now. "Aab dukan fir se khulegi . (I will become more active now)," she says while breaking out into laughter. Priyanka is candid in admitting that she's enjoying the media attention post her record-breaking race on Saturday. She is certainly not among those who try to avoid the camera. "I always ask my friends to take good pictures of me while I compete. I love Nike's sportswear and who knows they'll sign me up someday," she says

Villa has 'keeper Martinez to thank at Brighton in 0-0 draw

Brighton, Feb 14: Aston Villa climbed above Tottenham on the English Premier League table after being held at Brighton to 0-0. Emiliano Martinez made crucial saves for Villa, including an outstretched palm to deny Dan Burn's header, to ensure his side left with a clean sheet and a point. Brighton dominated possession and chances,

having 24 shots on the Aston Villa goal — including nine on target — while Dean Smith's men had just four attempts of which just one was on the home's side goal. Jack Grealish, who has seven goals, was unable to make a significant impact as Villa struggled to find its feet and force goalkeeper Robert Sanchez into making any significant saves.

Mohun Bagan AGM overshadowed by protests, controversial third kit to be withdrawn

Kolkata, Feb 14: Slogans of 'Remove ATK' reached the Mohun Bagan Athletic Club tent as loyal supporters once again vented their anger during the club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday. Alleging that the history and legacy of their beloved century-old club is being repeatedly tarnished, a group of 50-100 fans gathered in front of the club's premises, beating drums and shouting slogans on microphones. Elsewhere, another group demonstrated in front of the CESC House in Dharmatala, demanding that the prefix

'ATK' be removed and the 'contentious' third kit is done away with. Towards the evening a protest march with around 200 people was also taken out from the Eden Gardens area towards the Mohun Bagan club tent. As the crowd swelled, the police was called in to disperse the large gathering since there were fears that the club's annual general meeting might be disrupted. During the meet, three members raised the issue which was noted by the committee. After the AGM, ATK Mohun Bagan Director, Debashis Dutta spoke to The Indian

Express and shared his views on the sustained campaign by the supporters. Comparing the MB-KGSPL deal with the erstwhile McDowell's, Dutta said, "Three-four of our members have told that we don't want ATK before Mohun Bagan and we have clarified it to them that ATK is a brand just like earlier it was McDowell Mohun Bagan and they accepted it." On the issue jersey, he said, "That we have accepted. This will not be there going forward and there will be another type of jersey. As far as commentators using the word



ATK, that is out of our hand but we have told Star Sports." "However, some former players intentionally use the word ATK on Star Sports (Bengali) to create this nuisance but now it has been stopped." Mohun

Bagan legend and former captain Subrata Bhattacharya, who attended the meeting, was asked by the media on his views on the growing voices of discontent to which the 67-year-old said, "I will have to look into

the matter but if commentators are using the word ATK then that is their fault. The heritage of the club deserves respect." Fanspoint-EversinceATK Mohun Bagan FC sported their third kit in black, similarities between their jersey

and erstwhile ATK's away kit in 2019 has been rife. Fans have alleged that resorting back to 'a defunct club jersey' is another sign of disrespect towards the 130-year-old Mohun Bagan whose primary colours are green and maroon. ATKMB's current away is a combination of white and maroon, something a lot of supporters love. "Whenever there is an attempt to promote the brand of ATK we have protested. The black colour is not the issue but a close look will tell anybody that the design is the same as that of last season's defending champions ATK — which is now defunct," Tuhin Patel, one of the fans protesting at Dharmatala, last

month had told this website. "We have no problem with the stakeholders. Our only problem is with repeated publicity of brand ATK. We as diehard supporters of the club feel that this is an insult to the legacy of Mohun Bagan Athletic Club — established in the year 1889 with more than 100 major title victories," he had added. Noticeably, almost all ISL matches, witnessed 'fan wall' participants holding up 'Remove ATK' signs. "Never compromise with their own mother club's respect, legacy, and heritage. We tried our best to keep our promise and the fight will continue, let's roar #RemoveATK together," read a statement from a Mariners fan page.

Indian diaspora groups in US launch rose campaign in support of protesting farmers in India



(A.O. Bureau) Washington , Feb 14: The organisation also released a letter addressed to Indian Consulates as part of its "Love Conquers Hate" Campaign. A group of Indian diaspora organisations launched a rose campaign on the occasion of Valentine's Day on Sunday in support of the farmers protesting against the new farm laws in India. The Global Indian Progressive Diaspora (GIPD) launched the social media campaign on Valentine's Day, which

is observed globally on February 14. Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab and Haryana, have been camping at several Delhi border points since November last year, demanding the government to repeal three farm laws and provide them legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for their crops. Multiple rounds of talks between the government and farmer unions have not been able to resolve the deadlock. "Tweet or

Send a Rose to Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi asking to repeal farm laws or Send a Rose to the Indian Embassy/General Counsel in your respective region to express your solidarity with farmers in India. #Rose2Repeal #LoveToFarmers #OneAppealRepeal," GIPD said in a post on social media. The organisation also released a letter addressed to Indian Consulates as part of its "Love Conquers Hate" Campaign. The inter-

national community of progressive Indians, from over 12 diaspora organisations spread across the globe, extend their support to the farmers and their rightful demand to be heard and call for the repeal of farm laws and ask for shared governance in reformulating such laws, a media statement said. "In pursuit of that goal, a broad coalition of partner organisations invites our media partners and fellow human rights organisations to help us amplify voices of

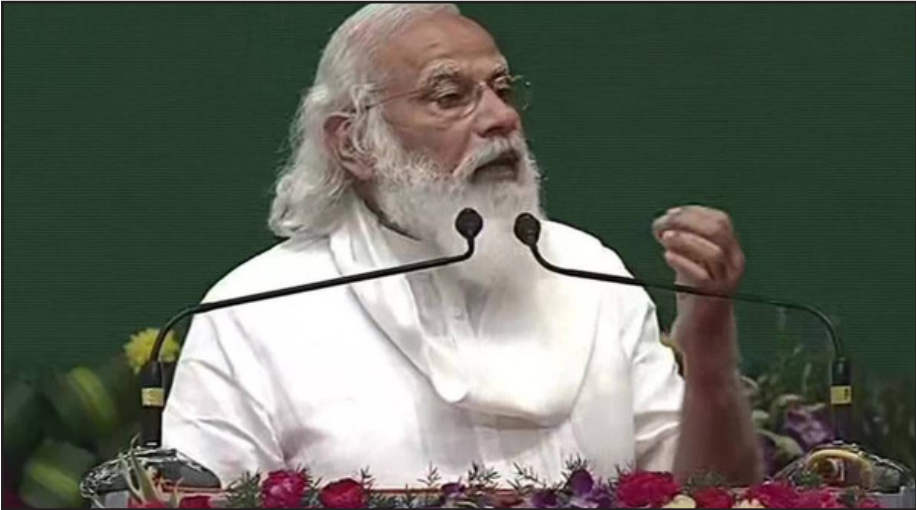
support to the farmers and a universal call for peace, unity and harmony in India," it said. India has emphasised that the protests by farmers must be seen in the context of India's democratic ethos and polity and the Ministry of External Affairs said that some vested interest groups have tried to mobilise international support against the country. In a statement earlier this month, the ministry, in a statement highlighted that the Parliament of India had passed the "reformist legislation" for the agricultural sector, which "a very small section of farmers" have some reservations about and therefore the laws have been kept on hold while talks are held. "Before rushing to comment on such matters, we would urge that the facts be ascertained, and a proper understanding of the issues at hand be undertaken," the MEA statement of February 3 said.

Proud of our security forces, says PM Modi on Pulwama attack anniversary

New Delhi, Feb 14: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah also paid homage to the CRPF personnel who were killed in the attack. On the second anniversary of the Pulwama terror attack, Prime Minister Narendra

Rajnath Singh also paid homage to the CRPF personnel who were killed in the attack. "I pay homage to those brave @crpfindia personnel who sacrificed their lives in 2019 Pulwama terror attack. India will never forget their service to

Pulwama attack on this day in 2019. India will never forget their exceptional courage and supreme sacrifice. — Amit Shah (@AmitShah) February 14, 2021 Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also paid tribute to the soldiers killed in the at-



Modi Sunday paid homage to those who lost their lives in the incident. "No Indian can forget this day. Two years ago, the #PulwamaAttack happened. We pay homage to all the martyrs we lost in that attack. We are proud of our security forces. Their bravery will continue to inspire generations," Modi said while addressing a gathering at Jawaharlal Stadium in Chennai, news agency ANI reported. Union Defence Minister

the nation and their supreme sacrifice. We continue to stand with their families, who had to suffer due to this attack," he tweeted. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also paid tributes. "I bow down to the brave martyrs who lost their lives in the gruesome Pulwama attack on this day in 2019. India will never forget their exceptional courage and supreme sacrifice," he tweeted. I bow down to the brave martyrs who lost their lives in the gruesome

tack. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant tweeted, "My salute to the martyrs who lost their lives in the line of duty towards Mother India, during the Pulwama Terror Attack." At least 40 CRPF jawans were killed in a terror attack on February 14, 2019 at Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir. The CRPF men were travelling in a bus, part of a convoy of over a thousand security personnel, when an explosive-laden SUV rammed into the bus and exploded.

Jammu IED recovery: We were on high alert, say police

New Delhi, Feb 14: A senior official said two people were arrested and another held in connection with the IED recovery in Jammu and Samba areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Police said on Sunday they were on high alert and had inputs that terror groups were planning an attack on the second anniversary of the Pulwama attack after an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was recovered near the general bus stand in Jammu earlier in the day. A senior official said two people were arrested and another held in connection with the IED recovery in Jammu and Samba areas of Jammu and Kashmir. "We were on high alert as we had inputs that terror groups were planning an attack on the anniversary of Pulwama attack. Last night, we arrested a person named Sohail and recovered 6-6.5kg of IED from his possession," Jammu's inspector general of police (IG) Mukesh Singh said while addressing a press

briefing. Singh added that Sohail revealed during interrogation that he was a student of a nursing college in Chandigarh and was instructed by the Pakistan-based outfit Al-Badr to

cently arrested in the valley. Zahoor Ahmad Rather- wanted in the killing of three Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers and a police official in South Kashmir in 2020- was arrested on



place the explosive in Jammu and several other areas. He said that the man, who was arrested on Sunday and hails from the Pulwama district, was told to place the explosive in three to four locations. "A person named Qazi Waseem in Chandigarh was also aware of this matter. He has been held. We have also arrested a person named Abid Nabi," the top police officer said during the briefing. Prior to this incident, two top terrorists had been re-

Saturday in the Samba district. While Hidayatullah Malik- a commander of the Lashkar-e-Mustafa, which is a front of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), was arrested on February 6. "Malik revealed that several hideouts have been stationed in Jammu to spread militancy. They receive weapons from Pakistan, send them to Kashmir and other areas," J-K's director general of police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said during the briefing.

Police Announce Rs 20K Cash Reward For Info On Missing 'Pihu'

(A.O. Bureau) Jajpur, Feb 14: In a bid to make headway into the missing 'Pihu' case, the police on Sunday announced a cash reward of Rs 20,000 for any information about the two-year-old minor girl. 'Pihu' had gone missing from her village Madhusudanpur under Binjharpur police limit in Jajpur district in August last year. According to reports, Binjharpur police have put up posters at different places and announced cash reward of Rs 20,000 for providing information about the minor girl. The local police have

also started drying up ponds near the house of the missing girl to get lead into the case. It is pertinent to mention that, two-year-old Subhalaxmi Nayak, aka Pihu from Madhusudanpur village has been missing for more than five months. The probe into the case which was earlier entrusted to an Asst Sub-Inspector (ASI) level officer had been handed over to the Inspector-In-Charge (IIC) of Binjharpur police station. The District Child Protection Officer had visited her house earlier to discuss the matter with her parents.



Corporate level Cricket Tournament was organised by IFFCO Paradeep



(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Feb 14: Corporate level Cricket Tournament was organised by IFFCO Paradeep from Feb 11th to 14th 2021 and total number of 5 teams from Paradeep participated in the tournament. Coast guard, PPL, Essar steel, IFFCO A and IFFCO B teams chased after the trophy in

this 4 days tournament. In the final match between IFFCO A and IFFCO B on 14th Feb, Sunday, IFFCO A became the champion by defeating IFFCO B. In the closing ceremony Shri K.J Patel, Executive Director, IFFCO Paradeep Unit as the Chief Guest to presented the champion trophy to

the IFFCO A team, IFFCO B recieved the Runner Up trophy and an award for discipline was presented to the Coast Guard team. All senior official of IFFCO, President and Secretary of IFFCO Employee's Union and IFFCO Officer's Association were present at the closing event.

Another Elephant Dies In Odisha's Karlapat; 6th Death In 2 Weeks

(A.O. Bureau) Bhawanipatna, Feb 14: Death of elephants in the Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary in Odisha's Kalahandi district continues unabated as another female elephant died, today. The pachyderm reportedly died due to septicemia. With this, the toll

mounted to 6 during the last 14 days. It is being suspected by the Forest Department officials that hemorrhagic septicemia might be the reason behind the death of elephants. The deaths have been reported from near Ghurugudi drain in the sanctuary. The Forest department has

sent an expert team to the protected area to find out the reason behind the deaths. The team, headed by Prof Niranjana Sahu, from Centre for Wildlife Health of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) inspected the area on Saturday. "All the symptoms indicate that the elephants



died from bacterial disease haemorrhage septicemia," informed Sahu. Following the incident, wildlife wing has started immunisation of cattle in several villages, closer to the two forest beats where the elephants' deaths were reported. Besides, various water bodies have been

disinfected with bleaching powders. Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi (South Division), Ashok Kumar said that the villagers have been advised not to allow their cattle inside the forest as it is suspected that the water bodies could be contaminated.