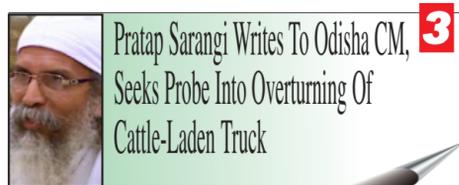




2 Shocking : Two Chinese Online Producers Go Missing After Making Fun Of President Xi Jinping



3 Pratap Sarangi Writes To Odisha CM, Seeks Probe Into Overturning Of Cattle-Laden Truck



6 Thousands Support Petition to Remove Golden Globe Awards Nominations for Sia's 'Music'



7 Djokovic into Australian Open final for 9th time

Kotia Row, Fuel Price Hike Stall Odisha Assembly Budget Session On 1st Day



Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Budget Session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly (OLA) began on a stormy note today as Opposition members disrupted the House proceedings with their protest over various issues, including Kotia jurisdiction dispute, fuel price hike and Mandi problem. Soon after Governor Ganeshi Lal began his speech, Congress legislators staged protest over Kotia jurisdiction dispute with Andhra Pradesh and petrol price hike. They also protested against the law and order situation in the state. After Congress, BJP members also joined the protest. Later, all members of both the parties staged walkout from the House. Later, the Governor moved condolence motion to pay homage for the passing away of Surendra Nath Mishra, ex-member, Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak, ex-Warrant Officer (GD), Assam Rifles, Yajna Narayan Kar, ex-SPR/EBR, 106 Engineer Regiment, Western Command, Krushna Chandra Panda, Ex-Subedar, 14 Bihar Regiment and all Corona Warriors, who laid down their lives for the service of the people during COVID-19 pandemic in the state. Highlighting different progressive works, Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal said the state government is fully committed to develop all regions of

the state and empower all sections of the people. "Despite the severe impact of Covid-19 on revenue, the state has been able to achieve positive growth in its own revenue, which is an indication of recovery in economic activities in the state," said the Governor. He said the state government has been able to collect its revenue amounting to Rs 38,760 crore by the end of January, 2021, which is about 7.3 per cent more than the collection during the corresponding period of the previous year. He said the overall law and order situation in the state remained peaceful during 2020 while police successfully handled the Covid-19 situation. 49 police personnel have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty during Covid-19, he added. "My government has been able to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic very effectively, which resulted in containing the spread of the virus, creating proper medical facilities for treatment of the affected and saving precious human lives," said the Governor. During motion of thanks, BJP members again staged protest over Kotia row. The legislators went to the Well of the House and raised slogans. Later, Speaker adjourned the House till 10.30 AM tomorrow following laying of Assented Bills by the Secretary of OLA.

Odisha CM And Union Minister Jointly Inaugurated The Production Of Two Iron Ore Mines Of OMC

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik and Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Shri Prahlad Yoshi today jointly inaugurated the production of two quarries belonging to the Odisha Mining Corporation and the Jiling- Langlota iron ore mine. Inaugurating the event, Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik said that the production of these two mines would help stabilize the iron ore market and meet the supply-demand of the industry. The Chief Minister said that Odisha has always taken many steps in the mining sector. In this regard, IMS System has been launched to monitor the transport of iron ore for transparency and the auction process of many large mines has been successfully completed in the last few years. Noting that Odisha has witnessed significant growth in the mining and metals industry over the past two decades, the Chief Minister said that Odisha has the poten-

tial to be an important center of the world in the steel, aluminum, and other metals industries. Industry-friendly measures in the state have encouraged investment. The Chief Minister emphasized the need for the two states and the Center to work together to realize the huge potential of the state in the mining and metals industries. The Chief Minister opined that the state government has always supported the reforms in the mining sector and that this would benefit both the Center and the states. Chief Minister Shri Patnaik thanked Union Minister Shri Yoshi for allocating the two mines to the WTO and giving various approvals within a short time. The Chief Minister also thanked the OMC for taking urgent steps to make the two mines operational. Inaugurating the occasion, Union Minister Prahlad Yoshi said that Orissa was rich in mineral resources. Therefore, if the Center and the states work together, the econo-



mies of both the states and the country will prosper. The state government will get Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 crore in revenue annually from these two new mines and create employment opportunities, Mr. Yoshi said. In addition, Mr. Yoshi said it would help alleviate the shortcomings in the iron ore market. Union Minister Prahlad Yoshi said that the cooperation between the Center and the state in infrastructure development would usher in a new era of prosperity in the country's

economy. Minister of State for Mines, Steel and Public Works Prafulla Mallick, who was present at the inauguration ceremony, thanked the Chief Minister and the Union Minister for their co-operation with the Center and the state for the production of the Gwali and Jiling Langlota mines. The function was graced by Rajya Sabha MP Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Chief Secretary Shri Suresh Mohapatra, Development Commissioner Shri P.K. Mr. Ashok Kumar Meena, Principal Secretary, Finance, was present. Chief Minister's Secretary (5T) Shri V.K. Pandian coordinated the program. Mr. Surendra Kumar, Chairman, Mining Corporation, delivered the welcome address and Mr. Balwant Singh, Managing Director, Mining Corporation, thanked the participants. The two mines in the Keonjhar district are expected to produce 12 billion tonnes of iron ore annually. Jiling Langlota has 6.12 MT

of iron ore, of which 4.24 million tonnes per annum have been approved for environmental production. Similarly, environmental permits have been approved for the extraction of 5.6 million tonnes of iron ore annually from the 17.4 MT iron ore mine. The Odisha Mining Corporation is one of the fastest-growing mining companies in the country. With the acquisition of these two new mines, OMC's annual production is expected to reach 20 billion tonnes.

Odisha CS Launches 3 New HRMS Modules For G2E Online Transactions

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra today launched three new modules of Human Resource Management System (HRMS) of State Government employees as another step forward in realization of 5T in governance. With these three modules the

to all the departments in quick disposal of departmental proceedings, quarter allotment and vacation, and timely verification of service records for sanction of different benefits." He directed all the departments and employees to make best use of the system and assured that any

eService Book (eSB) are further addition to the system. This makes the system more inclusive and effective." CMG Executive Director Md Sadique Alam appraised, "eDP has the provisions for issue of online show cause notice to the delinquent officer, issue of hearing

system of Estate Court, SMS alter system to the Government employee at the stage of allotment, retention, vacation and eviction etc, he added. It is also integrated with iFMS for online payment of arrear dues. eSB captures all service records and entries in the Service Book of Government employees. It has the facility of auto updation upon posting, transfer and sanction of claims. eSB provides 'employee interface' to view his/her own service records and give feed back if any anomaly is found. The pension sanctioning authority will be able to send eSB to the AG for processing of pension papers, the press communiqué informed. Prominent among others, Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena, Principal Secretaries and Secretaries of various departments along with senior officers of General Administration and Public Grievance (GA&PG) and CMGI attended the occasion.



operational difficulty would be resolved duly. Outlining the modules, Home Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Sanjeev Chopra said, "HRMS 2.0 was launched by the Chief Minister on July 8, 2020. The presently launched eDisciplinary Proceeding (eDP), eQuarter management system (eQMS),

notices, disposal by disciplinary authority, appeal to the appellate authority, if any; and, online tracking of the implementation of the final order." Similarly, eQMS tracks occupation and vacancy of Government quarter on real time basis, auto generation of eviction process when required, eCourt management

Dutee Chand Bags Gold At Indian Grand Prix Meet



Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Dutee Chand, an ace female Sprinter from Odisha, won Gold in the women's 100-metre race at the Indian Grand Prix I meet today. The Indian Grand Prix, the first post-COVID track and field meet, was held at the National Institute of Sports, Patiala and around 85 athletes have been participating in it. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated Dutee after she won the 100-metre race at the Indian Grand Prix. "Congratulate #Odisha's ace sprinter @DuteeChand on winning women's 100m race at the Indian Grand Prix Patiala. Wish her the best for future," tweeted the Chief Minister.

12-Yr-Old Autistic Girl Jiya Rai Swims 36 Km In Arabian Sea



Mumbai, Feb 18: Jiya Rai, 12-year-old daughter of an Indian Navy sailor, has created history by swimming 36 kms in the Arabian Sea to create awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), officials

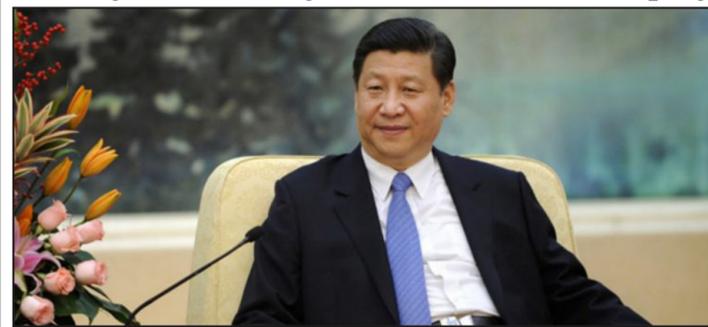
said here on Thursday. Jiya, herself an ASD case, is the daughter of sailor Madan Rai and swam the distance from Bandra-Worli Sea Link to Gateway of India in 8 hours and 40 min on

Wednesday. "This is a new world record as last year, she set a record by becoming the youngest girl with ASD to swim 14 kms in the open sea," said an official, adding that the feat would be certified by

the concerned authorities. Given her own medical condition, Jiya — a Class VII student of the Navy Children's School — dedicated her astounding swimming feat to the cause of raising awareness about ASD. Starting early, she plunged into the cold waters at the BWSL at 3.40 a.m. and reached her destination 36 kms away at 12.30 p.m., welcomed with cheers and clapping by the assembled crowd. After completing her swim, Jiya was felicitated with a trophy by President of Greater Mumbai Amateur Aquatic Association Zarir N. Baliwala and

others at a function near the Gateway of India. Earlier, in February, 2020, Jiya had completed the treacherous swim from Gateway of India to Elephanta Island, a distance of 14 kms, in 3 hours and 27 minutes, creating a world record for being the youngest girl with ASD to swim 14 kms in the open sea. The record-creating event on February 17 was conducted under supervision of Swimming Association of Maharashtra and associated with the FIT India Movement of the Union Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs.

Shocking : Two Chinese Online Producers Go Missing After Making Fun Of President Xi Jinping



Beijing, Feb 18: In a shocking development, two Chinese online producers reportedly went missing on the eve of Lunar New Year after mocking President Xi Jinping. Asia News reported that the head of Qiang Guo Wa Ha, one

of the youtube channels known for criticizing the Chinese president, reported that the two producers have been missing for more than a week. Apple Daily newspaper and Radio Free Asia stated that the chairperson and a manager of the

Ru Mo Xin Lian She YouTube channel disappeared last Tuesday. The Chinese Communist Party has a tendency to censor or suppress information that seems to undermine the ruling government's authority.

Puducherry Lt Governor orders assembly floor test on Feb 22 amid Congress' crisis

Chennai, Feb 18: Hours after taking charge as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, Tamilisai Soundararajan Thursday ordered a floor test in the legislative as-

sembly on February 22 to ascertain whether the Congress-led government in the Union Territory has the majority. Voting will take place by show of hands and the entire proceedings will be videographed. On Tuesday, the Congress-led government in Puducherry appeared to have lost majority after a second MLA of the party resigned in

two days. Late in the evening, the Centre removed the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of the Union Territory, Kiran Bedi, with whom the government has had a long-running battle. tion on Tuesday, Chief Minister V Narayanasamy said he retained majority support. Explained IWhat led to Congress' Puducherry crisis and Kiran Bedi factor After



sembly on February 22 to ascertain whether the Congress-led government in the Union Territory has the majority. Voting will take place by show of hands and the entire proceedings will be videographed. On Tuesday, the Congress-led government in Puducherry appeared to have lost majority after a second MLA of the party resigned in

Telangana Governor Soundararajan, a former president of the Tamil Nadu BJP, was given additional charge of Puducherry. This led to Congress-DMK alliance and the opposition AIADMK-BJP alliance having 14 MLAs each in the House that has a current effective strength of 28. While the Opposition demanded the government's resigna-

a meeting of the members of the ruling coalition on Tuesday, the Chief Minister, however, declared there was no need for him to resign. "Our alliance still has the majority. We are united. The Opposition's charges are unjust, they should realise their weakness. I repeat that our alliance remains strong. We will go ahead with this government as per law," he said.

J&K: Foreign envoys meet panchayat, ULB members to learn about recently held DDC polls

Jammu, Feb 18" Visiting envoys from nearly two dozen countries on Thursday met representatives of various civil society groups and elected panchayat and urban local bodies (ULB) members here to get a first-hand appraisal of the situation during the recently held DDC elections — the first democratic exercise in Jammu and Kashmir post the nullification of Article 370.



Representatives of West Pakistani Refugees and Walmiki Samaj, the two communities who were deprived of voting rights over the past seven decades and voted for the first time in the local elections, briefed the envoys about their experience, officials said. The visiting envoys of several countries, including member states of the European Union, reached Jammu on the second leg of their two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday. The envoys visited Kashmir on the first day of their tour on Wednesday. "We briefed them about the establishment of the three-tier panchayati raj and implementation of the 74th amendment. While the elections to panchayats was held for the fourth time in J-K compared to 14 times in rest of the country, the implementation of the 74th amendment of the constitution after 28 years was possible only after the abrogation of

the Article 370," Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta told reporters. Gupta, a senior BJP leader who led a delegation in the meeting, said the previous governments in the erstwhile state were not interested in empowering the people at the grass-roots level. "They were only interested in Parliament and assembly elections," he said. The delegation also briefed the envoys about other positives including development which has been speeded up after the August 5 2019 measure, Gupta said. Vice president of West Pakistani Refugees Sukhdev Singh Manhas said, "I told them what we have been subjected to over the past 73 years under the garb of Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution." "This was for the first time we voted in the local elections and for that we are thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister

Amit Shah. The post August 5 2019 development gave us rights and now we can vote, contest elections, avail government jobs and own properties," he said. Echoing Manhas, Valmiki Samaj representatives — Akash Kumar and Vanisha — said they told the envoys that the foremost benefit which they saw after the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 was that the community took part in the District Development Council (DDC) elections held in November-December last year for the first time. Vandana, a BJP sarpanch, said the envoys were very curious to know about the response of the people during election campaigning. "We told them that the people are happy with the development which gave us a full-fledged panchayat system including 33 per cent reservation to women," she said, adding the people overwhelmingly voted in the democratic exercise to

choose their representatives. DDC member Rajinder Sharma from Rajouri highlighted the issues of Pahari community and thanked the central government for granting four percent reservation in public sector employment and admission to educational and professional institutions. "The past governments ignored the community, which constitutes 9 percent of the total population of J-K with majority of them being Muslims," he said. The community suffered immensely due to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism as majority of its members live near the Line of Control and face frequent shelling from across the border, Sharma said. He expressed hope that the Modi government would do justice with "this hardcore nationalist" community by granting scheduled tribe status in near future. Another DDC member from Rajouri Mohammad Iqbal Malik said Article 370 was a "huge barrier"

in the path of development especially in the far flung areas of the erstwhile state. "With its abrogation many deprived sections of the region including scheduled caste community, Valmiki Samaj, Gorkha community, women, Gujjars and Bakerwals have all got equal political, economic and social rights," he said. He praised the central government for holding block development council and DDC elections to set up a three-tier panchayati raj system for the first time in the history of J&K. "The common man in J&K is very happy with the implementation of all centrally-sponsored schemes. What is required now is the joint efforts of international community to come together and help us in our fight against Pakistan's state sponsored terrorism," he said, and also raised the issue of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and said the Pakistani government and its army have been doing human rights violations there.

Protesting farmers 'rail roko' call; 'minimal impact,' says Railways

New Delhi, Feb 18: Responding to a call for nationwide 'rail roko' (rail blockade) by the farmer unions protesting Centre's three contentious farm laws, protesters in various parts of the country sat on railway tracks, resulting in some delays. During the protest, announced by Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), the umbrella body of farmer unions

spearheading the agitations last week, trains were stopped at places, some were cancelled or rerouted. However, a spokesperson for the national transporter said there was negligible or minimal impact on railway services due to the 'rail roko' agitation. He said majority of the zonal railways reported no incident due to the protest.

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Amit Shah: Will probe graft in disbursement of Amphan funds in Bengal

New Delhi, Feb 18: Addressing a huge crowd of supporters in Namkhana village of the South 24 Parganas district, Shah said the BJP's fight is to make Bengal 'Sonar Bangla'. He added that this was also a "fight between his party's booth workers and the syndicate of TMC." Launching the fifth 'Poribortan Yatra', the Home Minister said the party's aim is not to

remove the Mamata Banerjee government but to ensure that there is a "change in the situation in West Bengal; a change in the situation of the poor of the state; a change in situation of women of the state". He further stated that the BJP government will provide more than 33 per cent reservation to women in West Bengal if it comes to power in the state. Further targeting

Mamata Banerjee, he alleged that the chief minister had stopped Durga Puja and Saraswati Puja in the state. "Shouldn't Durga Puja take place in West Bengal? Court permission needs to be obtained for it. Shouldn't Saraswati Puja take place? She had stopped it. Only after BJP's pressure, she was seen worshipping goddess Saraswati. Didi, Bengal knows that you



stopped 'Saraswati puja' in schools," Shah said. Shah also said that if voted to power the BJP government will probe corrup-

tion in the disbursement of Amphan relief funds, adding that a task force will be constituted to save lives from cyclones, envi-

ronmental disasters. "The central government had sent relief funds after 'Amphan' cyclone, the money was siphoned off by the TMC leaders. If voted to power, we will probe into this corruption. We will form a task force for saving lives from cyclones and environmental disasters," he said. Once again taking potshots at Mamata, he said "Jai Shri Ram' slogan is symbol of

anti-appeasement politics" and added: "West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee gets angry at 'Jai Shri Ram' slogan due to her appeasement politics". He also spoke about the killings of BJP workers and warned that the perpetrators will be thrown behind bars. The union minister said the BJP is ready to take on the "goons" and the "syndicates" of the ruling TMC.

Meanwhile, earlier today, Shah, who visited the headquarters of the charitable organisation, Bharat Sevashram Sangha, said the path trodden by the BSS will significantly help India to transform into a self-reliant country. He said the BSS will hopefully continue to move forward on the path it has travelled so far and pave the way for a new 'Hindustan'.

Don't Relax, The Coronavirus Can Stage A Comeback: Prof. Mahapatra



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Feb. 18: Though the Covid-19 threat appears to have somewhat abated, people should continue to strictly adhere to the guidelines followed till now to remain safe, an eminent medical expert has said. "The number of cases detected in Odisha might have gone down, but we cannot say that we are

already out of the woods," Prof. Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, noted neurosurgeon and presently Vice-Chancellor of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), said. The UK strain of the Coronavirus, which is 50 per cent more contagious than the earlier one, has been detected in India and we now have reports that the South African and Bra-

zilian strains have also surfaced in our country, he said adding no one should think that the disease is no longer a threat. Prof. Mahapatra said that most people, who were in panic during the lockdown and shut down phase when the pandemic spread, appear relaxed now. It is an usual sight when you find men and women moving around without

wearing a mask and there is no semblance of social distancing. "You find people wearing it on their neck or below the chin which is of no use," he said. "This could be the result of the arrival of the vaccines against the virus but the people should not feel secured just because the inoculation program had been launched with Covaxin and Covishield," he said adding it should not cause people to lapse into a false sense of security. "It actually will take a long time for all the people to receive the shot and we have to be careful and guard against the resurgence of the virus the chances of which is very high," he said adding the Covid-19 protocol should be strictly maintained till the situation truly eases. It was necessary for all, he said, to get the vaccine jab when the time

comes as he had already done. Prof. Mahapatra, who was inoculated with Covaxin on the first day of the launching of the vaccination, took his second dose three days ago. "I have been feeling absolutely fine and there has been no reaction," he said. The number of cases in Odisha might have fallen below 100 per day, but it can stage a comeback any day, he pointed out saying it was still necessary to avoid crowded places. Wearing of mask, sanitization of hands and maintenance of social distance, the three mantras to battle Covid-19, should continue to be practiced by the people as long as possible, Prof. Mahapatra said. "I am not asking people to panic, but there is need to be careful. We have to protect ourselves, our family and society at large," he said.

Pratap Sarangi Writes To Odisha CM, Seeks Probe Into Overturning Of Cattle-Laden Truck



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Pratap Chandra Sarangi has urged Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to get today's tragic incident of overturning of a truck illegally transporting cattle on NH-60 at Basta in Balasore district investigated exemplary punishment meted out to the accused in which around 40 bovines and three men were killed. "I call upon you to have the said incident investigated and exemplary

punishment meted out to the accused," wrote Sarangi in a letter addressed to the Chief Minister today. The Union Minister further requested Patnaik to issue instructions to the Director General of Police and the district administrations to augment surveillance and patrolling and put in place a robust ground-level intelligence gathering system to prevent cases of illegal trafficking of cattle in the State. Sarangi said that illegal trafficking of cattle has become rampant in Odisha while pointing out growing

laxity in law enforcement and alleged tacit support from agencies that are supposed to enforce the statutes such as Orissa Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act 1960, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, the Transport of Animals Rules 1978 and other relevant rules. Union Minister drew the attention of Patnaik to the Orissa Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act 1960 which was one of the pioneering legislations in the country made under the dynamic leadership of Biju Patnaik (Naveen's father).

Work Effectively, Else Go Out: Odisha Minister Warns Officials



Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Following stringent action taken against some officials in recent past for grave misconduct and negligence in duty, State Cabinet Minister Arun Sahoo today warned senior officials of his departments of facing dire consequence for failing to achieve targets. Reminding them of actions by the State Government under Mo Sarkar programme, he said, "If you will work, do it, if not, then go out." We will order the higher authorities recommending strong action against those who will be found guilty of misconduct or negligence during the period of service," Sahoo told reporters after chairing

a review meeting at his Nayagarh Assembly Constituency today. At the meeting, Arun Sahoo, who holds the Agriculture And Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development, Higher Education portfolios in the State Government, directed the district authorities to spend the funds allocated to the departments in the budget in a time-bound manner. "For this, the officials need to come up with early plans, estimates and float tenders accordingly. If they fail to meet the target by March 31, they need to explain the reason as to why the assignments allotted to them could not be finished by dead-

line," he said. He hoped that the officials will transform the 5T mandates into action by following the guidelines. Speaking about a megapiped water supply project in Nayagarh district, Sahoo said that the tender work has almost been completed for some panchayats under Khandapada, Bapur, Nayagarh and Nuagaon blocks that have been taken on priority basis at expenses of Rs 560 crore. The project has been extended to Odagaon Block too for which a DPR has been prepared. Now, the project has been undertaken in Ranpur Block, Ranpur NAC, Gania and Daspalla.

Pari Death: Minor Girl's Mother Rubbishes Viral Video Content, Reiterates CBI Probe

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: The mother of the minor girl whose body was found in the backyard of the deceased's house in Jadupur village of Nayagarh district, reiterated a CBI probe into the matter today. The woman told media persons she is not satisfied with the findings of the probe conducted by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Crime Branch set up by the Odisha government in the minor girl death case. Also, she denied asking a youth Saroj Sathy, who has been in the SIT custody in connection with case,

about Pari on the day the minor girl went missing. The statement of Pari's mother came hours after a video of Saroj Sathy accepting his involvement in murdering the minor girl went viral today. "The truth will come out once the CBI probes the case. I still demand the CBI probe into the matter and have moved the Supreme Court for the same. Whoever is involved in the murder of my daughter must be hanged. I don't have faith in the SIT probe," said Pari's mother, Soudamini Sahu. She further asked how come the video of the



Saroj Sathy, who has been arrested in Pari's death case, went viral and was telecasted in TV channels even though the matter is sub judice and the accused has given his statement in the court. "The suspect might have been influenced to give the statement in the viral video. The court should decide whether the statement

given by him in the viral video is without any pressure," Sahu added. On February 15, 2021, the SIT filed the charge sheet in the Children's Court Nayagarh on U/s 376(A)/376(AB)/364/363/302/201 IPC r/w Sec 6 of the POCSO Act in the CID CB PS Case No-14 dt. 25.11.2020 against Saroj Sathy. In the viral video, Saroj was seen confess-

ing before a cop that he had attempted to rape Pari. He also revealed he strangled Pari to death but could not rape her. During the incident, the accused was alone in his house. He further said, "After killing the minor girl, I put the body in a sack and later dumped it near a pond. Later, I again went to a pond to throw his leggings in the waterbody to eliminate evidence." "When Pari's mother came to my house and asked me if I have seen her daughter, I denied. Also, I replied the same when my mother asked me if I had seen Pari during the day," Saroj said in the video.

Traffic Restrictions In Odisha Capital During Budget Session

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Several traffic restrictions will be imposed by the Twin City Commissionerate Police in Odisha capital during the Budget Session of the Assembly. Vehicles coming from Housing Board Square will take diversion from Keshari Talkies Square taking a left



turn. Vehicles coming from AG Square to-

wards PMG will take diversion by turning

right from Jayadev Bhawan and proceed on Indira Gandhi Park road. All vehicles coming from Master Canteen will be diverted from upper PMG. Vehicles coming from 120 Infantry Battalion Square intending to proceed towards Rabintra Mandap will be diverted towards Power House Square.

Vehicles coming from Raj Bhawan Square towards MLA colony and Rabintra Mandap will be diverted towards Shastri Nagar Square. These restrictions will not apply to vehicles authorised to enter the official buildings including the State Assembly, the State Secretariat and other offices located in this area.

Woman Found Dead On Farmland In Cuttack; Family Alleges Murder After Gang-Rape

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Feb 18: The body of a 44-year-old woman was recovered from a farmland near her house in Bheda gram panchayat under Mahanga block of the district Thursday morning. The woman identified as Annapurna Mahapatra, was a widow and living with her parents. Family members of Annapurna are alleging that she was murdered after being kid-



napped and raped by some miscreants. The deceased woman's father, Haraprasad Jena said, "She went out of the house to the toilet last

night but did not return. We started looking for her but she was untraceable," he said. Some locals said that they spotted the woman's body laced with

mud inside the canal in the nearby farmland today morning, some 200 metres away from her house and informed her family members. Police

recovered the body of the deceased and sent it for post-mortem. "Some miscreants might have taken her forcibly and murdered her after rape. I want strict action against the culprits so that my daughter gets justice," alleged Annapurna's father. On the other hand, the local police said that it is awaiting the post-mortem reports which will establish the exact cause behind the woman's death.

IMD Warns Of Thunderstorm, Lightning In 19 Districts



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: While the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted rain or thundershower across

Odisha for the next two days, it has issued a yellow warning for 19 districts for the next 24 hours. As per the warning, isolated thunder-

storms and lightning are very likely to occur in several districts of North Coastal, North Interior and South Interior region of Odisha. The districts are Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Cuttack, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sonapur, Boudh, Nuapada, Bolangir, Kalahandi and Kandhamal.

EDITORIAL

Fresh trouble

With more infectious variants of the COVID-19 virus now reaching India, this is no time to drop our guard. A cursory drive through any Indian city or town will make anyone believe that the COVID-19 pandemic is past us. In fact, outside cities like Delhi, even face mask usage levels seem to have dropped. Snatches from the crowds gathered at the recently concluded Test in Chennai were alarming because they showed many fans either not wearing masks at all or wearing them in a wrong fashion, not covering their mouth and nose properly. After a few months of an enforced lockdown and several more months of economic and social inactivity, many Indians seem to have expressed themselves by venturing out. However, it is very likely that the reports of a declining caseload and fewer fatalities from COVID-19 are offering a false sense of security and even inspiring an increasing number of Indians to take it easy. Assertions by some administrators and reports that India might have achieved "herd immunity" are also among the reasons behind the lax attitude currently on display on most Indian streets. Yes, India might have achieved some degree of herd immunity and the oft-repeated mantra of India's high pathogen load contributing to this could well be true, but until more studies are conducted on this subject, it would be wrong to make assumptions. This is particularly true in light of the latest reports emerging that the Brazilian and South African mutations of the COVID-19 virus have been detected in India. While there is no conclusive evidence so far that these mutations are deadlier, the rapid deterioration of the public health system in the Amazonian city of Manaus, thanks to the new mutation, should be worrying. Especially since officials in Manaus had also believed that the city had achieved a level of "herd immunity" a few months ago. It is also pertinent to remember that evidence released by vaccine manufacturers such as AstraZeneca, who are collaborating with the Serum Institute of India (SII), have shown that the existing vaccines may not provide the high degree of protection against the new mutations that they did against the initial virus. As India rolls out its mass vaccination programme, this should be a reason of worry for Indian administrators. The new cases with the mutated virus have to be contained before they can cause a major outbreak just when India's economy is beginning to recover. And while one expects the authorities — bureaucratic, healthcare and political — to take the right steps to contain the outbreak, it should not take away from the responsibility of the public at large. We should continue to maintain an appropriate degree of social distancing, keep safe and hygienic conditions and, most important, continue to wear face masks as much as possible. We cannot afford another outbreak, especially a more virulent one. Medical science has worked at double speed to ensure effective vaccines but we, the people, cannot abdicate our responsibility towards ourselves, our families and the society at large. While there is no conclusive evidence so far that these mutations are deadlier, the rapid deterioration of the public health system in the Amazonian city of Manaus, thanks to the new mutation, should be worrying. Especially since officials in Manaus had also believed that the city had achieved a level of "herd immunity" a few months ago. It is also pertinent to remember that evidence released by vaccine manufacturers such as AstraZeneca, who are collaborating with the Serum Institute of India (SII), have shown that the existing vaccines may not provide the high degree of protection against the new mutations that they did against the initial virus. As India rolls out its mass vaccination programme, this should be a reason of worry for Indian administrators. The new cases with the mutated virus have to be contained before they can cause a major outbreak just when India's economy is beginning to recover. And while one expects the authorities — bureaucratic, healthcare and political — to take the right steps to contain the outbreak, it should not take away from the responsibility of the public at large. We should continue to maintain an appropriate degree of social distancing, keep safe and hygienic conditions and, most important, continue to wear face masks as much as possible. We cannot afford another outbreak, especially a more virulent one. Medical science has worked at double speed to ensure effective vaccines but we, the people, cannot abdicate our responsibility towards ourselves, our families and the society at large.

Learning to create a world of peace

Those in control of power at every level must be honest to themselves and perform their duties with integrity to create a better tomorrow. The first two decades of the 21st century are over. We are saddled with wars and violence all around, distrust and apprehensions can be smelled across international borders, and terrorism and fundamentalism have wracked the backbone of several nations, leaving them in greater poverty and insecurity. Imagine the plight of those who are forced to migrate to unfamiliar lands. This happens despite the fact that a considerable number of nations has moved ahead economically and achieved some semblance of social and cultural uplift, besides the equality of opportunity in access and success. Looking around, one would find global deliberations getting centred around markets, GDP growth, economic policies; of course issues like global warming, climate change and environmental degradation do come up regularly, but without much commitment. The greatest promise of the 20th century was inclusion, equality of opportunity, and that meant human dignity to all those who had been deprived of it by vested interests, suffering subhuman practices like racism, apartheid, caste considerations, gender subjugation and a lot more. The biggest decision of the 20th century was to respect diversity and cut down on exclusion. Numerous initiatives at the national and international level may be cited in support of an emerging climate that would permit every human to savour the scent of fresh breeze in an environment of liberty, equality and fraternity! By implication, it would mean eradication of ignorance, poverty, poor health and



JS Rajput

universal access to human rights. People in such a society must know their rights and be committed to performing their duties. When the UNO (now the UN) was established on October 24, 1945, it was expected that the world would henceforth move towards global peace, harmony and brotherhood. The same year, Unesco was also born with a preamble to its constitution that generated huge hopes all around: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." The untold sufferings of the World Wars and the cruelty on Hiroshima and Nagasaki left people with no option but to strive hard to avoid wars in future, and sincerely move towards a world of peace. To augment their faith, there were luminaries like Albert Einstein and Mahatma Gandhi. They motivated many more, prominent mentions being Martin Luther King, Jr, and Nelson Mandela. Yes, there was an alternative available which preached global brotherhood through mutual trust and faith in truth and nonviolence. Unfortunately, it has not

clicked effectively so far. The how and why of the dichotomy of the expectations of the 20th century, and where we stand in the 21st at this stage, deserves an incisive scrutiny. The fundamentals were not beyond the comprehension of the luminaries who had an awareness of factors that could lead to serious distortions of the core values necessary for a vibrant democracy. When Gandhi responded to Julian Huxley, the then Director General of Unesco, on the draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Charter, he put on record an eternal guiding principle which is the lifeline of sustaining humanity on earth: "If everyone does his duty, everyone else would get his right." Men and women devoted to the cause of human rights the world over would not find even a treatise on the subject that could say more. This principle is to be implemented at the grassroots, and should extend to the top level. There are only two ways to achieve the transformation: Those in control of power and authority at every level are convinced that to create a better to-

morrow for the generations ahead — including their own kith and kin — they must be honest to themselves and perform their duties with integrity. Without this, they would be totally unfair to their progeny. This could be a national campaign. In the long term, schoolteachers could be roped in to realise how they are the prime movers in the process of preparing the next generations. In fact, they are at the top of the workforce pyramid that creates national future. They are the acharyas; people are supposed to follow their conduct, character and composure. They are the original icons. If a teacher is punctual, sincere, dexterous and empathetic, he would never have to tell children about values and human qualities. These would silently be absorbed by his wards. A national plan on these lines shall need no financial investment. It is the initial schooling that could — without burdening the textbooks — let children learn that nature could offer sufficient resources to meet the need of everyone but not the greed of anyone. A generation could be prepared in about a decade that would sincerely realise its primary role in maintaining the sensitive man-nature relationship and be ready to accept its responsibility to maintain and sustain it. Human beings have the gift to envision, both individually and collectively. As humans we have not applied our minds, and often human indiscretion and greed have triggered disasters that were already anticipated. The latest tragedy in Uttarakhand could be one more eye opener. Too many hydel power plants, cutting of trees and indiscreet mining were known to cause disasters. Let this warning from Mother Nature not go unheeded.

Fire Goddess of Northern Odisha!

Janakiballav Dash
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In olden days with most houses built of straw, bamboo, woods the menace of fire was a great pathbreaker, often changing lives of those engulfed in fire tragedy to ashes, the only saviour from such calamity was Maa Hingula, stated Baidynath Dash, the pujak of northern Odisha's famous Maa Hingula temple situated in the 'kaudikhani' sal jungle of Suhagpura, Badsahi in Mayurbhanj. The annual Hingula mela where lakhs thronged from all places of northern Odisha & from Jharkhand, Bengal Bihar to this small hamlet every year after the 'agniutsav purnima' which this year accounts to around 7 lakh congregation on this peetha said Betnoti SDPO Lalit Patnaik. Legend has it that after Shiva was humiliated in dakshya Yagyna the consecration of Sati in the pyre led a shaken Shiva to carry HER body on shoulders which was cut to 52 pieces by Vishnu, wherever these holy parts fall develop into a 'shakti peetha'. The 'brahma randhra' (source of energy) of Sati falls in Karachi later on brought by Raja Nala of Vidharba (Maharashtra). "The present peetha of Devi found in Puri Jagannath temple's unique kitchen where everyday 64



pauti Prasad capable to feed around ten thousands was a huge task for which Puri Raja sought Jagannath's blessings, accordingly the lord directed him to brought Devi Hingula for its smooth management" stated Premananda Dash another pujari of temple. Then he approached Raja Nala who allowed him to carry Hingula from Vidharba enroute Odisha She halted in a place at Talcher from where

She believed to manage the Shri Mandir kitchen, stated Dash. Devotees thronged with naivedya like flower, rice, coconut, banana, paddy straw & worshipped Maa to ward off fire menace in their homes or locality which then put on a big kundi & set on fire during which lakhs witnessed this holy consecration, said Sunil Dash, trustee of Maa Hingula. People come round the year also & tied their wishes in the form of bangles, threads on sahada trees & when their wishes fulfilled they untied it again by offerings puja to Maa said trustee Dash. Many have witnessed miracles in fulfilling their cherished wishes, said Seema Sahu, a devotee who came to witness the annual mela here. The belief of people in Maa for a secure life & living getting strengthened with each passing year with large numbers thronging to its annual mela every year which concludes during February said Dash, temple priest.



Second phase of Covid-19 Vaccination Drive at PPT Hospital



(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Feb 18: Second phase of Covid-19 Vaccination Drive at PPT Hospital for Healthcare & frontline workers. Second phase of Vaccination against COVID-19 at Paradip and PPT Hospital for the healthcare & frontline workers took place

today. COVID-19 vaccination has been eagerly awaited to prevent the spread of the disease by creating HERD immunity in the community. As per the Government Guidelines, the health care workers of PPT Hospital have been immunized first on 19th January 2021.

Today 142 PPT Hospital healthcare & frontline workers got immunised. This is to be noted that no adverse reaction has been reported following vaccination of 1160 workers in the 1st phase. All should come forward to take the vaccine to defeat the dreaded COVID-19

One day visit of CG Cabinet Minister to Podia



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Feb 18: The Cabinet Minister Lakhma Kabasi of Chhattisgarh, bordering Malkangiri, visited Tegdapalli village under Padia block today. Today, in the village of Tegdapalli, Minister Kabasi is said to have attended the function on the occasion of the mourning anniversary of Ranganath Madi, a well-known worshiper of the Koya community. Kabasi, known as a staunch leader of the Congress government in the neighboring state, was greeted by Congress workers at Padia Square and welcomed to the village of Tegdapalli amid tight security. Welcoming the minister, District Congress President Govind Patra,

Kalimela Chairman Mala Madi, Congress Block President MD Farooq, Malakangiri Municipality President G Srinivasan, Satyanarayana Majhi, N Raghav Rao, Naka Rajkumar, Subhash Bhowmik and others were present. Upon arrival in the village, Mr Kabasi unveiled a statue of the late Ranganath Madhi and laid a wreath at the shrine. The Koya Samaj organized various puja ceremonies in nature and organized a large pilgrimage. Later, attending a meeting chaired by Padia Block Congress President Shri Farooq, Minister Koya commemorated the contribution of late Madi in organizing various puja rituals, nature worship and large pil-

grimages in Koya society. The meeting was attended by hundreds of people from the surrounding area, including Special Development Council Chairman Manas Madkani Kalimela Tasildar Alok Anugulia, among others. Minister Kabasi then called on local leaders and the Koya community to consider nature as a god, and to work for the protection of the party, as well as for party workers to serve the people. In the evening, Minister Kabasi was taken to the BSF helipad in Dornapal, neighboring Chhattisgarh, amid tight security. This event has been arranged behalf of tight rings of security, both in the state police, and BSF.

3 Killed, 40 Cattle Dead As Truck Overturns In Balasore

(A.O. Bureau) Balasore, Feb 18: A cattle-laden truck overturned on NH-60 near Basta bypass in Odisha's Balasore district today killing three persons and around 40 cattle. The ill-fated ve-

hicle carrying around 100 cattle was heading towards West Bengal. The truck hit a Bolero SUV following which it turned turtle on roadside. On being informed, police and Fire Service personnel

rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies for post-mortem. The two occupants of the SUV sustained critical injuries in the road mishap and have been admitted to the Basta Hospital for treatment.



Launching of "PPT Vidyut Seva" Mobile App

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Feb 18: In a bid to facilitate electricity consumers of PPT, a Mobile App "PPT Vidyut Seva" was launched by Shri Vinit Kumar, Chairman, PPT today through VDO conference in presence of Shri A.K. Bose, Dy Chairman, PPT, Shri Charanjeet Singh, EVP, BD & Consultancy, PTC India Ltd. and other Sr. officials of both the organisations. Shri Saroj Kumar Das, CME, PPT explained

that PTC India Ltd. has developed this application, which is easily available in Google playstore and by use of this App, consumers will have easy access to the power consumption, billing and payment data. They can view and download electricity bill. Online electricity bill payment can be done 24x7 basis and toll free customer care number will cater to the need of the consumer. Complaints can also be registered on power supply/billing/payment.



PPT will be also immensely benefited from the consumer friendly environment as there will be more transparency in revenue affairs.

Collection efficiency will increase and consumer complaints will be addressed conveniently. PPT Authority request all consumers

to avail the online facility developed to make payment of electricity bill and also to lodge complaint if any, using this App.

District level Awareness for wildlife and forest protection & Fire

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Feb 18: An Awareness & workshop was organized by the forest department in Sarguda village under Pandipani panchayat to protect the forest from wildfires and hunt wild animals. First of all, the villagers greeted forest department officials with flowers, lamps, instruments and dances in the traditional way, and in a huge procession, they planted a palm tree on the back of the village goddess with a village procession. The chief guest at a meeting presided over by Forest Range Officer Shri Jagannath Bisoyi on the occasion. The chief guest at the meeting was Shri Pradeep Devidas Mirase, the Divisional forest Officer, who first introduced the lamp to the tree deity. At the outset, the Forest Officer, Mr. Bisoyi, delivered the welcome address. Among others, Zilla Parishad Mrs. Dahana Tangu, Pandipani Sarpanch Shiv Khemudu,

Markpali Sarpanch Hatiram Gadala, in their respective speeches, explained how important the participation of the villagers in forest protection. Explaining how important the role of villagers in forest protection is, the impact on natural resources, soil erosion, lack of oxygen, such as widespread forest destruction, extinction, and extinction of wildlife by wildfires. He also planted two trees and asked them to contribute to environmental protection. He also presented awards to two Van surakshya samiti in this awareness meeting, Mr. Srikant Nayak, ACF Mr. Bibhuti Bhushan Behera ACF, Mrs. Lily Amantiya ACF, among others, as well as many Malkangiri forest officials, Srusti NGO staff and members of self-help groups were present. In the end, Mr. Pradeep Devidas, the DFO, administered the oath to the villagers for forest protection and to hunt wild animals.



A 12 years old girl died of malaria

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Feb 18: A 12-year-old girl died of malaria on Tuesday in Malkangiri district's Kalimela block Prishtaguda panchayat, MV 56 village under Motu police station. In addition, another sister of the deceased girl is suffering from malaria and is being treated at the Kalimela community Health Center. The deceased was identified as Reena Tapal, eldest daughter of Raju Tapali, 54, of MV-57 village. Reena had been suffering from fever for about 5 to 6 days. Reena's father, Raju. Working in Andhra. At home, Reena's mother was carrying 3 daughters and a son. After Reena had a fever, they took her to a private doctor in the village. Reena's mother, Minati, said she had taken some medication and injections from there. Reena had a high fever yesterday and became serious. The younger sister has also had a fever for years. Reena's mother and two daughters went to the nearest general health center on Tuesday. Doctors and other staff there began treating Reena. Reena was diagnosed with malaria after a blood test at the primary health center, according to the



health center. Which is outsourced by OPD No. 4726,1602 Found on the 21st. An ambulance was called to the scene. Kalimela Medical was referred to the cause. The ambulance arrived at Kalimela Medical Center at 2 p.m. Reena's breath was blown away when she arrived at the health center. Asked by Sarat Kumar Behara, an AYUSH doctor from Motu Medical who first treated him in this re-

gard, the girl was serious when she arrived at the medical. We treated him first and sent him to Kalimela. Reena's malaria PF virus was found in a blood test. "It simply came to our notice then. The Malkangiri district has been declared malaria-free by the health department, but now a girl has died of malaria. The administration is said to have turned the headache.

Marriage Party Auto-Rickshaw Falls Off Bridge In Bargarh, 2 Killed, 11 Critical

(A.O. Bureau) Bargarh, Feb 18: At least two persons got killed and eleven others seriously injured when the auto-rickshaw they were travelling in fell off the bridge at Serandapali in Bijepur block limits today. Reports said that 13 persons from Luhunia village were on their way to Bijepur as a part of baraat party (groom's side) when the auto-rickshaw lost its bal-

ance on the bridge resulting in the mishap. While two persons were found killed on the spot, eleven other critically injured have reportedly been shifted to Burla-based Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR).

4 Dead, Over 30 Injured As Tractor Overturns In Mayurbhanj

(A.O. Bureau) Baripada, Feb 18: At least four persons including a one and half years old baby were killed after a tractor along with its trolley in which they were travelling overturned in Mayurbhanj district today evening. More than 30 persons have been injured in the road mishap. A musical troupe was returning in a tractor to Bagabuda village after performing at Damanasahi. Driver of the tractor reportedly lost balance near Dhipasahi and the vehicle skidded off the road. It overturned into a roadside farmland, around 15 ft below the road. While one person died on the spot, three others succumbed during treatment at the Sirsa Hospital. Identity of the deceased could not be established till the filing of this report. The injured are undergoing treatment at the Sirsa Hospital and the PRM Hospital in Baripada. The mishap occurred at around 8 AM today. After being informed, police and Fire Service personnel reached the spot and launched a rescue operation.



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Rhea Chakraborty and Showik Chakraborty Snapped Making Quick Exit After Gym Session



New Delhi, Feb 18: Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik Chakraborty are trying to resume normal life after the ordeal they went through post Sushant

Singh Rajput's death in June 2020. Recently, the siblings were photographed exiting a gym in the city. Rhea was seen in a grey T-shirt paired with black leggings

and flip flops. Showik was seen wearing a black T-shirt paired with matching shorts and a jacket along with slippers. The siblings were spotted with masks on as they

stepped out of the gym and made their way to their car. The family has had a hard 2020 after they got embroiled in SSR's death case and the subsequent drugs nexus enquiry. Rhea, who was dating Sushant for about a year, was dealing with allegations like abetment to suicide, misappropriation of funds, etc. Her brother got involved in the drugs probe that ensued. The brother-sister duo is out on bail in the drugs case. The Bombay High Court had recently delivered its verdict on the case filed by Rhea Chakraborty against

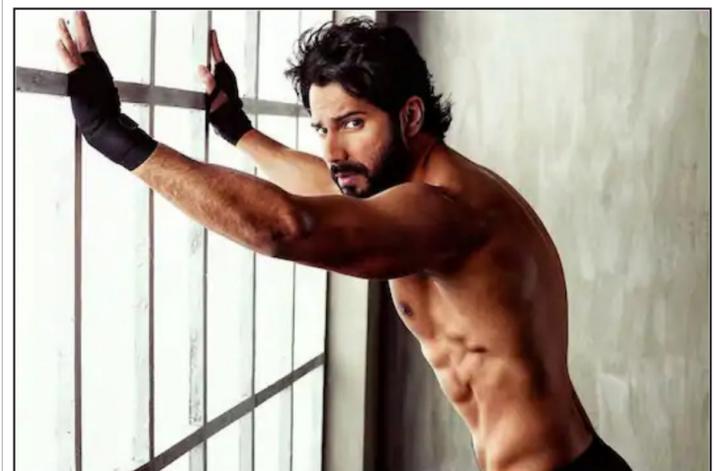
Sushant's sisters Priyanka Singh and Meetu Singh. Rhea's lawyer Satish Maneshinde terms as satisfactory the court's decision to continue probe on the complaint filed against Priyanka Singh. The court however had on Monday quashed the complaint registered by Mumbai Police against Sushant's other sister Meetu Singh. On the Priyanka Singh case, the court has stated that probe would be continued. The First Information Report (FIR) naming Priyanka and Dr Tarun Kumar as accused, continues to exist.

Varun Dhawan Ditches Brand Shoots Over Next Three Months as He Kicks Off 'Bhediya' Schedule

Mumbai, Feb 18: A month after marrying the love of his life Natasha Dalal, Varun Dhawan is back to work. The actor is prepping for his next film with Amar Kaushik. Varun has kickstarted the schedule of the film titled Bhediya in Arunachal Pradesh. He will be

prep and shoot of the film. He has instructed his team that in the coming weeks, he won't shoot any commercials or promotional videos in any uncertain terms. Varun, who is a favourite among brands for endorsements, will dedicate his entire time to the

source added, the film will have a long schedule given the amount of VFX and prosthetics it will include. Varun, who will play a character close to ghost for the first time, wants to give it his best. The film marks Varun and Kriti Sanon's on-screen reunion after the 2015



Thousands Support Petition to Remove Golden Globe Awards Nominations for Sia's 'Music'

New Delhi, Feb 18: Singer songwriter Sia who recently turned director with her film Music is under fire from the allies of people with autism. A Change.org petition has been launched against the latest announcement that the film has been nominated for two Golden Globes Awards. The petition demands that the nominations for Music in two categories — Best Motion Picture and Best Actress (for Kate Hudson) Comedy or musical — should be



removed from the 78th Golden Globe Awards. The petition against Sia's Music is gaining traction as it has been signed by over 67,000 people. Calling the movie 'severely ableist,' the petition

says that apart from the Golden Globe Awards taking back the nominations, it also seeks that the entertainment industry should promise to work towards inclusion and improve the representation of

disabilities in films. Since its release in January 2021, Music has been criticised for its casting and representation of people with autism. Sia's film stars Maddie Ziegler in the role of an autistic person even though she is not autistic in real life and that has been a reason for criticism. Another reason which has been mentioned in the petition is that the film has many 'strobing' colours and lights along with quick camera movements which makes it very over-

stimulating and the majority of people with autism would not be able to watch it. The online petition has been started by Nina Skov Jensen who describes herself as a Danish autism activist. Nina mentions that she was diagnosed with autism when she was a child and since then, she has fought for the rights of people with autism. Before the petition was created, Sia had apologised for the depiction of autism in the film amid growing backlash in January 2021.

filming for a two-and-a-half-month schedule of the monster comedy. Varun, who wishes to give the film his undivided attention, has decided to forgo other work commitments for the next three months. The extensive outdoor schedule makes Varun's unavailability for brand commitments apparent. A source close to the actor told ANI that Varun wants to single-mindedly focus on his

workshops. "This is Varun's first horror-comedy and he is completely invested in the project," the source was quoted by ANI as saying. The report added that he has planned to hold ad shoots until late May. A source close to the unit told indianexpress.com that Varun really liked Stree and was excited to do a film in the similar genre, helmed by the same director. The

film Dilwale directed by Rohit Shetty. Bhediya also stars Abhishek Banerjee in an important role. The film will release later this year. Next, Varun has Jug Jugg Jeeyo, alongside Anil Kapoor, Kiara Advani, and Neetu Kapoor in his kitty. He is also committed to Anurag Singh-helmed mass action film Sanki and a biopic titled Ekki directed by Sriram Raghavan.

5 Amazing Health Benefits of Chickpeas

New Delhi, Feb 18: While we must have enjoyed a bowl of savoury, delicious chickpeas occasionally; we might not be aware that these tiny, beige coloured, almost globular legumes are not so tiny when it comes to excelling in the nutrition index. A fantastic substitute for meat, a popular dish at almost every household — a cup of chickpeas (28 grams) are capable of furnishing one-third of an adult's protein requirements. Let's take a look at some of its wonderful, nutrient-dense health benefits: Regulates blood pressure: Reap the amazing blood pressure control mechanism benefits from chickpeas. High blood pressure can be man-

aged with a daily, sufficient, intake of potassium, which is around 4700 mg. From 1 cup of chickpeas, you get 474 mg potassium. Improves cardiac health: Another benefit of chickpeas is that you can ensure adequate nutrition supply to your heart by its intake. As it is loaded with selenium, magnesium, potassium, vitamin B, fiber, iron- you can safely indulge in the goodness of chickpeas while it automatically takes care of your heart risks, lowers LDL cholesterol. Controls blood sugar: To keep diabetes at bay or even control its fluctuation, have chickpeas. 1 cup of chickpeas contain 12.5 grams of fiber- a quantity that is highly beneficial for diabetics.

Due to its low glycaemic index, and the presence of the starch amylose, body absorbs and digests chickpeas gradually. Thus, it prevents sudden insulin spikes in the blood. Boosts bone health and haemoglobin levels: Being an excellent source of iron, calcium, vitamin C, A, E, folate, antioxidants, and other nutrients, chickpeas contribute heavily to one's bone maintenance and enhance the body's iron absorption capacity. Therefore, osteoporosis and anemia can be taken care of with the consumption of nutrient-dense chickpeas. Improves digestion: Chickpeas have soluble dietary fiber called raffinose which helps the colon in the digestive process.



6 Hindi Films You Will Enjoy If You Love Dark Comedies



New Delhi, Feb 18: Today, we bring to you, six Hindi films that brilliantly tackled the dark comedy genre. Take a look at these gems below: Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro: A cult classic that is now more popular than ever, Kundan Shah's Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro is the story of two people who get mixed up in a big bad world of corrupt and 'wannabe' villains when they accidentally capture something sinister. In an extended game of cat and mouse the duo embark on a risky, albeit hilarious journey, to save their own backs. Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro, despite being made in 1983 is still as relevant as ever, if not more.

Blackmail: An under-appreciated film starring the late Irrfan Khan in a haunting performance, Blackmail is the story of a jilted husband whose wife finds out that his wife is cheating on him. Instead of flying into a murderous rage, he decides to exact sweet revenge by blackmailing them. However, as we know, things never go according to the original plan. Blackmail, directed by Abhinay Deo is almost raunchy at first sight. But as you let it grow on you, you find yourself invested in the deadly comedy of errors happening on screen. Ludo: Anurag Basu has made gangster

dramas, heart-warming stories, comedies and even musicals. However, his latest venture Ludo was a bit of everything. A bunch of lives intertwine when a gangster commits a grizzly double murder. It leads to a chain of events that lead to more crimes. The best thing about the film wasn't its attractive star-cast, it was actually in its smart writing. Basu smartly tackled the script in a way that the story wouldn't fit into one box. The intertwining stories were greatly executed for sure, but the comedy in the film was gold. The film is a situational comedy, and situations are usually

bloody and disturbing. Brij Mohan Amar Rahe: We can all agree that Arjun Mathur is an amazing, yet underrated actor. His 2017 crime thriller Brij Mohan Amar Rahe is another underrated gem that he starred in. A man who is having an affair and frustrated with his life, decides to fake his own death in order to get away from a big debt. However, police catch his new identity and arrests him for his own murder. The texture of the film is based on reality, and in many ways the film's comedy emerges from the fact that people that look like us are doing things that we cannot imagine doing. Brij Mohan Amar Rahe is hilarious, even when the things happening on screen aren't really. Andhadhun: A pianist pretending to be blind witnesses a murder of a former movie star. When the murderers suspect that he knows more than he is letting on, his life starts getting entangled in more and

more problems. Shriram Raghavan's Andhadhun has all the qualities of an unforgettable watch, and hence it received its well-deserved critical and commercial acclaim. Even though it is an edge-of-the-seat thriller, it is an amazing dark comedy at the same time. The characters are always funny, never intentionally, even when they are on the verge of death. Peepli Live: Peepli Live addresses one of the most jarring and tragic situations in the country, farmer suicides. However, it does it in such a clever way that you remember it with a lightness in your heart. A farmer Natha decides to get the farmers' compensation. However, the word soon spreads and media channels swarm into the village to capture the event live. With a satirical look at Indian politics and media, Peepli Live tells a very heartbreaking story, with no happily ever after. But it does so with comedy, which is why it is so brilliant.

IPL Auction 2021 Live Updates: Morris costliest-ever; Jamieson, Maxwell go big Djokovic into Australian Open final for 9th time

Chennai, Feb 18: IPL 2021 Players Auction Live Updates: Chris Morris (RR) became the costliest ever player at an IPL auction while Krishnappa Gowtham (CSK) became the costliest Indian uncapped player at the IPL 2021 auction. Cheteshwar Pujara was sold to Chennai Super Kings. A total of 292 players were enlisted for the shortened auctions — 164 of them Indian and 125 overseas. There will also be three associate



players in the auction. With 61 slots across eight franchises up for grabs, Royal Challengers Bangalore has the maximum, 11 vacancies, to fill with

a purse of Rs 35.4 crore while Sunrisers Hyderabad has only three slots available with Rs 10.75 crore in its kitty. The highest purse available is with Anil Kumble coached 'Punjab Kings', formerly Kings XI Punjab, which has Rs 53.20 crore available for spending on nine spots.

With the IPL back in India after being held in the UAE last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the focus will be on big-hitters as well as slow bowlers. IPL Auction 2021 Live Updates: One of the most keenly-watched teams going into the auction will be Chennai Super Kings after a nightmarish 2020 season when they failed to qualify for the IPL play-offs for the first time in tournament's history.

Melbourne, Feb 18: Novak Djokovic reached the Australian Open final for the ninth time by beating No. 114-ranked Aslan Karatsev 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. The top-ranked Djokovic is 8-0 in his previous trips to the final at Melbourne Park. He is also unbeaten in all nine semifinals he has contested in Australia. Karatsev was the first man to reach the semifinals on his debut in a Grand Slam but his remarkable run came to an end against the biggest obstacle there is to meet on the blue court at Rod La-



ver Arena. The Russian qualifier was close for the first seven games and staged a comeback from 5-1 down in the second set but otherwise Djokovic was in command. Djokovic has had an abdominal muscle problem since his second-round match but now says "this is the best as I've felt the entire tournament."

Manika Batra clinches women's singles title in TT Nationals for second time

Panchkula, Feb 18: Manika Batra made a brilliant comeback after losing the first two games against Reeth Rishya to win the match and title 8-11, 10-12, 11-1, 11-9, 11-5, 11-6. Manika Batra clinched her second title by defeating Reeth Rishya 4-2 in the women's singles final of the Senior National Table Tennis Champi-

to Sutirtha Mukherjee. The top-ranked Indian in the world made a brilliant comeback after losing the first two games to win the match and title 8-11, 10-12, 11-1, 11-9, 11-5, 11-6. Reeth, also of PSPB, lost her rhythm in the third game but regained it in the fourth, leading 9-3. But, Manika took eight points on the trot to

posture of Reeth deserted her and she looked like an ordinary player. It was clever of Manika to change her strategy when Reeth was attacking in the second game which the latter won on extended points. The defence of Reeth could not be comprehended and too many net errors in the crucial stages also cost Reeth



onships here on Thursday. Commonwealth Games gold medallist Manika, representing Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB), had won her maiden title in 2015 at Hyderabad Nationals and finished a runner-up at Ranchi in 2017 when she lost the final

level the score. After that, it was Manika all over as she tightened the noose around Reeth's neck putting her in all discomfiture. The fifth game was a one-sided one as Manika pushed Reeth into a completely defensive mode. Suddenly, the attacking

the chance of becoming the national champion. Reeth lost the opportunity to avenge her title defeat at the Institutional Championships in 2019. There too, Reeth had let the crown slip off her hands after handsomely leading 3-1 in the final.

Seiko Hashimoto takes over as Tokyo Olympic president



New Delhi, Feb 18: Seiko Hashimoto appeared in seven Olympics — four Winter Olympics and three Summer Olympics. According to historian Dr Bill Mallon, her seven appearances is the most by any "multi-season" athlete in the games. Hashimoto made even more history on Thursday in Japan, where women are still rare in the boardrooms and positions

of political power. The 56-year-old Hashimoto was named as president of the Tokyo Olympic organising committee after a meeting of its male-dominated executive board. She replaces 83-year-old Yoshiro Mori, a former Japanese prime minister who was forced to resign last week after making sexist comments about women. Essentially, he said women talk too

much. Hashimoto had been serving as the Olympic minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. She also held a portfolio dealing with gender equality and women's empowerment. She competed in three Summer Olympics ('88, '92 and '96) in cycling and in four Winter Olympics ('84, '88, '92 and '94) in speedskating. She won a bronze medal — her only medal in 1992 in at 1,500 meters in speedskating. Hashimoto is tied to the Olympics in many ways. She was born in Hokkaido in northern Japan just five days before the opening ceremony of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Her name "Seiko" comes from "seika," which translates as Olympic flame in English.

Australian Open: Osaka raises game, ends error-prone Serena's record bid

Mumbai, Feb 18: Osaka's performance took an upswing when it mattered though. She got in all four first serves when she served for the match — winning it without dropping a point. Then there were tears. A prominent topic of discussion in Serena Williams' post-match press conference was the crucial unforced errors she committed during her straight-sets loss to Naomi Osaka. It's not that the veteran 39-year-old hasn't faced tough losses before, nor the questions that follow such matches, in Grand Slams or on the WTA Tour. But what perhaps hurt more about this 6-3, 6-4 loss in the Australian Open semi-final is that it prolongs her search for an all-time record equalling 24th Grand Slam title. "I don't know," she said, tearing up, adding "I'm done," and then exited the conference. As the tournament progressed and her performances started to improve, echoes had started to grow that this might be the event where the 10th seed would win that elusive 24th Slam. In a way, it seemed like it was always meant to happen in Australia. For it was here, at the Rod Laver Arena in 2017 when she broke Steffi Graf's Open Era tally of 22 major wins. At the same time though, on the other side of the net she was coming up against a certain third seed Naomi Osaka. The 23-



year-old, often dubbed the 'Next Serena,' is a power-hitter who modelled her game on her idol. She's already a three-time Grand Slam champion in her own right (beating Williams in the final of the US Open in 2018 for her first title), and along with Simona Halep, is arguably the most consistent women's singles player at the Grand Slam stage in the past five years. And coming into the semi-final on Thursday morning, she had been in equally devastating form. She also had a tremendous record going for her — on the three occasions she's reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal, she's gone on to win it. But in the semi-final, it wouldn't just come down to Williams' unforced errors that decided the match. The young Japanese struggled to register many first serves in the first set. In all, she'd manage just 12 from 33 attempts at an un-

enviable rate of 33 per cent. It was a dangerous day to falter on the first serve, especially since Williams, in her previous match against Halep, had demolished the Romanian's second serve. The American continued that trend, breaking Osaka in the opening game of the match. There was a slight improvement in the stats in the second set, 15 from 27 first serves in (56 per cent). But in the eight game of the second set, Osaka, who had been leading in the set till then, dropped serve. Serving up at 4-3, in a game that lasted six points, Osaka managed to get in just one first serve, and conceded three points through a double fault — including the break point for Williams. Her performance took an upswing when it mattered though. She got in all four first serves when she served for the match — winning it without dropping a point.

The groundstroke battle - Former men's World No 21 Taylor Dent had once in commentary stated: "First serves are to close points. Second serves are to start points." With Osaka's first serves going in and out, she needed to rely on her groundstrokes to bail her out. And the quality of her shots did just that. Osaka powered back shots Williams would cannon at her, sometimes with interest. On more than one occasion she would strike a backhand cross court winner at an inconceivable angle leaving 2011 US Open champion Samantha Stosur asking in commentary: "How did she do that?" One of those shots came when Osaka broke Williams to go up 5-4 in the second set. In all, Osaka would strike 20 winners to 21 unforced errors. Meanwhile Williams had 24 unforced errors to just 12 winners — she had no forehand winners in

the first set. "The difference today was errors," Williams said after the match. "I made so many errors today. Honestly, it was opportunities where I could have won. I could have been up 5-love. I just made so many errors." Anticipating Williams' serve - Despite owning a big serve, Williams managed just three aces — a credit to Osaka's anticipation. Jim Courier even asked Osaka about it after the match. "I was just guessing," came the reply. "It's either going this way or that way, I just have to put my foot somewhere." A secret it may remain, as to how Osaka was ready to move in the right direction every time Williams served. But then again, she's grown up watching her idol, and claims she likes to watch Williams play whenever possible. Subconsciously perhaps, she just knew where to be, and how to make the return that the American would struggle to find a reply for.

Atletico Madrid held by Levante, moves 6 points in front of Real Madrid

Madrid, Feb 18: Atletico Madrid's Luis Suarez, center, celebrates with teammates after scoring during a La Liga match. Atlético Madrid was held to a 1-1 draw at Levante on Wednesday in a Spanish league match postponed from the second round, a result that still extended its lead over Real

Madrid to six points. Seeking its first league title since 2014, Atlético still has a game in hand compared to its city rival. Diego Simeone's team is unbeaten in 11 straight league matches but has drawn two of its last three. The match had been postponed as Atlético and other teams were given extra time to

rest after participating in European competitions later into last season because of the coronavirus pandemic. Atlético had won nine of its last 10 league matches, with the only setback a 2-2 home draw against Celta Vigo two rounds ago in a game in which it conceded a late equalizer.

"It was a difficult opponent that has been playing well recently," Simeone said. "It was a fair result between two teams that played a good match." Levante took the lead through Enis Bardhi after a breakaway in the 17th minute. Marcos Llorente equalized for the visitors in the 37th

with a shot from outside the area that deflected off a defender before going in. Ángel Correa had a great chance to score the winner early in the second half but missed the net from close range with only the goalkeeper to beat off the rebound of a shot by Luis Suárez.

IFFCO Paradeep Unit has been conferred with "Best Productivity Excellence Award 2020"

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Feb 18: IFFCO Paradeep Unit has been conferred with "Best Productivity Excellence Award 2020" in the state of Odisha from Orissa State Productivity Council, in a function conducted on 17.02.2021 on the occasion of National Productivity Week Celebration. The award was presented by Shri Bishnupada Sethi, IAS, Principal Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Govt. of Odisha



in presence of Regional Director, National Productivity Council. The award was received by Sh. R K Pandey, Jt.

General Manager (Production). Production performance has been at its peak under the dynamic leadership of

Sh.K.J.Patel, Executive Director, IFFCO; and the Paradeep Unit has been conferred with many awards in the

field of Energy Conservation, Safety, Environment & Rural Development activities in the state of Odisha.

Correcting historical mistake of neglecting Assam, its development our priority: PM Modi

(A.O. Bureau) Guwahati, Feb 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Thursday that his government is correcting the "historical mistake" of neglecting Assam, and the states development is its priority. Modi also said BJP's double engine governments at the Centre and in Assam reduced geographical and cultural distances between the state and rest of the



country. "Prior to Independence, Assam enjoyed a high per-capita income but since 1947, its development was neglected. Correcting the historical mistake of neglecting Assam

had begun with former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, and now it has gained strength with the BJP government taking its development as a priority," he said.

DMF: Transforming Lives in Mining affected areas in Keonjhar



(A.O. Bureau) Keonjhar, Feb 18: Located atop the Malangtoli Hills in Joda Block, Pidhapokhari village, with a population of around 200 households, has been facing acute scarcity of water since decades. Due to unique local hydro-geological factors the challenge for district administration was to provide drinking water to the tribal dominated Joda block. Water used to be supplied in tankers, twice a day, which barely met the minimum needs of people in the village, leading

to multiple development deprivations. It is in this context that a 'Household Piped Water Supply Project' for the village was sanctioned through District Mineral Foundation at a cost of ₹2.63 Cr in 2018 under the leadership of Collector and DM, Keonjhar Ashish Thakare Under the project, water sourced

from a natural 'Spring' is lifted to a height of more than 300 feet using a 10 HP solar pump to an overhead tank, from where it is then supplied to households through individual tap connections, after filtration. Construction of the drinking water infrastructure and laying of pipelines for this innovative project was a major challenge, due to the hilly terrain and difficult geography. However, the Rural Water supply and sanitation (RWSS) program which comes under Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, Govt of Odisha overcame this and successfully completed the project due to meticulous planning and execution. Today, people of Pidapokhari village have assured supply of adequate and safe water, at their doorsteps. They no longer wait all day for the water tankers, as they once used to do.



Vedanta Jharsuguda scripts a big win at the Greentech Awards 2020



(A.O. Bureau) Jharsuguda, Feb 18: Vedanta Jharsuguda, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added products, won three first prizes at the prestigious Greentech Awards 2020, for exemplary efforts in safety, sustainability and Covid-19 initiatives. Instituted by the Greentech Foundation, Greentech Awards witnessed participation across various critical industry sectors. These awards were presented during the Greentech's safety, sustainability and corona warrior summits, respectively, held recently at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. Speaking about the awards, Mr. CN

Singh, CEO - Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda, said, "As India's largest producer of aluminium, we have put in rigorous processes and global best practices to make our world-class operations safe for employees and business partners, in line with our ethos of Zero Harm, Zero Waste and Zero Discharge. We are conscious of our social responsibilities and take pride in working for the greater good of the community. In our mission to become the world's best in aluminium, we are committed to deploying cutting edge technology, adopting best-in-class global practices, and nurturing the communities that support

us, to create a sustainable, responsible and lasting positive impact." Vedanta has integrated best-in-class technology and environmental safeguards to create sustainability-focused operations based on the three primary pillars of economic, environmental and social impact. It has instituted the Vedanta Sustainability Assurance Programme (VSAP), a robust governance system following International Finance Corporation (IFC) & International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) guidelines that guide their operations and measures performance across 34 elements under the broader dimen-

The company won three awards -

- 19 Annual Greentech Safety Award 2020 for outstanding achievements in 'Industry Sector Safety Excellence'
- 20 Annual Greentech Sustainability Award 2020 for outstanding achievements in 'Good Health and Well Being' and
- Greentech Corona Warrior Award 2020 for outstanding achievements in 'Corona Protection Initiatives'.

sions of Sustainability, like Leadership, Process Safety & Management of Change, Continuous Improvement, Social Sustainability, Resource Use Management, Health, Safety, Environment (HSE) Management etc. Besides bolstering its safety practices and sustainability standards, Vedanta has also lent critical support to the region during the Covid-19 pandemic. The company has supported the district COVID hospital with critical medical equipment, PPEs and other essential supplies catering to 5 lakh people of the region. It also conducted various awareness sessions on Covid-19 across remote villages, helped daily wagers and under-served families with rations and meals, fumigated and disinfected public places,

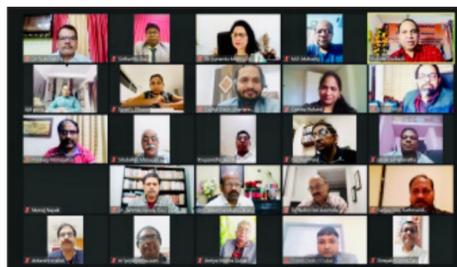
and distributed Covid-19 safety kits to the needy. Vedanta is India's largest producer of the green metal, aluminium, operating a world-class 1.6 MTPA aluminium smelter and 3615 MW thermal power generation facility in Jharsuguda, Odisha. With their best practices in safety and sustainability, and social interventions in the community, the company is working towards a greener future in both environmental, and social domains - sustainable livelihood, women empowerment, quality education, health, water and sanitation, bio-investment and community infrastructure reaching out to a total of 72 villages in Jharsuguda and nearby areas, benefiting nearly 80,000 people in a year.

World Odisha Society expresses Concern over Kotia Issue

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: The Working Committee of World Odisha Society (WOS) expressed grave concern and deep anguish over the ongoing dispute in Kotia group of villages situated in border district Koraput. The Working Committee of WOS in its first online meeting, deliberated over the entire scenario and the long pending boundary issue between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Presided over by Senior Journalist and Chairman of WOS Kishore Dwibedi the Video

Conference meeting demanded strong action against some of the errant Officers of Andhra Pradesh Government who attempted to annex the Kotia Villages with their state under the false grab of election. The committee attended by WOS members across the world, unanimously passed a resolution strongly condemning the unreasonable and illegal action by Andhra Pradesh. The committee denounced the "conspiracy" hatched by the authorities of Andhra Pradesh for taking over the possession of these vil-

lages. The Working Committee of WOS expressed its solidarity with Odia residents in the border areas and took a pledge to fight for the maintenance of their security and protect the territorial integrity of our mother state Odisha. The resolution also disapproved the irrational treatment being meted out to the Odias living in the affected cut off areas (Bichhinanchal) of Odisha and affirmed to give highest priority to solve their problems. WOS further, resolved its total commitment to pro-



tect the overall interest of Odia residents at the border and to ensure their all round development. After the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman Kishore Dwibedi announced that WOS shall initiate all possible measures including resort to legal remedies and otherwise to provide justice to Odia brothers,

sisters and their families staying at Border areas. Addressing the internet gathering dignitaries like Senior Advocate Ajit Patra, former D.G. Police Manmohan Praharaj, Former Collector of Koraput Gadadhar Parida, Leaders of Purnanga Utkal Nyasa Mandali Sitaballav Mohapatra and Parsuram

Dwibedi, Legal Adviser of WOS Shivashankar Mishra, Director of Ambedkar Foundation Dr. Debendra Majhi, IT Expert R. N. Behera, Bhasha Andolan Convenor Pabitra Maharatha, Senior Bureaucrat Krupanidhi Biswal, Chartered Accountants Ravi Pani and Sudhir Dash and Spokesperson of WOS From Australia Ms. Swati Supported the stand taken by WOS. Expressing their sympathy towards the victimised residents of Odisha Border, the distinguished speakers de-

clared to stand by before them at their hour of crisis. The Convenors and Co-Convenors of WOS Committees like mission & Vision, NRO Ministry, Ethics, Membership and Techno presented the progress statement during the webinar. Other Working Committee Members who attended the digital meeting include Amiya Mishra, Sanjay Das, Sibarajan Biswal, Sumita Sahu, Manoj Nayak, Siddharth Das, Pradeep Rath, Sunanda Mishra, Tanmay Panda, Debarshi Mallik,

Chidatmika Khatua and Minaketa Samal. The Special invitees present during the occasion were Prabhati Mishra, Deepak Das, Binay Patanayak, Sanjiv Patnaik, Krushna Nayak, Mangala Prasad Mohanty and Pradeep Mohapatra. General Secretary of Odisha Samaj, U.A.E. Pritish Ranjan Dash piloted the resolution on the Kotia matter in the virtual session. While Dr. Nalini Pati presented the vote of thanks at the end and Smt Pushpanjali Barik recited Vande Utkal Janani in the beginning.