

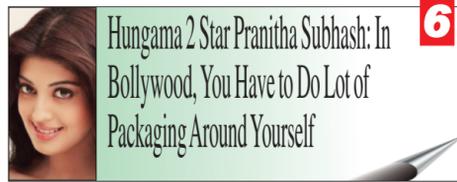
People can get vaccinated against COVID-19 24x7: Vardhan

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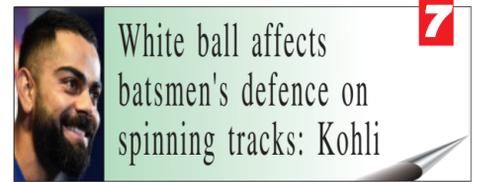
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Odisha is going to be the hub of maritime trade: Dharmendra Pradhan



New Delhi, Mar 3: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today said that Odisha's coastline is going to be the hub of maritime trade. While addressing the "Investment Opportunities in Odisha" session in the Maritime India Summit 2021, he also assured all potential investors that the Central and State Governments are working in tandem to make Odisha an attractive investment destination. Pradhan said that Odisha has a rich maritime history and thousands of years ago navigators of the state sailed to different parts of the globe to bring fortune and glory to the state. He further said that at one point time in history,

we were one of the most prosperous civilizations of the world and today in the 21st century, PM Modi has given a clarion call of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and \$5 trillion economy. With natural harbours, rich natural resources, long coastline and skillable and hardworking manpower, Odisha is uniquely poised to be the part of Aatmanirbhar journey and contribute to the making of \$5 trillion economy. The minister said that in the 21st century, the global network of trade and commerce will be maritime and Odisha's coast will be the gateway. Paradip is going to be the gateway of growth of eastern part of country. Kalinganagar is being developed as a

steel hub, envisages to become a self-contained ecosystem, and will enable the potential investors for setting up value added downstream facilities. Our initiatives in the petroleum and steel sectors will provide impetus to the maritime economy in Odisha. He said that anchor industries and companies are needed for development and operations of new ports in Odisha and optimal utilization of riverine and sea port area. He reiterated Prime Minister's vision of Purvodaya to drive eastern India's growth to keep pace with the growth in other regions of the country and its importance in achieving national growth. Pradhan said that Integration of crucial infrastructure Road, Rail and Port will lead to the industrial development of Odisha. Potential for port-led Blue Economy will be unlocked with the multi-modal rail, road and air linkages with sea and riverine port for transport of minerals and goods at much lower logistics cost.

Six More Planetariums To Come Up In Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Mar 3: The Odisha Government decided to set up another six planetariums in the State. Currently, two planetariums are functioning in Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a planetarium at Rayagada through video conference and announced the government's decision about six new planetariums today. He also said 30 District Science Centres



will come up in each district. A total of Rs 100 crore will be spent on the new planetariums and District Science Centres, Patnaik added. He laid founda-

tion stone for a District Science Centre in Jeypore of Koraput district virtually. Also, the Chief Minister announced the Pathani Samanta Planetarium

located in Bhubaneswar will be transformed into a 3D planetarium. SC & ST Development Minister Jagannath Saraka, Science and Technology

Education Ashok Panda, ST Secretary VK Pandian and Rajya Sabha MP N. Bhaskar Rao were among others present at the programme.

Similipal Wildfire: Odisha CM Directs Officials To Ensure Conservation Of Forest



Bhubaneswar, Mar 3: Describing Similipal forest as a valuable asset of the world, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik di-

rected officials today to ensure its conservation and take precautionary measures to avoid recurrence of forest fire. During a high-

level review meeting on the wildfire at Similipal forest Patnaik said the sanctuary is not only valuable for the State or India, but the world

needs it. Additional Chief Secretary of Forest and Environment Department, Mona Sharma informed during the meeting that the fire in Similipal has been brought under control. No loss of life has occurred and large trees are intact, Sharma added. She further stated an SOP has been issued in connection with the fire in the sanctuary. The DFO has been already directed to provide fire alert every evening to the State government and the Mayurbhanj District Collector, she informed. PCCF Wildlife is present

at the spot and monitoring the situation. Among others, ST Secretary VK Pandian, PCCF Wildlife and senior officials of the Forest Department were present in the meeting. Earlier in the day, a Forest Department official said as many as 1,000 personnel including 250 forest guards were engaged to douse the forest fire in Similipal. Moreover, 40 fire tenders and 240 blower machines are being used to contain the blaze. The Similipal forest is spread in an area of 2,750 square kilometers.

Odisha Warns Doctors Against Issuing False Co-Morbidity Certificate

Bhubaneswar, Mar 3: The Odisha government warned medical practitioners against issuing false medical certificates in support of the specified co-morbidities. Additional Chief Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department PK Mohapatra in a letter directed Collector and District Magistrates, Commissioners of Municipal Corporations and Health officials to take action against the registered medical



practitioners who issue false medical certificates supporting the specified

co-morbidities prescribed by the MoHFW. Mohapatra

further stated the persons producing the false medical certificates at

the Covid vaccination centres will face action. The letter asked the medical practitioners to strictly follow the MoHFW guidelines. Worth mentioning, the Covid-19 vaccination programme for the age appropriate groups was rolled out from March 1, 2021. Citizens aged 60 years and above and those aged 45 to 59 years with the specified co-morbidities possessing a medical certificate will be able to get the Covid vaccine.

Kotia Row: Odisha Seeks Legal Opinion From Former SC Judge

Bhubaneswar, Mar 3: In ongoing legal battle with Andhra Pradesh over Kotia jurisdiction dispute in Koraput district, Odisha Government has sought legal opinion from former Supreme Court Judge Justice AK Pattanaik. In this regard, the State Revenue & Disaster Management Department directed Koraput Collector to proceed to New Delhi with all relevant documents for briefing Justice Pattanaik on Kotia issue. Additional Government Advocate Suman Pattanayak has been requested to accompany district collector to Delhi for obtaining advice from former Judge of the apex court. The disputed region of Kotia under Pottangi Block

in Koraput district is currently sub-judice in the Supreme Court. Recently, the court had granted four-week time to Odisha to file rejoinder. During a hearing on February 19 this year, the Counsel for Andhra Pradesh argued that by no stretch of imagination can it be stated that there was a breach of undertaking or of any order passed by the Supreme Court and the contempt petition should be junked. Later, Odisha's Counsel senior advocate Vikas Singh sought a four weeks' adjournment, to which advocate Mahfooz Nazki for Andhra Pradesh said that he has no objection. The apex court adjourned the matter for four weeks.

Odisha Moves To Top 3 In Supply Of Employable Talents

Bhubaneswar, Mar 3: Odisha is among top three states in the country that supply maximum employable talents in 2021. As per the India Skills Report 2021 prepared by Wheebox in association with CII, AICTE and UNDP, Delhi/NCR, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh are the top three states with maximum supply of employable talent in 2021. Earlier in 2015, the three states had grabbed the top three spots in this category. However, 31

per cent students in Odisha are not employable, which means skills acquired by them are not adequate for suitable job, the report said. Be it skills in English as Second Language or computer skill, Odisha has not found a place in the list of top 10 states in terms of skills availability. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Assam, Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are the top 10 states with available



skill in English as Second Language. Despite being Hindi-speaking states, Assam and Madhya Pradesh has found place in the top-10 states' list

in this category. Though Odisha Government, while presenting Budget 2021 in the state Assembly, allocated Rs 100 crore for setting up of

World Skill Centre in Bhubaneswar, the India Skills Report on the state's score in terms of students' employability has become a major

cause of concern. The report shows that Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Telangana, Gujarat, West Bengal and Rajasthan are the top 10 states with highest employable talents. Odisha is also nowhere in list of top-10 states with available skills in Numerical and Critical Thinking. Shockingly, poor performing states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have made their way to

the top 10 states with highest employability whereas Odisha with Bhubaneswar as a Smart City has failed to occupy a seat in the race. In terms of cities, Hyderabad and Bengaluru topped the list with most employable talent. Last year, Mumbai was the city with the most employable talent. The report revealed that employability of India's youth has decreased to 45.9% with the percentage of highest employable talent

in the age group of 18-21 years, at 40%. This is significantly lower than last year's analysis of youth employability in terms of overall employable youth, but a strong reflection of the average age group of India's emerging professional landscape. This urges the need for reformative measures at the roots of education to equip younger students with skills necessary for in-demand career opportunities in various industries.

'No Place for Dons in UP, Vikas Only Focus': Confident of Winning 2022 Polls, CM Yogi Ready with 5-yr Plan



Lucknow, Mar 3: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath further said that 'hooligan tax' is not collected in UP, and there is no place for criminals in the state. Confident of winning assembly elections again in 2022, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath revealed at a News18 event that he has already prepared roadmap for the next five years and claimed

that people have appreciated the style of function of BJP government. "Our government has provided four lakh jobs in the last four years. The per capita income of the state has also doubled. We have encouraged investment in Uttar Pradesh by projecting it as the best place to put in money," CM Yogi said at Rising Uttar Pradesh 2021. On his ambitious UP Film City project,

the chief minister said, "We are not threatening anyone. Whatever has to be done, will be done under a policy. Maharashtra government has failed to provide security. No underworld can be active in Uttar Pradesh, everyone knows where we will take the criminals. He further said that "hooligan tax" is not collected in UP, and there is no place for criminals in the state.

Bihar: Kushwaha hints at RLSP-JD(U) merger, calls party meet to take final call

Patna, Mar 3: Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) president Upendra Kushwaha on Wednesday hinted at his party's merger with JD(U). He said the party had called a meeting of its functionaries, from the district to national level, on March 13-14, to decide its "future course" of action. The Indian Express on Tuesday had first reported that RLSP and JD(U) were planning a merger, and Kushwaha was likely to get a key position in the party



organisation. Veteran JD(U) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Bashistha Narayan Singh had gone so far as to say, "If Kushwaha joins JD(U), the party will only strengthen." Kushwaha,

who was speaking to the media on the sidelines of his party's ninth foundation day function, Wednesday said: "We stick to our basic ideas of education and reforms, and will continue to work in that direction."

Security forces bust Hizbul Mujahideen hideout in Pulwama forests

Srinagar, Mar 3: "Based on a credible input, police along with the Army and the CRPF busted a terrorist hideout in the forests of Seer-Pastoon in Awantipora area of Pulwama district," a police spokesman said. Security forces on Wednesday busted a cave-like Hizbul Mujahideen hideout in the forests of Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir, police said. "Based on a credible in-

put, police along with the Army and the CRPF busted a terrorist hideout in the forests of Seer-Pastoon in Awantipora area of Pulwama district," a police spokesman said. During searches in the area by the joint team, a Hizbul Mujahideen hideout was busted and subsequently destroyed, the spokesman said. "Incriminating materials of the proscribed terrorist outfit Hizbul Mujahideen and



other material like utensils have also been recovered

from the hideout, he said, adding these items have

been seized for the purpose of investigation.

Don't teach us Hindutva, why no Bharat Ratna for Savarkar yet: Uddhav to BJP



Mumbai, Mar 3: "You don't give Bharat Ratna to Savarkar and you preach us about renaming?" the chief minister said, adding that Aurangabad will definitely be renamed. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday slammed the BJP over issues ranging from the commitment to Hindutva to the ongoing farmers' agitation on Delhi borders. Asking why the Union government has not conferred Bharat Ratna on Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, the Hindutva ideologue, Thackeray said in the Assembly that the BJP should not teach

Hindutva to its former ally, the Shiv Sena. "Letters were sent (to the Centre) twice, seeking Bharat Ratna for Savarkar. Who confers Bharat Ratna? It is the right of the prime minister and a committee," Thackeray said. The BJP has been targeting the Shiv Sena chief for "giving up" his Hindutva ideology for sharing power with the NCP and Congress. Among other things, it has questioned the 'delay' in renaming Aurangabad in central Maharashtra, named for the Mughal emperor, as Sambhajinagar. "You don't give Bharat Ratna to Savarkar and you

preach us about renaming?" the chief minister said, adding that Aurangabad will definitely be renamed. He asked the opposition party who created roadblocks in Maharashtra's proposal to rename the Aurangabad airport after Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Iron spikes were fixed in the path of farmers protesting near Delhi borders against the new farm laws, and their electricity and water supplies were cut, he said. "Barbed wire fencing, which should have been erected along the border, was erected between farmers and

Delhi... China would not have intruded had such arrangement been made there (along the border)," the chief minister said. Asking if the protesting farmers were terrorists, he said the country was not the BJP's "private property". The Shiv Sena was not part of the freedom struggle and neither was the "parent organisation" of the BJP, he said, apparently referring to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. "Therefore, only chanting 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' does not prove your love for the country. You don't have the right to chant Bharat Mata Ki Jai if you are not going to give justice to people and if you are forcing farmers to protest on the streets," Thackeray said. Farmers are waiting for their income to double as promised but it has not happened, he said, adding that "instead, fuel prices have doubled." He also asked the BJP to "give up its thought" of separating Vidarbha from Maharashtra. "We will

not let Vidarbha separate from Maharashtra," he said. Despite being in power for six years at the Centre, the BJP did not bring a law to construct Ram temple at Ayodhya and it became possible only due to the Supreme Court verdict, Thackeray further said. "You formed government with separatists in Kashmir... you shared power with them. Didn't your Hindutva get corrupted then?" he asked. "How many displaced Kashmiri Pandits got homes? Don't teach us about Hindutva, you are not qualified to do that," Thackeray told the former ally with which he parted ways after the 2019 Assembly elections. The BJP did not keep its promise of sharing the chief minister's post though it had been discussed by him and then BJP chief Amit Shah in the room (in the Thackeray residence) where late Sena patriarch Bal Thackeray once lived, he said. "Is this your love for Balasaheb? We don't consider that room as a room, but it is a temple," he said.

People can get vaccinated against COVID-19 24x7: Vardhan IT searches properties of Anurag Kashyap, Taapsee Pannu



New Delhi, Mar 3: People can now get vaccinated round-the-clock according to their convenience, he said in a tweet, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi values the health as well as the time of the citizens of the country. The government has lifted the time restriction on the receiving COVID-19 vaccine jabs so as to increase the pace of immunisation, Union

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Wednesday. People can now get vaccinated round-the-clock according to their convenience, he said in a tweet, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi values the health as well as the time of the citizens of the country. "The government has lifted the time restriction to increase the speed of vaccination. People

can now get vaccinated 24x7 according to their convenience. Prime Minister Narendra Modi understands the value of health as well as the time of citizens," Vardhan tweeted in Hindi. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan told a press conference on Tuesday that the timeline of vaccinating the beneficiaries from 9 am to 5 pm has been done

away with and it is up to the hospitals to decide whether they want to continue administering the vaccines even after that. "Co-WIN 2.0 does not provide 9 am-5 pm vaccination sessions. It has done away with that timeline. If a hospital has the capacity, the system permits it to do vaccination even after 5 pm in consultation with the state government. This has been briefed both to the state governments as well as the private and government hospitals," he said. The second dose of the vaccine against COVID-19 started being administered from February 13 for those who have completed 28 days since the receipt of the first dose. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started on February

2. The next phase of the COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions. More than 1.56 crore (1,56,20,749) vaccine doses were administered in the country through 3,12,188 sessions, according to a provisional report till Wednesday 7 am. The beneficiaries include 67,42,187 healthcare workers (first dose), 27,13,144 HCWs (second dose), 55,70,230 FLWs (first dose), 834 FLWs (second dose), 71,896 beneficiaries aged more than 45 years with specific co-morbidities (first dose) and 5,22,458 beneficiaries aged above 60 years.

New Delhi, Mar 3: The Income Tax department's searches at production houses and event management companies linked to actress Taapsee Pannu, filmmakers Anurag Kashyap, Vikramaditya Motwane, Vikas Bahl, and Madhu Mantena over alleged tax evasion drew severe criticism from the opposition parties. Calling this an attempt to subvert voices rising against the Centre, Maharashtra Cabinet Minister Ashok Chavan said, "Such raids have become very common nowadays as the BJP uses the central agencies to target people speaking up against their governments." He added, "This happened to them as they are celebrities who voice their opinions regarding what is happening around the country." Reiterating the sentiments of the Maharashtrian leader, Rajya Sabha MP and deputy leader of the Shiv Sena, Priyanka Chaturvedi tweeted, "Hope the Income Tax



department of our country, is saved from bonded slavery status soon. Same wishes for ED and CBI too." Hitting out at the central government for using the agencies to target people who do not toe its line, lawyer and activist Prashant Bhushan wrote on the microblogging site, "Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, Actor Taapsee Pannu Face Income Tax Raids. BJP'S A team at work to harass, intimidate & silence those who don't fall in line. India has never seen such malafide use of IT dept, ED, NIA, police etc." Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav, too, went on to criticize such raids saying the "BJP government

has employed IT, CBI and ED to conduct raids on vocal and upright political rivals for their character assassination". He added, "Now, the Nazi govt is chasing social activists, journalists and artists to threaten them against calling spade a spade. Condemnable Act!" Earlier in the day, an official had told The Indian Express that the searches were carried out as there have been instances of tax evasion. "The movies produced by the production house have been superhit, but the profits and account statements of the company are showing disproportionately low income," the official said.

Despite Challenges, The Teacher-student Bond Will Thrive

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 3: Try to learn from all situations using every opportunity because experience can be your best teacher, eminent Gyenaecologist and Dean of the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, Prof. Gangadhar Sahoo has said. Prof. Sahoo, who worked in the VSS Medical College and Hospital at Burla for a long time, said he tried to learn from everybody. "While working as a

doctor, I learnt from nurses, pharmacists and even patients," he said while delivering the virtual second SOA Fortnightly Academic Lecture at the university on Saturday. Speaking on the subject 'Student-Teacher Relationship-A Divine Gift', Dr. Sahoo said punctuality, empathy and a selfless attitude in imparting knowledge to the students defined this bond and helped in building a bridge. "It is true that this relationship has taken a backseat in

today's materialistic and market-driven world. But it would always sustain because its basis is the divine trust that exists between the student and the teacher," he said adding despite challenges, the teacher-student relationship would always thrive. Prof. Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, Vice-Chancellor of SOA, and Dr. Nachiketa K. Sharma, SOA's Program Coordinator of NSS, also spoke.

APP request Odisha Govt to reduce water charges of thermal power plants

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 3: The Association of Power Producers (APP) has urged Government of Odisha to reduce water charges of thermal power plants operating in the state as they are adversely impacted due to this over the years. In separate letters to the department water resources and energy, APP has requested to take immediate action in this regard. The association in the letter said that thermal power

plants in Odisha are facing an additional concern with regard to the high amount of water charges in comparison to other states. Several high capacity IPPs such as GMR-Kamalanga Energy Limited (1,050MW), Vedanta Limited (1,215 MW), Angul Thermal Power Station - JITPL (1,200 MW) etc are facing a jumbo problem due to more water charges. APP has further requested the state government to do the billing

on the basis of consumption rather than allocation which would result in significant cost savings for the power plants. "It would also incentivize the consumer to reduce usage/wastage of water which is a precious resource. The plants are unable to seek reduction in the allocated quantity as the consumption of water varies throughout the year due to reasons such as PLF, season etc. Instead of reducing the allocation, the billing

should be done on consumption basis only," the letter said. APP has advised the state government to do the billing of water charges in the line of the government of Maharashtra. "Power plants located in Maharashtra have their water billing done on the basis of consumption rather than allocation, resulting in significant cost savings for the plants," it said. APP further said that the state government should decrease in frequency of

change in water charges and reduction in late payment surcharge. "The frequency with which water charges are changed should be amended from the current scenario of annual changes to once in five years. The late payment surcharge @24% annually is extremely high and should be reduced to 12%. The late payment surcharge can also be linked to MCLR with a suitable markup," the letter suggested.

Anjana Mishra Identifies Prime Accused During TI Parade!

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 3: Following a test identification (TI) parade at Jharpada circle Jail in Bhubaneswar today in connection with a sensational gang rape case in 1999, Anjana Mishra refused to divulge the details on what happened inside. When Anjana came out of the jail after the TI parade, media persons waiting outside wanted to get her reaction. But she did not give any clear answer to the media queries and said the TI parade out-



come will be known in the court. In presence of

JMFC Srujalini Mohanty and CBI officials, the TI

parade was conducted at 2.30 PM during which the JMFC and CBI officials were present. Her driver Nilakantha Rout was also present during the parade. A total of 11 persons were presented before Anjana to identify Biban Biswal, prime accused of the gang rape case. Worth mentioning, the Commissionerate Police arrested one Jalandar Swain from Amby Valley City Project in Maharashtra, who was working as a plumber in

connection with the Anjana Mishra gang rape case. The police have been claiming that Biban Biswal, prime accused of the gang rape case, was staying in Maharashtra while identifying himself as Jalandar. The Special CJM court, Khordha allowed the TI parade yesterday after the CBI, Kolkata sought permission for the same. The central investigating agency also prayed before the court for remand of the prime accused.

Pari Murder: Minor Accused Moves Odisha HC Challenging Chargesheet



(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Mar 3: Challenging the chargesheet submitted by the Special Investigation Team

(SIT) of Crime Branch, which has been probing the sensational Pari murder case in Nayagarh, the accused, a minor

moved the Orissa High Court today. In his petition, the minor accused mentioned that the SIT submitted the chargesheet against him without adequate evidence. Manas Chand, Counsel for the minor accused, informed the State government and Pari's father have been made parties in the petition. The SIT filed the chargesheet in Pari murder case on February 15, 2021.

97 New COVID-19 Infections Detected In Odisha



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 3: Odisha's COVID-19 tally today further surged to 3,37,448 after 97 new infections were detected in the state in last 24 hours. Of the total fresh cases detected from 18 districts, 58 have been reported from different quarantine centres while remaining 39 are local contact cases.

Contact tracing and follow-up action is underway, said Information and Public Relation (I & PR) Department. Khordha recorded highest 14 fresh cases followed by Sambalpur (13) and Sundargarh (11). Currently, the number of total active cases in the state stands at 775 and recovered cases at 3,34,703.

Man Awarded Lifer For Raping Minor Daughter

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Mar 3: A man was awarded life imprisonment by a special court for raping his minor daughter in Odisha. The ADJ-Cum-Special Court under POCSO Act in Cuttack convicted the accused person under sections 376(2)(M), 376(N) and 376(3) of IPC and section 6 of POCSO Act. Judge Bandana Kar slapped the convict with Rs 20,000 fine along with sentencing him to life imprisonment in the case. Besides, the court ordered to pay Rs 3 lakh as compensation to the rape victim. As per the court order, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) will take further initiative in this regard. The accused person's name, address and other information were separately attached to the verdict in a sealed envelope during



judgment in the case yesterday to avoid the possibility of the identity of the victim being revealed. According to reports, the 15-year-old victim was living with her family in a rented house in Cuttack city. On December 28, 2018, her mother had lodged a complaint with the Mahila Police alleging rape. Following investigation, the police had arrested the victim's father and forwarded him

to the court. The medical examination revealed that the victim was pregnant. Later, she delivered a baby. The investigating officer took steps for the DNA test of the accused and the newborn. The DNA test report was submitted in the court. During the trial, 23 witnesses were testified in court. The key witnesses in the case did not give any statement at the time of testimony. The

prosecution requested that the information obtained from the DNA test report be taken to court. Based on the evidence, the court convicted the accused in the case. Special Public Prosecutor Ramesh Chandra Mohanty and Additional Public Prosecutor Bijay Kumar Mohanty were handling the case on behalf of the government.

COVID Swab Stick Gets Stuck In Minor's Food Pipe

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Mar 3: A swab stick of a COVID-19 testing kit got stuck in the food pipe of a six-year-old boy of Odisha's Balasore district while it was successfully removed at the SCB Medical College and Hospital here yesterday. According to reports, the stick got stuck in the food pipe during collection of swab for COVID antigen test prior to the treatment of

the ailing boy. The parents of the boy then brought him to the SCB Medical College and Hospital for removal of the swab stick from the food pipe. Doctors of Gastroenterology Department of the hospital managed to remove the swab stick yesterday. However, the concerned officials are tight-lipped about place/health facility where the COVID antigen test was carried out.



CM Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation stone for the planetarium at Rayagada by Virtual Meet



Bhubaneswar, Mar 3: Honourable Chief Minister Mr. Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation stone for the planetarium through a virtual meet besides Horticulture farm house at Kadambari Guda, JK

Pur, Rayagada District today dated Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021 at 5PM. Extensive preparations were made by the district administration for this project. In the presence of Minister of Science

& Technology Mr. Ashok Chandra Panda, Administrative Secretary Mr. Santosh Kumar Sadangi, Minister for Tribal Development and Backward Classes Mr. Jagannath Sarka, Rajya Sabha

MP Mr. N Bhaskar Rao were present at the eve of foundation stone at Kadambari Guda, JK Pur, Rayagada, Gunupur MLA Mr. Raghunath Gamang, MLA Mr. Makrand Muduli, Former MLA Mr. Lal Bihari Himirika, Zilla Parishad Chairman Mr. Gangadhar Pula, Rayagada Block, Chairman Mr. Ramulu Pedenti, Rayagada Zilla Parishad Member Mr. P. Gouri Shankar Rao was present. Mr. Naveen Patnaik said the students will be able to learn about Science & Technology

through this planetarium, simultaneously they will be able to adapt new skills using this platform for the betterment of their future and development. Mr. Subhrakant Panda, MD, Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys, also tweeted "Delighted to see that Hon'ble CM @Naveen_Odisha will be laying the foundation stone for a planetarium at Rayagada. It will give an unprecedented opportunity to students & astronomy enthusiasts of the area who may not have ever dreamt this was possible."

3 home guards arrested for looting Rs 25000 on duty



(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Mar 3: Badambadi police arrested three home guards for allegedly looting Rs 25000 from a person while on duty on Monday, police said

today. According to the police, a man was going home from a hospital when the accused stopped him and fined him Rs 500 for not wearing the mask on Monday late night. On finding that

he had more money they later looted Rs 25000 from him forcefully. Later, the man lodged a complaint against the accused following which the police arrested them and court forwarded.

EDITORIAL

The right path

Thousands of farmers in India die by suicide every year as they see no option to get out of the debt trap. The poor and marginal farmers depend upon loans for purchasing seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, irrigation and even harvesting. Most of these growers find it more convenient to borrow at heavy interest rates from moneylenders or big cultivators rather than from banks, thanks to the cumbersome paperwork and the broker-bank officials' nexus. However, these deaths, as recorded by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), fail to shake the collective conscience of society and are just another figure for most of us. Ironically, there is no outcry, no borders are sealed, no tractor rallies organised, no national monuments sieged, no violence. This is because these deaths don't affect the interests of the politically connected and powerful "arhatiya" community that drives the Agricultural Produce Marketing Community (APMC) in Punjab, Haryana and parts of Western Uttar Pradesh. This strong community is at loggerheads with the Government over three new agri laws for shielding its own interests. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently endorsed the provisions made for the agriculture sector in Budget 2021-22 and reiterated that the Government is working for small and medium-level farmers. One might argue that Modi is not concerned about the farmers camping at Delhi's borders and project him as "anti-farmer" and "pro-corporate", but his plans and policies speak volumes about his intention to empower the "real" farmers at the grassroots. The Prime Minister has said that India needs to expand its agriculture sector to the global market for processed food. He also emphasised that the number of agro-industry clusters near villages should be increased so that the rural populace gets farm-related employment in the vicinity. It is indeed a plan that will likely empower the marginal and small farmers. If the Government succeeds in providing market access to these farmers (small and marginal) beyond mandis, it would prove to be a milestone. Further, the Government has increased the agriculture credit target to Rs 16.50 lakh crore and infrastructure fund to Rs 40,000 crore, besides doubling the micro-irrigation fund. All this proves that the Government is striving to bring systemic changes in the agriculture sector with the focus on empowering the "have-nots" among the farmers. We also would like to see the real farmers get empowered and not the ones with enough resources and money to camp at Delhi's borders for months and hold the Government to ransom.

Scorcher ahead!

If the rising temperatures in the last few days of February and an unusually hot March are bothering you, it is because most of the northern, western and eastern parts of India breached the 30°C mark nearly two to three weeks before they usually do. In fact, the country needs to brace for a hotter-than-usual summer this year as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that day temperatures are likely to be 0.86°C higher than normal in the north, northeast, parts of east and west India between March and May. The worst impact is likely in Odisha and Chhattisgarh, where the maximum temperatures will deviate 0.86°C from their usual averages. Last week, Bhubaneswar was the first region to record 40°C anywhere in the country this year and Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh should brace for summer temperatures anywhere from 0.46°C to 0.71°C above normal. The IMD last month had said the minimum temperature recorded in the country in January was the warmest for the month in 62 years, with South India being particularly warm. It is not surprising that we experienced a shorter winter and are getting warnings of a sizzling summer ahead as, according to a Government report on current climate change impacts and future scenarios till the end of the century, India needs to control greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on a war footing. The failure to do so will mean major heatwaves, droughts, cloudbursts, floods and a more degraded coastline, says a report by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). Worryingly, India's average temperature rose by around 0.70°C during 1901–2018 and, unless urgent steps are taken to control GHG emissions between 2070 and 2099 average, the temperature will rise by approximately 4.40°C relative to the recent past (1976–2005 average). The high GHG emissions would increase the heat on Earth's surface by 8.5 watts per square metre. Called RCP8.5, this is the worst-case scenario used by climate modellers worldwide. In a medium GHG emissions scenario, called RCP4.5, the average temperature in India would rise by 2.70°C in the last 30 years of this century. Before that, during 2040–2069, India's average temperature would rise by 2.0°C in a medium emissions scenario, and by 2.40°C in a high emissions scenario. Despite all nations making pledges under the 2015 Paris climate agreement, current emissions are taking the world to the worst-case scenario, though other development pathways are not only available but economically more attractive in the medium and long term. So, the only option before us is to go green, else we will perish because we are already feeling the effects of a planet that has been pushed to breaking point.

The Internationale: Kumbh of protests

The agrarian issue is being politicised by media magicians but, for the farmers, it's a question of livelihood and existence. Green mango flowers are now bursting and kites dance in the sky while bright yellow, purple flowers bloom one last time and farmers in Tihar Jail, New Delhi, welcome a silent spring. The warm air rustles the yellow plastic tents at the Ghazipur Border, flowing from AH2 to the Tikri Border, announcing a new season and the next phase of the Farmers' Revolution begins. It's been over a month since farmer leader Rakesh Tikait's tears galvanised the farmers from Uttar Pradesh (UP) to Rajasthan and much has happened over the spring — Basant Ritu — since then. Lakhs of devotees have cleansed themselves taking dips in the holy Ganga from Haridwar to Prayagraj, Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have shed expiatory tears as he reassured his followers that the three farm laws are good for farmers and for business. But the farmers of the world are not convinced. Recently, major US-based farmer groups like Agrarian Trust, National Farmers Union and 87 other organisations have started an international movement expressing solidarity with the farmers' revolution. Over 50 Canadian organisations have also extended support. They have been exerting pressure on their public representatives too to end this "injustice". Their criticism comes from having suffered due to the market-led agricultural policies since the 1960s in the US. This is no longer an "international conspiracy" or "attack on India's sovereignty" or



Indra Shekhar Singh

"sedition" perpetrated by "international media celebrities like Rihanna or Greta" but a moment of true global solidarity beyond race and religion. Foreclosures and debt have destroyed millions of US farm families. Suicides and despondency plague rural America while Big Ag grows. It's not only the older generation but young farmer leaders like Severine Fleming who have supported the farmers' revolution. All, save for the corporate media, see the invisible hand behind these reforms — Big Ag. Modi has led the Big Ag to India's doors and sacrificed Indian farmers for agri-dollars. India farmers are jubilant about the US support but, as the harvest season nears, some of them are now returning with the stories of their struggles and indignation to their villages to work the fields, while others farmers are on the road to Delhi's borders. In Haryana, media reports indicate, hundreds of villages have pledged to send one person from each house to join the revolution. The farmers' revolution is getting ready for the hot summer.

Although the Modi Government's version occupies the media discourse, the farmers may have outwitted the Government once again. How? With the help of the returning farmers, their unions and leaders have now expanded their base far beyond Delhi's borders. YouTube videos and independent vernacular citizen journalists have spread each update across the country. The tune of Farmer Revolution's Haryanavi anthem — "Modi ji hum Dilli aage" — now sways young and old farmers from Bengal to Rajasthan. From Ganganagar to Kerala, the farmer unions have addressed millions of people in a short span of 30 days. Now that the movement has reached a mature stage, it will spread even faster. Even the Government is finding it hard to call them "a handful of farmers" as it did in early January. Now the discourse has become "crowds don't get the work done". The movement today represents not just farmers but all those who work the land — migrant workers, labourers, urban mandi

workers and the traders. This is a united rural India resisting a corporate auction. Meanwhile, the Government has unleashed the biggest round of privatisation of public assets since Yeltsin's Russia. No one knows why fuel prices have skyrocketed. Why taxes and cess keep increasing, squeezing the middle class, and yet arterial roads of Delhi have potholes? The fuel prices directly impact farmers' input costs and offset the MSP calculations. India is being rigged for food inflation. Indian agri produce vastly outperforms against the highly subsidised imports from countries like the US. The agricultural bubble is soon going to burst; the collateral will be rural India and millions of lives. History will repeat itself as from its ashes shall emerge a new class of neo-zamindars that shall profit from each morsel. The US is a fine example of this, where four corporations control over 80 per cent of the food and about 50 per cent of all produce is wasted! The Modi Government needs to correct course by abandoning the laws and making a fresh start with farmers, for their movement is no longer an Indian affair or internal matter as the External Affairs Ministry is already involved in this diplomatic issue. We as a nation should remember that India loses face in the world only because democracy dies at home. This is an agrarian issue that is being politicised by media magicians, swaying public opinion inciting more hate in society. But for the farmers, at home and abroad, it's a question of livelihood and existence. We need to stand in solidarity because it's a fight for the survival of our soul and roti, together.

Indian 'atmanirbharta' in space and pharmaceuticals is an exception. It must be the norm

Sanjaya Baru

Once a knowledge economy role model for other developing nations, India lost its leading position due to flight of homegrown talent and stiff competition from China. The launch of Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) comes weeks after India allowed the export of COVID-19 vaccine to Brazil, as part of its "vaccine maitri" diplomacy. The launch of Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) comes weeks after India allowed the export of COVID-19 vaccine to Brazil, as part of its "vaccine maitri" diplomacy. Taken together, these two examples of technological and scientific cooperation draw attention to the diplomatic potential of India's knowledge economy. India's current global diplomacy in the fields of space and pharmaceuticals, engaging several countries around the world, is the fruit of 50 years of sustained state support for "atmanirbharta" in both fields. Even though one of the satellites put into space was embossed with the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the credit for India's space programme should in fact go to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It was Prime Minister Gandhi who authorised the creation of ISRO in 1972 and it was again her decision to enact the Indian Patents Act, 1970, that triggered the growth of the domestic pharmaceuticals sector. Subsequent governments have all contributed to the development of both industries. Thanks to these initiatives India is today able to place satellites of several countries into space at globally competitive rates and is able to supply drugs and vaccines at affordable prices to developing countries. The credit for India's competitive pricing of satellite launches and pharmaceuticals

exports goes entirely to Indian engineering, scientific and technological talent that has pursued world-class standards at a fraction of the cost incurred in developed economies. The willingness of high-quality Indian scientists, engineers, biotechnologists, pharmacologists and such like to work in India at Indian rates of compensation, not tempted by better paying jobs abroad, has allowed organisations like ISRO and Serum Institute of India to do the work they now do. India's demonstrated potential to be a low-cost global provider of knowledge-based products had prompted the developed West, especially the US, to deploy policies aimed at curbing the development of Indian capabilities. Unilateral sanctions were imposed to deny Indian industry access to technology and markets and a multilateral regime for intellectual property rights (IPRs) protection was created, under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation to thwart indigenous technology development. Indian capabilities in space and pharma grew in the face of such constraints. India's more broad-based capability for knowledge-based diplomacy has, however, significantly decreased over the past quarter century rather than increased. Consider the fact that as early as in the 1950s, many developing countries looked to India to access development-oriented knowledge. Students from across Asia and Africa sought admission to Indian universities for post-graduate courses. Indian expertise was sought by global organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The government of South

Korea even sent its economists to the Indian Planning Commission till the early 1960s to be trained in long-term planning. By the 1970s, Korea was beginning to overtake India as a modern industrial economy. There were many other fields in which Indian expertise was sought in the past and where India lags behind today. Railways is one. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES), which incidentally was also established by Indira Gandhi in 1974, had acquired a global profile with business in Africa and Asia. The development of India's dairy and livestock economy also attracted global interest. Indian science and technology had something to offer the developing world that the developed economies of the West were either unwilling to provide or did so at much higher cost. India lost this leadership in the knowledge economy, barring sectors like space, pharma and information-technology, for two reasons. First, a flight of Indian talent that began in the 1970s and has since accelerated. This has sharply increased about this before in these columns ('Secession of the Successful', IE, December 30, 2020). Second, China has emerged as a major competitor offering equally good, if not better quality, S&T products and services at lower cost. While India has maintained its lead in IT software, China has developed competitive capabilities in space, pharma, railways and several other knowledge-based industries. Indeed, given the competition from China, the ability of Indian space and pharma to offer much-needed products to other developing countries goes to the credit of the people who serve in these industries. The Indian famil-

arity with the English language and the still good quality of teaching in mathematics and statistics has enabled Indian firms to remain competitive in data processing, business process outsourcing and software services. Here too, the competitive edge is beginning to blunt. The biggest setback in the global appeal of India's knowledge economy has been in higher education. Overseas students were drawn to Indian universities and institutions because they offered good quality education at a fraction of the cost of developed country institutions. The appeal of education in India for overseas students has waned. Even South Asian students, from countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, who preferred to come to India in the 1960s and 1970s no longer do so. Indian institutions attract fewer foreign students not just because the quality of education offered in most institutions is below par, but that the creature comforts provided and the social environment offered here is no longer as cosmopolitan as it used to be. The growing assertion of narrow-minded ideologies only makes Indian campuses even less attractive to overseas students and scholars. Space and pharma are at the apex of a narrow pyramid of the knowledge economy. If ISRO's global competitiveness is a tribute to public policy and government support, the global success of the pharma sector is a tribute to private enterprise and middle-class talent in pharmacology and biotechnology. Their global success points to the diplomatic potential of the knowledge industry and to India's "soft power". However, the fact that they are the exception rather than the rule points to the lack of political and intellectual support to the development of India's knowledge base and an inadequate commitment to excellence.

34 person fined for violating Covid Rules at Kalimela



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Mar 3: The administration has agreed to the resumption of the Corona epidemic. The administration

has also stepped in as the state government has instructed the administration to strictly abide by the Covid rule. For the past two days,

the administration has been urging people to wear masks and protect social distances. From today, Covid has been told to abide by the

rules. From today, the joint investigation by the administration and the police has been tightened. Today, 34 Covid rule violators have been

fined Rs 23,200. Kalimela Tahsildar Alok Kumar Anugulia, Additional Tahsildar and Kalimela police personnel were present during the investigation and recovered the money from Amania. During the investigation, three young men were detained for not wearing masks, but they were fined for trying to escape. In addition, shopkeepers have been instructed to comply with the Covid rules. Shopkeepers have been told not to crowd in front of the store, to keep up with the social distance, and to keep stock of sanitizers. Failure to do so will result in the administration being warned to take action in accordance with the Covid Act and guidelines.

The effort is a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp on behalf of the Voluntary Organization

(A.O. Bureau) Kendrapara, Mar 3: A voluntary blood donation camp was organized by the "Prayas swechasebi Organization" in Indupur village in Kendrapara block on Wednesday in support of the Golden Club. The camp was inaugurated by Biju Janata Dal's Kendrapara Block

main camp as distinguished guests. A total of 25 units of blood were collected under the leadership of President Chandan Kumar Sahu. Teachers Siddharth Shankar Jena, Kali Khatun, Deepti Ranjan Sahu, Barsha Rani Sahu, SK Akil, Aman Jabir, Prabhat Sahu, Upendra Sahu, Basant

Sahu, Chandan Kumar Sahoo, Surya Narayan Bal, Prasanjit Behera, Prashant Malik, Rakesh Kumar Sahu, Pramod Kumar Sahu, Babaji Sahu, Ghulam Jilani, Rajendra Mohapatra, Balaram Malik, Saroj Kumar Sahu, Tapaswini Das, Abhijit Singh, Pradeep Kumar Sutar, Basudeb Sahu, Abhay Sahu,



President Alok Sahoo, Senior journalist Matrudatta Mohanty, Dhumat Sarpanch Narahari Pani, former Revenue Inspector Manoranjan Sahu encouraged the blood donors by joining the

Sahu Presided over the function. President Chandan Kumar Sahoo said blood donation camps would continue at various places in the coming days. The camp includes Smriti Ranjan

Akshay Kumar Sahu, Alok Kumar Raut, Sanjay Sahu, Kankalata Sahu, Chandrakant Sahu, Premik Sahu, Swapnaji Thatoi and Pranati Raut were the main donors.

Vedanta Hospital, Lanjigarh, becomes Kalahandi's first private hospital for COVID-19 Vaccination Drive



(A.O. Bureau) Lanjigarh, Mar 3: The Vedanta Hospital, run by Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh, the premier producer of metallurgical grade alumina in India, becomes the first Private COVID Vaccination Centre (PCVC) in Kalahandi. The vaccination program for the locals was launched on 1st March 2021 by Mr. Rakesh Mohan, Director- Technocal of Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh, in the presence of district healthcare officials and Vedanta's leadership team. Vedanta Hospital, which is empanelled

under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana from Kalahandi district since 2019, was selected for this drive after thorough inspection of the infrastructure and other medical facilities required for the vaccination program, as per the guidelines of the Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha. The selected vaccination officers and other medical support staff of the hospital also underwent training by the government healthcare team comprising Dr Chandrakanti Acharya, Additional District Public Health Of-

ficer (Family Welfare), Mr. Satyabrata Sahoo, District Vaccination Logistics Manager and Mr. Soumya Ranjan Nayak, Data Entry Operator-Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. 10 people were administered with the vaccine on the inaugural day. Speaking about the vaccination drive, Mr. Rakesh Mohan, Director-Technical, Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh unit said, "Vedanta Lanjigarh has always been at the forefront of ensuring the health and wellbeing of its employees as well as the community. The company has signifi-

cantly aided in the fight against COVID-19, through augmentation of healthcare facilities and rolling out many welfare measures within and beyond the plant, in association with district administration. It is a privilege to be a part of 'Mission-Vaccinate India', with Vedanta Hospital's empanelment as the only private hospital in Kalahandi district for COVID-19 Vaccination. We shall lend all support to the government healthcare personnel to make this vaccination drive a success." Appreciating the efforts of Vedanta, Lanjigarh, Dr Chandrakanti Acharya, Additional District Public Health Officer (Family Welfare) said, "Vedanta Lanjigarh has come forward with all required support in the prevention of COVID-19, since the outbreak of the pandemic, in supporting the district health authorities. Vedanta Hospital is equipped with all the required facilities for the vaccination of the common citizens. This is laudable that the Hospital has become a part of the drive and extended all the support to the government healthcare system, in taking this effort to the masses by

becoming the only such private hospital in Kalahandi. This reflects on the responsibility and commitment of Vedanta towards the community." Vedanta's social interventions in the domains of sustainable livelihood, women empowerment, quality education, health, water and sanitation, bio-investment and community infrastructure reach out to a total of 69 villages in Lanjigarh and nearby areas, benefiting about a lakh people in a year. It empowers more than 3000 women from 305 self-help groups (SHGs), provides healthcare services to about 30,000 people annually, gives educational support to more than 2800 students, has planted more than 5.4 lakh trees in the community, and built 500 plus infrastructural projects at community level. Vedanta is the largest producer of aluminium in India and remains the premier manufacturer of metallurgical grade alumina. The company operates a 2 MTPA (million tonnes per annum) capacity alumina refinery in Lanjigarh (Kalahandi district, Odisha), India since 2007 and an associated 90 MW captive power plant.

Tata Steel celebrates 182nd Founder's Day at Joda



(A.O. Bureau) Joda, Mar 3: Tata Steel's OMQ and FAM Division celebrated Founder's Day on Wednesday marking the 182nd birth anniversary of Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata at Joda. Keeping in mind, the prevailing situation of COVID-19, the day was celebrated with limited number of people. The celebrations started with homage to J N Tata by Mr Rajesh Kumar, Chief (Joda), Tata Steel along with others senior officials and union representa-

tives at JCO lawn. Similar homage ceremonies were also organised at FAP, Joda and Mangane Group of Mines office. Bichhakundi where Mr G P Sahu, Head (FAP), Joda and Mr Amit Kumar Dubey, Head (Manganese Group of Mines), Tata Steel along with employees and Union officials paid homage to JN Tata, respectively. After the homage ceremony, fruits were distributed to the patients of Tata Steel Hospital, Joda by the hospital

officials. Apart from this, illumination of Sir Dorabji Tata Botanical Park, Joda West along with Centenary Park, in front of FAP Plant and Rainwater Harvesting Park, Joda East were also done from the previous evening. It is worth mentioning here that Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata (March 3, 1839 - May 19, 1904) was an Indian pioneer industrialist, who founded the Tata Group, India's biggest conglomerate company. He is regarded as the legendary 'Father of Indian Industry'.

Sambalpur District Administration Withdraws Containment Order For VSSUT

(A.O. Bureau) Burla, Mar 3: A day after 25 students of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla were found to be negative for Covid, the Sambalpur District Administration withdrew the micro containment zone order for Pulaha, Pulastya, Atri, Kratu, Pulastya, Marich, Anuradha, Arundhati, Rohini, Visakha and Vasundhara hostels of VSSUT under the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation area from



today. The Collector further stated the decision has been taken following survey and testing in the areas. The active surveillance in the areas will continue for next seven days as measure of containment of Covid, the order added.

ordered to rescind micro containment zone order for Pulaha, Pulastya, Atri, Kratu, Pulastya, Marich, Anuradha, Arundhati, Rohini, Visakha and Vasundhara hostels of VSSUT under the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation area from

9th class girl commits suicide after failing in love

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Mar 3: Malkangiri, a 9th grade girl fell in love with a young man! He had many dreams of being a life partner! So the young man he loved so much for a long time after marrying another girl, the girl he had been in love with for a long time, Golden' dreams was finally shattered! He was mentally broken!

Completely failed in love, she finally committed suicide by putting a towel around her neck! The incident is now the talk of the district! The incident revealed that a 9th grader studying in MV-35 village under Korukonda block fell in love with a young man from MV-109 village near! The girl loved the young man so much that she de-

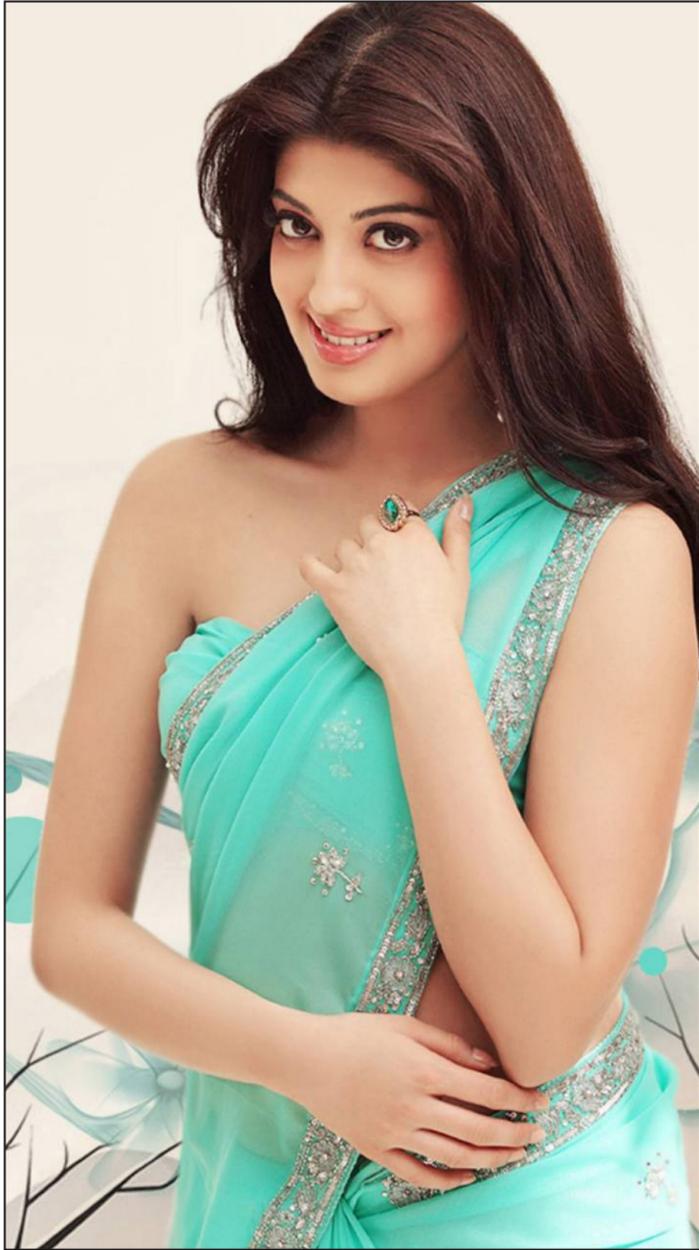
cided to tie the knot! But as the girl was not old, the young man married another girl a few days later! The wedding was completely devastated when the girl was learnt by a source! And the girl's face was covered with a cloud of sadness! He made up his mind to lose his life after his dream was shattered! That night the mother

served rice and vegetables to eat but the girl did not eat well! He went to the bedroom at night and knocked on the door! Then she wore a red sari, a red bangles on her hand, a conch shell, just as the newly weds were dressed! In the next few minutes' she committed Suicide with a towel around his neck! Opening the door on morning,

the parents saw the girl dressed in bridal saree and hanging around her neck! Immediately she was taken to Korukonda and admitted the girl to the community health center! But the doctor reported the girl dead! After orkel police came and postmortem carcasses of dead body with paperwork of the incident investigation under process.

Hungama 2 Star Pranitha Subhash: In Bollywood, You Have to Do Lot of Packaging Around Yourself

New Delhi, Mar 3: Pranitha Subhash may have more than 10 years of experience of working in the movie business, but the actress says Bollywood is a totally different ballgame. Actress Pranitha Subhash is a prominent face down South. She has been a part of several commercially successful Telugu and Tamil films including Baava, Attarintiki Daredi, Massu Engira Masilamani, and Enakku Vaaitha Adimaigal. The actress is now gearing up for the release of her Bollywood debut Hungama 2, directed by Priyadarshan. Pranitha, who began her acting career with Kannada film Porki, may have more than 10 years of experience of working in the movie business, but the actress says Bollywood is a totally different ballgame. "Bollywood is an ocean and you really have to be at it. Like in the South, I'm also younger and don't really think too much into but in Bollywood it's very important to think it through, choose your films wisely then you have so much packaging to do around yourself — be it being on a certain magazine cover or being styled by some big designer. That's what I'm learning slowly," says Pranitha. Does it make you feel daunting at all? "Not really," the actress says, before



adding, "It is exciting because right now everything is new whether it's airport look or gym look. Paparazzi are always following you here. You have to be dressed all the time even when you're en-

tering a saloon. It's a little funny also. But I think you eventually end up doing that because you know that you are going to be clicked and that's part of the game." However, the actress, who will

also be seen sharing the screen space with Ajay Devgn in Bhuj: The Pride of India, says the workings of South film industries and Bollywood are pretty similar when it comes to shooting on a set.

it very spontaneous and shoots very quickly." Hungama 2 has an ensemble cast headlined by actors like Paresh Rawal, Shilpa Shetty, Meezan Jafri, Rajpal Yadav, and Johnny Lever, among others. Recalling shooting with such a huge cast, she says, "I was getting to work with different people on different days. But I'd say that since Meezan and I were expected to have chemistry so I think he was one person I could really relate to because he is also young and come from the same school of thought. Then there was Shilpa who is also from the South, so we had a lot of fun. Paresh sir was unintentionally funny. I was star-struck when I saw Johnny Lever because I have grown up watching him in films." What are your expectations from your debut? "The good and the bad part about this industry is that you can't really have expectations because you never know which project is going to give you what sort of results. You might get something really big that give you everything you ever wanted but the opposite could also happen. Besides, I have always done South films which are very regional in terms of their reach. So for me, being a part of something that's going to have different reach is exciting and I'm hoping for bigger response and more fans," Pranitha concludes.

Kavita Kaushik Exposes Trolls with Screenshots of Mean Messages She Received in DMs

New Delhi, Mar 3: Actress Kavita Kaushik chose to these trolls out for once and all. She took to Twitter to share some mean comments targeted towards her in DMs. She also asked everyone to boldly call them out and expose them. In one of the screenshots, a troll can be seen asking for forgiveness saying that she is a girl. However, Kavita has retained the screengrabs nevertheless, so that trolls know where to draw the line. She was also asked by a fan to remove it considering that the troll is a minor person. However, she maintained that if she did not stop them now, they would grow up to harass more girls and if they are not scared today, they would grow up to be more arrogant. She also tagged Saharanpur Police's official Twitter account saying that she and other celebs have been receiving vile threats and

abuses on social media. She requested them to inform the trolls' parents or else she herself would file an FIR. This is not for the first time that the celebrities took matters into their own hands. Last year, many of them chose to quit Twitter in order to steer away from the negativity. Some of the celebs had announced their departure from the micro-blogging site owing to the bombarding of hate comments on a constant basis. Some of the celebs even chose to keep their comments section off to keep the trolls at bay. Well, for now, Kavita is in no mood to take it lightly and rightly so. She was last seen as a participant in reality show, Bigg Boss season 14.

everyone to boldly call them out and expose them. In one of the screenshots, a troll can be seen asking for forgiveness saying that she is a girl. However, Kavita has retained the screengrabs nevertheless, so that trolls know where to draw the line. She was also asked by a fan to remove it considering that the troll is a minor person. However, she maintained that if she did not stop them now, they would grow up to harass more girls and if they are not scared today, they would grow up to be more arrogant. She also tagged Saharanpur Police's official Twitter account saying that she and other celebs have been receiving vile threats and



Roohi song Nadiyon Paar: Janhvi Kapoor sizzles up the screen in this remix

Mumbai, Mar 3: "One more remix": Karan Johar's surprise expression in Simmba number seems to have become the new normal. In a bid to create some buzz, filmmakers and music composers have found an easy way out by recreating old songs. Horror-comedy Roohi, starring Janhvi Kapoor in the lead role, joins the list as it released its latest song — "Nadiyon Paar". A take on Shamur's popular 2008 song "Let the music play", the video has Janhvi in a never seen before avatar. The film's first song "Panghat" had a

more dramatic feel to it while "Nadiyon Paar" comes across as a true-blue Bollywood dance number. While the actor keeps giving her fans a glimpse of her dance moves on social media, it's for the first time we see her do a solo performance on screen. And we must add, Janhvi does a pretty good job at it. Dressed in a sequined one-shoulder top, paired with a matching high-slit skirt, the actor looks stunning, as she does the perfect belly moves, while adding a bit of shimmy. Recreated by Sachin-Jigar and additional vocals by Rashmeet

Kaur, the song is catchy. And given the nostalgic element, will go on to become a hit at parties soon. However, we just wish the choreographers had worked harder on certain dance steps. Having been witnessed to Nora Fatehi's sultry belly dance moves, the audiences' expectations have gone up. Also, given Janhvi is a trained dancer, the team could have got her to do so much more. PS: The desert feel plus the sepia tone makes the video a little too overwhelming. It's almost as if we are looking at the video through a pair of yellow glasses. Along with Janhvi Kapoor, Roohi also stars Rajkumar Rao and Varun Sharma. The film tells the story of a witch Roohi (Janhvi), who abducts brides on their honeymoon. How two men, Veer and Raj (Rajkumar and Varun) from the village take up the responsibility to save the brides from her, forms the core of the plot. Directed by Hardik Mehta, the film has been bankrolled by Maddock Films. It's scheduled to release in theatres on March 11.

Five Reasons Why One Should Include Ghee in Their Daily Diet



New Delhi, Mar 3: Benefits of having a spoonful of ghee everyday are immense. Therefore, to reap its exceptional nutritional value one must incorporate this wonder ingredient in everyday meal. Remember how our mothers keep adding that dollop of ghee on rotis, parathas, laddoos to ensure our good health! Well, ghee or clarified butter is one of the most incredible natural foods treasured in Ayurveda since ages. Owing to its extraordinary health benefits, our 'desi'

ghee has now gained international recognition. Considered as 'liquid gold' by some, ghee is a nutritional powerhouse and a highly recommended staple Indian food. Benefits of having a spoonful of ghee everyday are immense. Therefore, to reap its exceptional nutritional value one must incorporate this wonder ingredient in everyday meal. Here is a look at its benefits: Strengthens immunity: Since ghee is loaded with essential fat-soluble vitamins D, K,

E and A, these nutrients ramp up our body functions, including immunity. Ghee's ability to aid body absorb fat-soluble minerals and vitamins from other foods, nourishes our immune system arming it with the right defence mechanisms. Moreover, the quintessential desi ghee is known to possess antibacterial, anti-fungal, antioxidant properties that wards off viruses, flu, cough, cold. Improves Digestion: Ghee is an excellent source of butyric acid. It is a short-chain fatty

acid that is created when the good bacteria in gut breaks down the dietary fibre butyrate. The colon cells use butyric acid as their preferred source of energy. It is great for energizing the intestinal walls. Have ghee also to treat intestinal disorders, such as Crohn's disease. Boosts Memory: Healthy saturated fats in ghee boosts cognitive functioning. It prevents cell, tissue damage, promotes longevity. Eating ghee in the morning on an empty stomach improves the

process of cell rejuvenation which boosts the healing process of our body. Promotes healthy, glowing skin: Ghee's antioxidant-rich, anti-inflammatory properties soothes the skin, reduces inflammation, pigmentation, delays ageing, flushes out toxins from the body. It acts as a natural moisturizer that imparts radiance to your skin and hair. Energy provider, promotes weight loss: The medium and short-chain fatty acids present in ghee makes it an ultimate Ayurvedic superfood that is considered a rich energy source. Also, the fact that ghee has healthy omega fatty acids, body's lean mass gets boosted, and fat mass reduced, thereby making it ideal for weight loss. Other than the above-mentioned reasons for including ghee in daily diet, it must be consumed for good heart, eye-sight, cancer prevention, constipation, and overall good health.



Warner concedes rushing injury return for series against India put him back

Sydney, Mar 3: Australia opener David Warner says rushing his return from injury to compete against India earlier this year was probably not the right decision as it resulted in a lengthy rehabilitation period for him. Warner had missed the first two Tests of the series after suffering a groin injury in the preceding ODI series but made himself available for the last two matches in Sydney and Brisbane. The 34-year old had scores for 5, 13, 1 and 48 in four innings and was clearly not at his best. India won the

hindsight I probably wouldn't have done that, where I am with the injury it put me back a little bit," Warner was quoted as saying by 'ESPNCricinfo'. "If I'm thinking about myself I probably would have said no, but I did what I felt was best for the team and me being out there opening the batting was I felt the best thing for the team." Warner said his injury -- tears in the abdomen and groin -- was "horrible" and that he had "never felt anything like it". Warner has a busy schedule ahead, starting with the

pete in the Hundred series in England in July-August. The aggressive opener has trained his sights on the 50-over World Cup in India in 2023 and is not yet ready to give up on the challenge and charm of Test cricket. "I'm not thinking about the end date at all, for me it's about the 2023 World Cup," he said. "Then obviously it's a given that you have to call it time unless you are going to play to 41 - it's time for the new guys to come through. "From a Test cricket point of view I'd love to play as long as I can. We've got a lot of

White ball affects batsmen's defence on spinning tracks: Kohli

Ahmedabad, Mar 3: India captain Virat Kohli has attributed the batsmen's failures to score runs on spin-friendly wickets over the last two Tests against England to an overdose of limited overs cricket. Both India and England have struggled in the last two Tests with the bat, although India have been a shade better than England. Kohli criticised both sides' batting in the last match, the pink-ball Test at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera. "Defence is needed on these kind of wickets. The pattern that I have seen in Test cricket, if you see any match's highlights -- batsmen play out difficult sessions by giving no chances to be able to survive. Because of influence of white ball cricket, there are a lot of results in Test cricket. It has an effect on batting too," Kohli told the media. "I think defence, which is key in this format, is being compromised. People think that we should score 300-350 quickly. That four-five session long grind, I don't think that is in focus nowadays. People are not focussing on defence that much maybe because they have to switch from other for-

mats, it affects the skill. Skill is definitely required to play on tracks that turn. You don't have to necessarily sweep. You can find your way. You need to have confidence in defence so that the ball doesn't go to short leg or silly point. It is a part of the game that has been ignored," he further said. Kohli disagreed with his deputy Ajinkya Rahane and some English players like Zak Crawley on their views over the pink ball. Rahane and Crawley had said that it will be easier to face the red ball than the pink ball. Kohli said there is not much difference between red ball and pink ball and it was only the poor quality in batting. "I don't understand why a cricket ball, cricket pitch are brought into focus. Why don't we just focus on the fact that the batsmen were just not skilled enough to play on that pitch. It was a bizarre display of batting by both teams in a Test match. I will continue to say that because I have played long enough to understand what happens on a cricket field. It is not a change in ball colour or change in ball shape. It is still round, still weighs five-and-a-half ounces so I don't



know what difference it makes suddenly. The pitch in Chennai though was different. This track has more pace," he added. "The result in the last game was down to bizarre batting from both sides and we scored more runs than the opposition. It was just poor batting. It could have gone into the third or fourth day," said Kohli. The 32-year-old India captain also said that the pitch is getting unnecessary flak when it

is the batting that has been poor. "We lost in New Zealand in three days. No one wrote about the pitch. It was all about how India played badly in New Zealand and none of the pitches were criticised. No one came and saw how much the pitch was doing and how much the ball was moving. Or how much grass was there on the pitch? The reason for our success has been that we have not cribbed about any pitch

on which we have played on. We will continue to play as a team moving forward," added Kohli. "Spinning tracks come into focus way more. When the ball seams on a particular wicket and a team gets bundled out for 40, 50, 60, no one writes about it. It is always called bad batting. We all need to be honest. What is the idea behind continuing this narrative and what purpose it serves," he said.



series 2-1 with an epic victory at the Gabba. "I made the call to play those Test matches, felt like I needed to be out there and help the guys. Looking back in

IPL, where he plays for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Australia have an unconfirmed white-ball tour of the West Indies and Warner is also expected to com-

cricket coming up in that context after this year so for me it's about staying fit and healthy and trying to manage my family time with cricket."

KL Rahul retains second spot, Virat Kohli climbs to 6th in ICC T20I rankings



New Delhi, Mar 3: KL Rahul maintained his second position while his captain Virat Kohli gained one spot to be at sixth in the latest ICC T20 International rankings for batsmen issued on Wednesday. KL Rahul maintained his second position while his captain Virat Kohli gained one spot to be at

sixth in the latest ICC T20 International rankings for batsmen issued on Wednesday. With 816 rating points, Rahul is behind England's Dawid Malan (915) who retained his top spot, while Kohli has 697 points. Pakistan skipper Babar Azam (801) moved up one place to third while

Australia's white-ball captain Aaron Finch (788) slipped to fourth place. South Africa's Van der Dussen (700) also moved up a place to be fifth in the list. Players from New Zealand and Australia made significant gains in the rankings updated after the first two matches of the ongoing series be-

tween the two sides. New Zealand left-hander Devon Conway's 99 not out in the Christchurch opener helped him gain 46 spots and reach 17th position after just eight matches, while opener Martin Guptill gained three slots to reach 11th position after his knock of 97 in Dunedin. For Australia,

Marcus Stoinis gained 77 places to be at 110th position while Matthew Wade moved to 118th spot. Among the bowlers, there has been no change in the top five with Afghanistan's Rashid Khan (736) leading the chart. South African Tabraiz Shamsi (733), Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman (730), England's Adil Rashid (700) and Australia's Adam Zampa (676) all held their position in the top five. No Indian featured in the top-10 among bowlers. New Zealand's Tim Southee (up one place to sixth), Mitchell Santner (up two places to seventh), Ish Sodhi (up three places to 11th) and Trent Boult (up 24 places to 49th) also progressed in the bowlers' list. Australia's Jhye Richardson has re-entered the list at 115th.

Swiss Open: Srikanth, Satwik-Ashwini pair through to second round

New Delhi, Mar 3: Kidambi Srikanth staved off a spirited challenge from compatriot Sameer Verma to make a winning start to his campaign at the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament on Wednesday. Top Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth staved off a spirited challenge from compatriot Sameer Verma to make a winning start to his campaign at the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament on Wednesday. The fourth seeded Indian, who had claimed the title in 2015, took little over an hour to see off 2018 winner Sameer 18-21 21-18

his first round match against Switzerland's Christian Kirchmayr 21-19 21-18. He faces eight seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the Round of 16. However, H S Prannoy made an early exit after losing to France's Mark Caljouw 19-21 21-9 17-21 in a men's singles first round match. Last night, Indian mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa notched up an upset 21-18 21-10 win over the world no 8 and second-seeded Indonesian pair of Hafiz Faizal and Gloria Emanuelle Widjaja

have been training under new foreign coach Mathias Boe for the last one month, will face another Indonesian pair -- Rinov Rivaldy and Pitha Haningtyas Mentari -- next. The second seeded Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also won their first round men's doubles match against Christopher Grimley and Matthew Grimley of Scotland 21-18 19-21 21-16. Another Indian shuttler, Pranaav Jerry Chopra, who was returning to action after a COVID-19 pandemic break, didn't have a good



21-11 in a hard-fought men's singles opening round match. World no. 13 Srikanth, an Olympic hopeful, will be up against France's Thomas Rouxel in the Round of 16. Rouxel beat Canada's Xiaodong Sheng 21-18 21-14 in another first round match. Sourabh Verma also won

in the opening round. Satwik and Ashwini, who reached the semifinals of the Toyota Thailand Open Super 1000 event in January, had earlier defeated the Indonesian combination at the Yonex Thailand Open in a thrilling three-game match in January. The world no 19 duo, who

outing as he along with his mixed doubles partner N Sikki Reddy lost 18-21 15-21 to the third-seeded English pair of Marcus Ellis and Lauren Smith in 39 minutes. Swiss Open is the first event of the extended Olympic qualification period which will end on June 15.

Four-match Europe tour: India plays out 1-1 against Germany

New Delhi, Mar 3: The Indian men's hockey team played out a 1-1 draw against Germany in the second game of its four-match tour of Europe. Jarmanpreet opened the scoring for India in the fourth minute, while Martin Haner scored the equaliser for Germany. High on confidence after a dominating 6-1 win in the opening match, world No. 4 India started on an attacking note against the



hosts and earned themselves a penalty corner in the 4th minute, which was converted by defender Jarmanpreet with a classic

slapshot. Within the following two minutes, the hosts also bounced back and got their chance to score an equaliser with a PC but

could not capitalise. The visitors continued to be dominant in the second quarter, displaying better ball possession and creating opportunities with an intent to capitalise on the early lead. However, the quarter ended with the hosts putting pressure on the Indian men with strong man-to-man tackle. The hosts backed their tactical play with some quick forays into the striking circle, resulting in them earning back-

to-back PCs. It was in their second attempt when the experienced Martin Haner levelled the score 1-1 minutes ahead of the half-time break. Continuing the momentum, the third quarter saw Germany keeping the ball in the Indian half to create scoring opportunities but, Indian defenders remained composed and set-up a well-structured defence that kept the German forward-line from converting.

