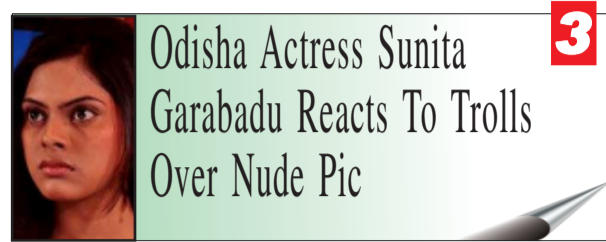




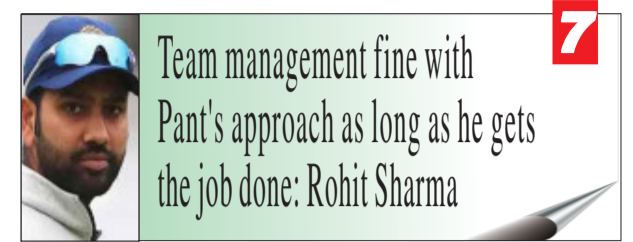
**2** Mamata Releases Trinamool's List For Bengal Polls



**3** Odisha Actress Sunita Garabadu Reacts To Trolls Over Nude Pic



**6** Disha Patani Does Her Make-up for First Time



**7** Team management fine with Pant's approach as long as he gets the job done: Rohit Sharma

## Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated the long-awaited World Skill Centre at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar on the birth anniversary of legendary Biju Patnaik



Bhubaneswar, Mar 5: Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister described it as an important milestone that adds a new chapter in the skill ecosystem of Odisha. The WSC will be a premier institute to impart advanced skills and create globally employable youth in State. The project has been developed with partnership with ITEES Singapore as knowledge partner, and Asian Development Bank. Built over an area of 450,000 square feet, it's now the tallest building in the state. It will provide skills to 3000 students in 8 trades for now. Emphasising on skill development of our youth the CM said that Skill Development has always been a priority for his Government.

Our aim is to meet the aspirations of the youth as well as create a pool of increased opportunities for them, he added. Sri patnaik further said that lot of emphasis is being accorded by my government to short term, long term and advance skill training through industry collaborations and certifications. Focusing on future of youth, the chief minister said that we are intensely investing in the future of youth by creating infrastructure and mechanism for making them future ready. This will help our youth to stay ahead of the competition in the professional world, he added. Within a short span, the results of this investment have added feathers to Odisha's Story, he said. Speaking on the

achievements in skill, Sri patnaik said that Gold Medal win at World Skill Competition and innovations demonstrated by our skill institutes during the pandemic have set the standards worth emulating. Our ITIs are amongst the best in the country. He commended the sustained efforts made by OSDA and Skill Development & Technical Education Department to improve the skill ecosystem of the state. World Skill Center will further support our endeavor by providing advance skill training to our youth and prepare them for competing at Global level, he added. Sri Patnaik said emphatically that World Skill Center will take a lead in taking a giant leap of transformation from

present to future for all Polytechnics and ITIs in Odisha. World Skill Center will also drive Skill Competitions and will be landing point for all industry collaborations in skill ecosystem. The chief minister thanked Asian Development Bank and ITE Education Services Singapore for collaborating with Odisha for setting up a premier skill institute at par with global excellence. Remembering Biju Babu on his birth anniversary, Sri patnaik said "Biju Babu always dreamt of an Odisha where youth acquire world class skill. On his 105th birth anniversary, I am happy to dedicate World Skill Centre to the people of Odisha." He hoped that large support from all stakeholders, World

Skill Center and Odisha will set a new standards in Technical Education and Vocational Training. Minister for Skill Development and Technical Education Shri Premananda Nayak said that with setting up of WSC, our youth have huge competitive advantage at global level. Shri Subrato Bagchi, Chairman odisha Skill Development Authority highlighted the achievements of Odisha youth at national and global level. He added that within five years, 11 of Odisha ITIs have been among top hundred ITIs of India. He also envisioned to take skills to grassroots level in next five years. Speaking over Video Conference, Mr Bruce Poh, DG SARD, Asian Development Bank congratulated the State for the WSC. He said it will be highly beneficial for youth in the age group of 18-34. Singapore ITEES CEO Mr Kenichi Yokoyama said WSC will be a model for State's Skill education. He congratulated the CM for his unwavering dedication for skill education in Odisha. Commissioner-cum-Secretary of SDTE Shri Sanjay Singh gave the welcome address and CEO OSDA offered the vote of thanks.

## Biju Jayanti: Thousands Pedal To Mark Legendary Leader's Birth Anniversary



Bhubaneswar, Mar 5: To mark the 105th birth anniversary of legendary leader and former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, members of Biju Chhatra Janata Dal (BCJD) and Biju Yuva Janata Dal (BYJD) today took out a mass cycle rally from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar this morning. The rally starting from Anand Bhawan in Cuttack culminated near Bhubaneswar Airport. Wearing white T-

shirt with motif of Biju Patnaik riding a bicycle and the party flag tied with the handle of the cycle, thousands of students and youths from different places participated in the rally. Several party leaders, including Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, MLAs Pranab Prakash Das, Byomakesh Ray and Sushant Kumar Rout also joined the rally. After reaching the culmi-

nating point, the participants paid floral tribute to the statue of Biju Patnaik near the airport. "The rally was a huge success. I thank the party members for participating in the event that marked the birth anniversary of Biju Babu which is also observed as Panchayati Raj Diwas," said MLA Byomakesh Ray. Besides, cycle rally was also held in Berhampur led by MLA Bikram Panda.

## CBSE Class-X, XII Revised Date Sheet Issued



New Delhi, Mar 5: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) today issued Revised Date Sheet for Class-X and XII examinations for the year 2021. The Class-X exams will be held between May 4 and June 7 while the Class-XII exams will be conducted between May 4 and June 14. 1. Duration of time for each paper has been indicated in the Date-Sheet. 2. However, duration of time for each subject/paper as given on the question paper be followed meticulously. 3. Answer books would be distributed to candidates between 10.00 AM-10.15 AM. 4. Candi-

dates would write their particulars on the answer book. 5. Particulars shall be checked and signed by Assistant Superintendent(s). 6. Question paper will be distributed at 10.15 AM. 7. From 10.15 AM-10.30 AM (15 minutes), candidates shall read the question paper. 8. Candidates would plan proper strategy to write the answers. 9. At 10.30 AM candidates will start writing the answers. 10.No enquiries about date of declaration of result shall be attended to. Instructions for Class-XII students: 1. Class-XII examinations will be conducted in two shifts on 4 days. 2.

Schedule of the examinations would be as follows:- 3. Duration of time for each paper has been indicated in the Date-Sheet. 4. However, duration of time for each subject/paper as given on the question paper be followed meticulously. 5. Candidates would write their particulars on the answer book. 6. Particulars shall be checked and signed by Assistant Superintendent(s). 7. After distribution of Answer Books, 15 minutes time will be given to candidates for reading the question paper. 8. Candidates would plan proper strategy to write the answers. 9. At 10.30 A.M (morning shift) / 02.30 P.M. (afternoon shift), candidates will start writing the answers. 10.No enquiries about date of declaration of result shall be attended to.

## Biju Jayanti: Sportspersons, Officials Join Mini Marathon At Kalinga Stadium

Bhubaneswar, Mar 5: On the occasion of former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik's birth anniversary, the Sports and Youth Services Department (DSYS) today organised a mini marathon at Kalinga Stadium here today. Flagged off by Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera in presence of hockey legend Padma Shri Dilip Tirkey and Sports and Youth Ser-



vices Principal Secretary Vishal K Dev, the marathon was participated by around 400 people. Unlike previous editions, the mini

marathon this year was closed to public. Sportspersons and officials associated with the department concerned participated in

the run in regulated clusters, following COVID-19 guidelines. Hydration points, medical facilities, ambulance service, route markers and

course marshals were arranged by the department for the event. The Minister said, "despite the pandemic, we wanted to host this annual event and keep the legacy going. It is also an initiative to promote fitness. Next year, we hope to conduct it in its usual grand format." The Minister called upon all the participants to follow the principles and ideals of the legendary statesman.

## Petrol, Diesel Prices Likely To Reduce By Rs 8/Litre!

New Delhi, Mar 5: The government may surprise consumers with a sharp cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel to tame rising prices of auto fuels that have already reached historic high levels. Sources privy to the development said the duty cut may be as high as Rs 8

per litre on the two fuels so that consumers are provided immediate relief. Petrol and diesel prices reached all time high levels last month and since then have been touching new highs every day. In the month of February itself, the pump prices of the two auto fuels have in-

creased 14 times taking up petrol prices by Rs 4.22 per litre to Rs 91.17 a litre and diesel by Rs 4.34 a litre to Rs 81.47 a litre in Delhi. "The revenue projection from the oil sector for FY22 gives the government room to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel sharply to provide



immediate relief to consumers. This is being examined and a call may be taken soon," said a government official privy to the development. According to a report prepared by ICICI Securities, excise duty on auto fuels is estimated at Rs 4.35 lakh crore in FY22, if there is no cut in excise duty on the two products as against the budget estimate of Rs 3.2 lakh crore.

# Mamata Releases Trinamool's List For Bengal Polls

Kolkata, Mar 5: Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee on Friday released her party's candidate list for all 294 seats in the Bengal Assembly. "I have given importance to young people this time while choosing the name of candidates. They all are young people," Banerjee said. It appeared to be a star-studded affair as the Trinamool chief accommodated a slew of Bengali film and television industry representatives in the party's candidate list for the upcoming elections in March-April. Banerjee said that she will contest from East Midnapore's



Nandigram this time. "I will contest from Nandigram. I keep my promises," she said while releasing the list here at her Kalighat residence. State power minister and Trinamool

Congress veteran Sovandeb Chatterjee will contest from Bhawanipore seat as Mamata chose to contest from Nandigram. Former Trinamool Councilor and Kolkata

Municipal Corporation (KMC)'s Member of Mayor in council (MMiC) Debashis Kumar will contest from Rashbihari seat, in place of Chatterjee. The Trinamool supremo also

fielded actor Kanchan Mallick, who had joined the Trinamool Congress a few days back, from Hooghly's Uttarpara; Soham Chakraborty from Chandipur; director Raj Chakraborty from Barrackpore; actress Sayantika from Bankura; actress June Malliah from Midnapore sadar; actress Sayani Ghosh from Asansol south; cricketer Manoj Tiwari from Howrah's Shibpur and Kaushani Mukherjee from Krishnanagar north assembly constituency. West Bengal will go to polls in eight phases between March 27 and April 29. Counting of votes will take place on May 2.

# Assam Elections 2021: BJP announces first list of 70 candidates

Guwahati, Mar 5: The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Friday announced its first list of 70 candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections in Assam. The party is likely to contest 92 seats out of total 126 seats, with 26 going to its ally Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and eight to its other ally, United People's Party

Liberal (UPPL). Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will contest from Majuli and Jalukbari respectively, the constituencies they currently represent. Assam state BJP president Ranjeet Dass will be contesting from Patacharkuchi constituency, a change from his Sarbhog seat, which

he currently holds. Assam will go to polls in three phases: March 27, April 1 and April 6. Results will be declared on May 2. This time the election will see a triangular contest between the BJP and its allies, the Congress and its 'grand alliance', and an alliance of two newly-formed regional parties as a third front.



# I-T raids on Taapsee Pannu, Anurag Kashyap: FM says they were raided in 2013 as well



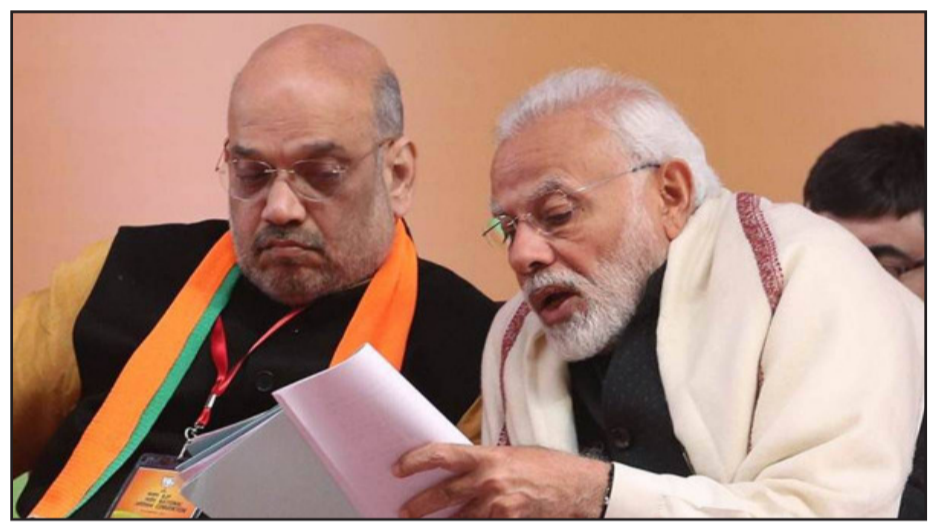
New Delhi, Mar 5: In comments seen as defending income tax raids on Bollywood actor Taapsee Pannu and filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the same persons were raided in 2013 as well, but no issue was made out then as it is being done now. Refusing to comment on individual cases, she said it is in the national interest to know if some evasion is happening. It "wasn't an issue (in 2013). It's an issue now," she said. She, however, did not talk about the outcome of the 2013 raids and if any follow-up action was taken in the last seven years. The Income Tax Department on March 3 began raids on the homes and offices of Pannu and Kashyap as well as his partners, who launched the now-shuttered production house Phantom Films. The searches, part of a tax evasion probe against Phantom Films, carried out across 30 locations in Mumbai and Pune, also covered Reliance Entertainment group CEO

Shibhasish Sarkar and some executives of celebrity and talent management companies KWAN and Exceed. Asked to comment on the raids, Sitharaman spoke of the 2013 raids not being an issue and they suddenly become one now. "Answer it for the hypocrisy or answer it, saying from then this is happening till now, what's the matter (with now)," she said. "In the national interest, do we want to know if there is some evasion happening." Pannu and Kashyap are both known to be outspoken in their views on a range of issues. "I don't know. I am not commenting on a particular case. But if that relates to particular names I want to ask - should we raise questions whether there was a serious omission and commission or should we raise a question about 'oh it's happening now?'" Sitharaman said. "Please look back. It happened in 2013." The tax department in a statement on Thursday stated that search and survey operations were carried out in Mumbai, Pune, Delhi and

Hyderabad. "During the search, evidence of huge suppression of income by the leading film production house compared to the actual box office collections has been unearthed," it had said, referring to Kashyap's venture. "The company officials have not been able to explain the discrepancy of around Rs 300 crore." "Evidence related to manipulation and undervaluation of the production house amongst the film directors and shareholders, having tax implication of about Rs 350 crore has been found and is being further investigated," it had said, adding "evidence" of cash receipts by the actor amounting to Rs 5 crore had been recovered. Tax department sources said some inter-linked transactions between the entities searched are under the scanner of the department. The raids, they added, are aimed at gathering more evidence to further probe tax evasion allegations against them. Founded in 2011, Phantom Films produced films such as "Lootera", "Queen", "Ugly", "NH 10", "Masaan" and "Udta Punjab". However, it was disbanded seven years later. Kashyap later launched a new production company called Good Bad Films.

# 'Misleading, incorrect': Centre reacts after global freedom watchdog downgrades India to 'partly free'

New Delhi, Mar 5: The government on Friday termed the Washington-based think tank Freedom House's report, which demoted India's freedom score from "free" to "partly free", as "misleading, incorrect and misplaced", while maintaining that India treats all citizens equally without discrimination. The Freedom House report had decreased India's score to 67 from 71, with 100 being the ranking for the most free country. The report noted that the rights and civil liberties "have been eroding since Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014", specifically referring to attacks on Muslims, use of the sedition law, and the government's coronavirus response including the lockdown. In a statement, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) offered a rebuttal to specific points mentioned in the report, including discriminatory policies against Muslims, last year's North East Delhi riots, sedition law, coronavirus lockdown, among others. "Many states in India under its federal structure are ruled by parties other than the one at the national level, through an election process which is free and fair and which is conducted by an independent election body. This reflects the work-



ing of a vibrant democracy, which gives space to those who hold varying views," the MIB said in the statement. On the alleged discriminatory policies against Muslims mentioned in the report, the government said it "treats all its citizens with equality" as enshrined under the Constitution and all laws are applied without discrimination. With specific reference to the 2019 North East Delhi riots, the Centre said the law enforcement machinery acted swiftly in an "impartial and fair manner". "Necessary legal and preventive actions were taken by the law enforcement machinery on all complaints/calls received, as per law and procedures," it said. On the alleged misuse of the sedition law, the government said that "public order" and "police" are State subjects and the responsibility of maintaining law and order, including investigation, registration and pros-

ecution of crimes, protection of life and property, etc., rests primarily with the concerned state governments. Therefore, measures as deemed fit are taken by law enforcement authorities to preserve public order, the statement read. The government also rebutted the claim that "attacks on press freedom have escalated dramatically under the Modi government, and reporting has become significantly less ambitious in recent years". The report had claimed that academics and journalists were being intimidated in India. To this, the government said, "Discussion, debate and dissent is part of Indian democracy. The Government of India attaches highest importance to the safety and security of all residents of the country, including journalists. The Government of India has issued a special advisory to States and Union Territories on safety of jour-

nalists requesting them to strictly enforce the law to ensure safety and security of media persons." The Freedom House report had stated that "internet freedom in India declined dramatically for a third straight year". On this, the government said the temporary suspension of telecom or internet services are issued under the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 185 and is resorted to with the over-arching objective of maintaining law and order under strict safeguards. Such orders need authorisation on different levels before coming into use, it said. The government also rebutted the allegation in the report that the Covid-19-induced lockdown "left millions of migrant workers in cities without work or basic resources" and "resulted in the dangerous and unplanned displacement of millions of internal migrant workers". The government

said that the lockdown was announced to control the spread of Covid-19 and the period "allowed the government to ramp up production capacity of masks, ventilators, personal protection equipment (PPE) kits, etc. and thereby effectively prevent the spread of the pandemic. India has, on per capita basis, registered one of the lowest rates of active Covid-19 cases and Covid-19 related deaths globally." The government also refuted the claim that the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) amendment led to freezing of Amnesty International's assets, and said the NGO had received permission under the FCRA Act only once and that too 20 years ago. "Since then Amnesty International, despite its repeated applications, has been denied FCRA approval by successive governments since as per law it is not eligible to get such an approval. However, in order to circumvent the FCRA regulations, Amnesty U.K. remitted large amounts of money to four entities registered in India, by misclassifying the remittance as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)," the government said. "This malafide rerouting of money was in contravention of extant legal provisions," it said.

# OCI cardholders require special permit if they want to undertake 'Tabligh', media activities: Govt

New Delhi, Mar 5: Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders will henceforth be required to take special permission from the Centre if they wish to be involved in any missionary or 'Tabligh' or journalistic activities in the country, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed Thursday. However, the MHA has given a major concession to OCI cardholders by allowing them parity with Indian nationals in the matter of tariffs in air fares in domes-

tic sectors, entry fees for visiting national parks, national monuments and museums in India. The OCI cardholders will be entitled to get multiple entry lifelong visa for visiting India for any purpose but are "required to obtain a special permission or a special permit from the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer or the Indian Mission to undertake research and to undertake any missionary or Tabligh or mountaineering or journalistic activities", the MHA

notification stated. The OCI cardholders will also have to take a special permit to undertake internship in any foreign diplomatic missions or foreign government organisations in India or to take up employment in any foreign diplomatic missions in India or to visit any place which falls within the protected or restricted or prohibited areas as notified by the central government or competent authority. In March 2020, when the nationwide lockdown was in force



following the coronavirus outbreak, over 2,500 Tablighi Jamaat members were found to be residing at the organisation's headquarters in Delhi's Nizamuddin despite guidelines and orders issued against large congregations of people. Several

of these members had tested positive for coronavirus. As many as 233 foreign Tablighi workers were arrested for violations of visa rules and in June, the MHA had black-listed 2,550 foreign Tablighi Jamaat members and banned their entry into

India for 10 years. Tablighi Jamaat workers, both foreigners as well Indians, indulge in preaching tours across the country also known as 'Chilla' in which a volunteer of the organisation travels for 120 days to various parts of the country and stay in local mosques where they inform the neighbourhood people about their activities besides holding special prayers. Meanwhile, the OCI cardholders will now be exempted from registration with the For-

eigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) or Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) for any length of stay in India, but they have to inform the FRRO or FRO concerned whenever there is a change in permanent residential address and in their occupation. The OCI cardholders, according to the ministry, will also get parity with Non-Resident Indians in the matter of inter-country adoption of Indian children subject to the compliance of the pro-

cedure as laid down by the competent authority for such adoption; appearing for the all India entrance tests such as National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, Joint Entrance Examination (Mains), or other such tests to make them eligible for admission only against any Non-Resident Indian seat or any supernumerary seat, provided that the OCI cardholder shall not be eligible for admission against any seat reserved exclusively for Indian citizens, the notification read.

# CM Naveen Inaugurates 3000 Mo Seba Kendras, Odisha One Portal



Bhubaneswar, Mar 5: Today on the occasion of the 105th birth anniversary of Biju Babu, which is also celebrated as Panchayati Raj & Lok Seva Diwas, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated more than 3,000 Mo Seba Kendras and OdishaOne Portal. During his address, the Chief Minister said that service and respect are the keys to his government. The people are the master in a democracy. Empowering people and providing them services with dignity and changing the system is the goal of the State government. The 5T initiative and Mo Sarkar programme were launched with this in mind. The state government is focusing on making it easier and

## Biju Babu's Goal Was To Bring Odisha To The Pinnacle Of Development: CM

Bhubaneswar, Mar 5: Addressing party leaders and workers on the occasion of the 105th birth anniversary of the proverbial man Biju Patnaik, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "His goal was to bring Odisha to the pinnacle of development. The service was Biju Babu's ideal, which is the goal of the BJD. So the people of Odisha have and will

have a favorite team. The mud houses in the village are solid, the houses are bright with water and electricity. She has a smile on her face. This is a big reward for us. When the mother is sitting in the panchayat house thinking about development when the Mission Shakti mother brings loans and business to bring her family prosperity, the picture of development is

bright. Public school children are being given opportunities in medical and engineering. The dream of the youth is coming true. Biju Babu's ideas and concerns are reflected. There is still a long way to go. But there is more to be done. Biju Babu's policies, ideals, and thoughts have affected everyone today. "We will continue to fight for the dignity of Odisha.

easier for the general public to access various government services. Highlighting Biju Babu's thoughts on the use of technology, the Chief Minister said that Biju Babu wanted the benefits of technology

to reach the villages and let the benefits of science be used in the service of the common man and improve his quality of life. Mo Seba Kendra is a strong step in this direction, said the Chief Minister while

adding that the kendras will allow the general public to have a variety of government benefits near their home. They will not need to visit the offices again and again. The Chief Minister said that one Mo Seba

Kendra would be opened in all the panchayats of the state in the coming days. This will provide employment opportunities for 8,000 young people. Similarly, the OdishaOne Portal would help provide services to the people of the city and those who have knowledge of using computers. He advised the administration to make the public aware of these two programs and to monitor the quality of services. The Chief Minister also exchanged views with the beneficiaries of Konark, Hinjili, Attabira, Nabarangpur, Bhadrak and Gajapati who took advantage of Mo Seba Kendra. The beneficiaries highly praised this State government's program. It is worthwhile to mention that during the inauguration of the 5T initiative in August 2019, the Chief Minister had said that the 5T initiative would be a landmark step in relieving the people of frequent visits to government offices to get various services. Participating in the event, Minister of E & IT, Sports & Youth Services, Tusharkanti Behera, described it as a historic step by the Chief Minister and opined that it would benefit all sections of the society.

# IFFCO Paradeep is setting an example for others in the corporate sector

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 5: Every year IFFCO Paradeep is setting an example for others in the corporate sector. During this pandemic when many companies and factories got shutdown, IFFCO rose above as one of the exception

COVID-19 time too. The annual production was the highest for IFFCO and it helped supplying required fertilizers to the farmers in this difficult time. This was all possible because of the ED of IFFCO Shri K.J. Patel. He lead the Paradeep Unit very com-

ployment to the people during this difficult time. Due to such excellent performance and leadership skills, Shri K.J. Patel, Executive Director, IFFCO recieved Best Corporate Excellence Award 2021. The award was presented by Shri Surya Narayan



functioning smoothly while following pandemic guidelines. IFFCO marked it's record production in this

mentably and helped many people during the lockdown. He contributed in providing farming and agricultural em-

Patra, Hon'ble Speaker, Govt. Of Odisha in an event organised by Interview Time at Bhubaneswar.

# Odisha Actress Sunita Garabadu Reacts To Trolls Over Nude Pic



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 5: Four days after being trolled for uploading her nude picture on Instagram, model and actor from Odisha Sunita Garabadu has finally broken her silence over the issue. In a video, the actress can be seen saying how people abused and sent her hate messages and also went to the extent of defaming her family for her post. She also said some users reported the post

and asked Instagram to block her profile. In her clarification, she said, "I have not gone against the terms and condition of the social media platform, which is why my post is still out there." To her trolls, Sunita said, "the world is much bigger, distinct and vaster than your small minds can fathom and the little wells that you live in. So please grow up." Secondly, I need not ask for it on Instagram because when I ask for it I get it

and I am already getting lots of it. I also want to say that everything about a woman's body is not related to sex. Stop seeing a woman's body only sexually. It's not an object of having sex or intercourse. If you can understand this, we will be able to solve a lot of problems going on in the world, including exploitation of women and the rape culture. Four days ago, Sunita took to Instagram and uploaded a nude picture of her, apparently posing for a mirror selfie, with caption "Sun soaking while fantasizing about Spain." The post drew mixed responses from the netizens. While some complimented the actor with comments like bold and beautiful, many others slammed her for the nudity on social media.

# Anjana Mishra Gang-Rape Main Accused Taken To Crime Spot For Scene Recreation



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 5: A team of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) today took the prime accused in Anjana Mishra gang-rape case, Biban Biswal, to the crime spot in Baranga of Cuttack district to recreate the scene. After the scene recreation, Biban will be brought back to CBI office in Bhubaneswar for further questioning. The CBI Kolkata yesterday took Biban on a two-day remand after conducting his TI (Test Identification) parade. The accused will be

produced before the Special CBI court this evening. Last month, Odisha police with the help of Maharashtra counterpart nabbed Vivekananda alias Biban Biswal, who was absconding for the last 22 years, from Aamby Valley in Lonavala near Mumbai. Revealing this at a presser, Police Commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi on February 22, had informed that the accused had changed his name to Jalandar Swain and was working as a plumber at Aamby Valley.

# Blood Donation camp on Marriage Anniversary

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Mar 5: A social Organization namely SAMARPAN has Organised a Blood donation camp in Hotel premises of Sagar Taranga on the occasion of annual marriage anniversary of BHIBHU DUTA SUBUDHI & MANASI SUBUDHI. In this camp 34 units of Blood has been collected. The PRESIDENT of Samarpan Dr. Abhimanyu Bhuyan, Secy Smt Jayanti Mohapatra, Soumya



Ranjan Patra, Kedar Mohapatra, Govinda Patra, Siba Narayan Senapati, Journalist Madhu Sudhan Mishra, Krishna Ch Patra, Bibhu Prasad Sahu, Subhendu Samantara, Sagarika, Charu, Mana, Badri, Shanti, Rasmita, Ajaya

, Priyanka, Madhab, Satya Patra were all Present in the camp & manged the camp. The Father of Bibhu dutta Subudhi Mrs Jayadev Subudhi & smt, Basanti Subudhi were present and encouraged the Blood donner

# District Level Panchayati Raj and Loka Seva Divas Celebrated at Khordha

(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, Mar 5: District Level Panchayati Raj and Loka Seva Divas was celebrated in the conference hall of DRDA, Khordha. On the occasions of 105 Birth Anniversary of legendary leader and Former Chief Minister of Odisha Biju Patnaik, Collector Khordha

Sanat Kumar Mohanty inaugurated the programme and said "Biju babu worked tirelessly for India's progress and pioneered the development of Odisha. The state government also observed the day as Panchayati Raj and Loka Seva Divas as Biju Patnaik was instrumental in decen-

tralizing power to grassroot level of Panchayati Raj Institutions. As part of his efforts towards empowerment for the first time in the country reserved 33 percent seats for females in the three-tire Panchayat elections during his tenure as the chief minister between 1990-1995." Project



Director District Rural Development Agency Khordha Digant Rouray preside over

the meeting and said that "the state has made progress basing its policies on Biju Patnaik

ideologies. He communicated effectively with the public and had the ability to convey his

ideas to them. He with a strong determination and sacrifice became a great politician and a social activist. He actively participated in the struggle for freedom and thus became the ideal personality for the people of Odisha to look up to. In this programme Additional Project Director (Ad-

ministration) Sashikanta Ray delivered the welcome speech. Additional Project Director (Technical) N. Hari Kumar, ORMAS Deputy CEO, Gundicha Behera, Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Media persons were remain present in this programme.

## EDITORIAL

## Burmese Spring

The Army, unmoved by global appeals, is back to repressive tactics to quell pro-democracy protests. All hell has broken loose on the streets of Myanmar as the security forces resorted to unbridled violence to crush peaceful anti-coup protests, reminding one of the Chinese crackdown in Tiananmen Square in the spring of 1989 and the bloodshed in Libya and Yemen in the Arab Spring of 2010. Though the official number of people killed in the “Burmese Spring” is being put at 38, the United Nations (UN) says the number is close to 50. However, the activists put the toll even higher as the armed forces continue to use lethal weapons on the protesters, resulting in unarmed teenagers, women and youth being killed for demanding what is rightfully theirs. No one is surprised at the recent show of brutality by the Tatmadaw, which had been in power in Myanmar since 1962 and had just about tolerated the quasi-democracy that began in 2011, even though the parliamentary elections and other reforms had been initiated by the military itself under global pressure. The February 1 coup, which returned the military to full power, had seen a major pushback from the repressed citizenry that obviously did not want to be living once more under the shadow of the ruthless Tatmadaw, which had gained notoriety for having crushed pro-democracy movements in 1988 and 2007 by shooting protesters. Though the forces had initially shown some restraint when the protests began, the Army became increasingly repressive each passing day as the demonstrations showed no signs of abating. In fact, the movement swelled as more people rallied together to protect their democracy and seek the release of their democratically-elected leaders. The military regime had to face global embarrassment and resort to firing the country’s ambassador to the UN a day after he gave an impassioned speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, pleading for international help in restoring democracy in his nation. Rattled by the unwanted global attention, the Tatmadaw became increasingly aggressive, thus inviting global sanctions. Now, the military, which has long been documented to be engaged in human rights abuses in conflict zones, seems to be past caring if the revelations by the UN’s Special Envoy Christine Schraner Burgener are to be believed. When Burgener warned the military that the UN Security Council and member States were likely to take strong measures against it, she was told: The February 1 coup, which returned the military to full power, had seen a major pushback from the repressed citizenry that obviously did not want to be living once more under the shadow of the ruthless Tatmadaw, which had gained notoriety for having crushed pro-democracy movements in 1988 and 2007 by shooting protesters. Though the forces had initially shown some restraint when the protests began, the Army became increasingly repressive each passing day as the demonstrations showed no signs of abating. In fact, the movement swelled as more people rallied together to protect their democracy and seek the release of their democratically-elected leaders. The military regime had to face global embarrassment and resort to firing the country’s ambassador to the UN a day after he gave an impassioned speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, pleading for international help in restoring democracy in his nation. Rattled by the unwanted global attention, the Tatmadaw became increasingly aggressive, thus inviting global sanctions. Now, the military, which has long been documented to be engaged in human rights abuses in conflict zones, seems to be past caring if the revelations by the UN’s Special Envoy Christine Schraner Burgener are to be believed. When Burgener warned the military that the UN Security Council and member States were likely to take strong measures against it, she was told: “We are used to sanctions, and we have survived those sanctions in the past.” Warned of global isolation, the Tatmadaw’s answer was: “We have to learn to walk with only few friends.” This is a worrying line of thought because when a regime that has a history of brutality and repression becomes indifferent to the consequences of its actions, there is not much the global community can do. For the people of the beleaguered country it means double trouble: The wrath of the authoritarian regime on the one hand, and the economic hardship that the sanctions bring, on the other. Whatever the global community has to do for the beleaguered citizens of Myanmar it must do fast, because the people there are running out of time.

## Stop romanticising interfaith marriages

If a Muslim man and Hindu woman marry, it is recommended they do it under the Special Marriage Act, which doesn’t have unequal rights. At my niece’s wedding in a church, the officiating priest began by declaring: “Marriage is a union; divine and indivisible.” This is a succinct way of expressing that marriage is a sacrament; no breaking until death does the union part. The Dictionary of Islam by Thomas Patrick Hughes (published by Rupa & Co) calls marriage a nikah, a word that in its literal sense means a conjunction. It is a contract till the husband wants it. He can divorce his wife at pleasure by giving a notice of three months. The wife does not have this privilege. If she wants to separate, she has to follow the procedure of khul, which entails finding a qazi and convincing him under the rules of fiqh or dogmatic theology of Muslims. If a Muslim man and Hindu woman fall in love, it is recommended that they marry under the Special Marriage Act, which does not have unequal rights nor requires the woman to change her religion or name, whereas a nikah insists that both partners be of the same religion, i.e. Muslim. If the man does not wish to divorce, he can take another wife. It is rare to find an interfaith marriage where the bride is a Muslim and the groom a Hindu. Perhaps the reason is that it is impermissible for a non-Muslim to marry a Muslim woman as he would have legal authority over her. The tenets of Islam say that God doesn’t allow non-Muslims to have authority over Muslims. A Muslim man can marry a non-Muslim woman, but not vice versa. This seems unfair, but the Islamic rationale is that a non-Muslim



Prafull Goradia

man will not respect his Muslim wife’s faith. These tenets also hold that while Muslims believe in all previous religions and Prophets of God and respect them, a non-Muslim does not return the favour. A non-Muslim husband might not explicitly express this, but a Muslim wife cannot expect her husband to respect her faith. Muslims believe in only the revealed religions of the Book, not other religions. A Muslim woman marrying a non-Muslim would eschew respect of the wife’s religion. Some time ago, celebrated IAS couple Tina Dabi and Athar Aamir Khan filed for divorce in Jaipur, two years after they had tied the nuptial knot. Their love story and marriage in 2018 had made national headlines. A video made by Tina, in which she alleged that her Muslim husband tortured her for wearing a burqa, converting to Islam, reading namaz and adopting ‘Khan’ in her name, went viral. Even without divorce, a Muslim male can

marry up to four wives at a time; with divorce, there is no limit on the number of wives he can have. Hinduism and Christianity insist on only one wife. For marrying a Muslim boy, girls must know the possibilities they face. If the boy is Muslim, his faith enjoins upon him to produce as many children as possible so that they achieve demographic preponderance. This is borne out by the Hadith (The Traditions, the second holy book after the Quran; The Dictionary of Islam by Hughes). Concerned Hindus understandably use the word ‘jihad’ in this context. It is time to stop romanticising interfaith marriages blindly. Marrying Muslim men does entail legal outcomes for non-Muslim women. Today’s political discourse is less than open in that it tends to ignore arguments of those who have issues with such marriages. Selective quoting and presentation of only particular views as acceptable does not help the cause of any

informed debate. The current secular outrage over interfaith marriages souring is focused on romanticising interfaith marriages as a virtue by itself and treating all such alliances as the same, which they regrettably are not. The rights of women under the Hindu Marriage Act or Special Marriage Act vary greatly from the rights of those who wed as per the Sharia. This has particular outcomes, as under Sharia, non-Muslim women have to first convert to Islam because this is a condition for marriage. Thus, any non-Muslim woman marrying a Muslim man instantly forfeits all her rights as she transits from a legal regime with more rights to one with fewer rights. This is not reversible, as Islam does not permit apostasy. Many women who convert for the sake of getting married, believing they can continue to practice their faith, are quickly belied of this notion; the faith they marry into doesn’t permit this either. Moreover, Hindus hold marriage to be a sacrament where even divorce is considered an anathema (though allowed legally). Under Sharia, it is only as a contract where a man can divorce his wife orally and instantly by simply saying talaq thrice (till it was banned). This is the chasm between the two worlds. Non-Muslim women must be made aware of these consequences. The blind eulogy and advocacy of interfaith marriages and pretending that all such alliances are of the same nature is dishonesty. Rosy and romanticised pictures of interfaith marriages carry the serious propensity of harming non-Muslim women, who might make hasty and misinformed decisions only to repent and suffer later.

## The Haryana bill is constitutionally indefensible, politically cynical

Pratap Bhanu Mehta

Domicile-based preferential policies indict the economy as a whole, suggesting a pessimism about both education and job creation. The Haryana government’s State Employment of Local Candidates Bill 2020 is constitutionally dubious, economically myopic, socially divisive and politically cynical. The Bill reserves 75 per cent of new jobs in private establishments under a compensation threshold of Rs 50,000 for Haryana residents. This is part of a growing pattern of domicile-based preferential policies, where state after state is flirting with laws of this kind. Andhra Pradesh has mandated 75 per cent reservation for locals; Karnataka is toying with the idea of reserving all blue collar jobs for locals; Madhya Pradesh has announced that public employment in the state be reserved for state residents. The last time there was such a contagion of domicile-based preferences was in the 1970s, when states such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh issued circulars directing employers to hire local residents. The Haryana Bill is constitutionally indefensible. The Constitution prohibits discrimination based on place of birth. The right to move freely in the country and reside and settle in any part of it, the right to carry out any trade or profession, are all established rights. Article 16(3) does, in principle, enable Parliament to provide for domicile-based preferential treatment in public employment. But the right to enact this exception has been given to Parliament, not to the states. In fact, Article 16(3) seems to have been a clever piece of constitutional engineering by Ambedkar. There were voices in the Constituent Assembly, most notably Mahavir Tyagi, who were advocating for residential qualifications as the bedrock of a strong federalism. He argued that if there were no residen-

tial qualifications, provinces would not be able to enjoy “self-government” and it would “go against the real spirit of Swaraj.” There were also a plethora of existing rules. In the debate on November 30, 1948, Ambedkar conceded that “you cannot allow people who are flying from one province to another, as mere birds of passage without any roots, without any connection with that particular province, just to come, apply for the post and take the plums away.” But by decreeing that only Parliament had the right to make exceptions, Ambedkar ensured that such rules would not be enacted, simply because Parliament would favour uniform rules across India. The constitutionality of domicile-based employment preferences (unlike preferences in education) has never been frontally tested. The courts have not shown an urgency in pricking this balloon. But almost all the existing case law that impinges on the matter clearly indicates such laws are unconstitutional. In Pradeep Jain vs Union of India, the court had indicated this direction; in Kailash Chandra Sharma vs State of Rajasthan, the court had warned against parochialism. The Andhra Pradesh Bill is sub judice in the high court. The Supreme Court will hopefully rule on the constitutionality of the Bill. But the Bill has ramifications beyond constitutionality. It is an exercise in political cynicism: The government knows it will be struck down. But it is all the more dangerous for that reason. First, because this kind of constitutional cynicism is now not an exception but has become a contagion. Second, even if the Bill is struck down, such a high wire act is meant to fuel the flames of localism. As the Shiv Sena had demonstrated in the ’70s, political parties can bring formal and infor-

mal pressure to bear on industries and enterprises, once you make preferential treatment of residents a wedge issue. Third, the Bill now exposes the bad faith of political parties on private sector reservation more generally. We can debate where private sector reservation is desirable or not. But the one prong of a defence used to be that the private sector cannot be subject to the same yardstick as the public sector; imposing reservation would not just interfere with freedom of trade and business, it might also be a form of expropriation. Given the variety of parties now espousing domicile-based reservation, the argument that the “private sector” can be protected will be an argument in bad faith; and arguably the case for reservation for social justice is stronger than the case based on domicile. Fourth, these bills will open up a new form of competitive ethnic politics. It is odd that a state like Haryana which has benefitted from being part of a cosmopolitan zone like NCR should unilaterally impose reservations. Would NOIDA or Delhi be in its rights to bar Gurgaon residents from working there? Fifth, there is patent class discrimination: If you are rich, privileged or highly skilled, there are no entry barriers in accessing any labour market. But we shall put entry barriers on lower skilled migrants; our own internal version of an H-1B visa. The economic consequences for Haryana are uncertain, in part because the government itself is cynical about the Bill. The Bill has several provisions that can provide for a workaround: You can apply for an exemption if there is not enough local talent; the fines for non-compliance may allow companies to absorb the cost of violation. But the greatest damage the Bill

does is to increase the discretionary power of the state, almost taking us back to a license permit raj, where companies will have to bargain, or worse, bribe the state for exemptions. This is the antithesis of regulatory reform. These bills are a canary in the mine. States are still not entirely comfortable with migration. They militate against the ideal that any Indian should be able to countenance the prospect of making a life in any part of India. Second, they reveal the fact that slogans of “One India” are weaponised, to be used when convenient. In some ways, 75 per cent reservation in private sector employment is a worse form of exceptionalism than other forms of asymmetric federalism like Article 370 that the BJP railed against. The sociology of the Bill is also interesting: It seems to want to protect, not the most vulnerable workers, but the educated who cannot seem to be able to compete in a tight labour market. But the fact that states feel the need to enact these bills is an indictment of the economy as a whole: They suggest a pessimism about both education and job creation. So we have returned to a world of zero sum thinking. It looks like Mr Khattar does not have faith in Mr Modi.flow. While we exercise, we breathe more thus ensuring a good amount of oxygen into our bodies. The heart rate goes up. This means the oxygen intake is distributed at a faster rate to the body and more important the brain. Good flow of blood to the brain improves your thinking. Information gets processed faster and more efficiently. Indulge in some exercise that appeals you. It may be a brisk one hour walk in the morning, a game of football, tennis, badminton, squash or any other game, yoga or even an hour at the gym. The choice is yours but do it on a regular basis. Do it to keep your brain fit.

## Bride Dies Of Heart Attack During 'Bidai'



(A.O. Bureau) Sonepur, Mar 5: Celebrations turned sour as a newly-wed woman reportedly died of heart attack after crying inconsolably during 'Bidai' (bride leaving parents' house) at Julunda village under Dunguripali police limits in Odisha's Sonepur

district. According to reports, Rozy Sahu of the village and Bisikeshan Sahu of Tetel village in Balangir district tied the nuptial knot yesterday. During the 'Bidai' this morning, the bride cried and later fell unconscious. She was rushed to Dunguripali Community

Health Centre, where doctor declared her dead. Heart attack led to the death of the woman, a doctor said. The body was sent for post-mortem while police have started investigation into the incident. A pall of gloom descended on the locality after the tragic incident.

## Advocate Arrested For Producing Fake Court Order Copy In Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, Mar 5: Producing fake court order copy proved costly for an advocate after the Jujumura Police of Sambalpur district arrested him on charges of cheating and forgery. Reportedly, advocate Brajamohan Pradhan produced a fake court order copy and submitted it in Jujumura police station to release a truck detained by the cops fol-

lowing a road mishap on February 19. Police sources said on February 19, one Prem Kumar of Ichhapalli village was killed after his scooter was hit by a truck at Military Square near Basiapada on NH-55. In this connection, police had registered a cases under Sections 297 and 304 of IPC, seized the truck and arrested driver Rajesh Singh. To release the truck, ve-



hicle owner contacted advocate Brajamohan of Bada Turang village seeking his help. The advocate produced a fake order copy of SDJM court with dupli-

cate signature and stamp and submitted it in the police station. Seeing the order copy, the police suspected it to be forged and enquired it with the

court officials. Later, the police found the order copy fake and arrested the advocate under Sections 420 and 466 of IPC. The accused was produced before the court and later sent to jail as the court rejected his bail plea. A similar complaint has been lodged with Sambalpur Town police and involvement of the accused advocate is suspected in this case, police sources said.

## National Safety Week kicks off at PPT



(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Mar 5: "Learn from Disaster and Prepare for a Safer Future" being the theme, the 50th National Safety Week is being observed by Paradip Port Trust. Shri A.K. Bose, Dy.Chairman, PPT inaugurated Safety Week Celebrations on March 4, 2021. Safety Rally and Safety Rally have been the major highlights of the week long celebrations. Attending the inaugural function at Gate No.4, as the Chief Guest, Shri Bose hoisted the safety flag

and administered the safety pledge. Addressing the gathering he said that we should not just limit safety to a weeklong celebration. For remaining 51 weeks of a year also we have to make it priority in our lives. Human capital is the most important component in any organisations and due to negligence, one can't afford it to lose the life. As the Port is vying for the number one position in the country in safety standard also, it should set a benchmark. Safety practices must be given

paramount importance. He appealed to the workers not to venture inside the port prohibited area in two wheelers to avoid any untoward incident. The Asst. Addl. Director, Dock Safety(DGFASLI), Shri B.Gopinath and HoDs of PPT also spoke on the occasion. Shri Saroj Kumar Das, CME, PPT in his welcome address called upon to ensure integration of occupational safety and health in our work culture and lifestyle. Shri P.K.Kar, Safety Officer, PPT offered the vote of thanks.

## Adani Foundation organizes exposure visit for Women Producer Groups

(A.O. Bureau) Dhamra, Mar 5: With an objective to encourage women producer group members to engage themselves in undertaking and improving various income generation activities as alternate livelihood opportunities, Adani Foundation, the CSR wing of Adani Dhamra Port have organized an exposure visit for 8 Women Producer Group members of Dosinga, Jagula, Kaitakhola, Karanjamal, Karanpali near Dhamra port periphery Gram Panchayats to Odisha Livelihood Mission operational blocks of Jajpur district. The 30 Women Producer Group members were taken to Tandra,



Kabirpur, Narasinghpur villages of Korei, Jajpur & Rasulpur blocks of Jajpur district. The members were visited sites of mushroom farming, phenyl manufacturing unit, pickle, Bari & spices manufacturing unit, commercial vermicompost unit, honey beekeeping etc. developed by Maa Hingula & Maa

Santoshi SHG members in support of Odisha Livelihood Mission, ORMAS & NABARD. The members interacted with concern OLM block officers and the trainers on programs which would help them in becoming self-reliant. They also discussed with local SHG members pertaining to scope

and way of implementing these income generation activities in Dhamra port periphery villages. The visit has increased women the confidence in decision making not only in women engagement in different subsidiary income generation activities intend to generate additional income to the family but also women

involvement in decision making at the household and community level - said Renukabala Bhuiyan, Udyogi Mitra, Maa Dhamarai Mahila Utpadaka Gosti. The day-long of exposure visit was coordinated and supported by the District Project Manager and his team of Odisha Livelihood Mission of Jajpur district.

## DRDO Test Fires Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet

(A.O. Bureau) Chandipur, Mar 5: In yet another milestone, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Friday successfully carried out a flight demonstration based on Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from Integrated Test Range

Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. "All the sub-systems, including the booster motor and nozzleless motor, performed as expected. During the test, many new technologies were proven, including Solid Fuel based Ducted Ramjet technology," an official statement read.

## 'Ghost' Captured On Camera In Odisha Village!

(A.O. Bureau) Kalahandi, Mar 5: An alleged spooky encounter in the dead of the night in a remote village which was captured on camera has created a sensation in the tribal dominated district after the video went viral on Thursday. The alleged video was shot by a villager from Chikili village under Junagarh block of Kalahandi district. As per reports, late on Thursday night the villager was travelling back to his home with some of his friends on a tractor when they encountered a human-like figure walking alone in the middle of the road wearing a white saree. In the shadowy video, the figure could be seen walking towards the tractor, leaving the passengers shudder in frenzy. After the driver



pulled the breaks and stopped the engine, the figure without a head or legs stopped and tried to move away from the glare of the tractor's powerful headlights. After a while, the passengers got hysterical and began screaming. As per reports, some of them abandoned the vehicle and ran backwards for cover while the horrified

driver struggled to restart the vehicle. The figure meanwhile quietly drifted away before melting into the bushes lining the dusty road fluttering the white saree. Though fear and panic has gripped the village after the video went viral, there has been no response from the local administrations over the authenticity of the video.

## Sand Mafia Tries To Eliminate RI By Running Him Over By Dumper

(A.O. Bureau) Balasore, Mar 5: A Revenue Inspector (RI) in the district sustained severe injuries after he was allegedly run over by a dumper by a sand mafia at Ambaliaatha square under Jaleswar police limits on Thursday. The RI has been identified as Dilip Chand. The victim has been admitted to a nearby hospital in a critical condition. According to reports, Chand was conducting inspection of the vehicles. The sand mafia tried to eliminate him when he tried to pre-



vent the vehicle transporting sand illegally to West Bengal. The driver of the dumper tried to run over him. The vehicle

ran over the foot of the RI and the driver managed to flee away. Upon being informed, police rushed to the spot and

started an investigation into the incident. "We were on enforcement duty along with the Additional Tehsildar. A lo-

cal vehicle ran over my leg when we tried to prevent it from illegal transporting of sand," said Chand. According to reports, illegal sand mining is disconcertingly prevalent in several parts of the State. It is alleged that sand is being lifted from the approved areas within different quarries. Such activity is resulting in the change of course of the affected river, thereby increasing threat to villages close to the embankments.

## Tubectomy Goes Awry, Woman Allegedly Left With Severed Food Pipe

(A.O. Bureau) Jharsuguda, Mar 5: A woman from Jharsuguda's Lakhanpur was left struggling for life after her food pipe was allegedly severed by a doctor performing tubectomy (family planning surgery) on her at Lakhanpur community health centre on Tuesday.

The disturbing report came to fore after Sarita Bhoi, the victim was admitted to VIMSAR in Burla after she complained of severe pain following the surgery. Alleging gross negligence, a relative of Sarita said, "The doctor did not even inform us about the mistake. He directly sent us to

Jharsuguda for further treatment. The erring doctor should be punished appropriately." Sushant Das, a local of Lakhanpur alleged, "Sarita was referred to Jharsuguda DHH after her tubectomy in Lakhanpur and subsequently to Burla after her health condition deteriorated."

A comparatively easier surgery, tubectomy reportedly went wrong in the case of another woman in the same medical camp as well. As per reports, the woman's condition deteriorated after the surgery in the same hospital. However, she is reportedly out of danger now.

Speaking to the media, the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) of Jharsuguda, Lal Mohan Routray said, "I cannot tell what happened in her case until I receive a detailed report. We will conduct an inquiry on the allegation and will take action appropriately."



Jhumpura Block awarded by District Administrators for more than 10 lakhs person days generation during the Financial year 2020-21 and covid-19 pandemic.

# Hollywood Celebrities Show Support to Meghan Markle Amid Bullying Accusations



New Delhi, Mar 5: Several Hollywood celebrities including Gabrielle Union, Halle Berry and Chance the Rapper have come out in support of Meghan Markle after she faced bullying accusations from the staff at Buckingham Palace. While the

Buckingham Palace issued a statement saying that they will launch a probe into the matter, Meghan has called this a "a calculated smear campaign based on misleading and harmful misinformation". Meghan's

friends in Hollywood Bunch", alongside a Times of London report claiming Meghan faced a bullying complaint by one of her "closest advisers" at Kensington Palace. "Do y'all find yourselves getting mad as HELL every time they talk sideways about the Duchess Meghan?" tweeted Chance the Rapper. Halle Berry, who is not very active on microblogging sites, made an exception as she posted, "It's still Protect Black Women." Meghan and Harry are slated to appear on the Oprah Winfrey Show for a tell-all interview. In a teaser released, Harry can be heard talking about the intense media harassment faced by his mother Princess Diana during her second pregnancy and later.

# Disha Patani Does Her Make-up for First Time



New Delhi, Mar 5: Bollywood actress and fitness enthusiast Disha Patani did her make-up for a professional shoot recently, and she is over the moon with the experience. Disha posted a clip on Instagram

where she sits in front of a dressing table, applying make-up in a white robe. "My first time doing my own Makeup at a brand shoot," she wrote as the caption, without mentioning what she was shooting for. The actress currently awaits the release of the Salman Khan-starrer Radhe. Salman and Disha have previously worked together in the

film Bharat. Radhe also has Randeep Hooda in the cast and is directed by Prabhudheva. That apart, she is also looking forward to reuniting with filmmaker Mohit Suri in Ek Villain 2. The actress collaborated with Suri in their 2020 film Malang. Disha will also be seen in KTina, produced by Ekta Kapoor. The film also features Akshay Oberoi and Sunny Singh.

# Nora Fatehi Becomes First African Arab Female Artiste to Hit 1 Billion Mark with 'Dilbar'



New Delhi, Mar 5: Nora Fatehi has become the first African Arab female artiste to hit the 1 billion views mark on YouTube with her song 'Dilbar' from Satyameva Jayate. The Nora Fatehi dance number "Dilbar" has touched the one billion mark on YouTube, making her the first African Arab female artiste to achieve the feat. The superhit dance number features in the 2018 film "Satyameva Jayate". "Dilbar is an

important song for a lot of people. It marked the beginning of a lot of careers and introduced me to the world!" said Nora. Nora's dance is filmed on a recreated version of an original song from the 1999 release Sirf Tum, which featured a superhit dance number by Sushmita Sen. The dance proved to be a turning point in Nora's career, commencing a streak of chartbusters and successful hits. An African Arab origin ac-

trix from Canada, Nora would go on to show her dancing skills in tracks such as O Saki Saki, Ek Toh Kam Zindagani, Garmi, and Naach Meri Rani amongst others. Talking about this achievement, Nora said: "I am ecstatic and honoured as an artiste representing India, Africa and the Middle East globally to hit such a milestone in my career." The actress will soon be seen in the film Bhuj: The Pride Of India.

# How Students and Teachers Can Stay Safe from Coronavirus Amid Schools Reopening

New Delhi, Mar 5: With children being one of the most vulnerable category, extra precautions need to be taken by the school authorities, teachers, parents of the students and the students themselves. With the commencement of nationwide vaccination drive and the falling numbers of active Covid-19 cases, the government has decided to slowly allow schools to re-open. Starting in phases the schools are first re-opening for the students of the 10th and 12th standard and will then be applied to the junior classes. Subsequently it is essential that precautions for prevention of further spread are taken as seriously as before, the numbers might be dipping but the virus is still lingering and we have to take all possible measures to curb its spread. With children being one of the most vulnerable category, extra precautions need to be taken by the school authorities, teachers,



parents of the students and the students themselves. Basic facts like social distancing, wearing masks, practicing hand hygiene need to be taught and demonstrated to them as the new norms of living. While calling students back to schools has been allowed by the government, in interest of the safety and health of children the schools

must practice: Hybrid school model -- this is a combination of distance/virtual learning and in-person/traditional form of schooling. This involves limiting the number of students that will come to school in one go so that social distancing can be practiced effectively School authorities to make sure that the building is clean and hygienic -- Sur-

faces and objects (eg. desks and tables) need to be wiped with disinfectant regularly Promote regular and thorough hand-washing with the children and put sanitizing hand rub dispensers in prominent places around the workplace Teach the children the essence of practicing respiratory hygiene and using a mask to cover the

face and the nose Restrict social events assemblies and even gathering at student canteens and the practice of sharing food Mandatory thermal screening, no person with slightest of symptoms like fever, cough to be allowed in the premises and should be recommended immediate self-isolation

# Abhinav Shukla Never Wants to Meet Jasmin Bhasin Again, Ji Soo Replaced From TV Show Post Assault Allegations

New Delhi, Mar 5: Bigg Boss participant Abhinav Shukla said that he never wants to meet Jasmin Bhasin again. Korean actor Ji Soo has been replaced from his show post school violence accusations. This and more in today's entertainment wrap Abhinav Shukla and his wife Rubina Dilaik shared a great bond with Jasmin Bhasin inside Bigg Boss 14 house. However, things turned upside down after a panchayat task inside the house. While fans thought things would get better between them once the show was over, it seems Abhinav is in no mood to bury hatchet with Jasmin. In an interview with ABP news.com, Abhinav said

that he doesn't want to meet Jasmin again. During a rapid fire segment, when Abhinav was asked about a contestant he will never meet again, he took Jasmin Bhasin's name. Korean actor Kim Ji Soo will be replaced in the drama River Where the Moon Rises following school bullying and sexual assault allegations. A spokesperson for KBS has said that they have decided that Ji Soo would be leaving the drama. "Ji Soo, who has recently become the center of controversy, will be stepping down from 'River Where the Moon Rises'. We are in discussions with the production company about our next steps," they said. Nach Baliye is



one of the most loved reality shows, where audience see their favourite celebrity couples flaunting their dancing skills.

With Nach Baliye 10 around the corner, media reports suggest that these five popular celebrity pairs have been ap-

proached for the show. As per a report, Gauahar Khan-Zaid Darbar, Rupali Ganguly-Ashwin Verma, Deepika Singh-

Rohit Raj Goyal, newlyweds Aditya Narayan-Shweta Agarwal and Megha Chakraborty with her partner are ex-

pected to entertain the viewers with their dance performances. The Mumbai Zonal Unit of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) today filed its chargesheet in the alleged drug probe related to the death case of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput. NCB's Mumbai Zonal Director Sameer Wankhade, who overlooked the entire probe, confirmed the development but declined to comment on further details. A total of 35 people have been named in the chargesheet. Among those who are mentioned in the chargesheet include Rajput's former girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Shovik

Chakraborty. Rajput's former manager Samuel Miranda and household help Dipesh Sawant have also been named. Megastar Amitabh Bachchan on Thursday shared a poem about his eye surgery, saying that he is in the "sweet company" of those who care for him. The actor, who had revealed about the eye surgery on March 1, also expressed his gratitude to fans for their well wishes in the poem. In the poem, posted on his official blog on Thursday, Bachchan said that he is "without sight" but not "sightless". "I am without sight, but sightless not in my path, I am without convenience, but never inconvenienced," he began.

## Team management fine with Pant's approach as long as he gets the job done: Rohit Sharma



Ahmedabad, Mar 5: Rishabh Pant's attacking style of batting has the Indian team management's mandate as long as he gets the "job done" more often than not and people

should cut him some slack when there is an odd failure, feels senior batsman Rohit Sharma. The young left-hander, who has often been criticised for his mode of dismissals, scored a

fabulous hundred in the fourth Test to put India in the driver's seat against England. "Pant has his own style of batting. Obviously there have been messages, as to how he needs to approach his innings. He seems to be batting in his own style which is great from our perspective as well, because he seems to be getting the job done, which is more important," Rohit said at the post-match press conference. Rohit could empathise a lot with Pant as he too has seen the flip side of being rated as a talent which comes with its own share of ruthless scrutiny. "You should have a mix of players in your squad. There would be a few guys who would play respectfully, then you need someone who will take those chances, be courageous, which is absolutely fine for team management as long as he gets the job done,"

said the India white ball vice-captain. Rohit urged one and all not to nitpick Pant's occasional failures which come with the package. "But there will be times when he will play his shots and he will get out and I don't want anyone to get upset with that. Because he is someone, who will play an innings like that to get the team from a tough situation to suddenly within a span of one hour, the team starts looking different." For Rohit, it was Mahendra Singh Dhoni's faith that turned him into the opener that he became in white ball cricket and now is realising his potential in the traditional format. He feels that even Pant can play freely with the backing of the team management. "People like Pant, you need to back their skills, back their ability and management understands that and he has been

given the freedom as well which is very important from my perspective as I completely understand from a batsman's point of view. "When you have captain and coach backing you, how important a feeling is that to have as a player. Pant seems to have that now. He will give you knocks like this every now and then but I don't want anyone to make opinions about how he got out playing bad shots." "At the end of the day, we need these (kind of) guys who can take those chances and bring the team at a position which no one was expecting." When the cliched question of whether Pant is ready to fill Mahendra Singh Dhoni's shoes was asked, Rohit was way less diplomatic than some of his peers. "He is more than ready I guess. He seems to be doing the job for us."

## Switching from 'favourite' javelin to a new model helped Neeraj Chopra break national record

New Delhi, Mar 5: A switch to a new javelin from his 'old favourite' helped Neeraj Chopra set a new national mark in the men's javelin throw on return to competition after a year. In his fifth attempt Chopra, in a fluorescent green top and sporting a long mane, improved the national mark by a centimetre to 88.07 metres, a timely show of form with the Tokyo Olympics just months away. Chopra, like most javelin throwers, has a sense of how far he has thrown even before the javelin lands. On Friday, Chopra didn't show any emotion immediately after the spear left his hand. Owing to techni-

(Nordic) in the fifth throw. I didn't even feel like I had thrown with so much power but it was a very good throw. With experience I am sure I can throw better," Chopra said after the event. Indian javelin throwers, especially Chopra and Shivpal Singh — both have qualified for the Olympics — have been experimenting with the latest version of the Nordic Sport carbon javelins. Chopra has been using the Nemeth make, but seems to have slowly taken a liking for the Nordic Sport model, which is unforgiving to less-than-perfect techniques. It's advantage: vibration free flight path

using them in training. The feedback has been positive but coaches have left it to the athletes to think on their feet, depending on conditions, and use the appropriate one. "The modern Nordic, for example, Valhalla (version Chopra used) are carbon javelins and very stiff but have less vibration for example. Nemeth is softer. The Valhalla from Nordic is relatively new, but Nemeth's models have been in the market for quite long without any changes," Hohn said. The coach said that if Chopra uses the right javelin, he will be able to throw 92 metres. "The national record by Neeraj would probably



## Swiss Open: Ajay Jayaram beats World No 12 Rasmus Gemke

New Delhi, Mar 25: Ajay Jayaram keeps reminding the world intermittently that the tiny-tag of a seedling that accompanies top players as they head into the business end of a tournament, often precludes his claims to immense talent and badminton nous. Once again at the Swiss Open, the unseeded shuttler neatly packed off fancied and third seeded Rasmus Gemke to advance into the quarterfinals with a 21-18, 17-21, 21-13 win against the third best Dane currently after Viktor Axelsen and Anders Antonsen. Ajay's game is always easy on the eye, but his graceful manner of going about achieving what is essentially a brutal result — evicting an opponent, straddles a calculated tight-rope of offense and defense. The Mumbaiikar, who trains at Bangalore, of course has the skills to deceive — both at the net and from the back. But it is in his deceptive switch of intent, a mighty cerebral ploy, used at the rightest of junctures, that Ajay can land the knockout punch. Leading 6-2 in the opener, Gemke would catch up at



10-all. The Dane would take longer strides to race to 17-13 — a crucial point from where the top players rub their reputations into faces of the journeymen and slam doors on their faces. But Ajay's pedigree is not meant for such snubs — though his rank is dawdling at No 60. So he set about working his way back into contention. "I knew getting into today's match, that it would be a test mentally and physically as Gemke is someone who likes to play those hard rallies at a good pace," he would say. Trading points through those crescendo building rallies, Ajay had to bring his wide range game into the picture to hike back.

"The first set was a see-saw battle, but I did well in the end to pull it out. Had to dig deep and throw in a mix of attacking and defensive play," he said. He would fall back in the second, but not get unduly worried. At his best, the 33-year-old was ranked 13th in June 2017. Twice, in the run-up to last two Olympics, he has been in touching distance of qualifying as India's sole best ranked player, but pipped to the post. Lagging behind in the second set ceases to seem catastrophic when that kind of experience is on the resume. "Though the second set didn't go my way, I was confident about the third one. Early lead was the key.

I'm glad I managed to maintain the pressure through the third set," he would say, happy with the gruelling win achieved after he rushed from 10-8 to take the next 6 points in a hurry. After packing off a Thai in the opening round, another one awaits in the quarters — this one comes with a tag of being a prodigy, looking to leapfrog over the rest to make it to the Games. Kunvalut Vitidsam is a multiple junior World champ, in a hurry to play amongst the men, and with a steady game and temperament to back it. Seeded 8th, he'll be up against the Indian with a lot more guile than his rank betrays. "The focus now is on getting my

body ready for tomorrow's quarterfinal. Looking forward to it," he would say. India will have three quarterfinalists in contention, in what is a throwback to how the 2017 Super Series season used to be. This is a mid-range event, but it'll be a good test of just how prepared the top Indians are to storm the season. Kidambi Srikanth needed three to beat Frenchman Thom Rouxel. The 21-10, 14-21, 21-14 game stretched for 50 odd minutes but it was a neat demarcation of dominance and not as tricky as it seemed. Pablo Abian is the sort of mid-table player that Sai Praneeth loves scything through, and it was a clinical 21-12, 21-17 dismissal. But Srikanth's first real test starts against Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen. It's a typically slippery opponent that Srikanth has been susceptible to in these long seasons of lackluster results. Sai Praneeth will need to bring out his net deceptions and tangles to stop Malaysian big hope Lee Zii Jia from running away with matches, as he is prone to.

cal difficulties (four cameras), the flight of the javelin was not telecast to viewers during the live streaming of the men's event on the Athletics Federation of India's YouTube channel. The confirmation of a new national record came a minute later on the electronic display board, before an official announcement. The distance achieved with Nordic Sport javelin, despite strong winds (from the left) at the National Institute of Sports, Patiala, perhaps surprised Chopra too. "There was a strong wind today. Earlier (rounds) I threw with a javelin which is my favourite. That gains a good height. But now Nordic Sport has brought out a new javelin. It helps when you throw in windy conditions if you release it well. I decided to throw with the new javelin

in headwinds and greater distance if the throwing technique and release is good. Foreign coach Uwe Hohn, the only thrower to cross 100 metres, is a strong believer that athletes must adapt during a competition. He listed out the reasons why throwers can benefit when using the right javelin according to conditions. "Javelins are made for different capabilities of athletes and wind conditions. Javelins are also built differently (shape, material) and therefore are also different in stiffness. Some are better for headwind like Nordic and others are good with tailwind like Nemeth. Choosing the right javelin will help athletes improve," Hohn said. It is not that Indian throwers haven't used Nordic javelins before, but the latest models were imported recently and throwers have been

be 92 metres if he is able to let the javelin fly properly," Hohn said. The coach felt Chopra's throw was 'much better, especially in difficult conditions.' Though Chopra improved on the national mark by a centimetre, it was a significant throw because he and Shivpal (81.63 on Friday) have not competed since qualifying for the Olympics during competition in Potchefstroom, South Africa, in January 2020. "I have not competed for a long time. Also in 2019 I was injured and out for 15 months. When I returned, I competed in South Africa and threw 87.86 metres to qualify for the Olympics. Because of the Coronavirus, I could not compete for a long time. So I am happy with the new record. I hope to compete in more competitions and do well at the Olympics," Chopra said.

## Mumbai City take on FC Goa, ATK Mohun Bagan play NorthEast United

New Delhi, Mar 5: A chaotic last day of the league-stage saw Mumbai City usurp ATK Mohun Bagan to top the Indian Super League (ISL) table. It earned the 'Islanders' the coveted AFC Champions League spot. Earlier that same day, a goalless draw between Hyderabad FC and FC Goa — in which both teams were reduced to 10 men — meant that the latter secured the final playoff spot. FC Goa will take on league-stage winners Mumbai FC in the semi-final, while Kolkata-side will play third placed NorthEast United. A

single transfer window completely changed the fortunes of Mumbai City, who before this season had made just a few play-off appearances without much effect. When the City Football Group took over the Mumbai-franchise, they hired the services of former FC Goa coach Sergio Lobera to take command of the squad. Lobera brought with him the core players that helped the Goan team qualify for the AFC Champions League last year — along with gifted strikers Adam Le Fondre and Bartholomew Ogbeche. Mumbai City



topped the table for most of the duration of the group stage, but was briefly replaced at the top by ATK Mohun Bagan. As both clubs tussled for the Champions League

spot, it came down to their last match of the season which incidentally was against each other. Mumbai City, the team to beat through most of the season, won that contest

2-0. Facing Mumbai City for a spot in the ISL final will be a Goan team that lost most of its core from last year. It seemed unlikely for FC Goa to rebuild a squad so quickly,

let alone make the play-offs, but under Juan Ferrando, not only has the club arrested all doubts about a decline, but also put on a show in their two high-intensity league games against Mumbai. Narrowly missing out on a Champions League spot after clawing hard to get back to the top of the table, ATK now face NorthEast United. Winning the playoffs would mean a spot in the AFC Cup, Asia's second tier competition. As this season went by, one thing was clear: Win, lose or draw — all of ATK's results hinged on Roy

Krishna. The striker has scored 14 goals and made four assists in 20 games — making him the league's leading goalscorer and has more assists than any other teammate. Despite the depth of talent in the squad, Krishna has been the only player constantly stepping up and has single-handedly dragged his team into the playoffs. Khalid Jamil scripted one of the greatest underdog tales in Indian football when he oversaw Aizawl FC winning the I-League in 2017, a mere two years after they achieved promotion from the then sec-

ond division. Now Jamil has the chance to script history yet again. If NorthEast United can win the title, Jamil will become the first Indian manager to lift the ISL trophy. And despite fielding the least-known line-up among all four teams in the playoff, NEUFC's chances are a lot brighter than many would think. Having finished third in the league, NorthEast lost just one game in the six against the other three playoff teams during the group stage — a 2-0 defeat to ATK. They also beat Mumbai City in both the matches they played each other.

## 69th Senior National Volleyball (M & W) Championship Inaugurated

(A.O. Bureau)  
Bhubaneswar, Mar 5: The 69th Senior National Volleyball (Men & Women) Championship 2020-21 has been inaugurated at Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, KIIT Deemed to be University on March 5, 2021. Tusharkanti Behera, Minister Sports & Youth Services and Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of Odisha joined as Chief Guest in the inaugural ceremony while Anil Choudhary, Secretary General, Volleyball Federation of India (VFI); Rathin Ray Choudhury, Sr. Vice President, VFI and Chairman, Control Committee; Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Hon'ble MP, Kandhamal; President, VFI and Founder, KIIT & KISS; Prof. Sasmita Samanta, Organizing President and Pro-VC, KIIT Deemed to be University, Prof. H. K. Mohanty, VC, KIIT DU joined as guests and grace the occasion. Dr. A. Samanta, Presided over the Inaugural Ceremony, while Dr. Gaganendu Dash, Secretary Organizing Com-



mittee, Associate Jt. Secy., VFI, Honorary General Secretary, Odisha Volleyball Association and Director, Sports, KIIT and KISS gave vote of thanks. On the occasion of legend Biju Patnaik's 105th birth anniversary, the inaugural ceremony was after giving floral tribute to late Biju Babu. Among others Presidents and general secretaries of states and UTs volleyball associations were also present in the inaugural ceremony. For the first time in the history of Indian volleyball, Odisha as a state hosted the senior national cham-

pionship consecutively after successfully conducting the 68th Senior National Volleyball (M&W) Championship last year. Also for the first time all the matches would be played in Indoor courts with live streaming. All the matches will be played at Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium as per COVID guidelines of Govt. of Odisha. Odisha as a state has been allotted four Volleyball National Championship - 36th Junior National Volleyball Championship 2009, 41st National Sub Junior Volleyball Championship 2019, 68th Se-

nior National Volleyball (M&W) Championship 2019-20 and the forthcoming 69th Senior National Volleyball (M&W) Championship 2020-21. All the four tournaments have been conducted at KIIT premises. More than 1200 Men & Women volleyball players from 28 states and 8 union territories are participating in this National Championship. For the first time the union territory Ladakh team have been participating with proper permission from President, VFI. Many Arjuna Awardee as well as international & national

players would be participating in this championship. The Indian Volleyball team for the upcoming Asian Championship and other international meets would be selected through this championship. The selection committee for the Indian Volleyball Men Team consists of Shri. G.E. Sridharan, Dronacharya Awardee, Arjuna Awardee & Present Coach of Indian Volleyball Team; Dr. Dale Singh, Arjuna Awardee and Shri Jagir Singh Randhawa. The selection committee for the Indian Volleyball Women Team consists of Shri Ajay Jangra from SAI, Shri. Daljeet Singh, and Ms. Vaishali Phadtare, Present Coach of Indian Volleyball Team. Shri Prakash Roy and Shri A. Ramana Rao, Dronacharya Awardee & Arjuna Awardee will be the coordinator of both the selection committees. The inaugural match was held between Odisha and Madhya Pradesh in Men's Category and Odisha Vs. Rajasthan in Women's Category.

## 105 District Level Panchayat Raj Divas Observed at Rayagada

(A.O. Bureau)  
Rayagada, Mar 5: This program was observed at DRDA Rayagada, the chief guest Mr. N Bhaskar Rao, member of Rajya Sabha. Alongwith Shri Sudhir Das, Advisor Biju Swasta Kalyan Yojna, MLA Mr. Makhrand Mudli, Mr. Ganga Puala

and all the zila parishad members along with the administration staff were during this program. District Collector Mr. S. K. Mishra shared the views and thoughts of Mr. Biju Pattnaik for whom this day is being observed. He also said the importance of celebrating this day and also said that

day is celebrated as Lok Seva Divas. Similarly Mr. N. Bhaskar Rao expressed his views for Mr. Biju Pattnaik along with other guests present in the event. A Blood Donation Camp was also organized on this occasion at Ashok Kalyan Mandap Rayagada.



## NPCI partners with SBI Payments to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS' solution

(A.O. Bureau)  
Mumbai, March 5, 2020: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with SBI Payments to announce the launch of 'RuPay SoftPoS' for millions of Indian merchants. This innovative solution has the capability to transform NFC enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers. Merchants will now be able to accept contactless payments of up to INR 5000 through a simple tap and pay mechanism on their smart phones. RuPay SoftPoS will provide cost effective acceptance infrastructure to retailers at nominal cost. This unique phenomenon would be able to proliferate digital payment acceptance among millions of underserved Indian MSMEs. Merchants can convert their existing android smartphone devices into a payment terminal by simply downloading a supported app. This solution will revolutionize the way micro and small merchants receive payments and create a demarcated shift in their tendency to deal in cash to accepting secure, contactless digital payments instead. The RuPay SoftPoS is convenient and creates a superior transaction experience. Once the

- RuPay SoftPoS aims at digitally enabling the merchants to turn their smartphones into a PoS machine
- This innovative and convenient solution will create a low cost, easy to use, acceptance infrastructure for the merchants
- The RuPay SoftPoS will empower customers to make seamless 'Tap and Go' payments using the merchant's NFC enabled smart phones

contactless menu is chosen, an appropriate amount is entered (< INR 5000). The RuPay card can then be tapped on the merchant's mobile making these transactions instantaneously. As soon as the transaction is approved, the receipt of successful transaction is generated real time. This facility can be used on NCMC cards and RuPay Tokenized Card on mobile/ wearable to make payments in a secure and time efficient manner. The RuPay SoftPoS solution benefits the merchants and customers alike - it creates a smart and user-friendly acceptance infrastructure for merchants; whereas encourages the customers to make secure, contactless payments. Giri Kumar Nair, MD & CEO SBI Payments said, SBI Payments is working closely with NPCI to support Government's Digital India initiative enabling small and medium merchants in Semi Urban and Rural Centres. We are also enabling NCMC cards on our terminals to improve

consumer experience and the RBI announcement allowing upto 5000 Rs txn thru tap and go facility has further enhanced our ability to reach out to wider number of merchant categories. There is also a special focus on North Eastern States onboarding merchants on asset light model enabling QR and tap on phone form factors. Praveena Rai, COO, NPCI said, "We are delighted to partner with SBI to launch the RuPay SoftPoS solution aimed at creating an innovative payment solution for Indian MSMEs which forms the backbone of our economy. It is our endeavour to ensure that merchants from various geographies of the nation are on boarded into the ecosystem in order to deepen the penetration of digital acceptance infrastructure in the country. It is our belief that this is a step in the right direction of financial inclusivity as RuPay SoftPoS can provide an impetus to the digital onboarding of merchants across the length and breadth of the country."

## National Safety Day celebrations at NTPC Talcher Kaniha



(A.O. Bureau)  
Talcher, Mar 5: National Safety Day was celebrated in NTPC Talcher Kaniha on 4th March 2021 in front of the CISF Fire Station Building. Shri Sudip

Nag, CGM (NTPC Talcher Kaniha) graced the occasion by inaugurating the function and hoisted the Safety Flag in presence of the senior management team at Stage-2 Service Build-

ing with a safety pledge. On this occasion, Safety Pledge was administered by Shri Sudip Nag to all employees and associates. Shri Nag further apprised the achievements of the Sta-

tion regarding safety and spoke on the new initiatives to be undertaken in the following years. He also reiterated that Kaniha would strive to stand tall and live a Model plant in this region of Odisha. Chief Guest for the Day, Shri Awani Kumar Naik, Deputy Director, Ms. Archana Das Assistant Director of Factories and Boiler, and other senior executives were also present for the Safety Day Celebrations. Shri S.K Rout,

AGM Safety delivered the welcome address. Safety messages were delivered by Shri Shivam Srivastava, GM (O&M), and other GMs of the Station. Prizes for winners of various competitions such as - drawing, poster making, Online safety quiz among employees, CISF and Associates, their Spouses, Best safety-conscious employees, Agency workmen, Agency safety officer, and C.I.S.F - Fire personnel were also adjudicated by officials.

## Maritime India Summit-2021 concludes today with 'Chabahar Day'

**'The 21st century will not belong to land; it will be a century of the seas, skies and space. Atma Nirbhar Maritime Sector would be foundation of the New India and 'AatmNirabhar Bharat': Shri Mansukh Mandaviya**

(A.O. Bureau)  
New Delhi, Mar 5: The Second edition of Virtual Maritime India Summit-2021 concluded today. The three-day maritime conference was one of the biggest virtual maritime summits of the world. In his key note address of Chabahar day Session, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said that Chabahar Port project will be developed as transit hub for cross connectivity between the India and Eurasia and further added that Chabahar Port handled 123 vessels and total 13,752 TEUs and 18 lakh tons of bulk / general cargo. Chabahar Port has emerged as the "connecting point" for the re-

gion to deliver humanitarian assistance during the COVID pandemic, added Shri Mandaviya. Shri Mandaviya reiterated the importance of the maritime sector and said, 'The 21st century will not belong to land; it will be a century of the seas, skies and space'. In the Valedictory Session of Maritime India Summit-2021, Shri S a n j a y Bandopadhyaya, additional secretary of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways briefed about the summit and added that about 1.90 lakh delegates registered for the summit, 16 international ministers from 11 nations joined for different sessions. A total of six union ministers, chief ministers of three states and two state ministers



having joined us for different sessions. A total of 55 CEOs, which included 31 international CEOs and 24 Indian CEOs joined during the CEO's forum. A total of 110 exhibitors joined during the summit, in 18 pavilions and 107 booths, which led to 5,540 B2B meetings. A total of more than 64,000 visitors were recorded during the three

days of the summit. In his concluding remark, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya said, 'Maritime India Summit-2021 will empower and strengthen Maritime India Vision-2030 which was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the inauguration of the summit. Due to MIS-2021, the expectations and the aspirations of the world to-

wards India has increased. We have to keep marching towards achieving our goal. MoU signed during the summit should borne successful outcome with our dedicated and focused efforts'. Shri Mandaviya ended with optimism and said, "AatmNirbhar Maritime Sector" would be foundation of the New India and 'AatmNirabhar India'