

2 Rs 200 crore given to states to set up women help desks in police stations: MHA



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7 Bajrang takes gold and number one rank in Rome, bronze for Kaliramana

Annual Higher Secondary Exam 2021: Last Date For Form Fill-Up Extended



Bhubaneswar, Mar 8: In order to ensure that no Plus II second year student fails to fill-up form for the Annual Higher Secondary Examination 2021, the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) today extended deadline for the form fill-up process. The council in a notification stated the dates for filling-up of forms for regular, ex-regular and correspondence course students of Arts, Com-

merce, Science and Vocational streams for the higher secondary examination 2021 has been extended. But the students, who failed to fill up the forms by the last date fixed earlier, will have to pay a fine of Rs 350. As per the notification, the last date for filling up forms has been extended to March 9, 2021. Students will have to deposit fees with fine of Rs 350 by March 10, 2021. Last date for sub-

mission of Annexure-II and SB collect e-receipt has been extended to March 17, 2021 from March 9, 2021, the notification mentioned. The Council further clarified that no further request for extension of form fill-up dates will be entertained under any circumstances. Earlier, the council directed the Principals of Higher Secondary schools to complete the form fill-up process by March 3, 2021. The annual Plus II examinations for Arts, Science and Commerce streams are scheduled to begin from May 18, 2021 and continue till June 12, 2021. For vocational courses the examination will be held from May 28, 2021.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Urged The Young Generation To Know The Sacrifice Of The Patriots

Bhubaneswar, Mar 8: In his speech in the commemoration of 75 years of India's independence, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik emphasized the fact that Indian Youth should be aware of the sacrifices made by our patriots during the freedom struggle. He said, "With the passage of time, the youth of our country need to be reminded of the sacrifices of our forefathers in a context they can identify with, one of the ways in which this can be done is to highlight the events of our freedom struggle and develop the places linked to it. We need to highlight significant

events led by lesser-known leaders as well as to capture the pan-India nature of the movement. Many events that happened outside the boundaries of India need to be captured. Our greatest tribute to the founding father of our nation will be to carry forward in letter and spirit the values and ethos of our Independence movement as enshrined in the Constitution of India. The ideals of freedom, justice, and equality that defined the freedom struggle need to be reiterated in today's circumstances. All efforts should be made to ensure every



Indian, residing anywhere in the world, should be touched through the various activities as part of the commemoration ceremonies.

Through technology and social media, this is quite possible to achieve. As quoted by Gandhiji "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the

service of others". service oriented activities can be part of the program to encourage community service among the citizens especially the youth.

'Udaan' Organizes State-Level Conference On Women's Rights

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Mar 8: 'Udaan', a non-profit organization working for the rights of women and children and on environmental issues, organized a State-level conference today at a private hotel in Cuttack on occasion of the International Women's Day in which around 200 women delegates attended. Rashmi Singh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Ananya Das,

CMC Commissioner; Manika Nielsen, Chief of Unicef Odisha; Dr Leena Das, Department of Paediatrics and Dr. Krishna Kaveri Pattnaik, MS attended as the Guests of Honour. Monica Nayyar Pattnaik, Chairperson of FICCI, Odisha Council attended as the Chief Speaker. A panel discussion on 'Women's Rights and Opportunities' was held followed by an open-house dis-

ussion. The Chief Guest said women should come forward to fight for their rights. Namita Uttaray performed Odissi dance during the programme. Also, three women Covid warriors from the fields of Health, Municipality and Police were felicitated for their excellent work done during Covid time. Geeta Panigrahi, CEO of Udaan conducted the programme.

Odisha Govt Effects Major IPS Reshuffle; Saumendra Priyadarshi New Police Commissioner



Bhubaneswar, Mar 8: In a major reshuffle in IPS cadre, the Odisha government today appointed Senior IPS

Saumendra Kumar Priyadarshi as the Commissioner of Police for the Twin Cities of Bhubaneswar and

Cuttack. Priyadarshi, a 1995 batch IPS officer, will replace Sudhanshu Sarangi as the Police Commissioner of the twin city. Currently Priyadarshi is working as Additional DG, Crime Branch. In his reaction, Priyadarshi said, "The State government has allocated a major responsibility and I will work with utmost sincerity." "I have relinquished charge as

Commissioner of Police of twin city. I thank the State Government for the opportunity to serve as CP. I would remember this challenging tenure amidst Covid-19 and will derive satisfaction that I gave my best and received love & respect of the people," said the outgoing Police Commissioner. As per a notification issued by the Home Department, 1990 batch IPS

Sudhanshu Sarangi has been transferred and posted as CMD of Odisha Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OPH&WC). 1988 batch IPS M Akhaya was transferred and posted as DG Fire Services, CG, Home Guards and Director of Civil Defence, Odisha, mentioned the notification. At present, Akhaya is working as the CMD of OPH&WC.

'Special 26' Formed In Odisha Capital To Curb Crime

Bhubaneswar, Mar 8: In view of rising cases of loot and snatching in Bhubaneswar, the Commissionerate Police decided to deploy a 'Special 26' team at every police station in the Odisha capital. Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash today informed a Special Officer will be engaged at

each police station in the city. As many as four Constables will work under the Special Officer who will lead each 'Special 26' team. The 'Special 26' teams will handle only loot and snatching cases in the city, the DCP added. The move comes amid a spike in cases of loot and snatching in Bhubaneswar in re-

cent past. Looters and snatchers have been throwing an open challenge to the Commissionerate Police by committing crime in broad daylight. In one of such cases in the city in recent past, a youth snatched a gold chain from a woman, who was plucking flowers in morning hours in front of her house



in Khandagiri Bari area, at knife point yesterday. The snatcher also beat the woman before decamping with her gold

chain. The loot incident was captured in a CCTV installed outside the house of the loot victim's neighbour.

Dharmendra Bats For National Institute Of Virology At Bhubaneswar Odisha Forms High-Level Taskforce To Battle Forest Fire

Bhubaneswar, Mar 8: Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has requested his colleague Union Health & Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan for setting up one of the proposed four National Institutes of Virology at Bhubaneswar. "I request you to give serious consideration to setting up one of the proposed four National Institutes of Virology at Bhubaneswar, Odisha," wrote Pradhan in a letter addressed to Dr Harsh Vardhan today. Pradhan said that Bhubaneswar has

emerged as a prime centre of medical research and education in eastern India with the presence of world-class institutes such as All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre and ICAR-ICFMD (International Centre for Foot & Mouth Disease). "Owing to its strategic location and skilled manpower, Bhubaneswar is well-positioned to be considered as a location for one of the four proposed NIVs. NIV Bhubaneswar will ben-



efit from proximity to the above-mentioned R&D centres of excellence and leverage it for pushing collaborative research efforts," added Pradhan in the letter. The Union Petroleum &

Gas Minister pointed out that the NIV at Bhubaneswar can cater to the population of eastern, south-eastern and central Indian States adding that it will be in line with the Purvodaya

vision of the Prime Minister. India's medical R&D institutions like the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune have played a critical role in the fight against the dreaded coronavirus. Covid-19 pandemic may well be the first of many such zoonotic viruses afflicting humanity, the emergence of such viruses in the future cannot be ruled out. It may be pointed out here that in Budget 2021 it was announced to set up four additional National Institutes of Virology, to strengthen India's defences against future pandemics.

Bhubaneswar: Concerned over the burning of several forests across the State, Odisha on Monday formed a taskforce on 'Forest Fire Management' to fight against the blaze. The taskforce which includes three experts from Hyderabad and Dehradun will be headed by Dr. Sandeep Tripathy, former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Head of Forest Force (HoFF). The high-level team includes the incumbent PCCF I/c Jitendra Kumar, PCCF Wildlife I/c Sashi Paul, Pankaj Agarwal, Representative of DG, ICFRE Dehradun, Head of Forest & Ecology, NRSC,

Hyderabad, P K Mallick, J K Panigrahy and Bijay Agrawal. According to sources, a press briefing will be organized daily at 4.30PM at Aranya Bhawan, Near Fortune Tower, Bhubaneswar from today for next 15 days regarding Forest Fire Management in Similipal Biosphere Reserve. The taskforce will be responsible for reviewing of on-going forest fire incidence, causes and immediate containment. Moreover, it will suggest measures for augmentation of existing Fire Management Protocols including Geomatics based Fire Alert System. Besides, the panel will also recommend suggestions for

improved community participation in Fire Management and Prevention, to conduct Post Assessment of Forest Fire affected area, loss to wildlife, biodiversity and suggest appropriate measures for augmentation and give suggestions for improvement of SOP for Fire Prevention and Management in State to prevent and restrain such fire occurrences. Speaking on the situation, PCCF I/c Jitendra Kumar said, "Wildfires in forest areas of the State are not new but a natural phenomenon. Like every year, fires generally spread on bushes and shrubs but do not affect trees."

India must to develop technology to indigenously manufacture electronic materials: MoS Centre will abide by Speakers' decision: Union minister Prahlad Joshi



Pune, Mar 8: Material was the backbone of the manufacturing sector in the country, and India's electronics manufacturing had grown from Rs 1.90 lakh crore to Rs 5.33 lakh crore in recent years, said Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Education, Communications, Electronics and IT, on Monday. Dhotre was delivering the inaugural ad-

dress organised at an event to mark the 30th foundation day of city-headquartered Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (CMET), which operates under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). "In 2014-2015, the manufacturing of mobile phones was worth Rs 6 crore, which in 2019-2020 grew to Rs 33 crore. From contribut-

ing approximately 1.3 per cent in 2012, the share of mobile phone manufacturing has increased to 3.6 per cent during 2019-2020. This growth has opened employability for thousands," Dhotre said. With the Centre pushing for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in all sectors, the country needed to be greatly involved in materials technology, said Vijay Bhatkar, Vice-

Chancellor, Nalanda University. "In the past, India did not do significant research on electronics hardware, which is entirely dependent upon materials technology," said Bhatkar, who led India's supercomputer programme in the 1990s. NITI Aayog member V K Saraswat too stressed on the urgent requirement of developing technology to develop materials within India and cut down imports. "We need focused efforts to develop technology for producing functional materials. It has been observed that whenever there is a need for some material, India imports it. It is high time that India develops technology to manufacture some materials like silicon wafer, multi crystalline

silicon, silicon oxide," Saraswat said. To mark International Women's Day, Jyoti Arora, special secretary and financial adviser, MeitY, highlighted the importance of sustained support for women to pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) as a career. "In India, the number of women taking up higher education or doctoral studies in STEM remains meagre. Though there are many reasons, women in leadership roles, too, are few," said Arora, who urged NITI Aayog and the Department of Science and Technology to continue women-centric programmes for scientists who had taken a career break due to family responsibilities or maternity.

New Delhi, Mar 8: Union minister for parliamentary affairs Prahlad Joshi said on Monday the government is ready to abide by the decision of the Speakers regarding the issue of cutting short the ongoing session of Parliament over the upcoming assembly elections. "Over 100 MPs have requested and some have met the Speaker regarding the curtailment of the ongoing Parliament session ahead of the assembly polls. Whatever decision is taken by the Speaker and chairman, the government is ready for both," news agency ANI quoted Joshi as saying. The minister made the comments amidst multiple parties demanding a curtailment of the Parliament session because of the upcoming assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, West Bengal and Assam. The second part of Parliament's Budget Session began on Monday and is scheduled to complete by April 8. Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Sitaram Yechury said on March 4 that his party would seek for the rescheduling of Parliament's session citing state assembly polls, news agency PTI reported. Trinamool Congress leaders Derek O'Brien and Sudip Bandyopadhyay asked M Venkaiah Naidu, the chairman of the Upper House and vice president, to adjourn the ongoing Budget Session. However, three opposition parties - the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), the Shiv Sena



and the Samajwadi Party - have denied supporting the TMC's demand, according to reports by ANI. Both Houses of Parliament announced on Monday that the sessions will resume as per normal schedule, according to a news report from ANI. The Houses were functioning under curtailed hours because of the Covid-19 pandemic. "On the request from many members from various parties, the Chairman has decided that from Tuesday, the sitting of Rajya Sabha will commence from 11 am till 6 pm as usual timings of the House. Members will sit in the Rajya Sabha and gallery," Vandana Chavan, who chaired the Rajya Sabha on Monday, was quoted as saying.

Delhi Govt to provide scrapping incentives under Delhi EV Policy: Gadkari

New Delhi, Mar 8: Scrapping incentives, including up to Rs 7,500 per vehicle for auto and light commercial vehicle, is being provided by the Delhi Government under Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy 2020, Parliament was informed on Monday. The Delhi government notified the Delhi EV Policy 2020 on Aug 7, 2020, with an intention to promote the adoption of clean mobility solution. The policy aims to establish the feasibility for large scale adoption of electric passenger four wheelers, through transitioning its entire government fleet to electric. "Under the provision, all leased/hired cars used for com-

mute of GNCTD officers shall be transitioned to electric within a period of twelve months from the date of issue of this policy," Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Minister Nitin Gadkari informed Rajya Sabha in a written reply. The Delhi Government order issued on February 25, 2021 in this regard mandates conversion of all vehicles owned/leased by the Government of NCT of Delhi to transition to electric by Aug 6, 2021, the minister said. "Under the Delhi EV Policy, 2020, scrapping incentive is provided for the vehicles in lieu of scrapping a more polluting conventional vehicle.

However, the scrapping incentive for vehicle is applicable on the evidence of matching contribution from the dealer or OEM, such that Government of NCT of Delhi will provide incentive matching the contribution made by the OEM or dealer on the scrapping value of the vehicle, not exceeding Rs 5,000 per vehicle for two-wheelers and Rs 7,500 per vehicle for Auto and Light Commercial Vehicle," the minister said. He said other incentives are also there. Private and two-wheeler vehicles would also be included in this scheme, the minister said.

Justice delivery system should not be to fulfill personal vendetta: SC

New Delhi, Mar 8: Justice delivery system should not be used as a tool to "fulfil personal vendetta" and curtailing frivolous litigations is a crucial step towards a more effective justice system which is plagued with backlogs with 70 per cent pendency in subordinate courts being on criminal side, observed the Supreme Court on Monday. The apex court, which also observed that frivolous litigation should not become the order of the day in the country, said that a falsely accused person not only suffers monetary damages but is exposed to disrepute and stigma from society. It said trial courts have the duty to nip frivolous litigations in the bud even before they reach the stage of trial by discharging the accused in fit cases. "A significant factor in this backlog is the vast mass of frivolous litigation instituted year after year by litigants with an intent to use the courts of justice for their own mischievous ends" a bench of Justices M M Shantanagoudar and R

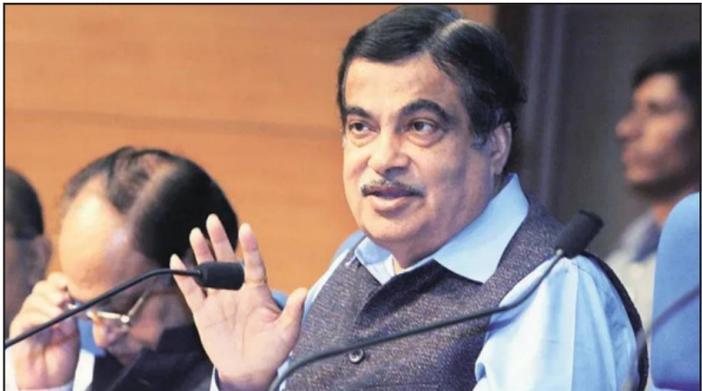


S Reddy said. "Curtailing such vexatious litigation is, thus, a crucial step towards a more effective justice system - a step that cannot be taken without the active involvement of the lower judiciary, especially in criminal proceedings," it said while noting that justice dispensation machinery in India is plagued with backlogs, with 70 per cent of pendency before the subordinate courts being on the criminal side. The bench said this in its judgement while quashing the litigation between two parties initiated by them arising out of an incident in August 2012. The top court observed that the trial judge has a duty under the Constitution and the CrPC to identify and dispose of frivolous litigation at an early stage by exercis-

ing, substantially and to the fullest extent, the powers conferred on him. "Frivolous litigation should not become the order of the day in India. From misusing the public interest litigation jurisdiction of the Indian courts to abusing the criminal procedure for harassing their adversaries, the justice delivery system should not be used as a tool to fulfil personal vendetta. The Indian judiciary has taken cognizance of this issue," the bench said. It referred to an 2014 order of the top court in which it had observed about the plight of a litigant caught in frivolous proceedings. "We note, with regret, that seven years hence, and there has still been no reduction in such plight," it said, adding, "A falsely accused person not only

suffers monetary damages but is exposed to disrepute and stigma from society. While running from pillar to post to find a lawyer to represent his case and arranging finances to defend himself before the court of law, he loses a part of himself." It said that trial courts and magistrates have an important role in curbing this injustice and they are the first lines of defence for both the integrity of the criminal justice system and the harassed and distraught litigant. "We are of the considered opinion that the trial courts have the power to not merely decide on acquittal or conviction of the accused person after the trial, but also the duty to nip frivolous litigations in the bud even before they reach the stage of trial by discharging the accused in fit cases," it said. "This would not only save judicial time that comes at the cost of public money, but would also protect the right to liberty that every person is entitled to under Article 21 of the Constitution," the

bench said. It further said, "Thus, it would be only proper for this court to deny any relief to a litigant who attempts to pollute the stream of justice by coming to it with his unclean hands. Similarly, a litigant pursuing frivolous and vexatious proceedings cant claim unlimited right upon court time and public money to achieve his ends." The top court noted it is said that every trial is a voyage of discovery in which the truth is the quest. "In India, typically, the judge is not actively involved in 'fact-finding' owing to the adversarial nature of our justice system," it said. Referring to section 165 of the Indian Evidence Act 1872, which deals with judge's power to put questions or order production, the bench said this wide-ranging power further demonstrates the central role played by the magistrate in the quest for justice and truth in criminal proceedings and must be judiciously employed to stem the flow of frivolous litigation.



Rs 200 crore given to states to set up women help desks in police stations: MHA

New Delhi, Mar 8: The Union home ministry on Monday said Rs 200 crore has been sanctioned to states and union territories (UTs) to set up women help desks in police stations and to strengthen anti-human trafficking units in all districts of the country. On the occasion of International Women's Day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah also said that women empowerment has always been the focal point of the policies of the Narendra Modi government. "On the occasion of International Women's Day, I bow to women power symbolising courage, valour and dedica-

tion. Women empowerment has always been the focal point of the policies of the Modi government and it is a matter of pride that today women power is contributing significantly in realising the resolve of a self-reliant India," he said in a tweet in Hindi. Later, in a statement, the home ministry said to enhance safety and security of women in the country, it has taken several initiatives which are funded by the Nirbhaya Fund. A separate women safety division has also been set up in the home ministry to sensitise states and UTs on women safety related issues including timely completion of investiga-

tion of sexual assault cases, it said. "The government has sanctioned Rs 200 crore to states and UTs to set up Women Help Desks in police stations, and to set up or strengthen Anti Human Trafficking Units in all districts of the country as also on vulnerable borders," the statement said. The home ministry said the Bureau of Police Research and Development has distributed 14,950 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection kits to states and UTs and these SAEC kits will facilitate the efficient collection, handling and storage of forensic evidence in cases of sexual assault. The



government is committed to the safety and security of women and children and many projects are underway which will not only assure their well-being but also empower women to live independently, the statement said. The government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has

taken a number of steps in the last seven years towards women empowerment and their safety and security, the ministry said. Taking a tough stand against heinous incidents of sexual assault, the government has made the punishment of rape more stringent through the Criminal Law Amend-

ment Act, 2018, the statement said. To ensure that amendments in the law effectively translate at the ground-level, various initiatives have been taken by the home ministry and their progress is continuously monitored, it said. These include Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO), National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO), Cri-MAC (Crime Multi-Agency Centre) and New Citizen Services and these IT initiatives help in timely and effective investigation, it said. The home minister has strongly recommended the effective use of these online tools to all

states and UTs, the statement said, it said. The home ministry said the Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) is an online analytical tool launched to monitor and track timely completion of police investigations in sexual assault cases — currently two months as per Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018 — and the National Database of Sexual Offenders" (NDSO) has been launched to identify repeat offenders and receive alerts on sex offenders, as also in the investigation. An Adjourment Alert module has also been developed as a step to-

wards facilitating states and UTs to ensure timely in disposal of criminal cases. As per this, whenever a government prosecutor seeks an adjournment in a criminal case more than twice, the system has a provision to send an alert to senior officers to prevent unavoidable delays. The Crime Multi Agency Center (Cri-MAC) was introduced on March 12, 2020 for police stations and higher offices in all states and UTs to share information on heinous crimes and other issues related to coordination in cases of interstate crime, the statement said.

Mission Shakti Department Will Be Operational From Today



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 8: The state cabinet has approved the new department in the name of Mission Shakti. The Mission Shakti Department will be operational from today on the occasion of International Women's Day.

This was announced by Minister Tukuni Sahu at a BJD women's rally. The Mission Energy Department will operate exclusively in the state from today. Minister Tukuni Sahu will be in charge of the

Mission Shakti Department. The secretary in the department will also be Sujata Karthikeyan, the first female IAS officer in the Odisha cadre. Mission Shakti, however, is empowering 4 million SHG members.

Int'l Women's Day observed at IMS

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, : A seminar on 'Leadership and Political Participation' was organised by NSS Wings of Institute of Media Studies (IMS) on its premises to mark the International Women's Day. Speaking on the occasion, vice-president of Odisha Lekhika Sangha and former director of Odia Bhasha Pratisthan Dr. Tamasarani Das Mohapatra stressed on women safety and empowerment. "Men and women are the two sides of the same coin. In absence of one, the other

one is irrelevant. Both must support each other for a happy family life and social welfare," she said. Citing different examples from mythology, she emphasised on the participation of women in Indian political system. "No amount of seminars and meetings to celebrate the day could bring a change in the men-dominated society until we change our mindset towards women and treat them equally," she added. Principal of BK Degree College, Bargarh and eminent poet Dr Khirodini Behera said, "While we



have 50 per cent reservation for women in panchayat elections, sadly we rank among the top in crime against women in a report." She urged women to come

forward and actively participate in politics without fear and favour. Director of IMS Prof Upendra Padhi and Course Coordinator of Social Work Department Dr Gayatri

Patnaik also spoke. Senior Faculty of the department Raghunath Mandal proposed vote of thanks. Students of various departments attended the seminar.

District Level International Women's Day Celebrated at Khordha



(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, Mar 8: District level International Women's Day Celebrated at the Conference Hall of P.N. Autonomous College, Khordha. Principal P.N. Autonomous College Dr. Mrs. Ranjeeta Sathy preside over the

meeting. The Chief Guest of the Occasions MLA, Khordha and President Governing body P.N. Autonomous, College Joytrindra Nath Mitra Said "This day is meant to uphold feminist values and Celebrate women hood to the full-

est. It's also an occasions to celebrate the great achievements of women and the meaningful contributions they have made to the world". The guest of honour of the occasions President Khordha Zilla Parishad Prafulla Kumar Dalei said "It is

a day to spread awareness among the people regarding women's rights and gender equality. This day celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Also to encourage the women out there that no hurdles can stop them from accomplishing their dream. Chief Speaker of the occasions Former Principal P. N. Autonomous college, Khordha, Dr. Mrs. Mamata Dey said "to celebrate International Women Day aim to highlight the difficulties and gender discrimination that a women still has to face in society. To

honour women, salute their courage, celebrate their success and raise awareness about women's equality. This year the theme for international women's day is "Choose to Challenge" aims to highlight and recognized the achievements of women and highlights the issues and problems they are still facing in their respective lives". ADM, Khordha, Manoj Kumar Padhi, PD, DRDA, Khordha, Digant Routray and other guest, Students of P. N. Autonomous, College, Media persons were remain present in this occasions.

International Women's day observed

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Mar 8: Jana Sikhyan Sansthan puri Managed by Government of Indian skill development department , organised by Interna-

Jana Sikhyan Sansthan also the social worker Mr, Kanduri ch Champati joined as chief guest spoke about the importance of womens day he also express grievance on

rector of Institution Gayan Bikash Gajendra expresse the importance of womens day the program coordinator Subhendu Mohanty and co-ordinator Padma



tional womens day at their Campus Nilachal Seva Pratisthan ,Daya Vihar Kanas. In this program the President of

the torture of women to day both State and Central Govt, should activate the development programs for women the Di-

ch Sethi, Shridhar ku Das, Rupak swami, Umakant Patnaik Joti Ranjan Sahu, arranged the whole program.

Grand road service started SOA Felicitates 19 Covid Warriors On International Women's Day

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Mar 8: To keep puri City clean the Administration has apeal to the welfare social organization to keep Grand road clean the program will continue on every Saturday 6 a.m to 8. a .m with this Odisi Dance Gotipua and

Bhajan ware performed in five places all the organization of Hotel ,Bus ,Truck , Auto Association were joined in Mukta akasa Rangmanch debet , Jhooti and Art competition were held at Shri Mandir Temple Office Sports Min ..Tusarkanti

Behera, MLA Jayanta ku Sarngi, Collector Samarth Barma SP K Vishal Singh ,Sudarshan Sahu Sub collector Bhaba tarana Sahu Executive officer Vijaya Ku Das joined the function and distributed trofi among the winners.



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 8: Nineteen women Covid warriors were on Monday felicitated at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) on the International Women's Day for their exemplary courage in battling the pandemic that had brought the world to a grinding halt last year. Ms. Saswati Das, Vice-President of SOA, felicitated the doctors, nurses and other support staff who worked round the

clock at the SUM Covid Hospital to save lives while facing the threat of infection themselves. Those felicitated included Dr. Rajashree Panigrahi, Dr. Rakhi Ludam, Dr. Priyadarshini Behera, Dr. Sonali Parida, Dr. Padmalaya Thakur, Dr. Sivani Nanda, Dr. Namrata Narayan, Dr. Bindu Ganesh, Dr. Ramaya Varda, Ms. Kamalini Mallick, Ms. Archana Tripathy, Ms. Rashmita Pradhan, Ms.

Madhusmita Sahoo, Ms. Priyadarshini Pradhan, Ms. Aparna Senapati, Ms. Rajashree Das, Ms. Rameswari Singh, Ms. Pratima Mohara and Ms. Mami Mohanty. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Das hailed the efforts of the frontline workers as exemplary in the midst of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. As the pandemic struck, SOA joined hands with the state government in run-

ning four standalone Covid Hospitals at Bhubaneswar, Talcher, Kendrapara and Chandpur as also two Covid Care Centres having more than 2200 beds including ICUs. "It was a great and satisfying experience as we battled the pandemic for seven months," Dr. Bindu Ganesh, an anesthesiologist, said. The program was jointly organised by the NSS unit of SOA and Pres-

ervation, Propagation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (PPRACHIN), SOA's conservation arm. Responding to the felicitation on behalf of the honoured medical professionals, Dr. Rakhi Ludam said the battle against Covid-19 was fought with courage and in a spirit of cooperation. Prof. Sudam Chandra Si, Dean of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (SPS), faculty of pharmaceutical sciences of SOA, Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare), Dr. Gayatribala Panda, Head, PPRACHIN, Ms. Sarita Patel, Regional Director, NSS and Dr. Nachiketa Sharma, SOA's NSS Coordinator, also spoke. Ms. Das also planted a sapling in the university campus to commemorate the occasion.

On International Women's Day, Meet A Divyang Woman Who Breaks Barriers To Become Role Model

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Mar 8: As March 8, 2021 dawned and women across the globe got ready with their mobile phones to send Women's Day greetings to each other, Rina Bhuyan, comes out of her home with her bicycle and newspapers to distribute them among the readers. Infected by Polio from

birth, Rina's limbs are twisted and she cannot work properly. However, a never say die attitude made her a role model for millions of other women who have left their fate on the hands of destiny. "Do not be a burden on your parents and take up whatever work comes in your way to become self dependent, because no

job is small," says Rina who hails from Choudwar in Cuttack, marking the International Women's Day on Monday. Her daily chores begin even before the dawn. She reaches the paper point early morning and receives her consignment to distribute it among readers. Following separation from her husband, the bi-



cycle became her only companion, which she rides almost 30 kms each day in the town and never misses a customer who eagerly await her arrival to get their daily dose of news. "Rina's name has become synonymous with punctuality as she never lets the tea get cold before the news paper reaches," says a customer.

Soumendra Priyadarshi Replaces Sudhanshu Sarangi As New Commissioner Of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 8: The state government today made changes at the senior IPS level. The Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner has also been replaced. The new police commissioner is Soumendra Priyadarshi .



Soumendra Prayadarshi, a 1995-batch senior IPS officer, is now serving the Crime Branch ADG.

Twin City police commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi transferred & posted as CMD, OPH & WC LTD. Crime Branch ADG Soumendra Priyadarshi replaces Sarangi as new Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack.

EDITORIAL

Risky resolve

Will Mamata's decision to contest Nandigram backfire or bring her back to power? Electoral politics is a tricky game and, for political parties that are practically a one-person show, it's especially important for the supremo to choose to contest from such an Assembly seat that it sends a strong message among the masses that the leader is attached to the grassroots and doesn't hesitate to take the rivals head on. This has a psychological impact on the voters, not only in the particular constituency the leader contests from but across the State, which helps consolidate the vote bank in that party's favour. TMC chief Mamata Banerjee seems to have hit the right note by deciding to contest from Nandigram, the seat held by her one-time confidant Suvendu Adhikari who dumped the TMC to join the BJP in December. By doing so, Mamata — who is beleaguered by a spate of defections from the TMC in the five months preceding the Assembly elections — has taken the fight to the BJP's camp and tried to project a pro-poor image by returning to her political roots. The Trinamool's sweep of Nandigram in 2007 is one of the key factors that paved the way for her political resurrection and catapulted her to power in 2011. Adhikari, who wields considerable influence in the constituency, had thrown down the gauntlet to Mamata to contest from the seat. Now, Mamata seems to have accepted the challenge and asserted that "this is a smiley election". It might appear to be a case of simple political enmity but there is no denying that it has deeper political connotations. With almost 40 per cent Muslim voters and a sizeable number of Dalits in the constituency, Mamata might be confident of her win and Adhikari, after all, may not have very bright prospects of defeating her but the contest here will certainly be demanding on her in terms of time, energy and attention to other seats; in other words, a victory in Nandigram might cost Mamata a few other constituencies. At a time when Didi is already licking the wounds inflicted by scores of defectors, her special focus on Nandigram might cost the Trinamool dear in West Bengal. Undoubtedly, Adhikari — who was the architect of the ouster of the Left from Nandigram in 2007 — is the BJP's biggest acquisition but the saffron party's real objective is to oust the TMC from power and not just win the battle of prestige. So, from this viewpoint, Mamata's decision to contest from the constituency might actually serve the BJP which has already launched its "Mission 200+". Moreover, Mamata's dropping out of Kolkata's Bhowanipore seat, which she represented for two terms and where her party trailed in the 2019 general elections by a few thousand votes, has given the saffron party ammunition to mock her by saying that it shows her nervousness. With almost 40 per cent Muslim voters and a sizeable number of Dalits in the constituency, Mamata might be confident of her win and Adhikari, after all, may not have very bright prospects of defeating her but the contest here will certainly be demanding on her in terms of time, energy and attention to other seats; in other words, a victory in Nandigram might cost Mamata a few other constituencies. At a time when Didi is already licking the wounds inflicted by scores of defectors, her special focus on Nandigram might cost the Trinamool dear in West Bengal. Undoubtedly, Adhikari — who was the architect of the ouster of the Left from Nandigram in 2007 — is the BJP's biggest acquisition but the saffron party's real objective is to oust the TMC from power and not just win the battle of prestige. So, from this viewpoint, Mamata's decision to contest from the constituency might actually serve the BJP which has already launched its "Mission 200+". Moreover, Mamata's dropping out of Kolkata's Bhowanipore seat, which she represented for two terms and where her party trailed in the 2019 general elections by a few thousand votes, has given the saffron party ammunition to mock her by saying that it shows her nervousness. Whether it is Didi's apprehensiveness or a bold, calculated move, or the BJP's ploy to make Mamata channelise all her energy and focus on to Nandigram, thus making her a spent force elsewhere, is the moot question which only voters will answer. For now, with the recent turn of events, West Bengal has become a hot spot of politics with the parties doing all that they can to win the elections.

Exorcising the OROP Conundrum

The 'One Rank One Pension' imbroglio is tormenting our Defence personnel and veterans, who continue to lose hope each passing day. One issue that distinguishes the Narendra Modi Government from its earlier iterations is the manner in which it has used the military, quite successfully at that, to portray an apparently muscular foreign policy, not least for the domestic audience. This has allowed it to reap rich dividends at the hustings. Yet ironically, apart from praising the military in public, Modi has done little for them on the ground, displaying little concern for the morale or well-being of its personnel. Take the issue of welfare of our servicemen. The Government has reduced Canteen facilities, is intent on opening up and monetising Cantonment lands, adding to the insecurity of families of servicemen separated over long periods due to their spouses being deployed either operationally or on training. In addition, he has refused to authorise the Non-Functional Financial Upgrade (NFFU), which is authorised to other Central Government services, including the Central Armed Police Forces, thereby lowering their status and emoluments in comparison to the other services. The plain fact is that the grant of NFFU to bureaucrats allows them to get OROP, through the back door as it were, because nearly all of them now retire in the Apex Grade. All these little pinpricks rankle and more so this Government's unwillingness to implement OROP in letter and spirit as envisaged by the Parliamentary



Deepak Sinha

Committee headed by veteran BJP MP Bhagat Singh Koshyari: A definition that had been accepted by both Houses of Parliament and the then UPA Government in power. What is particularly galling is that Modi used this very issue to galvanise the serving and veteran community during the 2014 general elections. His sanctioning of a distorted version of what had been promised earlier forced the veterans to launch peaceful protests on June 14, 2015, which continue to this day. The fact that the Government has done nothing to resolve matters, and instead resorted to issuing misleading statements and even violence against them, is undoubtedly a precursor as to how this Government will handle the farmers' protest in the long run. At the end of the day, the issue is very simple. All that the veterans demand is a chance to live out their retirement with dignity, feasible only if their pensions are protected from rising inflation as the majority retires relatively young; that

this Government is unwilling to do so reeks of hypocrisy. For example, even while this Government opposes OROP for its military veterans, it lost little time in ensuring that all Members of Parliament receive pensions calculated in much the same manner that military veterans have been demanding. In 2018, it amended Clause 8A of 'The Salary Allowances and Pension of Members Act, 1954', to provide for an increase in the authorised pension every five years on the basis of the Cost Inflation Index, which clearly links pensions for all former members to what is received by the incumbent. This unfair treatment, especially the Government's refusal to put in public domain the Justice Reddy Committee (to look into anomalies in OROP) Report, submitted in October 2016, forced the military veterans to approach the Supreme Court. Over four years later, the case has made tardy progress mainly due to the Government's efforts to de-

lay. By not taking cognisance of this issue, the Bench has not been kind to the veterans, who continue to suffer and lose hope as each day passes. What is worse, the Justices hearing the case, now in the final arguments stage, have repeatedly postponed the hearing on the grounds they have not had the requisite time to study and understand the case in detail. The next hearing is in a few days and one hopes the Bench will actually hear the case and not kick it down the road. Oddly enough for the vast majority of us, not particularly conversant with the intricacies of the judicial process, this hearing in itself appears to be completely superfluous. This is because the Supreme Court had on September 9, 2008, in its judgment in the case of Union of India and Maj Gen SPS Vains and Others, ruled: "No Defence personnel senior in rank can get lesser pension than his junior irrespective of the date of retirement and similarly placed officers of the same rank are to be given the same pension irrespective of the date of retirement." These are directions that the Defence Ministry has yet to fully implement and which in no uncertain terms accede to what the veterans have been demanding. Interestingly enough in 2014, when the Supreme Court was passing directions to the Government to correct the anomalies in the pensions of High Court Justices, then Chief Justice of India P Sathasivam directed that "one rank one pension must be the norm in respect of a constitutional office", a benefit which Justices of the Supreme Court already enjoyed.

Syrian quagmire: How long and for what?

Makhan Saikia

The failure of the UN-led efforts to bring the warring parties to the negotiation table last month in Geneva has once again brought war clouds over Syria. Only with the collective efforts of the US, Russia, Iran and Turkey, peace can be brought to war-torn Syria. Also it demands a new approach with a purely humanitarian concern. The Syrian Civil War started as a non-violent uprising in the middle of March 2011. Today it is a full-fledged war which involves several nations and world's prominent jihadi outfits such as Islamic State (ISIS), al-Qaeda and splinter groups of these two mainstream groups. However, the Baathist Syrian Arab Republic headed by President Bashar al-Assad has survived a decade in power despite military challenges from all corners of the country. Estimates emerging from various human rights agencies and independent media reports say that by end of December last year, the death toll in the war was between 3,87,000 and 5,93,000. The UN reports that more than 5.6 million have already fled the country and over 6 million have been internally displaced so far. Although many complex events pushed the Syrians into this war, one that stands out is the historic Arab Spring, started in the early months of 2011. This 21st century movement mainly inspired by digital platforms across North Africa through the West Asia finally triggered the uprising in Syria. But then quickly, the Arab Spring had turned into mass gathering in the form of non-violent protests against the authoritarian and family-ruled regimes in all these countries. In Syria, in the month of March, 15 schoolchildren were arrested and tortured for writing graffiti which was rightly inspired by the Arab Spring. One of the boys was killed as well. The arrest of these schoolchildren sparked outrage across Syria. Soon after, people came out on the road and demanded the release of

all the children and raised slogans for basic freedoms for all in the country. The Assad regime responded by killing many protesters and this led to the demand for his resignation by the demonstrators. Subsequently, the clashes broke out between the masses and the supporters of the Government. This gradually spiralled into the full-blown war, what the whole world is witnessing today, involving terror groups of various nations of the world. But at its heart, the conflict highlights the tragic Shia-Sunni divide among the Muslims in the entire region. The failure of the UN-led efforts to bring the warring parties to the negotiation table last month in Geneva has once again brought war clouds over this West Asian nation. The United Nations should take the lead and restart the Geneva process. So far, the UN strategies have broadly failed for Syria. If it moves in the same direction, can it be so that the organisation is complicit in the crimes committed by the Assad regime? Now, what America is doing to bring peace to Syria is that it is back again. The latest American strike in Syria has signalled President Joe Biden's new war game in West Asia. The so-called messenger of peace and reunion of America badly divided by former President Donald Trump, Biden is now targeting Iran-backed militias in Syria. His administration is justifying the attack as the missile sallies are directed towards rebels that are proping up the Assad regime. The US Air Forces dropped 500-hundred-pound joint direct attack munitions at a crossing used by Iranian backed groups reportedly killing 17. The particular groups hit by the limited US strike are Kataib Hezbollah and Kataib Syyaid al-Shuhada. Meanwhile, Dennis Ross, a former Senior US official and West Asian expert, says the attack was designed to

show that there would be a military response if US forces were targeted, or the militias continued to strike. The Assad administration was quick to remind Biden that the American attacks were a cowardly act and urged Biden not to follow the law of the jungle. The country's Foreign Ministry condemned the attack on areas in Deir al-Zor, near the Syrian-Iraqi border. The statement released by the Ministry highlighted that Biden Administration is supposed to stick to international legitimacy, not to the law of the jungle as did by the previous administration. It's really ironic that Biden and Harris, the duo is repeating what once Trump simply did. When Trump ordered a strike on Iran in 2019, Biden sharply reacted and tried to offer a sermon to him: "Trump's erratic, impulsive actions are the last things we need as Commander-in-Chief. No President should order a military strike without fully understanding the consequences. We do not need another war in the Middle East, but Trump's actions toward Iran only make that likely." And what Biden is doing now? He knows very well how an American President responds to the crisis zones in the "Middle East". Precisely, nothing has changed in Washington, except the man giving orders. What Obama did, Trump followed and now Biden is taking it forward. America clearly has no strategy for the West Asia and North African (WANA) region. Its policy towards the region is outdated and dangerous. It's meddling carelessly with Iraq, Iran and Syria. Washington has no coherent policy to deal with Tehran, Damascus and Baghdad. So obviously, finding out a solution for the Syrian war demands a new approach with a purely humanitarian concern. Only with the collective efforts of the US, Russia, Iran and Turkey, peace can be brought to war-torn Syria.

Biden's engagement with Putin, Erdogan, Rouhani and Kadhimi (Iraq) would matter the most in bringing a permanent solution to the chaos in Syria. That is why the stability in West Asia demands more than a deal with Iran from Washington. The experts and policy practitioners opine that regional issues in this part of Asia could no way be comprehensively addressed. They all agree that Iran would no way concede its sustained support for regional proxies and halt its ballistic missile programme in the near future. It is widely felt that isolating Iran was purely counterproductive. So to address, Tehran's troublesome behaviour in the region, it is better to handle each regional conflict through separate and parallel platforms at the same time. Why is Moscow equally concerned about the chaos in Syria? It is not only to save the embattled Assad regime, an old ally of Russia, but also to stave off the growth of the Islamic terror in Russia. Hence, the Syrian conflict is not just a faraway battle for Putin regime. The life-time monarch is longing for stability at any cost. He knows fully well that the jihadists may get enough ground for their subversive models in his vast country. Of course, this might alter Putin's long-term strategies to keep the opposition and western pressure at bay. His regime is not best equipped to counter the ISIS, the way it is raging its ugly head in the WANA region. Russia's relationship with Syria dates back to 1950s and the Cold War. In those days, the USSR used to train the top brass of the Syrian military. What lies ahead in Syria? By 2020, the Syrian civilians faced another year confronting life-threatening challenges. It is all about their survival as all of them are fighting for basic amenities such as food and medicines. However, the last year saw the discernible decrease in violent conflicts across the country. But this does not mean that warring groups are retreating.

37 kg contraband cannabis seized, 5 arrested by Motu Police PPL celebrates International Women's Day

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Mar 8: Today Motu police while checking at Police Check post at Motu Chhaka in front of Jagannath Temple on NH - 326 they found some suspect I've air bags while interrogating found six accused and one fled away from the bus. The police lodged a Motu PS Case No - 21 Dtd.08.03.2021 U/S - 20 (b) (ii) C / 25 (A) / 27 (A) NDPS Act. Name of accused persons (1) Ajit Dakua (27) S / o - Ranjit Dakua of Vill - MV - 41, PS - Malkangiri, Dist - Malkangiri, 2. Bus conductor Akshaya Padhi (43), S / o - Paramanda



Padhi, village - Bus Driver Sudhanya Ray (35), S / o - Bimal Ray, village - MPV - 30, PS - Kalimela, Dist - Malkangiri (3) Bus Helper Navin Gouda (21), S / o - Budhar Gouda, village - Dangarpausi, Kundra, PS / Dist - Koraput (4) person) (6) CCL Abhisek Pathak (17) S / O - Sambhu Pathak, village - jaitpur, Badrampur, sourav nagar New Delhi 2. Total quantity of Ganja - 37 Kgs 500 Gms (Gross),

36 Kgs 100 Gms (Net). 3. Seizure Items - 05 nos of smart mobile from each accused person and CCL, Cash of Rs - 5,500 / -, one passenger bus (GALAXY) Vide REGD. NO - OD - 10 - L - 3111 02 numbers of plastic air bags suspected to contain marijuana contraband. Name of Detection Party - inspector S.K.Sahoo, ASI B. Pradhan . Hav / 69 Prasant Khosla, C / 481 Dharmendra Kanhar OAPF / 149 - Raghunath Bhumia, C / 538 - Mukund Sodi of Motu PS. 7. Name of the Informant- Inspector S.K.Sahoo, Motu PS. Name of the SI Somnath Dalbehera.

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Mar 8: International Women's Day was Celebrated in Paradip Phosphates Limited (PPL) with much fanfare. All the Women Employees from Plant Sit at Paradeep and Bhubaneswar Office joined the Celebration. A Cake was cut to mark the occasion. Mr. Ranjit Singh Chugh, Chief Operating Officer wished all the Women Em-

ployees and felicitate them. He expressed his happiness over the contribution and participation of all women employees in the Prosperity of the Organisation. All Senior Executives joined the event. Mr. Sudhi Ranjan Mishra, Head-Corporate Affairs conducted the Proceedings. Mr. Sanjay Ketan Sethy, Dy. Manager (HR & Admin) extended Vote of Thanks.

Odisha Red Cross observed International Day For Women at Nuapada



(A.O. Bureau) Nuapada, Mar 8: On the eve of International Day for Women, Odisha Red Cross distributed mask soap and hygiene kit to the tribal people of village Karandoba, Lanji, Nuapada District. Keeping in view about the child marriage issue at drought prone area of Nuapada District, Junior Red Cross Officer of Indian Red Cross Society Odisha State Branch gave insight into different issues like child abuse, child labour, girl child trafficking, safety issues, menstrual hygiene, domestic violence, girl child education, choice of careers

and gender discriminations besides the need to stop child marriages. Saranah, ward members and other women of the panchayat who were present during the distribution work took oath to stop child marriage in Lanji Panchayat. ABEO Mr. Pramod Kumar Pati, District IPE Mr. Mahesh Dandanesa, Dr. School safety Trainer Satya Narayan Hota, YRC Counsellor Dr. Tarun Kumar Pradhan, JRC Counsellor Ratansing Barik, Prasant Kumar Pradhan, Ward Member Supari Majhi were present during the relief distribution and other awareness programme.

International Women's Day Celebrated by District Legal Services Authority Malkangiri



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Mar 8: Today at Malkangiri junior women's college, organized an "Awareness Camp" on the occasion of International Women's Day, which was attended by Malkangiri District Legal Services. Mr. Rohit Lal Panda, Additional District Judge Mr. Mahalat Sa, Chief Justice Divisional Prosecutor Mr. Bishwaranjan Behera, Secretary and Justice Permanent and Permanent People's Court Mr. Amaresh Nayak, IIC., Malkangiri Mr. Ram Krishna Nag, Assistant

Conservation Officer Lily Amanatya, Mr. Durga Prasad Tripathi, Malkangiri College Professor Dr. Ranjan Kumar Swain, Shishu Mangal Samiti Member Kumari Chumki Behera, Junior Women's College Principal Dushmant Kumar Jena and Junior Women's College staff and more than 100 students were present on the occasion. Rohit Lal Panda aims to celebrate International Women's Day and Women's Day He spoke in support of women's education employment independence freedom. More than

100 women and college students attended the event. Mr. Amaresh Nayak, Secretary and Permanent and Permanent People's Court, also highlighted various aspects such as women's property chairperson, constitutional supporter, maintenance allowance. Finally, the Secretary of the Legal Services Authority has been made aware of the various welfare schemes provided by the government, as well as the implementation of legal services, such as free legal services, mediation and compromise.

Block-level International Women's Day celebrations by the Women's Workers' Union

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Mar 8: On behalf of the Malkangiri Workers' Union and the Women's Workers' Union, Malkangiri has observed Block-level International Women's Day in various parts of the 7 blocks of Malkangiri district by all the block and district presidents. Awareness was raised about unspeakable atrocities such as child marriage, violence against women, dowry practices, beatings and the provision of constitutional law for its prevention in addition to games, dances, songs,

solo performances and competitions. Ghasiram Gutta, President, Ere Majhi and Bhagirathi Patenia, President of the Block Organization, Reli Khil, Shyam Sunwasiya, Shanti Bek, Gangi Madhi, Nursing Madhi, Mukund Madkani, Sitaram Durua, Ram Badnaya, Govardhan Pangi, Madan Hantal Trinath Badnaya, Sreenu Shalvam and Manoj Khar, including panchayat representatives, ward members, organization officials, education volunteers, and villagers were present.



On the occasion of International Women's Day, Tulsikshetra Charitable Trust honored a unique woman

(A.O. Bureau) Kendrapara, Mar 8: Once upon a time, society was neglected in every way, calling women weak or weak. The day is no more, the weaker women are changing the times, the women of today are becoming more and more dependent on the society, and the women of today are becoming the center of society. Today, members of the Tulsikshetra Charitable Trust have found a woman whose role is unique to the female race. His name is Guluri Das and his house is in Orat village under Mahakalapada block



of Kendrapara district. From the birth of Guluri Das, the right eye has not looked good, and the family's financial situation is very deplorable, and the family is struggling to make ends meet, and the family is working hard to make ends meet. Members of the Tulsikshetra Charitable Trust family members such as Bichitra Behera, Kandhei Parida, Akshay Kumar Patra, Malay Kumar Das, Kishore Palai, Himanshu Gochayat reached out to her to find such a unique woman and thanked her as the ideal woman of the day.

The mysterious suicide of a young man at MV-83



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Mar 8: A young man from MV 83 village of Malkangiri district's Kalimela block police station has committed suicide by hanging himself with a rope around his neck. The deceased was identified as Sanatan Sarkar, 22, son of late Bhuban sarkar. The mystery of an incident has come to light after the young man committed suicide. According to sources, Nivedita Mandal, wife of Manamath Mandal, 72, of MV Nalaganthi Panchayat MV: -79 Police Station, committed suicide with a veil around

her neck in the kitchen of her house late on the night of the 4th march. Police are investigating. Nivedita's phone was confiscated during the investigation, while Sanatan, a young man who died today, was last seen on the phone. Four police officers were called to the police station for questioning. However, the incident of Sanatan suddenly committing suicide by hanging himself with a rope in front of his house last night has become a hot topic in the MPV: - 83 and surrounding areas. At around 2pm after Sanatan committed suicide, the family pulled

the rope down from the tree thinking they were alive after seeing it, but by then Sanatan was dead. After informing the police in this regard, on the instructions of the police IIC (ASI Bimal Biswas) and other police personnel reached the spot, seized the body of Sanatan and sent it for postmortem at Kalimela Medical. After the post-mortem, the family handed over the bodies to the people. In this regard, Sushant Kumar Sahu, a police officer, revealed that Nivedita, who died a few days ago, and Sanatan, who committed suicide, had a love affair. Police suspect he may have committed suicide for fear of public embarrassment. "After the autopsy report is received and the investigation is done, the real incident will be known," he said.

Tata Steel celebrates Women's Day at Joda

(A.O. Bureau) Joda, Mar 8: Commemorating International Women's Day, Tata Steel along with Tata Steel Foundation saluted the indomitable spirit of women through a series of activities across Joda on Monday. The celebrations started with a mega function named 'Jagruti' held at Vocational Training Centre, Joda in which Ms Sujata Patnaik, Trustee, Shridi Sai Seva Samiti and a renowned social worker of the region graced the occasion as chief guest along with Dr Suchismita Das, Officiating CMO, Tata Steel Hospital, Joda and Ms Vinita Singh, Vice-President, Spandan Mahila Samiti. On this occasion, the dignitaries



felicitated 22 women from the region for their contribution towards fighting COVID-19 and supporting the community during the pandemic. As part of the felicitation, apart from an appreciation certificate, the women were also given gifts. The event concluded with felicitation of Ms Sujata Patnaik and Dr Suchismita Das for their outstanding efforts towards community during

the pandemic. It may be noted here that that Ms Sujata Patnaik is among the first few in the region who started providing meals to the underprivileged through Municipality during the pandemic at Joda. It may be noted here that due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation, only 22 women were felicitated at VT Centre, while 92 women including Aanganwadi workers and helpers will be felici-

tated in similar ceremonies to be held at different locations later in the week. Similar celebrations were also organized at Bichakundi, FAP, Joda, Khondbond and Guruda. At Bichakundi, Mr Amit Kumar Dubey, Head, Manganese Group of Mines graced the occasion as chief guest and felicitated the winners of various competitions including quiz, rangoli and pot painting

that was organized earlier in the day. Apart from this, plantation was also done by the dignitaries as part of the celebrations. At FAP, Joda, the celebrations started with plantation followed by an interaction of women employees with Dr Suchismita Das, Officiating CMO, Tata Steel Hospital, Joda and Mr G P Sahu, Head, FAP, Joda. Winners of various competitions held earlier were also felicitated on the occasion. As part of the celebrations, appreciation certificates were also given to all women employees including doctors and nurses of Tata Steel Hospital, Joda for their contribution to the society during the pandemic.

Bombay Begums review: Flawed, real, laughing women make this Netflix series come alive



New Delhi, Mar 8: The struggle for women to survive is real, whether they occupy coveted corner offices in plush corporate offices, or much humbler environs on the wrong side of the tracks. Bombay Begums may well have been named so because it is a catchy alliteration, but the six-part series encompasses that age-old truth as seen through the inter-connected stories of its Mumbai-based 'begums': if you are a woman, you have to fight for your rights every inch of the way. Rani (Pooja Bhatt) is the CEO of a bank, zealously guarding her hard-earned turf. Fatima (Shahana Goswami) works in the same bank, and is steadily climbing the ladder. Aysha (Plabita Borthakur) is a small-town girl hacking a life in the big city. Shai

(Aadhya Anand) is a lonely teenager with mommy issues. Lily (Amruta Subhash) is a bar dancer and a single mother. Here are your different stratas of society and age-groups united by the single immutable, unalterable fact of gender, and how everything these characters do is circumscribed by centuries of patriarchy and misogyny. There have been ambitious women in the movies and TV shows before, so it isn't exactly virgin territory that 'Bombay Begums' treads. But where it scores is in its decision to create full-bodied female characters who refuse to be likeable, or to conform. And in the way it shows us just how much women themselves are complicit in maintaining the status-quo, once they reach a certain po-

sition: a predatory male colleague (Manish Choudhary) at the bank is outed by a new entrant after a sexual assault, and instantly the older women close ranks on the shaken, miserable girl. Has she any idea how her complaint will impact her fledgling career? How drunk was she when it happened? Wasn't it consensual? Think of the man, and his happy family: these accusations will ruin his life. This incident opens up old wounds of sexual harassment that a character had to suppress, and difficult truths come tumbling out, so timely in the #MeToo era. Not everything works. I wasn't quite convinced about the way the bar dancer's strand is shoe-horned into the narrative, but Amruta Subhash's playing of Lily is so good that you

want more of her. Some twists feel contrived and too convenient. And the coming of age of the privileged teenage girl is a bit too literally realised, but again there are so few cinematic attempts of pubescent teenagers becoming aware of their bodies, that I will take this too, thank you very much. What joy to see women getting their due, speaking up, speaking out. Pooja Bhatt owns the part of Rani, the woman who's got to where she wanted, her scars showing. She is in a relationship with a powerful man (Rahul Bose); her spouse (Danish Hussain) is in the know. What happens between partners in these so-called 'open marriages'? And just look at that gorgeous wardrobe, the sarees she wears, each better than the other. Shahana

Goswami makes us empathise, effortlessly, with her Fatima, who is not in the happiest of places with her husband (Vivek Gomber), and who comes alive only when she is in the boardroom. Motherhood is not what will fulfil her; a place at the high table will. Alankrita Srivastava has been consistently pushing boundaries with her portrayal of women's sexuality. The most powerful element in both 'Lipstick Under My Burkha' and 'Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamaktye Sitare' was the recognition of women's desire, and how its absence can create permanent hollowness. We see this playing out in these 'begums' of Bombay: in the character who is 'bi', and who wants freedom to explore fully, in the unhappily unmarried older woman who has a passionate affair and finds a kind of fleeting happiness she's been missing in her arid marriage, and in the mostly-happily married woman who learns the value of true love. Flawed, real, hurting, laughing women who make you stay with them, and root for them. What are the trade-offs on your journey to the top? And where are your hard stops? These questions, which the series places front and centre, make it a meaningful addition to contemporary feminist fiction.

Shriya Pilgaonkar pays tribute to her mother Supriya on Women's Day: Proud to have her as my role model

New Delhi, Mar 8: On Women's Day, Shriya Pilgaonkar spoke about the women of her life who influenced or made her what she is today. The actor said she feels lucky to have actor Supriya Pilgaonkar as her mother who "paved a way as a strong woman" for her and "empowered me to be my own person." "My mother is not just someone I look up to as a parent but also as an artiste. She is somebody who has successfully

and Sachin Pilgaonkar) are actors, they gave her utmost freedom to pave her own path. "I have always valued the advice my parents gave to me as artists. But I also want it to be a surprise to them, with respect to the kind of work I am picking. If I do find myself struggling to make a decision, I go to them. They will help me ask the right questions," the 31-year-old said. The actor shared that her parents' way of empowering her is

son," Shriya stated. Recently, Supriya Pilgaonkar was all praise for daughter Shriya. In an interview earlier, Surpiya had said, "I feel proud that rather than asking us to follow her speed, she has let us all grow at our own pace. And what's most beautiful is that apart from us, she also wants to be connected with her grandparents." On the work front, Shriya will next be seen in Rana Daggubati's Haathi Mere Saathi, which is all



been able to pave a way as a strong woman for me in my life. She empowered me to be my own person. The way she has balanced her career and home life is commendable," Shriya told indianexpress.com. The Mirzapur actor added, "Even my grandparents are such strong opinionated women, who have always gone for what they wanted in life. I am proud to have them as my role models." Shriya shared that even though both her parents (Supriya

to make her "learn from my own journey" for which, she is thankful. "I could not be any happier for receiving that kind of support," Shriya said. But is there a pressure to live up to their name? "I personally am not the kind of person who puts pressure on myself. However, for me, I feel there is a responsibility of carrying myself with the grace that my parents have. The legacy that I will leave, will not only be about my work but also about how I am as a per-

sonal to release on March 26. Speaking about the film, Shriya said, "It is a special film. I hope people are not only entertained by the film but also somewhere, going forward, become mindful of the fact that we have to live as one with nature, we have to be sensitive. We have to understand that with development comes a responsibility, and that we all are connected in a certain way. I am looking forward to how people will react to the film."

Saina trailer: Parineeti Chopra promises to break the Great Wall of China in her quest for No 1 title

New Delhi, Mar 8: It took several stepping stones for actor Parineeti Chopra to get into playing the titular role in Saina Nehwal's upcoming biopic, titled Saina. But, seeing the film's trailer, we are just glad that she came onboard. Parineeti seems to have nailed the look in the trailer. After days of teasing fans with the first look video, the makers of Saina dropped its trailer on Monday. And in the 2.3-minute Saina trailer, we are shown glimpses of everything the sportsperson faced to emerge numero uno. The movie also traces

Saina's bond with her two pillars of strength - her mother and father, without who she wouldn't have achieved all that she did. The trailer has heartwarming shots of Saina with her parents, that might remind you of your own relationship with them back home. Saina not just rides on the journey of the badminton player, but also touches upon gender relates taboos in our society. Actor Manav Kaul plays her coach (on the lines of Pullela Gopichand), and his connection with Parineeti onscreen looks inevitable. Saina Nehwal is the

first Indian badminton player to win an Olympic medal. She also became the only Indian woman shuttler to become world number one. The long-in-the-making biopic is directed by Amole Gupte, who has previously helmed movies such as Stanley Ka Dabba and Hawa Hawaai. For the biopic, Parineeti has been religiously learning the game. She had shared that she was playing badminton for two hours every day and training for an hour at least to sport an athlete's physique and attitude. Talking about preparing for the role, Parineeti had earlier said in a statement, "I was dying to do a sports-based film. It is a part of my personality as an actor that I have never explored, and I am so happy that I get to portray a strong and powerful girl like Saina. She has put our country on the world map, and I excited to put in all the training and hard work that comes with learning the game of Badminton and portraying Saina on screen."



Importance of Sexual Health and Well-being in Communities

New Delhi, Mar 8: Change is the primary theme of adolescence. There are rapid bodily changes, emotions run high and society suddenly views you as an adult! Curiosity, excitement and urge for independence takes control but these changes can also be confusing and uncomfortable if adolescents are not guided and heard. India has the world's largest teenage population. There are 253 million adolescents comprising nearly one-fifth, i.e. 22 per cent, of India's total population, belonging to a heterogeneous group of people. They vary in age, marital status, economic status, cultural background, religious beliefs, etc. In India, especially in low-income groups and rural India, adolescence is not a concept. At one point, you are a child and on attaining puberty (menarche or spermarche), you are declared an adult who is ready to be conformed according to societal rules, responsibilities, and procreation. This attitude is the reason that many adolescents in the country are out of school, are married early, work in vulnerable situations, are sexually active, and are exposed to peer pressure. This opens them to



a high risk of exposure to unprotected sex, harmful sexual practices, RTI/STIs (Reproductive Tract Infection and Sexually Transmitted Infection), and HIV/AIDS. This situation is further exacerbated due to inadequate knowledge and a lack of access to health facilities combined with cultural taboos, myths, and misconceptions, that restrict adolescents from asking for advice, seeking medical attention, etc. Here are 5 Health Benefits of Saffron. To help adolescents gradually grow into adults who are responsible, aware and in-charge of their future, there is a need for comprehensive adolescent reproductive and sexual health (ARSH) education. ARSH equips adolescent boys and girls with age-appropriate sexual health knowledge to empower their decisions regarding health,

rights, and safety; develop respectful social and sexual relationships, and understand that their choices affect their well-being and that of others. Adolescent girls are the most to suffer as they have restricted access to SRH (Sexual and Reproductive Health) services which exposes them to the dangers of poor menstrual hygiene practices, non-consensual sex, and unsafe pregnancies and abortions. According to National Family Health Survey 4 (NFHS) in India, 40 per cent of women in between the age of 18-24 years reported having had sexual relations by 18 and 47 per cent were married before 18 and among them, only 13 per cent used contraceptives. Through my years of experience as an ARSH implementer, I have observed that ARSH education to

these young girls empowers them towards better menstrual health and increased agency over their health, education and bodies. While ARSH education affects girls more, boys too have benefit from ARSH education as they understand their bodily and emotional changes, learn about contraceptives and prevention of RTI/STIs, and understand consent and sexual rights so that they too become champions working towards gender equality. The conspicuous silence around adolescent sexual health has been a household feature of Indian families and communities since forever. Any mention of sex is tabooed. The prevalence of these taboos in government set-ups also prevent adolescents from seeking guidance or treatment because they fear judgement, ridicule and ostracism. Friendly faces, provision of safe spaces and non-judgmental support has been observed to help them reach out in timely manner. Peer educators are at the biggest support-system to promote sound sexual health and reproductive practices among young people. Friends find comfort in

sharing their thoughts and issues with friends. I have seen how trained peer educators are able to provide adolescents in their communities with a safe space, knowledge, and guidance on sexual and reproductive health, promote healthy sexual behaviors, link them to important government services and enhance gender equality using communication material like videos, short films, etc. Equitable access to sexual health related education can also be achieved through new age communication medium should be used to support adolescents such as e-counselling, communication via social media and other information, communication and technology (ICT) platforms such as radio podcasts, televisions. Furthermore, prejudice-free sexual and health counselling should be provided to the younger population to ensure that they have access to right information. Adolescent friendly health services should be provided in communities to ensure that regular checkups are conducted. Lastly, reproductive, and sexual health education should be made compulsory in schools.

Bajrang takes gold and number one rank in Rome, bronze for Kaliramana



Rome, Mar 8: Tokyo-bound Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia pulled off a two-pointer in the last 30 seconds of the gold medal bout to defend his title at the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series event, a result that pushed him back to world number one rank. Up against Mongolia's Tulga Tumur Ochir, Bajrang was trailing 0-2 till the final moments of the 65kg final but managed to level the scores, 30 seconds from

the whistle. Since the last scoring point came from the Indian he was declared the winner on criteria on Sunday night. Bajrang seemed to have improved upon his leg defence in the one-year break, forced by the coronavirus pandemic. Bajrang was placed second in the rankings before the event and is now on top of the ranking table in the 65kg category with 14 points. The fresh rankings are based on results of this tournament only. So who-

ever gets on top of the podium will be ranked number one in the world. Vishal Kaliramana too impressed in the non-Olympic 70kg category by winning a bronze with a 5-1 win over Syrbaz Talgat from Kazakhstan. Meanwhile, Narsingh Pancham Yadav, who recently made a return to competitive wrestling after a four-year doping ban, lost his bronze play-off 0-5 to Kazakhstan's Daniyar Kaisanov. He though, impressed with his power and temperament. India returned with seven medals from the first Ranking Series event in a year with Vinesh Phogat and Sarita Mor winning gold and a silver respectively in the women's event. Greco Roman wrestlers -- Neeraj (63kg), Kuldeep Malik (72kg), Naveen (130kg) -- bagged three bronze medals.

India Eves suffer heavy loss on return

Lucknow, Mar 8: Lizelle Lee and Laura Wolvaardt shared the highest opening wicket stand against an under-prepared India to give South Africa an emphatic eight-wicket win in the first ODI of the five match series here on Sunday. Asked to bat, India never got the momentum it needed and could only manage 177 for nine despite sedate fifty from skipper Mithali Raj (50 off 85) and a quick-fire 40 off 41 balls from her deputy Harmanpreet Kaur Lee (83 not out off 122) and Wolvaardt (80 off 110) helped South Africa chased down the target in 40.1 overs with a record 169-run stand. India would quickly like to forget their first outing in 12 months and come back much stronger in the next game



against a side which has come into the series with substantial game time. The South African opening duo did not look any sort of trouble against the India pacers as well as their highly rated spinners. Lee smashed 11 fours and a six while Wolvaardt collected 12 boundaries. Veteran India pacer Jhulan Goswami (2/38), playing her first game since November 2019, was

the most impressive in an otherwise disappointing bowling effort. Debutant pacer Monica Patel got only four overs in which she conceded 20 runs. The spin-bowling troika of Rajeshwari Gaekwad, Deepti Sharma and Poonam Yadav failed to provide any breakthroughs that were needed to keep India in the game. Earlier, the 62-run stand between Raj and Kaur

steadied the innings after India lost their first three wickets for 40 runs, including star opener Smriti Mandhana (14 off 20), who looked in sublime touch during her short stay. Harmanpreet, playing her 100th ODI, looked ominous but played one big shot too many to be caught at long off. She smashed six boundaries in her entertaining knock. Raj, who took

some time to get going in her first game since November 2019, then shared a 52-run partnership with Deepti Sharma (27 off 46) to keep the innings moving. But her dismissal off a full-toss triggered a collapse that saw India reeling at 160 for eight from 154 for four. The skipper's innings comprised four boundaries and a six. Senior South Africa pacer Shabnim Ismail was the pick of the bowlers, taking three wickets for 28 runs in 10 overs. Brief Scores: India: 177 for 9 in 50 overs (Mithali Raj 50, Harmanpreet Kaur 40, Deepti Sharma 27; Shabnim Ismail 3/28, N Mlaba 2/41). South Africa: 178 for 2 in 40.1 overs (Lizelle Lee 83 not out, Laura Wolvaardt 80; Jhulan Goswami 2/38).

Swiss Open: Carolina Marin hands PV Sindhu a thrashing... and a lesson

New Delhi, Mar 8: 21-5 is a sobering scoreline, besides being a nightmarish parting memory to have of St Jakobshalle, where PV Sindhu became World Champion in 2019. But Carolina Marin was in tearing hurry -- 35 minutes is all she needed to imprint that score on the Indian's mind, and erase all fondness for Basel. Galloping around the court, turning every net interception into an ambush and pouncing on Sindhu's progressively jittery serves, Marin ensured that everything that went up came down -- with a thudding fall. The 21-12, 21-5 Swiss Open final defeat saw Sindhu score the least points against the rampaging Spaniard in 14 meetings. From inwardly believing that she can fight for gold at Tokyo, to being harried out breathless and clueless in her first final in 18 months, would read ominous, if there wasn't the comfort of four months to go to Tokyo, and seven for the Huelva World Championships -- two events Marin wants to absolutely lord over. The debriefing for Basel 2021 would be short and snappy -- Marin's pace is lethal, bordering on intimidating. Her speed has always troubled the rest of the



world, and while those with niche talents of deception or retrieval find their own ways, Sindhu will need to be tactically on song, exploiting Marin's deep backhand corner or pinning her back on the forehand edge or impatience in long rallies, to stand a chance of countering her. It's more out of a conscious desire that Marin loomed on the forecourt -- in Sindhu's face, and poured in everything into the speed igniting her first two or three shots of any rally. There might be just half a dozen rallies that Marin allowed to go into the double-digit back-and-forth. Her smothering of Sindhu's serve with lightning-quick reactions was pure sav-

agery -- incidentally last seen when Sindhu was pulverising Nozomi Okuhara's drives at the same stadium in the 2019 World Championship final. Both tried pushing each other to the backcourt until 6-6, but the pace was fifth gear from the start. For two straight days now, Viktor Axelsen has blitzed Kidambi Srikanth and Marin assailed Sindhu in the first few minutes, to deny them any comeback -- though Srikanth cleverly put doubts in the Dane's head before going down in two games. But mentally and physically, Indians are not looking sturdy enough to withstand the early storm to launch successful fightbacks. Sindhu

looked dazed even. And helpless. From 8-9 in the opener, the World No. 7 could muster just four more points as Marin rushed through the first game. And that too only in rallies that she could extend, like at 11-19. Akane Yamaguchi, Tai Tzu-Ying, and in the semifinal, Pornpawee Chochuwong -- all give themselves a chance against Marin by extending the rallies and preying on her perennial hurry to finish things off. The Spaniard, Olympic champion, was not only leaving scars in real-time. She was opening up wounds in Sindhu's confidence as the match went along -- trailing 2-9 in the second, the Indian had an open court to finish a net charge.

But she was so nettled by what had happened, how she had careened off track, that she sent the straightest of smashes long. If Basel showed her the amount of work left to do to beat someone like Marin, Birmingham and All England will give Sindhu a good idea of Japanese preparations, especially Yamaguchi's. And where she stands herself. The Indian has never been one to go into big events needing to have won many titles. She can come out of nowhere and beat Tai Tzu-Ying -- as she has at the Olympics and Worlds. But Sindhu's never allowed demons to build in her head vis a vis a player; Marin and Yamaguchi threaten to blow up into something like that. Sindhu is a far more versatile player now than she was in 2016. Her court craft and range of strokes have both expanded. But she's five years older and physically not in the best of shape -- though with four months in hand. Though against Marin, who's got even faster, Sindhu will need more than just power in her smash. Marin proved that Sindhu can be ambushed tactically. Small mercies -- the lesson was imparted early in a big season.

New Delhi, Mar 8: India ended the league stage of the World Test Championship (WTC) on first place, beating out competition from Australia and England for a spot in the final -- which will be played against New Zealand at Lord's from June 18. India, who were at the second position midway through the England series, toppled the Kiwis with 72.2 PCT. England dropped to 61.4 percentage points on the points table, which is now led by India. New Zealand are the other team in the final with 70 percentage

in the current WTC cycle. Pat Cummins (70 wickets) is the top wicket-taker. Stuart Broad (69 wickets) is second. Nathan Lyon (56 wickets) and Tim Southee (51 wickets) are the other top wicket-takers. David Warner's 335* vs Pakistan (November 2019) has been the highest individual score, and the only triple century. Highest Strike Rates (above 300 runs) -- Rishabh Pant (69.17) Rishabh Pant and Rohit Sharma (SR 64.49) have been the most aggressive batsmen with more than 300

Bumrah (4) Virat Kohli (4) has scored the most ducks among Indian batsmen. Pakistan opener Shan Masood has registered five ducks -- the most among specialist batsmen. Best Bowling Figures -- Ravichandran Ashwin (7/145 vs South Africa, October 2019) While seven has been the most wickets going to one bowler in an innings, Bumrah's 6/27 vs West Indies has been one of the best spells of the WTC cycle. Most catches by a wicketkeeper -- Rishabh Pant Pant (40 from 11 Tests)



Coco Gauff saves 2 match points in 1st-round win at Dubai

Dubai, Mar 8: Coco Gauff had trouble closing out and needed to save two match points before finally fending off Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-6(3), 2-6, 7-6(8) to advance to the second round of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship. The 16-year-old American led 5-1 in the third set and twice had chances to serve out the match, holding four match points in the 10th game, but

Alexandrova rallied to force a tiebreaker. Gauff then had to save match points in the tiebreaker before winning the last three points to finish off the match in 2 hours, 40 minutes. "There were times when we both could have thrown in the towel and gave up, but we both were mentally fighting," Gauff said. "I think it's just one of those that you're happy that it's over, and happy that you fought

through it." Gauff's 17th birthday is next Saturday, the same day as the Dubai final. "That'd be a pretty good birthday gift, to make it to the final," she said. The top eight seeds had a first-round bye. In other matches Sunday, Ons Jabeur opened with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Katerina Siniakova and Barbora Krejickova upset 16th-seeded Maria Sakkari 6-2, 7-6(4). Veteran Russian



Svetlana Kuznetsova had a 6-4, 1-6, 6-5 win over Wang Qiang and advanced

to the second round along with Anastasija Sevastova and Alize Cornet.

points. Australia finish in third place with 69.2 percentage points. Rahane is one of six batsmen to have registered more than 1000 runs in the current WTC cycle. Marnus Labuschagne (1675 runs) is the top run-getter of the league phase. Rohit Sharma (1030) is the other Indian batsman to be in the top six. Ashwin is also one of five bowlers in the world to have taken more than 50 wickets

runs across all teams in the WTC cycle. Quinton de Kock, Babar Azam, Dhananjaya de Silva, David Warner, Liton Das, Shubman Gill are the others who have batted at strike rates above 60. Most Sixes -- Rohit Sharma (27) Ben Stokes (31) has hit the most sixes, having played 6 more Tests than Rohit Sharma, who is second on the list. Most Ducks -- Virat Kohli, Jasprit

ranks ahead of Wriddhiman Saha (18 from 6 Tests) for India. Tim Paine (65 from 14 Tests) has been the most prolific wicketkeeper. Highest Partnership -- Rohit Sharma and Mayank Agarwal (317 vs South Africa for 1st wicket, October 2019) The highest partnership across all teams has been Kane Williamson and Henry Nicholls's 369-run 4th wicket stand vs Pakistan in January 2021.

Odisha Speaker felicitated JK Paper with State Business Leadership Award 2021 PFC celebrates "International Women's Day" 2021



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 8: Odisha Speaker felicitated JK Paper with State Business Leadership Award 2021, for Innovative & Impactful CSR. On the eve of observation of the State Panchayati Raj & Good Governance Day, to commemorate birthday of legendary Biju

Pattanaik on March 5th, 2021 in Odisha, in an event organized by the interview times - a monthly English Magazine, the honorable Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly Dr Surya Narayan Patro felicitated JK Paper with State Business Leadership Award 2021 for its innovative, Impactful

and Transformative CSR, projects undertaken by the company for last few years. The General manager, CSR, Prof P K Dhal received the award from the Speaker in presence of 100s top corporate heads, political leaders & socialites and members of the media fraternity. Twenty other cor-

porate leaders from the state have also been felicitated by the speaker for other categories. "We are delighted and encouraged with this leadership award and will do more meaningful CSR projects for transformations of rural & tribal communities of Odisha with the concept of circular & value chain

economies", said Prof Prafulla Kumar Dhal, the GM CSR of JK Paper. As a matter of fact JK CSR through its CSR arm - the Sparsh Social Foundation has undertaken a number of transformative projects namely Digitalizing Rural communities for youth employments, adoption of Solar micro irrigation for doubling farmers income, brining cottage industries on NTFPs & forest products such as Hill Brooms and Tamarind processing and marketing, setting of mega Rural Hatt for organic products, Rural Mart for SHG products etc and has attracted attention from the government and other stakeholders for its replications over 11.6 % of Rayagada population have been benefited by the CSR interventions of JK Paper.

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, Mar 8: Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), the leading NBFC in the power sector, cel-

brated "International Women's Day" with full enthusiasm and pledged to create a supportive work environment for women. On this occasion, Smt. Parminder Chopra, Director (Fi-

nance), PFC spoke about the importance of inclusion and diversity in the workplace and emphasized the need to eliminate gender discrimination in all areas of life. Smt. Meenakshi Davar, former Director (HR), POSOCO conducted a Workshop on 'Women Empowerment' in the august presence of Smt. Parminder Chopra, Director (Fi-



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Hon'ble Governor of Odisha Prof. Ganeshi Lal graces NALCO's International Women's Day celebrations as the Chief Guest



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 8: Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, graced the International Women's Day celebrations of Navratna CPSE NALCO as the Chief Guest at the NALCO Research & Training Centre (NRTC) in Bhubaneswar today. In his inspiring speech, the Hon'ble Governor quoted eloquently from Ramcharitmanas and the Vedas, where women have been put in the highest pedestal. Prof. Ganeshi Lal, was all praise for women who are working tirelessly in various fields and lauded women for making a difference and contributing to the growth of the Nation. A brilliant scholar, Prof Ganeshi Lal enthralled the

audience with his deep knowledge and wisdom. P a d m a s h r e e awardee & eminent Writer Dr. Pratibha Ray graced the occasion as the Chief Speaker and delivered the keynote address on various issues concerning women. Shri Sridhar Patra, CMD, NALCO thanked Hon'ble Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal and Dr. Pratibha Ray for motivating the employees of the Company. "Our women employees have always played a significant role in strengthening the Company. They have always delivered and excelled at their work & beyond. We are proud of their achievements and consistent contributions round the year." Smt. Sasmita Patra, President, NALCO Mahila Samiti (NMS) and

members of NMS were felicitated by the Hon'ble Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal & Dr. Pratibha Ray, for excelling at the 'Mock Parliament' event, which was organised in the run up to the Women's Day celebrations. During the event, women employees of NALCO were also awarded for their performance in a Quiz competition held recently. Shri Radhashyam Mahapatra, Director (HR), Shri M.P. Mishra, Director (P&T and Finance) and Shri Bijay Kumar Das, Director (Production & Commercial) were also present on the occasion, along with women employees, senior management and members of Associations & Unions of NALCO.

JSPL Foundation honours rural girls with Swayamprabha Award

(A.O. Bureau) Angul, Mar 8: JSPL Foundation, the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (JSPL) announced the Swayamprabha Award for the Adolescent girls who had successfully fought their own health adversities and excelled in their studies and other co-curricular activities under its Kishori Express Programme. Today on the International Women's Day, JSPL Foundation felicitated two rural girls of Angul district for spreading the awareness about adolescent anaemia in and around Angul and Banarpal blocks of Angul district. On this occasion Angul Collector and District Magistrate Shri Siddharth Shankar Swain and Shri Tapan Kumar Satapathy, ADM-Angul, felicitated Ms. Adyasa Mohapatra and Ms. Priyadarshini Parida with the "Swayamprabha Award" for not only taking care of their personal hygiene and overcoming



from severe anaemia to normal haemoglobin range but also for excelling in their studies. These adolescent girls are now working as the torch bearer for other girls of their age groups thereby spreading health & hygiene awareness among the girls in nearby villages and society. The Kishori Express of JSPL Foundation is a specially dedicated vehicle to identify such anaemic young girls and educate them ways and means to overcome the challenges of low haemoglobin with proper

counselling, testing and training. Adyasa and Priyadarshini were identified to be severe anaemic when they were 14 and 16 years of age. Their haemoglobin levels were as low as 8 and 8.2 respectively. With proper education, guidance and care by Kishori Express and ICDS Functionaries associated with the project, their haemoglobin level has increased to 11.8 and 12.5 respectively. Both the girls are sensitizing their friends and girls from the neighbouring community

about the hazards of being anaemic and educating them ways and means to maintain the haemoglobin level for a healthy body and mind. In her message, Chairperson of JSPL Foundation Smt. Shalu Jindal said "I am happy to know that JSPL Foundation is felicitating the adolescent girls who have overcome their health adversities and excelled in their studies and co-curricular activities with the Swayamprabha Samman. I am sure such Awards will

be a big encouragement to the adolescent girls to adopt appropriate health care and personal hygiene measures and pursue their studies for a bright future. I wish all the best to the award winners". Kishori Express has been instrumental in making meaningful changes among adolescent girls since 2011 by disseminating knowledge about good health and hygiene habits. Besides focusing on the haemoglobin level in adolescent girls, the project prioritises on use of sanitary napkins. This has resulted in substantial increase in the use of sanitary napkins and the overall awareness level regarding personal hygiene of adolescent girls besides improving school attendance and reducing school dropout. The Kishori Express has touched more than 1.6 lakh adolescent girls from Angul, Banarpal and Chhendipada blocks. The project is implemented in collaboration with ICDS, NHM, Education & Dist. Administration.

International Women's Day is celebrated at Vikas Law School

(A.O. Bureau) Bargarh, Mar 8: International Women's Day has been celebrated today at Vikas Law School under the priesthood of Prof. Dr. Bikram Kumar Das. On the occasion, Dr. Das gave an introductory information and guest introduction and addressed the students on the leadership of women in the society and their rights. The event was attended by Dr. Preeti Mishra,

Senior Professor, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. She highlighted "violence against women: a barrier to social development." She emphasized the need to focus on women's rights at the national and international levels, as well as the role of women in the modern world. The meeting was attended by Mr. Shivnanda Sahu, Coordinator of Vikas Law School, Mr. Jaimini

Kumar Sahu, Mr. Nayanjyoti Das, Mr. Abhinandan Khuntia, Ms. Ms. Rosie Meher and students of Vikas Law School. Students also participated in the event online. Finally, Mr. Jaimini Kumar Sahu offered his thanks. The event was highly praised by Mr. D. Murali Krishna, Chairman, Vikas Group and Dr. Samrendra Nath Panda, Director.



International Women's Day at KIIT

KIIT to Provide Free Covid Vaccine to Its Women Staff

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 8: International Women's Day was celebrated on virtual-cum-physical mode at KIIT, KIMS & KISS on 8th March 2021. Addressing the gathering virtually from New Delhi, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS said, "The more the women are empowered, the greater will be the development of the society, state and nation. Women employees have made significant contributions in the growth of KIIT, KIMS and KISS as a whole. From extending employment to women to giving them free hand in carrying out their duties at the top executive



level of the institute, we have substantiated the true meaning of women empowerment." All the women employees of KIIT Group of Institutions & KISS will get Covid vaccine free of cost, Dr. Samanta declared. A Women Forum will be es-

tablished at KIIT to look after the welfare of the women employees and girl students of KIIT Group of Institutions & KISS. Unless ample opportunities are given to women, their all round development can't even be imagined, stated,

adding that education is the bedrock of women empowerment. Gracing the occasion as the chief speaker, Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and National Commissioner-Rangers at

Bharat Scouts & Guides said that more women are now aspiring to get educated as a result of special schools, colleges and universities established to serve their purpose. To empower women, awareness plays a vital role, she said, adding that the objectives of Women's Day should be carried out throughout the year instead of a single day notionally. Prof. Hrushikesh Mohanty, Vice Chancellor, KIIT-DU and Prof. Sasmita Samanta, Pro-Vice Chancellor also spoke on the occasion. Prof. Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar proposed the vote of thanks.