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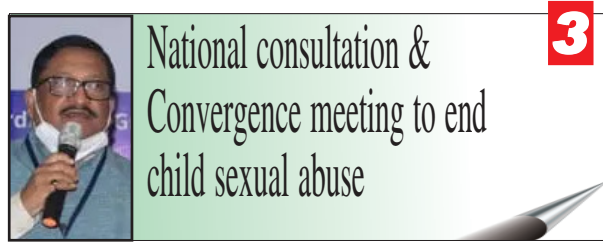
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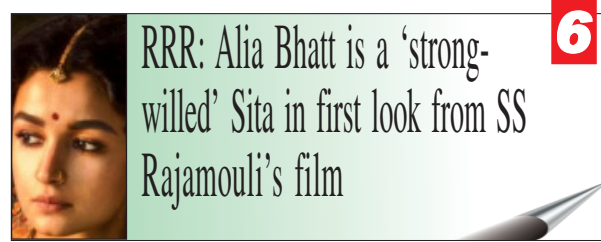
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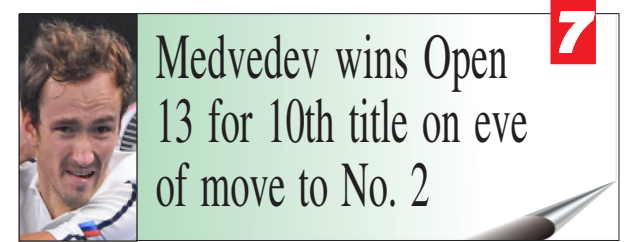
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Bank Strike: Over 5500 Bank Branches To Remain Closed In Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Mar 15: More than 5500 bank branches in Odisha will remain closed as a part of the two-day nation-wide bank strike on March 15 and 16. Over 30,000 bank employees of the state will participate in the strike. The United Forum of Bank Union (UFBU) has called for the strike against the privatisation of public sector banks and retrograde banking re-



forms. Services at bank branches like deposit, withdrawal, cheque clearance, and loan approvals would be affected due to the strike.

However, ATMs are likely to remain functional. The banks were closed on March 13 due to second Saturday and on March 14 due to Sunday.

WhatsApp Number To Report Street Crimes Launched In Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police today launched a WhatsApp number 7077798111 for citizens of Bhubaneswar

to report the incidence of street crimes. The number will become functional from tomorrow, wherein complainants can share in-

formation, pictures, videos of street crimes and criminals on the instant messaging platform, informed Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash. Dash said that the identities of the complainants will be kept confidential. This step has been taken in view of the rising number of street crimes in the city, said a police official.

Long years back during the British regime in India, a young man in Cuttack, in the East Coast of India, had a dream



Bhubaneswar, Mar 15: The dream to fly high, high up in the air braving the storms. He loved the steel birds, impassioned to fly them across continents. And then, there was a Flying Club in Delhi that was ever ready to make such dreams realized. Biju Babu's tryst with Delhi Flying club created an epoch in the aviation history of India.

Among many of Biju Babu's dare devil actions in the air, his role in Indonesian freedom movement is the most celebrated. His heroic act at Srinagar during Pak aggression in 1947, his help to Soviet Red Army during the Second World War and his support to leaders like Jayprakash Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali by ferrying them to differ-

ent places during freedom struggle are a few instances of his undaunted spirit. He is probably the only person who participated in freedom movement of three countries—India, Indonesia and Russia. Today I am delighted that Delhi Flying Club is celebrating the 105th birth centenary of Biju Babu by dedicating 5th march every year to

honour and recognize legendary pilots of India. Delhi flying Club is an iconic flying institution of India from where Biju Babu received his flying license. The people of Odisha and India owe to the Delhi Flying Club for adventures of Biju Babu in aviation. I thank Dr. B B L Madhukar for revitalising the memories of Biju Babu as an aviator. Biju Babu continues to be a great source of inspiration for all of us. He always encouraged us to use our potential to stand strong for the weak and disadvantaged in the face of strong adversity. We will always make endeavour to fulfill his dreams, his ambitions to recreate the glory of Kalinga. I wish the Delhi flying Club all the best in its endeavour for serving the nation.

State Of Health: Odisha Has 1 Doctor For Every 2000 Persons

Bhubaneswar, Mar 15: In contrast to the national ratio of one doctor for 1161 patients, Odisha has one doctor for every 1943 patients, informed Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das in the State Legislative Assembly today. Replying to a question raised

by Khandapada MLA Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, the Minister said while norms set by World Health Organization (WHO) suggest one doctor for 1000 population, the ratio in Odisha stands at 1:1943. Odisha is lagging behind states like Andhra Pradesh



(1:520), Gujarat (1:1022), West Bengal (1:1350) and Assam (1:1449) in the doctor-

population ratio. "As per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) guidelines, while there is a requirement of 6315 allopathy doctors in Odisha, the state has total 8719 sanctioned posts of different ranks. Of them, 7024 doctors have so far been appointed," said Das.

CM Naveen Patnaik Inaugurates 'Krushi Odisha-2021'

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today evening inaugurated the 5-day-long State-level agriculture expo 'Krushi Odisha-2021'. Addressing the occasion through video conferencing, Patnaik said that he has always stood with farmers and shall be doing so. Emphasis is being laid to ensure that farmers get a suitable value for their produce, he added. 'Integrated Farming - Towards Farmers Prosperity' is this year's theme for Krushi Odisha. The event is being jointly sponsored by the Agriculture & Farmers' Empower-



ment Department and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

(FICCI). The exhibition is focusing on innovations and best practices in Agriculture, Food

Processing, and allied sectors and to make it more remunerative for the farmers. Around

500 farmers are participating in the expo. The expo has a total of 160 stalls.

Odisha Govt Stays BMC's Decision To Hike Holding Tax



Bhubaneswar, Mar 15: Following resentment over decision to hike holding tax in Bhubaneswar, Odisha Government today stayed the order issued by Bhubaneswar Mu-

nicipal Corporation (BMC). The decision has been stayed till further orders from the Orissa High Court, informed State Housing & Urban Development, Law Minister Pratap

Jena. Last year, the BMC had revised the benchmark value of land in Bhubaneswar after 21 years. Challenging the hike, several petitions were filed in the High Court. Many outfits pro-


tested the civic body's move demanding roll-back of its decision. The Congress and BJP had hit the streets opposing the revised holding tax. The BJD had given one month ultimatum to the

BMC to revoke the order. Since the matter is pending in the court, the Law Department on directive of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik stayed the BMC's decision to levy tax on citizens.



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Breaking Silence on Mamata's Injuries, Amit Shah Asks: 'What About 130 BJP Workers Killed by TMC?'

Kolkata, Mar 15: Breaking silence over Nandigram incident where TMC chief Mamata Banerjee received leg injuries, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah questioned, 'what about the pain of 130 BJP workers who were killed by the TMC goons' in West Bengal. Addressing a public meeting at Raniband in Bankura district, Shah said, "I am late today because of technical snag in my helicopter." Hinting at Mamata's conspiracy allegations in Nandigram, he said, "There was some genuine issue with my helicopter but I won't call it a conspiracy. Mamata di is injured and moving around in a wheelchair. I wish for her speedy recovery but I want to ask her who is responsible for the death of 130 BJP workers in Bengal. What about their pain? Does she care about the



pain of the 130 mothers who have lost their children due to political violence?" Taking a jibe at Mamata, Shah said, "What actually happened in Nandigram is yet to be known. TMC is claiming that it was a conspiracy but the Election Commission termed it as an accident. God knows what is true but in my case there was a technical snag in my helicopter. I won't say that it was a conspiracy." Shah was supposed to address a rally

in Jhargram but he addressed the meeting virtually due to some technical issue with his chopper. However, he attended the next scheduled meeting in Raniband. "The tribal people were ignored by the ruling TMC. But today I would like to promise you to fulfill all your aspirations. Under the 'Stand Up India Scheme', the next BJP government in West Bengal will allocate Rs 100 crore to help the tribal community become atmanirbhar (self

reliant)," the Union Home Minister said. Shah also promised to provide 50 per cent higher education financial assistance to tribal community students who will score more than 70 per cent marks, in their class 12 examination. Shah slammed the TMC government for its 10 years of misrule in the State and accused her of blocking the Central government's schemes in the State. "She is depriving the poor of their rights. Didi is not imple-

menting the central schemes including 'Ayushman Bharat' in Bengal. Several crores of people across India have availed free surgeries under Ayushman Bharat. But I am sorry to say that didi has not implemented the scheme in Bengal. Mamata ji, don't you think people of Bengal have the right to avail this free and quality treatment? Why are you not implementing it?" "I would like to assure the people of Bengal that within minutes of forming the government in 2021, we will implement Ayushman Bharat health scheme in our first Cabinet meeting. There will be a parivartan in Bengal under Modi ji's leadership," he added. He said that BJP in its manifesto will implement the 7th Pay Commission, salary hike of teachers, and Rs 250 crore for the development of religious places.

RPOP's National Headquarters Inaugurated

New Delhi, Mar 15: The relentless effort being unleashed by Rastriya Prabasi Odia Paribar(RPOP) to Unite the Two crore non-resident Odias staying outside Odisha and to ensure their all round well being is really admirable opined the distinguished personalities. Participating in the inauguration of the national headquarters of RPOP at New Delhi, the honourable speakers praised unequivocally the 'Not I but We' principle of

relief materials among thousands of poor people during the Corona crisis, is definitely worth mentioned. The esteemed guests present during the inaugural ceremony like Senior Bureaucrat Dr. Sanjeeb Patjoshi, Director of Ambedkar Foundation Dr. Debendra Prasad Majhi, Renowned writer Dr. Chandramani Brahmaddutt and Chairman of Federation of Indian Stock Exchanges B.K. Sabarwal in their speech exuded confi-

celebrating the Centenary Year of Her Foundation. Speaking on the occasion the National Convenor of RPOP Prabir Mohanty described that RPOP is of Odias, by Odias and for Odias. The Vice President of RPOP Pushpanjali Barik coordinated the program in a very smooth and neat manner. Organised at the premises of RPOP's new office at the 4th floor of DP House on plot no. 133 in Lane number one of Western



RPOP in the direction of serving for the greater interest and benefit of Odias inhabiting in Delhi, National Capital Region and in different states of India. Founded in the Year 2016 with active participation of more than Fifty Odia organizations, the RPOP is strongly committed for providing Social Justice, Economical Support and Cultural Empowerment to the Odias in National and International Arena, elaborated by its Office Bearers. Specifically they pointed out that the Super service rendered by RPOP's dedicated volunteers in distributing cooked food and dry

dence that the headquarter will not only play a vital role in the implementation of Aims, Objectives, Policies, Programs, Planning, Projects, Philosophy and Overall Mission cum vision of RPOP but shall also work as a coordination point and facilitation centre for the Leaders, Office Bearers, Well Wishers, Activists and Volunteers of the Paribar. Presiding over the function the President of RPOP Minaketan Samal invited everybody's Co-operation to realise the dream of making one Odisha- best Odisha by the year of 2036, when our Mother State will be

Marg near Saket Metro station of New Delhi, the glittering event witnessed the presence of Galaxy dignitaries, which include RPOP's Vice President Reeta Patra, Joint Secretary Santosh Rout & Sarita Mohapatra, Treasurer Basant Jena and Joint Treasurer Asit Parida. RPOP's Secretary Minaketan Mishra and PRO Lambodar Rout joined the celebration through video conferencing. At the end RPOP's National Convenor Prabir Mohanty and Joint Secretary Santosh Rout enthralled the audiences by their Scintillating Musical presentations.

CBI interrogates TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's relatives in coal scam case

Kolkata, Mar 15: The CBI on Monday questioned relatives of Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee in connection with its investigation into the multi-crore coal pilferage case. The central agency had on Friday issued a notice to Ankush Arora, husband of Menaka Gambhir who is the sister-in-law of Banerjee, for questioning in the illegal coal mining case. The agency also asked Gambhir's father-in-law Pawan Arora to join the investigation. "Both have

appeared before the anti-corruption branch officers at CBI's Nizam Palace office here for interrogation," a source in the agency said. A CBI team had on February 23 visited the residence of Banerjee and examined his wife Rujira in connection with the case. The agency also examined Rujira's sister on the previous day on the same matter. Abhishek is West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew. "When Gambhir was interrogated by the CBI, she



had told the sleuths that her husband and father-in-law were in the knowledge of some bank transactions. She claimed that she was not aware of anything," the agency source said. Earlier, searches were conducted

at the residences and offices of people who are "considered close to Anup Majee alias Lala" — the main accused in the coal scam. Majee is believed to be involved in the illegal coal mining in the Asansol-Raniganj

belt of Eastern Coalfields Ltd and has been evading arrest. The CBI has also issued a look-out notice against him. The investigating agency on November 28 last year carried out a massive search operation in a number of locations in four states — West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh — after registering a case against Majee. The CBI is keeping a close watch on businessmen who have a close connection with Majee, the agency source said.

Batla House encounter convict Ariz Khan gets death penalty

New Delhi, Mar 15: A Delhi court has awarded the death penalty to a convict in the Batla House encounter case, observing that the murder of Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma fell into the rarest of rare category. Ariz Khan was sentenced to death by Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep Yadav. While demanding

enforcement officer and defender of justice while discharging his lawful public duty, and therefore, a serious exercise must be undertaken for determining the quantum of sentence. "If police officers are allowed to be murdered by the designer of murder and law does not express its strongest condemnation by way of

ficer, and attempting to murder another police personnel, Head Constable Balwant, who was also discharging his duties. "This peculiar fact of the case undoubtedly brings the case in the category of the rarest of the rare and calls for only the death penalty, as it shook the conscience of the society," Ansari told the



the death penalty, the prosecution had argued that the convict is a "menace to the society and would continue to be so, threatening its peaceful and harmonious coexistence." Additional Public Prosecutor AT Ansari told the court that this was a gruesome murder of a law

extreme penalties, then justice to those who are called up to defend justice would fail. This facet of social justice in certain circumstances demands death penalty," Ansari told the court. Ansari told the court that the accused has been convicted of killing an on-duty police of-

court. The prosecution contended that while the accused was "involved in several bomb blasts in Delhi, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, and UP, in which several innocent citizens of this country were killed, convict still continued to commit a murder of police officer.

ISRO to offload most activities to industry, enhance focus on advanced research

Bengaluru, Mar 15: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) intends to offload most of its space-related activities to industry and enhance focus on advanced research, its Chairman K Sivan has said, as the government opens up the sector to get private players onboard. Sivan, also Secretary in the Department of Space (DoS), said the reforms initiated in the sector by the government in June last year to promote enhanced private participation in the space domain has generated enthusiasm among the industry. "Future of space activities is now changing. Otherwise (earlier), all the space activities were done by only ISRO. Now, we are giving equal opportunity to private players to also do it", he said. Sivan was addressing a webinar organised by the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) on "Future of Aerospace



& Avionics in India". He said ISRO can share its technologies with private players and is giving them opportunity to utilise its facilities. "We want to hand-hold them to bring them to our (ISRO's) level so that most of activities that ISRO is doing can be offloaded to industry and we can spend more time on advanced research to take India to the next level (in the space sector)," he said. As part of space reforms for "Unlocking the space potential of India" to enable private players to carry out end-to-end space activities,

the establishment of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) has also been announced. An autonomous body under the DoS, IN-SPACE acts as a single window nodal agency for enabling and regulating space activities and usage of ISRO facilities by NGPEs (non-government private entities). It works out a suitable mechanism to offer sharing of technology, expertise and facilities free of cost wherever feasible or at reasonable cost basis to promote NGPEs. Sivan, however, made it clear in

the interaction with students and faculty of the Dehradun-based private university last Friday that Bengaluru-headquartered ISRO is not looking at collaboration with NGPEs at this stage. ISRO can only have collaboration with partners with equal strength, like international space agencies, he argued, noting that NGPEs in the space sector are still in the growth stage. The space agency at present is enabling industry to "come up to our level". "That is a process. We are hoping that once they grow to our level, then definitely we will be able

to have collaboration," he added. Union Minister Jitendra Singh, who heads DoS, has said 35 space startups and industries were in consultation with ISRO for support related to various domains of space activity such as development of satellites, launch vehicles, develop applications, and providing space based services. ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), incorporated two years ago, is also proactively working to improve the potential of Indian industries by way of technology transfer from ISRO in several identified areas. "This will definitely help them play an increasing role in the emerging space markets both nationally and globally. So far, we have entered into 14 such technology transfer agreements and you will see much more such transfers in the days to come", NSIL Chairman and Managing Director G Narayanan told PTI last week.

So much permission is required to sell some of the property, the government's revenue is declining, the general public is being harassed

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Mar 15: The Bhubaneswar Development Authority has to get permission to sell parts of a residential plot in the BDA area. Under section 142 of the ODI Act, a person can sell a property by submitting a required outline plan, map, etc. The directive from the BDA vice chairman has hampered the purchase and sale of land in the sub-register. Such a ruling by the BDA on the revenue department has led to a decline in revenue and a general harassment. There are 556 revenue villages in the area under the BDA. In Bhubaneswar, Khandagiri and Jatani sub-registrar's office areas, the BDA's new rules have not been able to buy and sell land in the revenue villages under it. As a result, the government has lost millions of dollars in revenue every day. In addition, the general public



is being harassed for selling land in emergencies. The government earns between Rs 18,000 and Rs 25,000 per acre in the BDA area. With the advent of this new rule of the BDA, land deposits are not sold. Suddenly, BDI has created a barrier for the general public to sell a portion of their land to spend on someone's daughter's marriage, children's education, and emergency health care. Therefore, the sale

of land should be made possible by increasing the usefulness of the land and providing a minimum of facilities such as real rainwater drainage systems, fire extinguishers and ambulances. The government, at its discretion, is selling the BDA in the name of various people by making government plots smaller for the purpose of voting politics. However, the statute of limitations on the distribution of land to a resi-

dent does not apply to the transfer of land to a resident. The amount of habitable land in both rural and urban areas is fixed but the need for land is increasing for the growing population. The common man would benefit if it could be distributed evenly. As per the directive issued by the BDA, the law will further encourage bribery at the government level when buying and selling land in many areas under the

BDA. It will also be difficult to file documents in your own name when distributing property between brothers. While all the rules are being tightened day by day, it seems to be a conspiracy of the bigwigs to complicate the process of land transfer in the BDA area. The UTKALIYABIKASH PARISAD has demanded that such an order be reconsidered and revoked.

SOA's Faculty Of Dental Sciences Becomes India's First Dental Institute To Become Cochrane Affiliate

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Mar 15: Institute of Dental Sciences (IDS), the faculty of dental science of city-based Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), has become the first and only dental institution in India to get the status of Cochrane Affiliate under Cochrane India Network. Cochrane, established in 1993, is a British non-profit organization involving global independent network of researchers, health professionals, patients and health related policy makers which aims at providing trusted evidence, enable informed decisions and ensure better health of the public.

The organization works on medical and oral health related research findings to facilitate evidence based choices on health interventions. It also maintains an official relationship with the World Health Organization and involves the public through community participation to produce systematic reviews and other outputs. Rigorous application procedures, infrastructure and support provided by SOA, a Deemed to be University, and Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar, enabled IDS to achieve this affiliate status, Prof. Neeta Mohanty, Dean

of IDS, said. IDS aims at disseminating high quality and relevant scientific information to health care seekers in their local language which would help the public to receive the best possible health care information and aid them in decision making, she said. Other eminent institutions which are part of the Cochrane India Network include Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, AIIMS, New Delhi, Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).



Adani Dhamra Port observes National Safety week



(A.O. Bureau)
Dharma, Mar 15: 50th National Safety week has been observed at Dhamra port premises. In this week-long celebration various programmes i.e competitions, awareness were organised for the port

workers and officers. In the conclusion day of this week long programme efficient workers and officers get felicitated. By addressing the conclusion day Dhamra Port Chief Executive Officer Subrat Tripathy emphasized on the rules of safety should

be obeyed by everyone. Among others, Port Operation Officer Sudeep Dasgupta, HR Head Tapas Acharya, Security Officer Sunil Thomas, Prashant Pal had also given their statements regarding safety measures.

Jindal Stainless to bear COVID-19 vaccination cost for all employees and their family members

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhuabneswar, Mar 15: Jindal Stainless, India's largest stainless steel manufacturer, today announced that the Company will bear the total cost of both the mandated COVID-19 vaccination shots for its entire workforce to ensure their safety and well-being. Under

this initiative over 35,000 employees, contractual workers, retainers, and their immediate family members will be benefitted across the country. Announcing this initiative, Chief Human Resources Officer, Jindal Stainless, Mr SK Jain said, "Health and safety of our employees

and their families have been our utmost priority at Jindal Stainless. This initiative is to acknowledge the dedication of our employees despite the difficulties created by the pandemic. Throughout these testing times, we've been supporting our employees and their families

through regular workshops and sessions on physical and mental wellness." At plant locations, Company will tie-up with hospitals to arrange vaccination camps for employees and their families. The 580-bedded Jindal Institute of Medical Sciences in Hisar, Haryana, which

served as a major screening and isolation centre to check the spread of COVID-19, will now serve as one of the key centres for driving vaccination. At corporate and other locations, Company will reimburse the total cost of the vaccine shots for its employees and their families.

National consultation & Convergence meeting to end child sexual abuse

(A.O. Bureau)
Puri, Mar 15: A two days National consultation & Convergence meeting to end child sexual abuse in India was inaugurated at Puri today. This was organized by National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children (NACG EVAC), India a national level civil society forum of SEIVAC, an apex body of SAARC. The objective of this Consultation is to develop a platform for CSOS and other stakeholders to share the Child Protection Challenges and good practices in preventing Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and also collaborate with various stakeholders to review and firm up the strategy to end Child Sexual Abuse with involvement of all stakeholders related to child protection issue told by Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson of NACG EVAC India. Justice DP Chowdhury, Former Judge, Orissa High



Court & President, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission addressed the participating members, emphasized on role of Civil Society members to create awareness on rights of the child and ensured they claim their rights. Participation of children to voice their needs is the first step to ensure they are empowered and protected. There is a need to behave children in a very friendly manner at all spheres and settings. Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General of SAIEVAC said that It is the right time we must start protecting children focusing on

issues relating to the child sexual abuse at this point of Pandemic. Mr. Mikhael Pradhan World Vision India said, Child sexual exploitation is such a serious issue and its magnitude, it demands a concerted effort by all the stakeholders to work together. Mr. Yashwant Jain, Member, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Expressed his deep concern over rising incidents of child sexual abuse. He also highlighted that it is a greater need to reach out to children, school, and community to create awareness on the POCSO Act to

help them understand that gravity of the penalty under the POCSO. Ms. Sandhya Bati Pradhan, Chairperson, OSCPCR, shared about the initiatives taken by the government of Odisha and OSCPCR in preventing child sexual abuse and applauded the work of NACG-EVAC India for the cause. Mr Sanjay Mishra, Treasurer of NACG EVAC India gave vote of thanks to all the speakers for their valuable inputs. Among others Ms. Vidya Reddy, Director Tulir, Mr. Barun Pathak, Advo-

cate Supreme Court, Mr. D. Roshan Kumar, Vice-chair, NACG, Dr. Indrani Bhattacharyya, Mr. Parha Das, Plan India, Dr. Abhaya Kumar Mallick, Dy. Director, Elementary Education, Govt. of Odisha, Dr. Anangdev Singh, WVI, Mr. Subrat Kumar Panda, TdH, NL, Ms. Aditi P. Kaur, E.C Member, NACG India spoke on the occasion. A total, 105 delegates from 17 States representing from civil societies, government, statutory bodies and academic institutions participated in the consultation.

Utility of time is the key of success



(A.O. Bureau)
Puri, Mar 15: At the campus of Sahid Bhavan self dependent training camp Organised by Dr Vivek Bindra, s Bada Business odisha branch. In this camp the chief trainer Mr Paritosh Sarma told that to become self depend one has to

defeat fear and to Express his own ability can make Expressing talent then only the door of success will open. In this program the Channel partner Siba Santosh Khuntia presided over the meeting the Regional chief Sandip Pradhan, General

Manager Vishnu priya Satpathy, Bikash Singh, and Jitendra Choudhary Express their views to built up self dependant Odisha the program was conducted by Bibhuti Patnaik, Gorav Sahu, Rasmita Sudipta, Sonu, Aishwarya.

EDITORIAL

Removing roadblocks

In a move that will free up public land, decongest roads, pavements and highways and make walking and driving in Uttar Pradesh (UP) safer and easier, the Yogi Adityanath Government has directed that any encroachment, structure or construction of religious nature on public roads, streets, pavements and highways after January 1, 2011, should be removed immediately. The structures built earlier would be given six months for a planned removal. These instructions have been issued by the UP Government in compliance with the 2016 order of the Allahabad High Court (HC) and all senior administrative and police officials at the district level have been told to shift such encroachments to land given by the followers of that religion or private land proposed by the persons responsible for the religious structure's management. The order also stated that in case of any disobedience, the officials concerned would be held responsible and in contempt of the HC's orders. This move was a long time coming because anyone who has driven on Indian roads must have come across structures that jut out into an otherwise perfect road and force people to go around them. Not only do these structures pose a big risk to drivers, especially at night as most of our roads are not well lit, particularly the highways, they cause traffic jams and bottlenecks, too. Though successive Governments have constructed hundreds of kilometres of roads and highways in UP and other States, they have failed to remove such encroachments, no matter how many accidents they cause or how many people are inconvenienced. This is owing to the fact that religion is a sensitive and emotive issue in India and comes above everything else. Hence, removing a religious structure from the side of a road or pavement is next to impossible without having a communal flare-up, as logical thinking and reasoning tend to take a back seat where our religious sentiments are concerned. Now, thanks to the HC's order, many such constructions in UP and NOIDA, in particular, will be removed, making life easier. However, the Government would do well to take the religious leaders of all communities into confidence and ensure that the encroachments are removed peacefully without hurting any sentiments. Plus, it will have to ensure that all religions are treated equally and there is no room for partisan behaviour that creates bitterness and communal disharmony.

Docile 'threat'

The idea of a "free and open Indo-Pacific" was at its core, apart from the anti-COVID vaccine and climate change. But what apparently injected lifeblood into an alliance that has largely remained passive till now is Washington's belligerence towards Beijing after Joe Biden took over as the US President. Certainly, India supplying its indigenous COVID vaccines to nations across the world has strengthened its position which it seems to cautiously tap to counter its hostile northern neighbour. The US knows well that it's almost impossible to restrain the increasing Chinese influence without India's help. New Delhi, too, knows its importance and will do whatever it takes to constrict the fast-expanding economic and military interests of Beijing in the region. Both Australia and Japan, who are coerced by China, particularly in the maritime space, understand the strategic importance of bolstering ties with both India and the US. However, the Quad meeting had only a veiled reference to China which has all along opposed the grouping, claiming that it will lead to militarisation in the region. But the moot question is whether such docile attempts are enough to counter China? Will it work as a real deterrent to Beijing? What will be its repercussions? China will try to counter such efforts diplomatically and on other fronts. Being one of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Beijing has the capacity to win favours and dent pliant commitments of any group against its interests. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the Quad will remain an "important pillar of stability in the region" while Biden mentioned that the group is committed to ensuring that the region is governed by international law and is free from coercion. India and the US seem to have an unequivocal stance against Beijing but it is only in the best interest of the former to tread cautiously as there are no permanent friends or foes in the global order and world diplomacy is a game of opportunism that is driven more by self-interests. Biden hinted to it in his first diplomatic address when he pledged to counter China's economic abuses and human rights violations but, on the other hand, asserted that he is ready to work with Beijing if it is in the US' interest. What message does it entail? India must also play its game cleverly, else it would end up serving the interest of the superpower in the Indo-Pacific region at the cost of its own gains. Remember, the US always loves to play the role of a judge who has to never pass a judgment. In case it does, it is used to pronouncing verdicts that suit its ends. It is in the best interest of India to get future-ready for countering China as it might wage a war on several fronts, unlike traditional warfare: Biological weapons, hacking internet services and remote-controlling it and increasing dominance in outer space. Are we prepared for it? As of now, the answers are not so easily forthcoming.

The uniqueness of same-sex marriages



Prafull Goradia

However odd these incidents may appear to traditional people, a free society should allow people to do what they prefer. Same-sex marriage is novel and different from the traditional sacramental or contractual coming together of a man and a woman. It would be a union legitimised by religion or law between two persons. It enables the couple to bear children who are, therefore, legitimate and not otherwise. Giving birth or procreation is a duty for the perpetuation of the human race. A primary function of marriage is legitimate procreation. There are men and women who live together without being married, especially in Europe, but hesitate to produce children. There are others who do not hesitate. In Gujarat's Vadodara city, nearly 30 years ago, a leading lawyer introduced a novelty called "mañtri karaar" (friendship contract). It laid down in a legal document all the necessary conditions about the future of the man's property and assets as well as other commitments. From an orthodox family, he had been married when very young. Subsequently, he was educated as a lawyer. His wife remained the woman she was expected to be. The mental or intellectual gulf between the two grew wider. Their two children remained with the wife but he maintained them all, though he lived separately with a younger lady whom he had befriended. To reassure herself of future security, she requested for a contract and the lawyer acceded. Following their example, several others in Gujarat adopted this contract method. Seldom did the parties to the contract procreate; in that they did not fulfill their racial duty

to nature. I have come across stranger incidents. Two young ladies, one very distantly related to me and the other of Chinese origin, resided in Canada at the time. They became such close friends that they got married. In due course, the Indian met an Englishman, a bachelor, who had a great desire to have children. With the consent of the Chinese spouse, the Indian agreed and had two children. A few years later, the Chinese also met someone with whom there grew a desire to have children. Last heard, the Sino-American combination had one child. The same-sex couple and their children stay together whereas the fathers visit them according to mutual convenience. However odd these incidents may appear to traditional people, a free society should allow people to do what they prefer. But that does not mean that the current laws should have to accommodate new oddities. For such people, the legislatures

should make separate laws so that the pioneers concerned do not feel insecure or outside the pale of society. Say, merely for illustrating my contention, let same-sex coming together be under a law called a 'unity contract' or anything else but not marriage. Experts may have several explanations for what in the old days would have been called perversities, but are now sympathised with. In my own lay observation, homosexuality develops normally due to the denial of access or exposure to the other gender. Boarding schools occasionally report such cases and, lately, irregularities have come to the surface in religious institutions, too. Again, going by my experience of being an only child, I suffered from extreme shyness in mixing up with girls. Here, my parents should have noted this and played a part in bringing me out of my reserve. All they needed to have done is to clearly tell me that if I wanted

to talk to a girl, I had to first say hello to her. I somehow had the notion that if I took the initiative, the girl might misunderstand and feel that I was taking liberties, which was so wrong! Nevertheless, I remained safe from any diversion. Another unusual experience I have witnessed is of my aunt. About the time I was born, she fell in love with an older doctor. He was married in his village before completing his studies. In due course, he and his wife had three healthy children. The mental or intellectual chasm between them had grown considerably. Basically, the doctor's problem was similar to that of the Vadodara lawyer. He, therefore, responded to my aunt, they became friends and remained so for years. When I was about eight years old, they came to see my grandfather for permission to marry. If he did not object, they would take a train to Goa and get married there. The reason was that the Bombay Provincial Law had prohibited bigamy by 1945 whereas the Goan rules permitted it. They went to Goa, got married and, remarkably, all lived together until death did them part: That is the two wives, six children and the doctor husband who happily survived until he was 83. As I grew up, I awoke to a contradiction in the Bombay Provincial Law. My aunt and uncle had to go to Goa to escape the ban on bigamy but thousands others are in law exempted from it and permitted the privilege of polygamy. This discrimination is now prevalent across India. Either polygamy should be allowed for all under a distinct, separate law or, preferably, it should be prohibited for all citizens of the country. But different privileges to different people under the law are discriminatory and wrong.

Reservation debate: a new, post-myth era

Satish Deshpande

With the Supreme Court reconsidering the ceiling of 50 per cent for reservations, we can move beyond binaries and ask difficult questions about power-sharing. Significantly, caste is only one factor alongside religion and race in the identification of communities. With the Supreme Court readying itself to raise its previously-imposed ceiling of 50 per cent as the upper limit for reservations, the spiral of history has completed a full cycle in almost exactly one hundred years. It is a spiral because we have not returned to the exact place where we were a century ago. But we are indeed re-discovering, albeit in changed circumstances, what we may have intentionally or unknowingly forgotten. In September 1921, the so-called "Communal GO" (or Government Order) was passed in the Madras Presidency by a provincial government led by the Justice Party. The Communal GO was essentially a power-sharing agreement that had the blessings of the colonial government. It allocated government jobs and seats in public higher education institutions to different communities in specific proportions. It was designed to check the near-monopoly of Brahmins on these opportunities despite the fact that they constituted only about three per cent of the population. The GO also signalled the arrival of popular politics, and was the culmination of a successful campaign for electoral power by the so-called non-Brahmin movement spearheaded by the Justice Party. These government opportunities were to be shared among six communities: Brahmins, non-Brahmin Hindus, Mohammedans, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans, and

others. Significantly, caste is only one factor alongside religion and race in the identification of communities. But most important here is the rationale for this policy — it is not based on any form of backwardness or disadvantage. Rather, it is an explicitly political principle of sharing the state's resources and opportunities. The political nature of this sharing is highlighted by the fact that an "objective" — hence apolitical — criterion like proportion of population is not decisive, though it is related to the popular notion of "justice" that anchors this arrangement ideologically. Fast forward to the next decade when the British government grants separate electorates to different religious and caste communities. The recognition of the Depressed Classes (roughly today's Dalit castes and Adivasi communities) as a separate electorate threatens the legitimacy of the Indian National Congress as the party that represents "India". Without the Dalit-Adivasi group, the Congress is left representing only "Caste Hindus", or just about half of the Indian population. Mahatma Gandhi is determined to prevent this and announces his first-ever fast unto death in September 1932. The enormous pressure brought to bear by the Mahatma's unilateral fast — effectively a veto — forces Ambedkar and other Depressed Class leaders into the so-called Poona Pact: The separate electorate is given up in return for a fixed number of seats for them in the legislature. Reservation is born. With this one-sided "pact", Gandhi and the Congress gain the immeasurable political distance that separates a "Caste

Hindu" party from a party that stands for "India". Ambedkar and the Depressed Classes are forced to retreat from the status of a community as entitled as any other to its share in the nation, to the status of a supplicant group granted a special concession. The Poona Pact leads directly to the Government of India Act of 1935, which first creates the Schedules naming the ex-untouchable castes and Adivasi tribes, thus coining the now-ubiquitous acronym SC-ST. Jump now to 1947, Independence, and the formation of the Constituent Assembly or the new nation's proto-parliament. In the aftermath of Partition, ideological lines have hardened, and the Assembly is dominated by voices unwilling to recognise internal divisions within the new-born nation, which is asserted to be one. Communities identified by their comprehensive exclusion from mainstream society — for which untouchability is the overarching metaphor — are now described in the developmental language of "backwardness". Active discrimination is translated into passive disadvantage. This crucial shift of perspective bears fruit in the newly-minted Constitution adopted on January 26, 1950. On the one hand, the Constitution (through Articles 15, 16 and 17) appears to banish all forms of discrimination, specifically including caste discrimination. On the other hand, the same Constitution adopts the lists of Scheduled Castes and Tribes created in 1935 as the basis for reservation. This contradiction is immediately weaponised by the up-

per castes and the Madras High Court uses Article 15 to strike down caste-based reservation, a decision upheld later by the Supreme Court, thus provoking the insertion of a protective clause through the First Amendment to the Constitution in 1951. The Constitution (especially after the First Amendment) cemented the ideological position of reservation as the exception to the norm of meritocracy, thereby locking the code words "reservation" and "merit" into an implacable, mutually-exclusive dichotomy. The arrival of the backward castes on the national stage in 1990 and the extension of reservation to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) disturbed this firm positioning, which was finally disrupted entirely by the reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) brought about through the 102nd Amendment to the Constitution of 2019. Coming after the proliferation of demands for sub-quotas within existing quotas and agitations for the creation of new quotas, the Supreme Court's most recent initiative only begins the process of accepting in principle what has anyway been true in practice. The post-EWS reservation scenario reminds us of the resource-sharing framework of the Communal GO of a century ago. The long and disabling period of nearly half-a-century since the 1950 Constitution, during which the myth of caste-as-exception and the deceptive dichotomy of reservation-versus-merit was perpetuated, is now behind us. Instead of hiding behind the false certainties of a hypocritical rhetoric, we can now begin to confront some difficult but real questions.

Annual meeting of the International Council for Human Rights



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Mar 15: An annual meeting of the International Council for Human Rights was held today at Golden View Hotel, Malkangiri District Headquarters. The meeting was attended

by Odisha State Human Rights Council President Alok Kumar Bose and Gajapati District Women's General Secretary Lily Sahu. At the meeting, both were welcomed by the district president with flowers. The meeting

was attended by District President Shri Ghanshyam Madkani, secretary Shri Prabhakar Suna, Legal Adviser Shri Rathikrishna Patra along with Member Bhagwan Sahu, Syed Azharudhin, Rajiv

Santa, Chitaranjan Kuldeep, Member Anjana Muduli and many others. During the meeting, Mr. Bose discussed in detail how the work of the International Human Rights Council in Malkangiri district was progressing

and how the Civil Rights Campaign was being carried out. Mr. Patra, a legal adviser, called on all youth workers to give up their narrow interests and engage in such public works, saying that human rights problems could be solved immediately if the constitution was strengthened. Later, during the Karona epidemic, the President of the State, Mr. Bose, congratulated some of the members for their continued service to the people of various remote areas and presented them with certificates and certificates to the new members. Finally, the President of the District, Mr. Madkani, thanked the President of the State and wished him all the best in the coming days.

20th Paradip Port Invitational Golf Tournament held

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Mar 15: Woman golfer Manasi Chalia emerged champion in the women category of Paradip Port Invitation Golf Tournament 2021, which concluded, here on Sunday. In the Men category, Bhubaneswar Oran of Bhubaneswar Golf Club, became the champion. In handicap (1 - 12), (13 - 18) and (19 - 24) categories, Oscar Dung Dung of Paradip Golf Club, Shailendra Upadhyaya of Bhubaneswar Golf Club

and Capt. A.K. Mohapatra of Paradip Golf Club have become the winners respectively. Bablu Sikdar and Harihar Das of Paradip Golf Club have bagged Runners Up awards in handicap (13 - 18). In children putting, Kumar Harshid Das became the champion. The Tournament was held at Paradip Golf Course by Paradip Port Golf Club and Paradip Port Sports Council. Gracing the occasion, Shri Asit Tripathy, Chairman, Western Odisha Devel-

opment Council, Shri Santosh Kumar Mohapatra, Ex-Chairman, PPT, Dy. Chairman PPT, Shri A.K. Bose and Shri D.N. Sondhi, President, GKS gave away the prizes. Paradip Golf Club president Capt. Atulya Kumar Mohapatra and working president Bablu Sikdar conducted the tournament smoothly. Shri Rabi Das, Advisor, sports council gave the vote of thanks. Total 60 golfers from 5 leading golf clubs from eastern India participated in the tourney.



Businessman Held For Hiring Contract Killers To Eliminate Rourkela Hotelier



(A.O. Bureau) Rourkela, Mar 15: The Plant Site Police in Rourkela today arrested businessman Prem Modi for his alleged involvement in the murder of city hotelier Sajjan Mittal on March 9. Prem finalized a deal of Rs 2.5 lakh with Dilip Sharma, who acted as a middleman, to eliminate the owner of 'Basera' hotel. Also, Prem gave Rs 10 lakh to Dilip to ensure the hotelier vacate the

shop in the market complex. The police arrested Dilip earlier in connection with the case. Worth mentioning, miscreants beat Sajjan to death after he refused to vacate the shop in a market complex in the city. A day after the hotelier's murder on March 9, the police arrested five persons including the main accused and forwarded them to the court. The accused arrested earlier were Rajat Biswakarma

from Gandhinagar; Dilip Kumar Sharma, owner of Hotel Deluxe Lane; Rajesh Singh alias Raju from Koelnagar, Aman Prasad from Vedavyas and Nel Paul alias Sarada from Uditnagar. A country-made gun and a stolen motorcycle were seized from the possession of the accused. A cop informed the police have launched a manhunt to nab other accused involved in the hotelier murder case.

AIIMS Satellite Centre In Balasore Likely To Function By July

(A.O. Bureau) Balasore, Mar 15: The much-awaited Satellite Centre of AIIMS Bhubaneswar in Balasore district is likely to be functional by July this year. The civil construction work of the satellite centre is in final stage and it will be functional by July 2021, informed AIIMS Bhubaneswar Director Dr. Gitanjali Batmanabane. With operationalisation of the satellite centre in Balasore district, the number of patients visiting the AIIMS Bhubaneswar from north Odisha districts for treatment will be reduced. Recently, the Koraput Lok Sabha MP Saptagiri Ulaka had discussed with Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan about uncertainty looming over construction work of satellite centre following which the long-awaited project re-



sumed. Later, Union MSME Minister Pratap Sarangi wrote to the Union Health Minister urging him to expedite the infrastructure work of AIIMS Bhubaneswar's satellite centre in Balasore. More than a week ago, Odisha Cabinet had approved a proposal of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department to lease out 25 acre land under Remuna

Tehsil in Balasore district free of cost in favour of the Department of Health & Family Welfare for the establishment of satellite centre of AIIMS Bhubaneswar. The project for setting up a satellite centre of AIIMS Bhubaneswar in Balasore district was announced by the Centre during UPA-II regime in 2013. The construction work began

after the foundation stone was laid by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in August 2018. Following the Centre's announcement, the superficiality OPD services were available at a venue provided by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) since 2017 on each Saturday in Balasore. However, the

weekly OPD service of AIIMS Bhubaneswar was suspended last year due to nationwide lockdown for Coronavirus. Initially, it was decided to have infrastructure for OPD services and staff quarters at the satellite centre. Later, various social outfits raised their demand to make the satellite centre into an autonomous super speciality hospital. Dr. Gitanjali stated that all the specialists of AIIMS Bhubaneswar will stay at the satellite centre in Balasore. In first phase, the infrastructure has been built at expenditure of Rs 35 crore to provide treatment to critical patients like AIIMS Bhubaneswar. In second phase, it will be upgraded to a multispeciality hospital for which a DPR is being prepared. The work will further continue once it gets nod from the government, she added.

People Panic As Bear Strays Into Village In Odisha's Balasore



(A.O. Bureau) Balasore, Mar 15: Panic gripped the Rainga village under Nilagiri NAC in the district after a wild bear was spotted by lo-

cals wandering about in the rice fields on the outskirts of the village on Monday morning. According to sources, the animal first sneaked into

human settlements in the village before moving to the farmlands. In a video of the animal's foray into the village, which has gone viral, the full-grown sloth bear is clearly seen wandering in the rice fields before melting into the thick vegetation in the vicinity. Locals believe the bear might have turned to human settlements from the nearby forest

in search of food. Though there has been no report of any attack by the wild animal, villagers are nevertheless in a state of fear as the present location of the bear is still to be ascertained. Forest department officials are yet to comment on the sighting of the bear in the village. It's not for the first time wild bears have been found enter-

ing human settlements in Odisha. On December 31, 2020 six sloth bears were seen roaming at Ladijodi village under Borigumma block in Koraput for several days triggering panic among the villagers. Massive deforestation and destruction of wild habitats by humans are causing repeated human-animal encounters in the State.

Married Woman Gang-Raped For 3 Days In Keonjhar



(A.O. Bureau) Keonjhar, Mar 15: Two truck drivers allegedly raped a married woman for three days at a house in Barbil area of Odisha's Keonjhar district. On the basis of a complaint lodged by the woman, Barbil police have arrested the accused duo and started an investigation. As per reports,

Khudabaksh Ansari and Muhammad Naseer, the two accused who are acquaintances of the victim, on March 11 offered her lift at Roida Chhak after the woman left her house at Bhadrashahi village following a dispute with her husband. Ansari and Naseer forcibly took the woman inside a truck

and raped her. They later took the victim to a house, where the duo raped her for three days. The woman somehow managed to escape from their clutches today, after which the entire incident came to fore. The truck was seized by the cops while the medical examination of the complainant has been conducted.

One Killed, 5 Injured As Bus Collides With Tipper On Odisha-AP Border

(A.O. Bureau) Nabarangpur, Mar 15: The helper of a bus was killed and as many as five passengers were critically injured when the vehicle collided with a tipper near Sompeta on Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border on Monday. According to reports, the private bus named 'Tripathy' carrying more than 30 passen-

gers was on its way from Nabarangpur to Bhubaneswar when a speeding tipper hit it near Sompeta. The drivers of the vehicles apparently lost control of the wheel while trying to negotiate a sharp curve on the road resulting in the collision, sources said. Locals rushed to the spot immediately following the ac-



cident and carried out rescue operation. However, the helper succumbed to his injuries

which he had sustained under the impact of the collision. The injured were admitted to a

nearby hospital in critical conditions. Upon being informed, Nabarangpur police rushed to the spot. A case was registered at the police station and investigation is on. Earlier on February 23, one person had been killed while 31 others got injured in two separate road incidents in the State.

Oscars Nominations 2021: Complete Predictions in Top Categories for 93rd Academy Awards

New Delhi, Mar 15: With most US movie theaters closed all year due to Covid-19, the Academy Awards have been delayed to their latest-ever date — April 25. Streaming films like *Mank* and *The Trial of the Chicago 7* will battle with frontrunner *Nomadland* for this Monday's coveted Oscar nominations, setting up the grand finale to an awards season transformed by the pandemic. With most US movie theaters closed all year due to Covid-19, the Academy Awards have been delayed to their latest-ever date — April 25 — while several big-screen studio blockbusters skipped their 2020 releases entirely, leaving an eclectic field of hopefuls. Netflix looks set to benefit most. No streaming film has ever won the Academy's most prestigious prize — best picture — but Aaron Sorkin's anti-Vietnam War protest drama *The Trial of the Chicago 7* is seen as Netflix's strongest hand. *Mank* — David Fincher's reimagining of Hollywood's Golden Age — and 1920s blues drama *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* are likely to score across major and technical categories for the streaming giant. Amazon Prime mean-



while has diverse candidates from civil rights play adaptation *One Night in Miami* and *Sound of Metal*, about a rock drummer who loses his hearing, to comedy sequel *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm*. Appropriately, with Hollywood's private screening rooms and glitzy film campaign events shuttered, even Oscar voters have been forced to watch nearly all the 366 contenders via the Academy's own online streaming platform. "We are almost used to streaming now," said one member of the Academy, which has traditionally championed the big-screen experience. "It's quite incredible what can happen within a year. None of us have really been in a movie theater." Still, the streaming frontrunners will have to get past

Nomadland, which won top trophies at the prestigious Venice and Toronto festivals, and has swept early award season prizes at the Golden Globes and Critics Choice Awards. The intimate US road movie comes from Searchlight — the arthouse distributor now owned by Disney which has steered the likes of *The Shape of Water* and *Birdman* to recent Oscars glory — and its campaign has featured a number of drive-in screenings. "I would say *Nomadland* right now seems to be the de facto front runner," said the Academy member, who also predicted a good year for "uplifting" features such as Pixar's *Soul* and *Borat* thanks to 2020's gloom. "I heard other Academy members that felt some of the films were too

bleak... they were looking more for escapism," added the voter, who asked not to be named. Nominations voting closed Wednesday, and the final hopefuls will be unveiled early Monday by Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Nick Jonas, in a live-streamed announcement. The 93rd Academy Awards ceremony itself will be broadcast live and "in-person" from multiple locations, including the Oscars' usual Dolby Theatre base in Hollywood. Precise details will depend on local Covid restrictions. But expectations that Los Angeles can start reopening movie theaters at limited capacity as soon as next week have boosted organizers. Contagion director Steven Soderbergh will produce this year's

pandemic-struck Oscars, which have a 50-year high number of potential contenders after eligibility criteria was relaxed to admit more streaming titles, and movies released in early 2021. The large field means few awards watchers have placed any confident bets on the leading acting contenders, with Variety film awards editor Clayton Davis noting that there are many "areas of fluidity." *Borat* co-star Maria Bakalova has become "a darling of this year's quarantine campaign trail," he wrote, while Frances McDormand (*Nomadland*) and Viola Davis (*Ma Rainey*) are likely picks too, alongside Carey Mulligan for *Promising Young Woman*. On the best actor side, former winner Anthony Hopkins will be hard to beat for *The Father*, but Chadwick Boseman's posthumous turn as a troubled trumpeter in *Ma Rainey* looks nailed on for a nomination — and possibly more. "I think it would be a fitting tribute to him, to his career also," said the Academy voter. "Maybe we will reward him, his family, his wife, to give him that honor." "We're all emotional human beings — whatever moves us and touches us."

RRR: Alia Bhatt is a 'strong-willed' Sita in first look from SS Rajamouli's film

New Delhi, Mar 15: Alia Bhatt plays Sita in SS Rajamouli's *RRR*. The actor's first look from the film was released on her birthday. Alia Bhatt's first look as Sita from her upcoming film *RRR* is out now. Director SS Rajamouli shared the look with the caption, "Strong-willed and resolute SITA's wait for Ramaraju will be legendary! Presenting @aliaa08 as #Sita to you all :)." Alia had previously shared a glimpse

of her look from the film as she shared a silhouette of her character. Directed by SS Rajamouli, *Rudhiram* (RRR) marks the Telugu debut of Alia Bhatt. *RRR* also stars Ram Charan, Jr NTR, Ajay Devgn, Samuthirakani, Olivia Morris, Alison Doody and Ray Stevenson. It is set to hit theatres on October 13, 2021. *RRR* is set in the 1920s. The story is based in north India dur-

ing colonial times and is a fictionalised account of Telugu tribal leaders Alluri Sitarama Raju (played by Ram Charan) and Komaram Bheem (played by Jr NTR). *RRR* was originally scheduled to release in July 2020. Injuries on the set and the coronavirus induced lockdown led the makers to postpone the release. Apart from *RRR*, Alia will soon be seen in *Gangubai Kathiawadi* and *Brahmastra*.



Suhana Khan Shows How Gen-Z Likes to Party, Stuns in Glamorous Outfit

New Delhi, Mar 15: In the picture shared by Suhana's friend on Sunday, the star kid is seen standing next to her two friends in what looks like a house party. Suhana is seen wearing a sky blue satin halter top and matching pants as she hugs her friend Timmy in the picture. The post was captioned

as, "girlz night." It is pretty evident how Suhana is a fan of bodycon dresses and her recent satin pants and top just proved so. In her latest Instagram post, Suhana was seen wearing a beige bodycon dress for another house party. The film student at New York University was

seen wearing a cosy lavender knit co-ord set which was a non-fussy yet fashionable choice of a crop top and bodycon skirt set. With her straightened hair and minimal accessories like pearl necklace, metal bracelets and cute manicure, Suhana just showed us how the Gen-Z like to serve their date night looks.

Oscar 2021: Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas Announce Nominations, Call it 'Coolest WFH Day'



New Delhi, Mar 15: Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas announced nominations for the 93rd Academy Awards. The Jonas couple, on Monday, unveiled nominations in all 23 categories. It was conducted via two-part global live stream presentation on Oscars.com, Oscars.org and across the Academy's digital platforms — Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The actress took to Instagram and shared a video with Nick and captioned it, "This is by far the coolest #WFH day ever! Tune in to any of @theacademy accounts at 5:19am

PDT to watch us reveal the #OscarNoms! @nickjonas." While Priyanka wore a blue dress, Nick looked dapper in yellow suit. The couple had got their fans excited as they shared a video on their social media handles, making the big reveal. Priyanka and Nick had taken to their social media pages to share a special video for their fans and followers. They came together to shoot the video at their London home wherein they expressed their excitement to be announcing the nominations. The actress opted for a popular trend on

Instagram reels and TikTok. She opened the at-home recording by saying, "Tell me we are announcing the Oscar nominations without telling me we are announcing Oscar nominations". Nick, who is right behind her doesn't seem too happy and tells his wife that she has already told everyone that they will be announcing the Oscar nominations. The Academy Awards are taking place after a long delay in 2021 owing to the pandemic induced restrictions. Usually scheduled for early February, the ceremony will be held this year on April 26.

Esha Deol wishes Abhay Deol on his birthday: 'You are sunshine in my pocket'

New Delhi, Mar 15: Esha Deol has wished her cousin brother Abhay Deol, who celebrates his 45th birthday today. The actor posted a picture on Instagram to wish Abhay. Sharing the photo, Esha called Abhay her "sunshine." She wrote, "Happy birthday brother! Love you! @abhaydeol "u are that sunshine in my pocket I carry for life". Apart from Esha, Dia Mirza, Bipasha Basu and musician A. Shawn were among the people who sent Abhay birthday



wishes. In an interview with the Hindustan Times, Abhay said he is not a birthday person. "I am not at all a birthday

person. I stopped celebrating it after I turned 25. I don't do anything. What usually happens is my friends will come

over, and therefore something will happen organically on it's own. Those are the best birthdays," the actor said. On

the work front, Deol, known for films like *Socha Nahin Tha*, *Dev D*, *Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!* and *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobaara*, was last seen in web series *1962: The War In The Hills*. The Mahesh Manjrekar-directed series, set against the backdrop of the 1962 India-China War, is currently streaming on the Disney+ Hotstar. The series narrates the story of 125 Indian Army personnel who fought with 3,000 Chinese soldiers.

Five Health Benefits of Consuming Sunflower Seeds

New Delhi, Mar 15: Native to the Americas, sunflowers are primarily cultivated for their use as a cooking fuel, extracted from its seeds. Sunflower seeds are also consumed raw or roasted, as snacks and used as flour in confectionary items or cereals. They are also used to make butter as an alternative to dairy and peanut butter. Below, we take a look at some of the health benefits of sunflower seeds. Rich in essential nutrients: Sunflower seeds are a very good source of vitamins, particularly the B-complex group and vitamins C and E. They also contain a high percentage of essential

minerals such as phosphorous, magnesium, manganese, zinc, and iron among others. Collectively, they help maintain our bones, tissues, vital organs and help our bodies heal, among other functions. Good for the heart: A higher level of cholesterol, especially low-density lipoproteins (LDL), is bad for the heart as it gets deposited inside the arterial walls and may cause heart attack. Sunflower seeds contain a high percentage of linoleic acid, which helps reduce total cholesterol as well as LDL levels. The seeds also contain oleic acids that can reduce triglyceride, which causes



similar cardiac issues. Controls diabetes: Those suffering from diabetes are unable to produce enough insulin to bring glucose to cells. The blood sugar levels rise as a result and cause damage to blood vessels, vital organs and

affect the heart, kidneys, nerves and vision. Sunflowers seeds not only have a low glycaemic index, but they contain chlorogenic acid which controls blood sugar levels. Anti-inflammatory: Acute inflammation is a

temporary, protective response to any injury or infection through swelling. Chronic inflammation, however, is a long-term condition that causes damage to the cells, tissues and vital organs like the heart. It can also cause DNA damage and cancers. Sunflower seeds contain vitamin E and phenolic compounds like flavonoids, both of which have antioxidant properties that help reduce inflammation. Heals wounds: Studies conducted on male lambs have shown that sunflower seeds can help aid in healing wounds. Linoleic acid in the seeds help speed-up the healing process.

Jasprit Bumrah marries Sanjana Ganesan, shares photos from their wedding

New Delhi, Mar 15: Indian cricketer Jasprit Bumrah married TV presenter Sanjana Ganesan on Monday. The couple shared photos from their wedding on Instagram. Indian cricketer Jasprit Bumrah has tied the knot with TV presenter Sanjana Ganesan. The couple shared adorable photos from their wedding at a gurudwara on Monday. Sharing the wedding photos, Sanjana and Jasprit wrote that they have “begun a new journey.” The couple called it one of the happiest days of their lives. “Love, if it finds you worthy, directs your course. Steered by love, we have begun a new journey together. Today is one of the happiest days of our lives and we feel blessed to be able to share the news of our wedding and our joy



with you,” Sanjana and Jasprit signed off on Instagram. Sanjana and Jasprit’s wedding was a private affair with only close friends and family member in attendance. Post their wedding, Sanjana and Jasprit received warm wishes from their friends and fans. In the comment section of their social

media post, Saqib Saleem congratulated the couple while Ammy Virk wrote “Waheguruji bless you.” Krunal Pandya wished the couple a “happy married life to the love couple.” Suresh Raina wished Sanjana and Jasprita “great life ahead.” Sanjana describes herself as “TV Presenter for

@StarSportsIndia, Digital Host, That Miss India Girl, Nerd, Perpetual Child.” She started her career as a model and then marked her television debut as a contestant in the seventh season of MTV Splitsvilla. She won Femina Officially Gorgeous and even participated in the Femina Miss India Pune competition

and ended up as a finalist. Sanjana has also hosted Premier Badminton League (PBL) and ‘Dil Se India’ for Star Sports. She has also been associated with Shah Rukh Khan’s IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders as an anchor for the team’s interactive show titled, ‘The Knight Club’.

How Manchester played key role in Mumbai club’s first football title

New Delhi, Mar 15: ON SATURDAY, as Mumbai City won their maiden Indian Super League (ISL) title, the celebrations went far beyond the Fatorda Stadium in Goa. After all, this was a Mumbai win made in Manchester. From the appointment of a manager to the signing of players and every pass made and each goal scored, a team of specialists at Manchester-based City Football Group (CFG) played a key role behind the scenes as Mumbai City transformed from being a mid-table team to becoming champions in a



few months. “The feeling is impossible to describe...It is very special,” manager Sergio Lobera said after his side’s 2-1 win over ATK Mohun Bagan in Saturday’s final. For Lobera, the win

felt special not just because it was his, and the team’s, first-ever ISL triumph but it is seen as a new beginning for the club—and maybe even for Indian football. Mumbai City’s success story might trigger other mu-

tually beneficial collaborations that would facilitate in-flow of expertise and talent from top footballing nations to India. In late 2019, CFG, which also owns English Premier League side Manchester City,

acquired a 65 per cent stake in the club that was earlier co-owned by actor Ranbir Kapoor and chartered accountant Bimal Parekh. While the deal still requires regulatory approvals, the club is off to a perfect start on the field. Mumbai City finished on top of the league table and by that virtue, qualified for the prestigious Asian Champions League. Then, they eked out hard-fought wins over two legs in the semifinals against last year’s table-toppers Goa before beating domestic giants ATK Mohun Bagan in the final.

Medvedev wins Open 13 for 10th title on eve of move to No. 2

Marseille, Mar 15: Top-seeded Daniil Medvedev was pushed to three sets by doubles specialist Pierre-Hugues Herbert in the Open 13 final, winning 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-4 for his 10th career title on the eve of his move up to second in the rankings. Medvedev will overtake Rafael Nadal on Monday and push the 20-time Grand Slam champion down to No. 3. “It is always better when you step up the rankings when you do something great,” Medvedev said. “It is great for the self-esteem that, just before becoming No. 2, I win

best. I feel like I know the solutions I have to find.” Given that six of his 10 titles have been on indoor hard courts, he was heavy favorite here. Furthermore, the two-time Grand Slam runner-up faced a player with all four majors in doubles, but without any titles in singles and ranked 93rd. But the serve-and-volley specialist Herbert did make it awkward for the imposing Russian at times by upsetting his rhythm, breaking his serve once and forcing him to save four break points. “Pierre-Hugues can play

points. The Australian Open runner-up improved to 14-2 this year and has won 23 of his last 25 matches. Boosted by his wins over second-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas and former No.4-ranked Kei Nishikori this week, Herbert’s confidence showed as he tried to shorten the points by rushing to the net. But ultimately he fell short, dropping to 0-4 in singles finals compared to 19-7 in doubles. “It has been an incredible week. I played five really high-level matches. This is what I am proud of,” Herbert said. “I lost



a tournament.” Victory also made his childhood dream come true. “I am really happy about the number 10. It gets me to two digits, something which I dreamt of when I was a kid,” said Medvedev. “It is already a great number, but I am going to try to work more and get some more. I really like to play on hard courts, I feel like that is where my game suits me the

unbelievable tennis. I know what he is capable of,” Medvedev said. “Especially when I lost in the Roland Garros first round. Today was a tricky, tough match and I am really happy that I managed to be on top.” Medvedev edged the Frenchman in aces 13-10 and first-serve points won — 83% compared to 72% — while converting three of his six break

to someone who was just better (over) the full match. I managed to hold on and have a chance, but he was too good.” When he climbs to No. 2 on Monday, Medvedev will be the first player outside the Big Four of Roger Federer, Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray to do so since Nadal in July 2005. Now he just needs to win a major.

India’s historic win has almost been forgotten and it hurts: 1975 Hockey World Cup heroes

New Delhi, Mar 15: Indian hockey wrote a historic chapter exactly 46 years ago on this day in Kuala Lumpur when the country lifted its only World Cup title, but the architects of that achievement on Monday rued the fact that countrymen has gradually forgotten their feat. The Indian hockey team lifted its only World Cup crown on March 15, 1975 in Kuala Lumpur beating arch rival Pakistan by 2-1 in a thrilling final. A glorious chapter was written after suffering

the ignominy of a heart-breaking loss two years ago. But Ashok Kumar, who had scored the winning goal in the final, has plenty of complaints. “We talk about nationalism and what is biggest example of nationalism than bringing laurels for the country. That win brought smiles on the faces of every citizen of this country across caste, religion, status, gender,” he told PTI Bhasha. “But who remembers that now. TV channels are busy in celebrating Alia Bhatt’s birthday since

morning. Not a single mention of hockey World Cup win anywhere. We do not get any congratulatory calls on this day,” said Kumar, son of legendary Major Dhyan Chand. He said the World Cup final win against Pakistan was one of the most impactful matches in the history of Indian hockey and it deserves respect. “People still remember the radio commentary of that match. Hockey was a symbol of nationalism those days.

Fencer Bhavani Devi makes history, qualifies for Olympics



full-face masked helmet. She is also deeply influenced by the tale of Queen Velu Nachiyar, or Veeramangai, the ruler of Sivaganga who is supposed to have waged the first war of freedom on the British in 1770s. But what Chandalavada A n a n d a n a Sundhararama Bhavani Devi, India’s first ever fencer to qualify for the Olympics, has managed in the modern world of competitive sport, is a pioneering toe-hold into what is considered one of the most elite disciplines. Fencing with its regal sporting origins in Europe, remains the pre-

when equipment is niche, coaching is specialised, the sport isn’t particularly easy to just lace up shoes and pick up — this qualification points to Bhavani’s individual endeavour and her blazing ambition. Bhavani Devi Youngest of four children, born to an always encouraging homemaker mother and a father who was a priest. There was never a doubt that Bhavani had the speed for sabre, the fastest of the sword events. Italian coach Nicolo Zanotti has spoken earlier of her ability to grasp the nuances while keeping up the speed of movements. But for someone

hailing from a middle-class family in Chennai’s Washermenpet, Olympics was like reaching the moon when she took up the sport in her school at age 9. Youngest of four children, born to an always encouraging homemaker mother and a father who was a priest, but gorged on literary texts in multiple languages, Bhavani was self-motivated throughout her pathbreaking journey. Staying away from home — first in Thalassery in Kerala as a junior, and later at Livorno in Italy — the 27-year-old overcame everything from fight of darkness to blending into local culture to learn a sport she had come to love and had started getting very good at. There were speed bumps at every juncture — sometimes the Indian team wasn’t sent to the Asian Games, at other times, refereeing was biased in Europe. When the world went into lockdown, Bhavani was on the brink of qualification — but with an anxious

eye on rankings, eyeing the two Asian spots available. It was also evident that she would be at the mercy of external results, being on the cusp and with tournaments cancelled. She was one tournament away from qualifying same time last year. But the wait got prolonged with each passing uncertain day. Years of hard work was at stake. It is in this frame of mind that she travelled to Budapest — all the pandemic restrictions applying to her movements. Bhavani would lose early, but had a cushioning of the World Championship points. It boiled down to Hungary finishing behind South Korea, to ensure her qualification in a meshed calculation of variables. Bhavani would watch nervously in the arena with her coach. There was one last continental tournament left but with a cloud of uncertainty on it. Once Italy defeated hosts Hungary, putting them behind Korea, Bhavani was assured of a spot. She

would breathe easy, allow tears to roll down and would choke for words, speaking to her sponsors back home — happy that her lifetime’s dream had been achieved. It wasn’t just the wait of 25 years before the pandemic, where she lost her biggest motivator, her father in 2019. The pandemic made the wait even more torturous. GoSports, her support team, would arrange for training equipment for fitness and sport in the house during the lockdown along with yoga sessions to deal with the anxiety. Then it was time for strength and conditioning once the lockdown eased, and return to Italy for training, expenses borne by the support team who did not lose hope through the struggle. Bhavani’s qualification though, was one woman’s ambition to make it to the Olympics, in a sport she dared to pursue when not many around her did.



JSW Steel Organized Selection Session For The Young Football Players

(A.O. Bureau)
Barbil Mar 15: JSW Steel Limited has organized a selection trial for the young football trainees from Jajang Mines region in Keonjhar district. On 12th March 2021, the selection session was carried out in presence of selection committee members, committee comprised of Mr. Birendra Kumar Mr. Mahanta, national level Football Coach, Ms. Sukumari Laguri, National level Football player and Mr. Krushna Mahanta, National level coach. Out of total 150 trainees, 25 boys and 25 girls were selected by the experts. In line with promoting sports in the region, a three days inter-State Football Knock-out Tournament 2021 at



Bandhuabada village under Jajang Panchayat was also organized by BDYAM Club, in support with JSW Steel limited. A total 32 teams from Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and West Bengal partici-

pated. The final match was played between Team Sai FC from Sirispal and Team Sangeeta FC from Totasahi, wherein Sai FC defeated the later with a score of 2-0. Speaking during the

award ceremony Mr. Rakesh Mishra - Head HR., JSW Steel Ltd. Odisha (Mines) said that JSW is fully committed to holistic development of sports across the region through its robust grassroots exercise pro-

grams. Besides other CSR initiatives, the company is keen to extend its every possible support for the growth of sports and games in the region where it operates. Present on the occasion were Mrs. Ratnamani Naik, Sarpanch - Jajang Panchayat, Mr. Govinda Majhi, Ward Member - Bandhuabada, Mr. Narendra Hansda, Club President, Mrs. Sushma Hansda - Club Secretary - BDYAM, Mr. Vishal Raj - Manager CSR and Ms. Rilina Ghosh, CSR Official from JSW Steel Ltd., Odisha. To mark the closure of the programme, a cultural event was organized wherein folk-dance and music were performed by the artists.

DG Commandation Award For Ncc Third Officer Puspamitra Sarangi



(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Mar 15: Third Officer Dr. Puspamitra Sarangi has been awarded DG NCC Commendation Card On Dated 2nd March 2021 At 6 (O) Battalion Puri, Presently

She Is Working As A Hindi Teacher In Delhi Public School, Kalanga, She Belongs To 1(o) Air Squarden Ncc Palashpalli, Bhubaneswar, She Has Represented Rdc Camp Held In Delhi

From 19th December 2020 To 29th January 2021, She is Very Active, Sincere And Dedicated In Her Work. She Has Also Represented Aivsc 2019, Her Work Has Been Appreciated By Dg NCC.

NIA Searches 10 Locations Across India In Terror Probe



(A.O. Bureau)
New Delhi, Mar 15: In a major action against the Islamic State (IS) modules, the National Investigation

Agency (NIA) on Monday carried out searches in at least 10 locations across the country, including one in Delhi. An NIA source re-

lated to the probe said the agency sleuths were carrying out searches at over 10 locations and four to five people including some women members have been detained for questioning. The source further said that the people being questioned are well educated people and the agency was determining if they were radicalised by the IS group to further strengthen their wings in India.

Vikash Law School celebrates World Khauti Rights Day



(A.O. Bureau)
Bargarh, Mar 15: World Consumer Day has been observed today at Vikash Law School under the priesthood of Prof. Dr. Bikram Kumar Das.

The occasion was graced by the Chief Guest and Speaker of the Law School, N.M.R.M.M.S. Dr. Bikram Kumar Das, Principal, Law School, introduced the guests and introduced the guests. Dr. Ramsunder gave his speech on "Khauti Security Act in India: An Example" and explained to the students the importance of



Khauti Law and the rights of citizens to Khauti. The event was facilitated by Mr.

Jaimini Kumar Sahu, Professor, Vikash Law School, Mr. Nayanjyoti Das, Mr.

Abhinandan Khuntia and Ms. Rosie Meher. The event was a success for all of Law School's students, both online and offline. The event was highly appreciated by Mr. D. Murali Krishna, Chairman, Vikas Group and Dr. Samrendra Nath Panda, Director. Finally, Professor Shri Sivananda Sahu offered his thanks.

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