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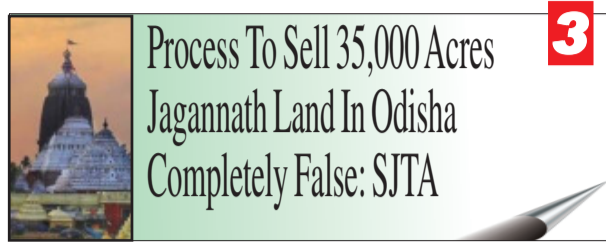
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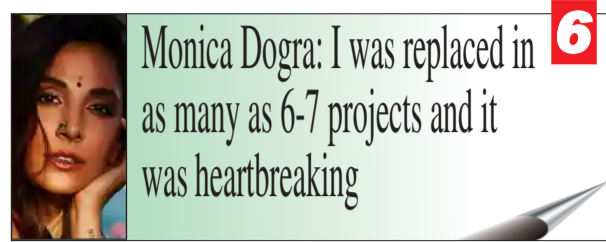
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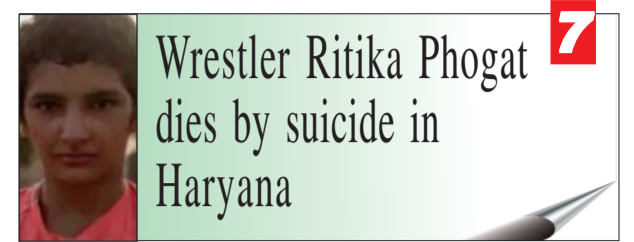
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Paddy Procurement Row: Odisha Minister To Present Statement In House Today

Bhubaneswar, Mar 18: Following a high drama outside Naveen Niwas, the residence of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, and stalemate in the State Assembly for sixth day today over alleged paddy procurement and mandi irregularities, the ruling party agreed to make a statement in the House on the matter on Friday. As per a decision taken during an all-party meeting called by Speaker SN Patro to restore normalcy in the State Assembly, Civil Supplies Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain will present the government's stance on the paddy procure-



ment and mandi issue in the House at 11.30 AM Today. The Chief Minister directed the Supplies Minister to make the statement in the House. Also, the

all-party meeting decided that BJP MLA of Deogarh, Subash Panigrahi's suicide attempt matter would not be raised in the House. The Privilege

Committee will look into the suicide attempt allegations against Panigrahi and submit a report to the Speaker. Earlier in the day, BJP MLAs marched to-

wards Naveen Niwas shouting slogans and holding placards to meet the Chief Minister and apprise him about mandi irregularities. They sat in a dharna in front of the Chief Minister's residence after finding the gate locked. Even though the ruling party MLAs, who were present at Naveen Niwas, requested the BJP MLAs to come inside and discuss the matter, the protestors did not budge. The Chief Minister then reached the main gate and requested the BJP MLAs to come inside. Following this, the protestors went into the Chief Minister's residence and held a discussion on the issue.

CM Comes Out Of Residence To Welcome Agitating BJP MLAs



Bhubaneswar, Mar 18: In what came as a surprise for BJP legislators while agitating outside Naveen Niwas today, the Chief Minister himself came out of his residence and welcomed the saffron party members for a discussion. After the agitating leaders did not budge when MLAs of the ruling party appealed them with folded hands to come inside the CM's residence, Naveen Patnaik came to the protest spot to convince them. He later welcomed them to his residence for a 'healthy' discussion over Mandi mismanagement in the state. A high-pitched drama unfolded on the streets of the state capital when a delegation of BJP MLAs holding placards marched to-

wards Naveen Niwas to meet the CM and appraise him of Mandi irregularities. The agitators claimed that they are 'searching' for the CM, who turns up at every party function across the state but remains absent in the state Assembly. On the other hand, BJD MLAs, including Samir Ranajn Dash and Pranab Prakash Das 'escorted' the agitators towards Naveen Niwas by blowing conches. Finding the main gate of Naveen Niwas closed, the BJP MLAs sat in front of it and warned that they will not budge from the spot unless the CM himself comes out to invite them. Though all ruling party MLAs present at the spot requested them to come inside Naveen Niwas,

the BJP legislators did not move. Finally, the CM turned up and convinced them to come with him inside his house. CM coming out of his residence to meet agitators is a rare scene. This is the identity of a true statesman. After the discussion, Leader of Opposition (LoP) Pradipta Naik said, "We would have returned, had the CM not come out to invite us. However, we had a comprehensive discussion with the CM inside his residence on various issues." Regarding the matter of suicide attempt by BJP MLA Subash Panigrahi, Naik said, "Nothing of that sort was discussed in the meeting. The CM should apologize as a legislator of his state attempted suicide over famer issues."

Space Technology Incubation Centre To Come Up At NIT-Rourkela



Rourkela, Mar 18: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela today signed an MoU for establishment of a Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC) at the institute. The agreement was signed through virtual mode. ISRO will provide annual Grant-in-Aid of Rs 2 crore up to two years to NIT-Rourkela as seed money for setting up of the S-TIC. The seed money will be utilised for facility augmentation to carry out the research projects and product development. NIT-Rourkela will provide the required infrastructure inside its academic campus. Prof. Susmita Das will be the coordinator of the S-TIC from NIT Rourkela. K Sivan, Chairman, ISRO and Secretary of Department of Space, highlighted that the space technology-related research and the products from the STIC will be utilised in Future Space missions. The move will also boost the nation building through

'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' in space technology and applications domain. Students and research scholars of NIT-Rourkela will execute real projects given by ISRO taking guidance from expert faculties, mentors from ISRO and relevant industries, Sivan added. The ISRO Chairman also released a project book YUKTI - Sanchita. This collaboration with ISRO will open up new opportunities for research and development as well as space start-ups. The S-TIC will nurture the young academia with innovative research aptitude for carrying out research and product development in the field of space technology and applications. NIT Rourkela will provide its state-of-art laboratories, facilities and expert faculties to meet this purpose. The S-TIC at NIT Rourkela will also facilitate, encourage and promote capacity building, innovations and research activities in the Eastern region including Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Andaman

& Nicobar. During the virtual meeting Director CBPO of ISRO HQ, PV Venkitakrishnan spoke about the purpose of setting up of six STIC in different parts of country to strengthen the industry academia ecosystem and encourage space technology startups. Addressing the meeting Director of NIT-Rourkela, Animesh Biswas said, "I heartily thank ISRO Chairman and Director from CBPO for selecting NIT-Rourkela in the Eastern Region for setting up of S-TIC. NIT Rourkela's Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy is the best in the country. ISRO's support will further enhance our research infrastructure." A dedicated space has been allocated for the establishment of Space Technology Incubation Centre in the Golden Jubilee Building of NIT-Rourkela. At the Space Technology Incubation Centre new facilities is going to be created to carry out ISRO projects and development of products/prototypes etc.

Finance Company Seizes Police Vehicle In Odisha Capital For EMI Payment Default

Bhubaneswar, Mar 18: In a major embarrassment for Balasore police, a finance company here yesterday seized an SUV, which was being used as a police vehicle on rent basis, for EMI payment default. According to reports, the private vehicle was engaged at the Sahadevkhunta police

station in Balasore district. However, the owner of the SUV hadn't paid EMI for several months in connection with the purchase of the vehicle. A team of Sahadevkhunta police yesterday came to Bhubaneswar to arrest an accused in Khandagiri area of the capital city.

Day 6: Stalemate Continues In Odisha Assembly; Ruling MLAs Meet CM

Bhubaneswar, Mar 18: Its been six days since the second phase of Odisha Assembly's Budget Session commenced on March 12, no business has reportedly been transacted owing to the pandemonium created by legislators of both the ruling and Opposition over different issues. Today, soon after the House assembled, legislators of the ruling party and the opposition parties created an uproar in the House. While BJD MLAs stood up from their seats and started sloganeering demanding apology from BJP MLA Subash Panigrahi for his 'suicide attempt' inside the House, BJP and Congress members went to the Well of



the House and protested over Mandi mismanagement. Following the ruckus, Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro adjourned the House thrice till 4 PM. Later, over 50 BJD MLAs marched towards Lok Seva Bhawan to meet Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

and complain about violation of State Assembly's tradition due to the suicide bid by the BJP MLA. Through video conference, they urged him to intervene for restoration of normalcy in the House. After that a group of the ruling party MLAs went

to Naveen Niwas to meet him in person, sources said. On the other hand, all Congress MLAs sat on a dharna below the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on Assembly premises as a mark of protest over Mandi mismanagement. Earlier yesterday, BJP

Chief Whip Mohan Majhi issued a whip asking all party MLAs to remain present in the House today. Majhi cautioned all party legislators that action will be taken if anyone flouts the whip without having any valid reason. He asked to remain present in the House till 7PM today. "All the members of the BJP Legislative Party are here directed to remain present in the OLA from 10 AM to 7 PM on March 18 without fail. Action deemed proper will be taken if anybody fails to attend the Assembly tomorrow without my permission and without sufficient reasons," Majhi said in the Whip.

12 College Students Test COVID Positive in Cuttack

Cuttack, Mar 18: As many as 12 students of a +2 science private college in Odisha's Cuttack city have tested positive for COVID-19, reports said. The students

have been placed under quarantine in the college hostel by the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC). They had undergone antigen test after developing COVID-19 symp-



toms. The CMC has initiated contact tracing in this connection. Notably, five students of a private educational institution in Tangi area had contracted the virus recently.

Arun Govil, Who Played Lord Ram in Ramayan, Joins BJP: What it Means for the Party Before Assembly Elections



New Delhi, Mar 18: Arun Govil's joining can push BJP's political aspirations further as most of the party leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, begin their rally address with the chant of 'Jai Shri Ram' — a character played by Govil that made him a household name. Arun Govil, who essayed the role of Lord Ram in Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday. The actor came back in spotlight during nationwide coronavirus lockdown when the epic TV show was rerun, and broke all previous records to become one of the most watched entertainment shows worldwide. "Some people are not ready to understand. They have some sort of allergy. They have to under-

stand that Lord Ram is our ideal. Why would you want to resist? This will be fatal for nation building. This country belongs to Lord Ram," he said while joining. Govil's joining can push BJP's political aspirations further as most of the party leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, always begin their rally address with the chant of 'Jai Shri Ram' — a character played by Govil that made him a household name. Jai Shri Ram literally means victory to Lord Ram, he prince of Ayodhya mentioned in various versions of Ramayana. However, in recent times, more than religious, the slogan has turned political with parties bickering over it. During Lok Sabha election, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee was seen

stopping her car to slam those shouting Jai Shri Ram. Her irritation with the slogan has taken an unusual turn with opponents easing her by shouting 'Jai Shri Ram' if they see her at an event. In January this year, in the run up to Bengal assembly elections, Banerjee refused to speak at an official event attended by PM Modi to mark the beginning of the celebrations of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 124th birth anniversary after 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans were raised just before she was to start her address. Days later, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath wondered why would a chant upset anyone. "Ek aam aadmi ke liye, 'Jai Shri Ram' bolna ek shistachar ka sambodhan hain... (For a common man, saying 'Jai Shri Ram' is a gesture of etiquette). We

are not forcing it on anyone. If someone does 'namaskar' or greets in his native language or says 'Jai Shri Ram', why should anyone feel bad about it," said CM Adityanath during an interaction with reporters in Lucknow. He also told an election rally in Bengal that Banerjee gets livid at the chant of 'Jai Shri Ram' and now she has started visiting temples and is reciting 'Chandi path', an ode to Goddess Durga. A day ago, the Bengal chief minister told Adivasi population of Jhargram district that BJP will not allow them to take the name of 'Marang Buru', whom the Santhals consider as the supreme source of power, but they will have to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' (Glory to Lord Ram). "They (BJP) are saying that you will not be able to practise your religion, you will

have to chant Jai Shri Ram. But you will not be able to say Jai Siya Ram," Banerjee said. "Ram performed the puja of Devi Durga (in the Ramayana). Maa Durga is much superior to Ram, that is why he worshipped Maa Durga," the West Bengal chief minister told the meeting. A report in India Today stated that it is not yet clear when Jai Shri Ram entered the political space but it came to be identified with the BJP around the 1990-92 Ram temple movement, which was launched by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) — an extended arm of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) family. An active participant in the temple movement was BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani and his protege Narendra Modi. But before the BJP made Jai Shri Ram slogan as its own, it was already in popular use in late 1980s courtesy the TV serial Ramayan produced by filmmaker Ramanand Sagar. The slogan, Jai Shri Ram was used in the TV serial as a battle cry by Hanuman and others in Lord Ram's expedition against Ravan, the king of Lanka who had abducted Sita, the wife of Ram.

BJP's Mukul Roy to contest Bengal polls, among candidates for final four phases

Kolkata, Mar 18: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) unveiled a list of 148 candidates for the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth phases of the upcoming West Bengal assembly elections. The list names BJP national vice-president Mukul Roy, once a veteran leader of the Trinamool Congress and close aide of West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, as the can-

didate from the Krishnanagar Uttar assembly constituency. He will be facing off against actress Kaushani Mukherjee, who is contesting the seat on part of the TMC. Mukul Roy's son, Subhranshu, who had joined the BJP in 2019, is contesting the

elections from the Bijnor constituency in North 24 Parganas. He had won the seat for the TMC both in 2011 and 2016. The BJP fielded, among others, actor Rudranil Ghosh from the Bhabanipur assembly constituency in Kolkata. TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee had won the seat for her party in the 2016 assembly elections. However, feature in the BJP's list of candidates, including veteran leaders Rahul Sinha and Asim Sarkar. Sinha, who had once expressed displeasure over his party's treatment of senior leaders, has been named as the candidate from the Habra seat. Meanwhile, TMC turncoats Jitendra Tiwari and Sabyasachi Dutta have also been



she's contesting the high-profile Nandigram seat this time around, imparting the responsibility to defend Bhabanipur on veteran TMC leader Sovandeb Chattopadhyay, the party's first elected MLA. Several other prominent faces also

fielded by the BJP. They will be contesting from the Pandebeswar and Bidhannagar seats, respectively. Polls to the 294 assembly seats in West Bengal will be held between March 27 and April 29. Votes will be counted on May 2.

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Sachin Vaze: Police Officer Or Business Baron



New Delhi, Mar 18: Sachin Hindurao Vaze, the senior Mumbai police officer who is being investigated is listed as a director in three companies namely DigiNext Multimedia, Multibuild Infraprojects and Techlegal Solutions. Was Vaze a Mumbai cop or a business baron? And was there a conflict of interest? How a police officer like Vaze was holding directorships and equity in as many as three companies with business interests may be something that has been alleged and may become the point of another investigation into his business interests. Two of the companies have been struck off by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) while Diginext Multimedia is still listed as active. Shirish Thorat is listed as director on two companies. There are reports that he was driving a Mercedes

which used to be parked in police headquarters with a fake number plate with no questions asked. Diginext Multi Media Limited was incorporated on September 27, 2011. It is classified as non-govt company and is registered at Registrar of Companies, Mumbai. Its authorized share capital is Rs. 500,000 and its paid up capital is Rs 5,00,000. The company status is active as per records. The company is involved in manufacture of television and radio transmitters and apparatus for line telephony and line telegraphy. Diginext Multi Media Limited's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was last held on 30 September 2017. its balance sheet was last filed on 31 March 2017. The company has been struck off the records by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The directors of Diginext Multi

Media Limited are Venkatesh Appasaheb Waze, Sanyog Shivaji Shelar, Shirish Thorat, Alok Jayant Thakkar, Sumeet Mahendra Rathod and Sachin Hindurao Vaze. Its registered address is Office No 1, Kelkar Compound Court, Naka Thane, Thane, Maharashtra. Multibuild Infraprojects was incorporated on 19 January 2013. It is classified as Non-govt company and is registered at Registrar of Companies, Mumbai. Its authorized share capital is Rs. 500,000 and its paid up capital is Rs. 500,000. It is involved in Building of complete constructions or parts thereof; civil engineering The directors of Multibuild Infraprojects Limited are Sanjay Chandrakant Mashilkar, Sachin Hindurao Vaze, Uday Pundalik Wagle, Yash Uday Wagle and Vijay Pandhari Gawai.

Prohibition on use of social media illegal, Air India pilots write to chairman

New Delhi, Mar 18: They further said that is a veiled threat, imposed on the employees under the garb of a set of guidelines and an advisory. Air India-Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA) on Thursday wrote to the Air India chairman, stating that the prohibition on the use of social media and policy introduced by the airline in this regard is illegal and violates a fundamental right. "At the outset, we note with alarm that such a Policy introduced by Air India is entirely illegal and with no basis in law whatsoever. By way of the Policy, Air India has effectively imposed a blanket ban or prohibition on the use of social or digital media by all its employees, including those that have superannuated," it said in a letter to the airline's Chairman and MD (CMD) Rajiv Bansal. They said that they have examined the Policy introduced by Air India and it appears that the Policy bars all employees of Air India, both serving and retired employees, from posting any content on social media, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and other such forums. "At present, there is no law in India that either empowers or even remotely justifies such an act by an

employer, especially Air India, being a State instrumentality under Article 12 of the Constitution, to impose such a blanket ban on the use of social or digital media by its employees. The same, it is reiterated, is without any basis or lawful sanc-

tion," the letter reads. They further said that is a veiled threat, imposed on the employees under the garb of a set of guidelines and an advisory. "The present Policy introduced by Air India, is also, and most importantly, violates the fundamental right of freedom of speech, guaranteed to the employees of Air India, under Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution, being citizens of India," it further reads. The union further stated that the policy, unlike social media policies adopted by several other employers, does not even attempt to draw a distinction between the con-

tent posted during working hours or from the workplace and that posted after working hours or outside of the workplace. "For instance, not only does the Policy not distinguish between content uploaded through an official device

in (1995) 4 SCC 734, which held that on the coming into force of The Air Corporations (Transfer of Undertakings and Repeal) Act, 1994 with effect from 29.01.1994, Regulations made under The Air Corporations Act, 1953 would also come to an end. This Judgment, as has been noted by the impugned Judgment itself, has been referred to a larger Bench by an order dated 11.12.2006 in Civil Appeal No. 5921 of 2006." Earlier Air India has issued letters to all its serving as well as retired employees regarding engagement on Social Media or Digital platforms. In its policy the Air India has said has advised its employees to desist from posting any personal views contradicting the organisation's message or on policy matters related to the aviation sector. The guidelines are valid for all types of participation on social media, including indirect participation, when an employee does not own a profile or social media account but endorses or participates in any content or debate adversely. The Policy also states that Air India reserves the right to monitor comments or discussions about the company, employees, clients and the industry posted by employees on the Internet.



and a personal device, the Policy goes on to in fact, expressly include content uploaded through personal devices of all its employees," it reads. The pilot union said that the introduction of a policy is entirely unheard of and infringes upon various rights of its employees. "It has also been set out in the Policy that violation of the said guidelines, service regulations and standing orders would be tantamount to misconduct and shall also apply to the employees' online behaviour and conduct on social media or digital platforms," the letter added

to a larger bench, comprising three judges: "The present dispute, inter alia, relates to whether Section 9A of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 would apply to the respondents herein, by virtue of a 1960 Regulation made under proviso (b) thereof no longer having any effect in law, as a result of the introduction of The Air Corporations (Transfer of Undertakings and Repeal) Act, 1994. By Judgment dated 27.01.2014, the Division Bench of the Bombay High Court has relied upon a Judgment of this Court in Air India Vs. Union of India reported

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Interface Workshop on Child Protection held in Puri

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Mar 18: An interface workshop on maintaining standard of care in CCIs and laws related to Child Protection System was conducted by District Child Protection Unit, Puri on 18th March 2021 at Conference Hall of Utkal Balashram, Puri. Total 20 participants including chief functionaries along with superintendents / Officer in Charge of Children's Home, Open Shelter, Specialized Adoption Agency were participated in the workshop. The workshop was organized for active involvement of chief functionaries of different organizations of Puri district who are running registered childcare institutions for better standard service delivery to the inmates. Both the Superintendent and chief of their



organization shared various issues, challenges, good practices, suggestions for plan of action. They also interacted with Mr. Pritikant Panda, Programme Manager of OSCPS of W&CD and MS Department Govt of Odisha through online. Mr Panda elaborating family is the first resort of children, he was deliberated on various model strategies to manage children the institutions and subse-

quent process for their mainstreaming or restoration into family. Addressing participants Mr Rudra Narayan Sahu Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee Puri said that CWC is working actively for 24*7 for children need of care and protection. He also shared various findings of the visits held by the CWC. Facilitating the meeting, Mr. Manoj Kumar Tripathy, District Child Protection Officer, Puri

depicted provision on standard of care for CCIs under Juvenile Justice Rules and our existing status. He focused on better output, rehabilitation, deinstitution and social mainstreaming of children. Members of CWC Mr. Saktipad Mishra, Ms Sucheta Dash, Mr. Ramashankar Patra were present and opined for their valuable suggestions. Mr Subhanarayan Satapathy, Protection Officer- Institutional

Care presented the analytical status of CCIs both as per CCI ranking and participatory children's audit. The outcome recommendations also shared among the participants. Mr Satapathy described role of chief functionaries in monitoring of CCIs and coordination with their respective superintendents for a better management and care for children as well as the CCI. Ms. Kamala Maharana Social Worker conveyed vote of thanks to all participants for their interest towards cause of vulnerable children. Ms. Snigdharani Sahoo, PONIC & Mr. Bijay Kumar Parida, Social Workers of District Child Protection Unit were not only shared their observations in the workshop but also provided cooperation for conducting it.

Rescue of minor girl from Puri Railway Station

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Mar 18: On 17.03.2021, while Officer's & Staff [SIPK.Roul, Lady Const-Sarojini Nayak] of RPF Post Puri were engaged for checking of Station area to prevent unauthorised entry/trespass and also safe passing of trains, noticed 01 minor girl aged between 15-16 Years was sitting in front of Railway reservation Counter in worried & confused state. On seeing her activities RPF team politely interrogated her in presence of ladies Staff & it could be noticed that she is from Behrampur area of Ganjam Dist. [Odisha]. She also informed that, she came from her home/Behrampur by train No.02844 [Ahmedabad-Puri] Express to meet with her friend and also visit Puri, but after reaching at Puri she failed to find out/contact her friend. Finally the minor girl brought to "women & Sisu help Desk" and provided tea/water etc to create a friendly environment &



confidence. After counselling she Provided contact Number of her parents & after contact with her parents, it has come to noticed that, she failed away from her home with knowledge of her parents at the early morning and they were

searching her daughter nearby locality/relatives. After completion of preliminary enquiry the rescue minor girl produced before CWC through Childline for further rehabilitation & hand over to parent as per the procedure of law.

SOA Signs Mou With Pattamundai College For Boosting Research

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 18: Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) on Thursday signed an MoU with Pattamundai College which will enable faculty members of the college to avail research facilities and pursue Ph.D

computer education. SOA will facilitate different accreditation programs to the college including NAAC while both SOA and the college will conduct different academic programs on emerging areas as also training programs

check up programs for senior citizens of the locality. SOA's Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. P.K.Nanda and Principal of Pattamundai College Prof. Adhikari Laxminarayan Dash signed the MoU in the presence of SOA



programs on full time and part time basis in SOA. As per the MoU, students and staff members of the college will also avail learning resources, particularly library facilities in the Deemed to be University while faculty from SOA will extend all co-operation in developing 'add-on' courses for the students of the college and extend to their existing 'add-on' courses at SOA. The students will also be trained in different areas including

jointly to facilitate placement of students in different organizations. Besides, NSS and Yoga activities at Pattamundai College will be augmented with SOA help and the college will help organize NSS and similar activities in the rural areas with the assistance of the college. A joint Centre of Excellence on yoga and health awareness will be set up while SOA will organize health camps at the college for students and staff members and conduct health

Founder President Prof. Manojranjan Nayak. SOA Registrar Prof. B.B.Pradhan, Dean (Students' Welfare) Prof. J.R. Das, Chief Administrative Officer Mr. P.K.Panda and faculty members Prof. Laxmidhar Maharana and Dr. Chinmay Mohapatra were present. Pattamundai College was represented by Dr. Dushashan Parida, Prof. Dillip Kumar Bhuyan and Prof. Arabinda Pandab.

Five Students of KiiT Intl School Make it to the KVPY Galaxy



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 18: It is remarkable and worth of a pride for the KIIT when it adds to its cap yet another feather. Among many applauds for the students here, there is one more climb up the ladder as five students of KiiT International School have made it to the doors of glory by their flying successes by above five in the Kishore Vaigyanik

Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) examinations conducted by the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc) Bangalore. Success often stems from perseverance. The performances by the five students of KiiT International Schools are something that is a moment to rejoice not only by the students but the people who were behind them. It goes without saying that, the stu-

dents such as Deepanshu Mallu (national rank: 065), Divyanshu Mallu (national rank 067), Vidyadhar Sahoo (national rank 851), Kanisk Modi (national rank 252) and Pratham Prateek Mohanty who has positioned at the national rank 707, are the real torch bearers of the sequence of glories the KiiT-IS is known for. Its serial rise on the graph of achievements

has to be a reason for pride and satisfaction for Dr. Achyut Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS who is not only a big dreamer for many and an astounding achiever as well. Dr. Samanta showed the magnanimity of his selfless persona by his overwhelming praise for the budding young scientists and give a huge applause for Dr. Mona Lisa Bal, Chairperson;

Dr. Sanjay Suar, Principal, and all the teachers and staff of the KiiT-IS. Students of KiiT-IS are not alien to the stands of victory as is evident by the past myriad excellence shown in various competitive examinations every year and what cannot be lost sight of is the hard work, patience, and of course, guidance of teachers. It can be worth of mention here that KVPY is an acknowledged scholarship programme funded by none other than the Department of Science & Technology of the Government of India, which constantly encourage students to take up research as a career in the areas of Basic Science.

Process To Sell 35,000 Acres Jagannath Land In Odisha Completely False: SJTA

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Mar 18: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) today clarified on the issue related to selling of 35,000 acres land belonging to Lord Jagannath in Odisha. The Chief Administrator of SJTA, Krishan Kumar, termed the report on sale of Jagannath land on massive scale as 'false' and 'motivated'. "That 35,000 acres of Land Shree Jagannath Mahaprabhu will be sold, is totally false and motivated," the SJTA stated in its clarification. Speaking on the issue, the SJTA said that the

Jagannath lands, which are occupied or under possession of various persons since long, are being settled by the Temple Committee as per the 'Unified Policy', framed for the purpose in the year 2003 with an objective of protection of land of Lord Jagannath. The policy also aims to bring transparency and uniformity in the process to be followed for settlement of land to the eligible persons. Total 291 acres of land was settled between 2001 and 2010, 96 acres of land between 2011 and 2021, stated the SJTA adding "These have



been settled for the benefit of the public mostly in form of schools, medical college, roads etc. Decision regarding allotment of land for such public benefit infrastructure projects to Government and others is taken by the Jagannath Temple Committee." The SJTA urged

people and devotees of Lord Jagannath not be misguided by 'malicious' and 'false' reporting. On Tuesday, Law Minister Pratap Jena had informed the State Assembly that the Government has started the process to sell more than 35,000 acres land registered in the

name of Lord Jagannath. Replying to a question in the House, he said, "Around 60,426 acres of land in the name of Lord Jagannath, has been identified in 24 districts across the State. Over 395 acres of land has been identified in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Bihar." He said that the temple administration has reclaimed 34,876.983 acres of land so far and the Collectors of the concerned districts have been asked to sell these properties.

Will Vehicles Older Than 15 Years Be Taken Off Roads In Odisha?



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 18: Clearing the air on whether vehicles older than 15 years will be allowed to ply on roads in Odisha, Commerce and Transport Minister Padmanabha Behera today said the decision lies with the Centre as per Section 59 of the Motor

Vehicle Act 1988. In reply to a question in the State Assembly, Behera said no decision has been taken by either the State government or the Centre on taking the vehicles older than 15 years off the road. The Minister further said a total of 672 buses, 17,498 trucks and mini trucks and 23,904 four-

wheelers including 450 passenger vehicles and 23,454 non-transport vehicles above 15 years old have been running on roads in the State. The State government is yet to take any decision on two-wheelers. Congress Legislator Tara Prasad Bahinipati in the House wanted to know whether the government has allowed buses and trucks above 15 years old to ply and how many such vehicles are still running on the road in the State.

Bachan Sudha Murder Case: Main Accused Gets Lifer

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 18: After over seven years of the high-profile Bachan Sudha murder case trial, prime accused Dipti Ranjan Patnaik was awarded life imprisonment by Khordha District and Sessions Judge Court today. Dipti Ranjan

Patnaik worked as a security guard at the residence of Bachan Sudha Patnaik, wife of a city-based businessman. He had absconded after the murder that had occurred in September, 2013 and was later arrested by the Commissionerate Police a few

days after. Bachan Sudha, wife of Manu Charan Patnaik, the owner of Madhukan Agro Automobiles Pvt Ltd, was allegedly killed by the accused at her residence in Rasulgarh area under Mancheswar police limits on September 11, 2013. The deceased was run-

ning a finance management firm and was also the director a housing and infrastructure company. "We are not happy with the sentencing. We would challenge the verdict in a higher court," said Subal Kishore Parida, Dipti Ranjan Patnaik's counsel.

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EDITORIAL

Holier than thou?

Rahul's proclamation that the Congress nurtures differences and dialogue raises a few questions. In his first acknowledgement of the group of 23 dissenters (G23) and in an oblique attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, Congress' former president Rahul Gandhi has claimed that the leaders belonging to the ruling party at the Centre are scared of freely airing their opinion. In his own party, however, free speech and differences of opinion nurture and flourish, he hinted. The comments, ostensibly to underline the Congress' inclusive nature that allows "conversations and negotiations" and to show that it cares for intra-party democracy, come just weeks ahead of the Assembly elections in four States and a Union Territory and were made during an interaction with the faculty and students of the US-based Brown University. Rahul asserted that a group like the G23 cannot exist in any other political party and immediately pointed the finger at the major political rivals. He went on to extol the democratic virtues of his own party but, of course, a slight oversight made him conveniently overlook as to how his grandmother and mother had handled dissent — or whatever smelled like it — within and outside the Congress. Pilo Mody famously called Indira Gandhi's MPs "bonded labour", alluding to the servitude to which she had reduced her party men, for which the then Prime Minister never forgave him. He also mocked her with an "I am a CIA agent" placard in the Parliament complex, reacting to her tendency to label her political opponents as agents of US imperialism. People familiar with the internal functioning of the 'Grand Old Party' are quite aware how fond Sonia Gandhi was of dissent; she even sent her own party's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on 'maun vrat' for at least 10 years. Then there's Rahul himself, who publicly tore up the then PM's ordinance on allowing convicted lawmakers to contest elections. Besides, his hint that he might return as the party president following the "election" and virtually staking claim to the top post, saying that nobody in his family has been the Prime Minister since 1989, again reeks of a sense of entitlement. But Rahul may have a point when he talks about the change in the political discourse since 2014, the eroding credibility of democratic institutions in the public eye and the BJP's control over the political narrative. Of course, all's not hunky-dory with the BJP and it also needs to answer some tough questions.

Breathless

Maybe you are not a chain-smoker, or even a smoker for that matter, but it hardly matters if you are in Delhi. For, breathing in the Capital itself amounts to smoking many packs a day. Though nothing really comes for free, the Governments can guarantee free electricity and water, relying mainly on public money, but not clean air. The air you breathe comes at the price of your health and, if in Delhi, it may come at the cost of your life. Ranked the world's most polluted Capital and the 10th most polluted city across the globe in the World Air Quality Report 2020 by a Swiss air technology company, IQAir, Delhi is gasping for breath and so are its residents. It's not that efforts are not being made to tackle the menace but these seem to be too insignificant while the problem is gigantic. Last month, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the 'Switch Delhi' campaign and said his Government will ensure that within the next six months, only electric vehicles (EVs) are hired by the Government departments. He also fixed an ambitious goal of 25 per cent EVs among the total vehicle registrations in Delhi by 2024. However, it's easier said than done. With the Centre also putting its weight behind e-mobility, we can only hope that the Governments would work in consonance to mitigate pollution. However, with the Centre introducing a Bill in Parliament that seeks to give overarching powers to Delhi's Lt Governor and the AAP dispensation opposing it tooth and nail, the consonance factor seems only a distant possibility. Besides, the AAP Government has never failed to blame the Governments of adjacent States like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for the pollution caused by farm stubble burning. Of course, politics and pollution are inter-related. If the situation doesn't improve, the day may not be far when political parties would lure voters with the promise of free oxygen supply. The Swiss company's report also states that Delhi's air quality marginally improved by approximately 15 per cent between 2019 and 2020, but it was due to the pandemic-induced lockdown and not as a result of the Government's efforts. However, with the economy having already been thrown wide open, the ongoing year doesn't seem to be promising with respect to curbing pollution. Moreover, the study reveals, 13 of the 15 most polluted cities in the world are in north India, with Ghaziabad at the second spot, followed by Bulandshahr. While nine of these cities are in the National Capital Region, as many as eight are in Uttar Pradesh. It shows that the problem is not limited to only Delhi and, hence, the solutions also should be comprehensive. The Governments concerned must set aside their differences and sit together to address the problem. However, since the Governments' anti-pollution action plans are known to exist only on paper, maybe the only thing that can help the citizenry again breathe freely is another lockdown. Fighting both the pollution and the pandemic, let's hope we come out of it alive.

Chinese conundrum in raging Myanmar

The common Myanmar citizen has seen through China's game of co-opting the junta back to power, putting its 'investments' at risk. The complexity of the societal tinderbox in Myanmar has always been short-changed for simplistic binaries of "pro-China" or "pro-India" assumptions, whereas the realities have been layered and unobvious. Lazy perceptions that Myanmar's junta rule (1962-2011 or till 2015 with a dummy civilian Government) was a Chinese borough or, that post-2015 till the 2021 coup, Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD Government was decidedly "pro-India" are bereft of subtleties and underlying dynamics at play. Fact is, the Chinese were the only major power to support the historical pariah-status junta Government as it brooked no "moral considerations" (like for North Korea or Pakistan), even as the Chinese continued stoking ethnic insurgencies within Myanmar to keep the Tatmadaw (Myanmar's military) entrapped and beholden to Beijing. The Chinese ignored international sanctions and supplied the beleaguered junta with weaponry, critical supplies and diplomatic support towards its contentious management of the Rohingya issue. Given India's "moral insistentcies", New Delhi's support was more mealy-mouthed and less forthcoming for the junta. Yet, the Generals saw through the Chinese duplicity and realised India's "moral" conundrum in its restraint — whereas unsaid fears about the controlling Chinese agenda were clearly felt. Yet, popular perceptions of the junta's preference for China persisted outside Myanmar. One such Sino-Myanmar General was Min Aung Hlaing, who led theatre-level forces responsible for taking on the Chinese-supported insurgent groups in the bloody 2009 clashes — today, Hlaing has taken over ab-



Bhopinder Singh

solute power through a military coup! But again, only China has seemingly pitched in favour of the latest junta takeover by calling it "local issue" and posturing neutrality. Consequentially, the optics of China playing court to the junta have gained credence, even as that may not be the wholehearted view shared within the Tatmadaw. But situationally, the junta will have to gravitate towards the Chinese as that remains its only "power option", despite lurking undercurrents. Similarly, contrary to public expectations, Suu Kyi's Government had been extremely accommodative and welcoming of Chinese largesse, involvement and investments. The NLD had signed 38 contracts, worth an estimated \$100 billion, towards the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (much bigger than the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor). So, to assume a linear "pro-India" or "pro-China" position onto either the junta or the civilian Government is facile. Situational reality, realpolitik and stark necessities

have defined the preferences of the prevailing regimes in Naypyidaw. Now, given the invested stakes in the Myanmar economy (also given the shaky status of the alternative CPEC), the Chinese cannot afford to upset the junta who have re-seized power — so, the amoral Chinese "flexibility" makes it the rare country to defend the junta's return at global forums. But, for once, beyond the usual compulsions of the Myanmar dispensations to remain ingratiated to China owing to their selfish requirements and lack of viable alternatives, the common Myanmar citizen has seen through the Chinese "adaptability" with the situations, and is increasingly blaming the invisible "Beijing hand" for co-opting the junta back to power. As the largest lender, trader and sovereign investor in Myanmar, Chinese "investments" are at risk with the brewing public ire. The Chinese Embassy has emerged as a hot spot for protests and murmurs of Beijing building "firewalls" to control the

internet and flow of information have gained belief. The international "re-pariahisation" of Myanmar, which traditionally drove it into the willing arms of the Chinese, may not go so smoothly this time, given the public pressure. In an unprecedented expression of blame game, several Chinese factories in Myanmar were targeted and set on fire last week. These Chinese-funded projects in Yangon's industrial zone also housed several expatriates, and the local Chinese Embassy issued several SOS and warnings to the authorities and the anti-coup protesters. The Chinese Government's mouthpiece, Global Times, asked for the perpetrators to be booked and compensation for the destruction. It warned: "Those who maliciously defame China and instigate attacks against Chinese factories are common enemies of China and Myanmar." But this time, the Chinese have been caught flat-footed in trying to be too clever by half with their shifty allegiances and known interferences in the internal strife. Neither the pro-democracy civilian parties nor the junta would court China willingly — but because it emerges as the only bailout option in the country, it is always at the forefront of defining Myanmar's narrative. But perhaps the Chinese have bitten more than they can chew in sanctifying the junta's return as the citizenry has conflated the anti-coup sentiment with the exploitive and expansionist anti-Chinese sentiment. The international sanctions may not have much impact given that the junta is well versed in such tactics, as also due to the expected Chinese largesse, but the soaked-in-the-blood public perception and expression of the anti-China sentiment offers the almost intractable and unresolvable threat to China's interests. The Chinese are in a clear conundrum.

Start up Wall

Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand
Author is an eminent
Industry Expert &
former CMD of NALCO

Recently, MSME fair has been held from 5th March to 9th March-2021. In the fair it is Start up pavilion & Start up talk that have drawn all the attention. Despite pandemic, the attendance of Start ups have been much more than expected. While interacting with the Start ups, all the mentor-dignitaries encouraged them to make Odisha the No. 1. The enthusiasm & entrepreneurial spirit of Start ups are pervading all around the IDCO exhibition ground, BBSR. Success stories presented by the Start ups, 'Elephant Catching' by Subroto Bagchi & mega mentoring by Satyabrata Sahoo made the environment highly stimulus. A walk in the ground makes you feel Odisha is no far off to climb the top position in the Start up world of the Country. The journey of the Start ups in India started on 16th January 2016, in Odisha with the setting up of Start up Odisha. When we talk of Start up it is about 3 things: Innovation/Improvement, Entrepreneurship & Ecosystem. Start up is not an existing business, it's a new business based either on innovative idea or product/process improvement. No more capital is sine qua non of industry/business rather it is "Idea". Rich has no monopoly on idea. Anyone can have innovative idea. Start up is a plebian approach to business, open to public. In India as on 1st March 2020 there are 28,979 number of Start ups registered with Start-up India giving en-

agement to 3,37,335 number of people i. e., @ 11 number of employment. Data on MSME sector shows that there are 6.4 Cr MSMEs employing 11.2 Cr people i.e., @ < 2 employment. This shows Start up units have better employment potential. By the turn of the decade India will be the youngest Nation in the world with 64% of its population in working age group. This demographic phenomenon is an opportunity as well as a challenge. If India cultivates the demographic dividend by providing engagement to this huge work force, it is estimated to give 2% push to GDP, a solid step towards five trillion economy. This shows how much critical is the role of Start up in economic growth & employment generation. Odisha is a fast-developing State. It needs to make growth and development more sustainable. Start up can be the right kind of vehicle to create employment & accelerate growth & development on sustainable basis. Question arises whether Start up ecosystem in Odisha is shaping up well to facilitate the desired growth of Start-ups? Robust growth of ecosystem depends on the focus of the Nodal Institution in the State. Some of the focus areas of the Start-up Odisha are: (a) World Class hub for Start-up, (b) Growth of Incubators & synergy with core areas of the State, (c) 1000 Start ups by 2021, (d) Skill based training to make the youth ready for entrepreneurship, (e) Encourage Industries to support Start up as a part of CSR, (f) Foster women entrepreneurship in Odisha. While focus areas of Start up Odisha are well thought-out, what matters is to work on it & add new areas of focus based on experience across the

Country. In some of the States like Telangana, Gujrat, Maharashtra etc who have been doing well in Start-up ecosystem focus have been given on mentoring by Government to bridge the gap between the State & the Start-up & on sustainable funding model. Individual initiative of present Principal Secretary to give market & fund connect etc. are appreciable & need to be institutionalised. Number of Start ups in Odisha has reached around 950 near to the target of 1000 by 2021. Generally, mortality rate of Start up is very high. Odisha will do well if this rate is kept low. Discussion with a number of Start ups tell us, it is fund connect & market connect which are crucial for their survival & growth. If we see the snapshot of state performance in the report of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Govt. of India on 7-pillars of assessment: (a) Institutional support-100%, (b) Simplifying regulation-40%, (c) Easing public procurement-32% (d) Incubation support-5%, (e) Seed funding support-6%, (f) Venture funding support-0% & (g) Awareness & outreach program-38%, the performance of the state in comparison to the best performing state in fund connect area are quite minimal or zero & hence need huge improvement. In these areas it is not enough to have Govt. initiatives alone, private initiatives should be encouraged. Incubation Centres need to take up this agenda. Recent Fund Flow Meet organised by AIC-NITF invoked lot of enthusiasm among the Investors & Start ups. Some of the Start ups received more than 2 Crore pre-series investment. Such investment meet will go long way in providing missing milestones in Start-up pro-

motion. Incubation Centres are platforms where Start-ups are reared & pitch forked. Strong the Incubation Centres, robust is the ecosystem. Odisha is having 18 incubators, of which 40% are either not working or ineffective. This calls for a relook at the support mechanism for Incubators. Amongst other points for revision, 50% capital grant support limiting to 1 Crore can be examined for scaling up. Proposed O-Hub is a welcome step. While Start up Odisha has industry connect as focus, much is expected from such handholding. Odisha is having 263 large and medium industries, if on an average one industry promotes a minimum of 10 Start ups, we will have 2630 Start ups with strong industry connect and thus high survival abilities. This will enable the Start-up number to be tripled and mortality rate brought down. For example, in Metal Industry where Odisha is strong there are ample opportunities for product development. In Aluminium Industry alone there are 2700 applications for new products, huge opportunity for Start-ups. Moreover, large and medium industries are having their R&D set up where number of laboratory level successful projects are awaiting commercialisation. These will be opportunities for Start-up for commercial scaling up in short time. The existing Start up policy-2016 is under revision & there is probability of Student Start up Scheme getting introduced. Similarly, Women Start up Scheme can also be thought to be introduced which will give a boost to SHGs. Innovative measures & synergetic efforts need to be made to make Odisha Start up hub of the Country.

The fifth night cricket tournament is being organized by Vir Surendra Sai Cricket Club; Rengali Champion



Rengali 18/03- The fifth night cricket tournament organized by Bir Surendra Sai Cricket Club in Khinda, Rengali block, Sambalpur dis-

trict has been celebrated. Rengali has become the champion. The final was played on Wednesday night between Rengali and Ektali. Rengali be-

came the champion. The champion Rengali team was awarded Rs 20,000 with the trophy and the runner-up Ektali team was given Rs 14,000

with the trophy. "The chief guest in the final match was Mr. Kiran Behera, President of the Bir Surendra Sai Workers' Union, and Mr.

Bruna Lugun, Former Player of the Indian Hockey Team, Babulu Raut, Executive President of the Bir Surendra Sai Workers' Union, Mc Nelly Bharat He presented awards to the winners and runners-up. Sixteen teams participated in the three-day tournament from 15/03/2021 to 17/03/2021. Club members Rohit Raut, Ashok Seth, Sahadev Raut, Ramakant Mali, Subhas Seth, Bolkar Raut contributed prominently.

Inauguration of Vaccination Centre at UAIL

(A.O. Bureau) Tikiri, Mar 18: As a part of the nationwide roll-out of the Covid vaccine, a Vaccination center was inaugurated at Utkal Hospital on 13th March 2021. Utkal Hospital is a health care

persons who can't make it to registration because of their lack of awareness and inaccessibility. The CSR department of UAIL is also relentlessly working towards mobilizing the people about the ben-

inaugural event was graced by many delegates like District Collector, CDMO Rayagada and Utkal fraternity. The Collector and DM of Rayagada applauded the consistent effort of UAIL to-



Awareness session on 'Dental hygiene' under Tata Volunteering week

(A.O. Bureau) Joda, Mar 18: As part of the 15th edition of Tata Volunteering week celebrations, an awareness session on 'Dental hygiene' was organised at Community Resource Centre of Munda Sahi, Banspani under Joda block of Keonjhar district on Thursday. Apart from a fun-filled awareness session with the children on dental hygiene, the officials of Tata Steel along with officials of Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) distributed dental kit comprising



toothbrush, toothpaste and tongue cleaner to more than 50 children of the region. It may be noted here that Tata Volunteering Week (TVW), celebrated in March

and September every year, brings together Tata employees, their family members and retired Tata colleagues worldwide to participate in small acts of volunteering.

During this month-long programme, a beeline of activities has been planned at Joda which includes awareness sessions, competitions among school children, distri-

bution of study materials, sports equipment, awareness on menstrual hygiene among women, awareness on flora & fauna among children, etc.

initiative of UAIL, a unit of Hindalco Industries Limited of Aditya Birla Group. Utkal Hospital had already been conferred a status of L1 Covid Hospital in the past and now endeavoring to contribute to the vaccination drive through this vaccination center. The Aarogya Setu app registration as mandated by the government pre-vaccination was ensured and the Utkal hospital management voluntarily made the registration at COWIN.gov.in to the

effits of vaccination and the provisions made available in the vaccination center. In the day one 10 persons from the nearby villages were vaccinated on the inaugural day subsequently almost 50 have been vaccinated till date which include people from nearby villages. Also a mobile van with banner and audio aids was made available in this region to sensitize the community about the facilities and benefits of Vaccination center at UTKAL hospital. The

wards fighting COVID 19 and asked the UAIL management to accelerate the process of vaccination to give benefits to the last person of the mile. Speaking to the occasion, Unit head of UAIL, Mr. Beig appreciated the UAIL management for their good coordination with district administration for this vaccination program and assured that there will be seamless and speedy performance from the UAIL team in this vaccine drive.

PPWU holds meeting for permanent employment of compassionate PPT workers



(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Mar 18: Paradip Port Workers Union (PPWU) held a meeting with Paradip Port Trust (PPT) authority for the permanent employment of compassionate workers at the Paradip Port. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dy. Chairman, PPT in the

presence of Senior Dy Secretary and Dy Secretary, PPT and PPWU working president Anant Kumar Das, vice president Gunanidhi Choudhury and general secretary Nrusingha Prasad Satpathy recently. It issued a 13-point demand letter on behalf of the union to enforce the CGIT directive on

permanent employment of compassionate workers at the port. After the incident, cheers spread amongst the PPT compassionate workers and they praised PPWU officials especially the general secretary Nrusingha Satpathy, by whom efforts, the long pending issues were been solved.

Seminar Held On 'Gender Sensitization' In Paradip College

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Mar 18: A seminar on "Gender Sensitization" was conducted by Paradip College at the college campus on Wednesday. On the occasion, Dr. Ranjita Pattnaik, Paediatrics specialist graced as the guest speaker and highlighted over the gender bias causes a multi-level disorder in society and it affect men too, one way or the other. She stressed the need for



carrying a gender Sensitization drive and awareness at all levels in society to underline the importance of gen-

der equality. The seminar was chaired by Dr. Sasmita Satpathy, HOD, Physics and welcome address de-

livered by principal incharge Ajaya Kumar Mishra. Dr. Smita Biswal, Reader, Chemistry introduced

the guest. The staff members of the college Ganeswar Patra, Akshay Chandra Mishra, Bramhananda Biswal, Dr. Jagruti Ray, Bandita Sahoo, Sanghamitra Pradhan, Tapaswini Behera, Ranjita Hansda, Sriya Samantray and others made the programme success through their presence. In the conclusion, Miss Saswati Pattnaik, Lecturer in English gave the vote of thanks.

Freedom Run Organised at INS Chilka



(A.O. Bureau) Chilka, Mar 18: As the nation pushes closer to a historic 75 years of her Independence, a cross country "Freedom Run" was organised at INS

Chilka on 17 Mar 21. The run was organised to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence which is also termed as "Bharat Ka Amrit Mahotsav" as an acco-

lude to sacrifices, struggle and gallant courage displayed by our freedom fighters. The unit witnessed ebullient participation from all members of the Station community comprising Service personnel and trainees, who whole heartedly participated in the event. The 7 kilometer run was flagged off by Commodore NP Pradeep, Commanding Officer, INS Chilka

Balimela BJP has submitted letter of 9 demands

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Mar 18: The Malkangiri district Balimela Town BJP handed over a demand letter to the NAC executive officer. The BJP has accused corruption in the development work at the Balimela NAC. So the BJP has made Nine demands. The demands were: - Although lakhs of rupees have been spent on the Balimela Mini Stadium, it has not yet been used, so it should be renovated, as well as some NAC staff in the name of improving the lakhs of rupees the

park, so the money can be rebuilt immediately. Lighting should be provided in all the existing mosques streets, the four-wheelers used in the clean-up operation of Swachh Bharat should go to each ward, the NAC spends more than Rs 1 lakh per annum on water supply on dry days, so drinking water should be permanently installed in every square of Balimela town. Cleaning work in each ward of the ward and bleechng powders in all wards should be cleaned every day, re-surveyed



by individuals of land registration certificates, among the 12 wards of Balimela Town beneficiaries. The rest of the money should be refunded at a reasonable price from and the ration card in all ward of

Balimela town will be given to the beneficiaries. BJP Town president Subhashish Kar, General secretary Simanchal Pradhan, former president Pradeep Nayak and district adviser Arun Patra were among those

present at the handing over of the demand papers. However, the Balimela Town BJP has said that if the executive officer does not take immediate action, the NAC office will be cordoned off in the coming days.

MP Ramesh Majhi met Defence minister for establish Sainik school

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Mar 18: The central government has decided to open 100 military schools in different parts of the country. Today Nabarangpur MP Sri

Ramesh Majha meet with Defense Minister sri Rajnath Singh and told that if two military schools were opened in Malkangiri and Nabarangpur under the Nabarangpur con-



stituency of the tribal-dominated undivided Koraput district, many students from the two districts would benefit! Malkangiri people were quite happy for this.

Is Clash of the Titans at the Indian Box Office a Good Move for the Overall Business?



New Delhi, Mar 18: At a time when the film industry is already experiencing an unprecedented slump in box office revenue, is box office clash a good move on long road to recovery? The impact of COVID-19 has led to big tentpoles fighting for space on the most crowded blockbuster season ever with a series of Indian cinematic behemoths set to lock horns at the box office this year. The Eid holiday corridor is often the merriest time of the year at the box office. This year, the two biggest holiday tentpoles waiting to be unwrapped on May 13 are Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai and Satyamev Jayate 2, which will debut in cinemas amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Alia Bhatt-starrer Gangubai Kathiawadi will arrive in cinemas along with Prabhas' highly-anti-

pated film Radhe Shyam on July 30. Also clashing at the box office later this year are SS Rajamouli's pan-India project RRR and Ajay Devgn's Maidaan. Both the films are scheduled to hit the theatres during the Dusshera weekend. Additionally, Shahid Kapoor's Jersey and Kangana Ranaut's Dhaakad are eyeing a Diwali release. But at a time when the film industry is already experiencing a massive disruption and an unprecedented slump in box office revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and cinemas are receiving low footfalls, is box office clash a good move in the direction on long road to recovery? Film producer and trade analyst Girish Johar feels in the post COVID era the box office clashes should be avoided as everyone needs time and space to recover

the lost ground. He, however, sees no issues in releasing of two films belonging to completely different genres on the same day. "In the post COVID era, box office clashes should be avoided the most because everyone needs time, space and most importantly revenue to come back on their own feet. Ideally there should be no clashes, but there are certain holiday periods in which the window is such that two films can come together which has been proved umpteen times in the past as well. If it's an extended weekend and the two films are different in terms of genre and size then why not. The more the better," he said. "All the big films which are lined up to clash at the box office will start releasing almost two months from now so the chances are the fear and paranoia around the Covid-19

may subside by then. We have already seen that down south with Master and Krack as the audience no longer wants to stay at home and only wants to enjoy the films in cinemas. Maybe at that time, the normalcy would return and the impact of Covid-19 might get diluted by then," Johar added. Film exhibitor Akshaye Rathi believes that it's about time the film industry should collectively come together and ensure that every movie gets maximum showcasing that it deserves and maximises the revenues for not just the producers but also for the exhibitors to the best extent possible. "The last 10 months have not been good for producers or exhibitors, and now especially since these big tentpoles are due, it's important for the entire industry to come together and work on them in a way

that we monetise to the hilt and make sure that at least the films that are catering to same mindset, target audience and demographics are not cannibalising into each other's business and are apart from each other by at least a week or two. An urban rom-com and an actioner coming together or a big ticket Hollywood film releasing with a film that focuses on single screen are fine." Echoing a similar sentiment, film trade analyst Atul Mohan said, "It's not a good move in these testing times when we are already struggling to have the audience back in cinemas. We should not get into these battles of ego right now. What the industry needs is a proper spacing of all the big films so that each of them gets 3-4 weeks of run. The audience is already very skeptical about stepping in the theatres so we really don't know how in days to come the audience is going to come back to cinemas and how the turn out is going to be. So, we really can't afford to have box office clashes right now." He continued, "In this pandemic, we have seen the closure of 1000-1500 cinema halls and single screens so that could also lead to shortage of screens to accommodate two big releases on same Friday. Also, when two big films clash and even both of them do well at the box office, they do cut each other's 20-25 per cent box office earnings."

Anil celebrates his 38-year old association with makeup man with a warm post

Mumbai, Mar 18: Anil Kapoor on Thursday took to Twitter to share pictures with his makeup man of 38 years. Deepak Chauhan. See them here. Actor Anil Kapoor on Thursday dedicated a special post to his faithful makeup man Deepak Chauhan who has been with him for 38 years. Anil revealed how Deepak had worked on Anil's wax statue as well. Sharing a bunch of pictures with Deepak, Anil wrote: "The physically fit artist and my brother #DeepakChauhan..Painting my face since 38 years! (even touched up my wax statue) The Make Up Boy not Make Up Man." One of the pictures is an old one, while another one is a far more recent one. There is also a solo picture of Deepak. It appears Bollywood stars like keeping their relationship with long-time associates and, on many occasions, celebrate it too. Actor Amitabh

Bachchan is one such a star. His makeup man has been Deepak Sawant for the last 47 years. Back in January of 2020, Amitabh had written about Deepak and said: "DEEPAK my Make Up Man for 47 years..through earnings made Marathi, Bhojpuri films..started one small room parlour for wife.. today 40 years of the Parlour, over 40 employees, in a 3 storied building.. BUT NEVER MISSED A SINGLE DAY REPORTING for my make up work." In June 2019, Amitabh was seen at the funeral of his secretary of 35 years, Sheetal Jain. T 3422 - DEEPAK my Make Up Man for 47 years..through earnings made Marathi, Bhojpuri films..started one small room parlour for wife.. today 40 years of the Parlour, over 40 employees, in a 3 storied building.. BUT NEVER MISSED A SINGLE DAY REPORTING for my make up work pic.twitter.com/

wPQZKiqH0R — Amitabh Bachchan (@SrBachchan) January 26, 2020 On work front, Anil was seen last in AK Vs AK, on Netflix where he played himself and was pitted against Anurag Kashyap. Before the coronavirus lockdown came into force, he was seen in Malang with Aditya Roy Kapoor, Disha Patani and Kunal Kemmu. Anil utilised his time during the lockdown to build a body well into his sixties. Sharing his journey, he mentioned how he did it without taking any supplements. "I made this post not to show off or talk myself up, but to pass on some simple advice on. When it comes to body building, nothing is beyond us. At different ages we can work differently to achieve great results. If you're asking if you need to spend a lot of money on supplements to achieve this, the answer is no. I have not taken any kind of supplements in this process."



Monica Dogra: I was replaced in as many as 6-7 projects and it was heartbreaking

New Delhi, Mar 18: The musician-actor talks about her intermittent acting career. "things didn't happen as expected, I didn't know why. It was tough. I was fortunate I had music" and her experience of starring in The Married Woman. Best known for her work in films such as Rock On (2008) and Dhobi Ghat (2011), actor Monica Dogra has been seen in acting projects intermittently. Dogra made her digital debut recently, with the web series, The Married Woman (TMW) and has been thrilled with the response. She says, "The reactions to TMW have

been positive and warm. I feel like I am dreaming. I had been shooting another web show, Cartel, and when I was offered this part, I knew I had to take it up. There are so many similarities between my character and my real life- I am an artist, have been estranged from my mum, grew up in a troubled home, have fallen with a Muslim guy and all of these things happened with my character too. The experience so specific and felt like it was written by the divine." Talking about the gaps between her acting projects, she explains that wasn't planned. "Nothing

kept me away from acting. I got many projects and then they didn't happen. And I didn't know why. I went through a lot of struggle. I was replaced in as many as six-seven projects and it was heartbreaking; especially as those projects became hits; which hurt even more. It was difficult and hard. I am fortunate that I have my music to fall back on. Sometimes, I would think, why was it happening? So when TMW came along, I knew this dynamix and difficult character to portray. There is controversy around the show as well so I feel I was made for this."



The Many Benefits of Drinking Lemon Water



New Delhi, Mar 18: Lemon water- the very sight and smell of this drink makes one feel fresh, rejuvenated. This greenish-yellow mix of lime squeezed in water is known to provide numerous health benefits. Be it to beat the summer heat or to jumpstart a winter

morning, drinking lemon water never goes out of fashion. A fruit for all seasons, lemon is versatile, nutrient-dense, packed with loads of vitamins, minerals essential for the body. Let's take a quick look at the advantages of drinking lemon water: Aids in digestion and

weight loss: Since ancient times, drinking warm water on an empty stomach has always been recommended. And infusing that same water with the goodness of lemon squeezed into it brings about overall wellness. It prevents acid reflux, stimulates digestion,

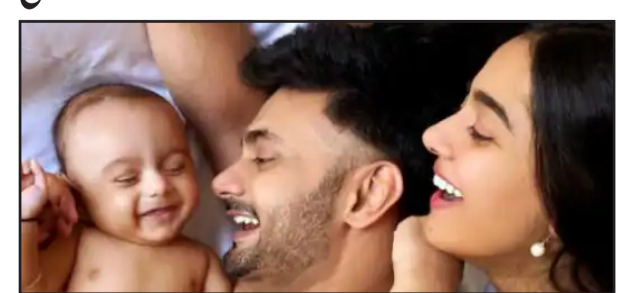
keeps constipation at bay, and eliminates waste. The drink washes out the toxins floating in your digestive tract, reduces bloating, relieves painful symptoms that accompany indigestion; in the process boosts up metabolism, gets rid of excess fat aiding in weight loss. Improves skin: The fragrant, refreshing drink will not only reboot your mood, but will also flush out the toxins from the body. A glass of nice warm antioxidant-rich lemon water in an empty stomach every morning is a great detox drink to get a glowing, radiant skin. Improves immunity: This drink being an excellent source of ascorbic acid, boosts up the body's natural immune system. Vitamin C protects you from flu, cold; builds up

defence against pathogens. Prevents inflammation and anaemia: Lemon water contains antioxidants, potassium, folate, flavonoids, some amount of vitamin B. These prevent chronic inflammation from oxidative stress and the vitamin C helps absorb iron from food; thereby ensuring haemoglobin level in body. Prevents kidney stones: Citric acid in lemons prevents kidney stones by increasing urine volume. If someone is suffering from kidney stones already, then just 125 ml of lemon juice per day would be sufficient to stop stone formation. It increases the pH level in urine thereby ensuring a healthy kidney devoid of the possibility of kidney stones to thrive.

Amrita Rao and Family Seen Together in This Post First Time After Pregnancy

New Delhi, Mar 18: Anmol shared the picture perfect family portrait on Instagram on Thursday and described their son Veer as their world and happiness. The picture shows baby Veer all smiles with his eyes closed as his

parents look at him and smile. Anmol's post is the first time that fans and followers are getting to see the 39-year-old actress with her son. Amrita tied the knot with her long time boyfriend Anmol in 2016. The couple



welcomed their first son on November 1, 2020. During her pregnancy, Amrita had shared a few pictures on social media that showed how the mother-to-be was spending her time.

Bosphorus Boxing: Nikhat Zareen stuns world champion Paltceva Ekaterina to enter quarters



New Delhi, Mar 18: Nikhat Zareen stunned reigning world champion Paltceva Ekaterina to breeze into the women's 51kg quarter-finals at the Bosphorus Boxing tournament in Istanbul. India's Nikhat Zareen stunned reigning world champion Paltceva Ekaterina to breeze into the women's 51kg quarter-finals at the Bosphorus Boxing tournament in Istanbul. The Asian Championships bronze medallist, Zareen caused a major upset on the second day of the tournament on Wednesday when she out-punched the Russian boxer 5-0. The In-

dian pugilist will have yet another tough bout ahead as she takes on two-time world champion Kyzaibay Nazym of Kazakhstan in her last-eight round. Apart from Zareen, 2013 Asian champion Shiva Thapa, Sonia Lather and Parveen also registered victories in their respective categories to proceed to the quarter-finals. Thapa got the better of Kazakhstan's Smagulov Baghtiyov 3-2 in the men's 63kg division. World championship silver medallist Lather (57kg) and Parveen (60kg) beat local favourites Surmeneli Tugcenaz and Ozyol

Esra 5-0 in their respective women's second round matches. However, it was curtains for Duryodhah Negi (69kg), Brijesh Yadav (81kg) and Krishan Sharma (+91kg) as they lost their preliminary round bouts. The third day of the event will witness six Indian boxers fighting it out in their respective quarter-final bouts. Lather, Zareen, Parveen and Jyoti (69kg) will be seen in action in the women's category while Thapa and Solanki will present Indian challenge in the men's competition.

All England Championships: Parupalli Kashyap needs to refocus, solely on himself

New Delhi, Mar 18: The question after Kento Momota's 42-minute 21-13, 22-20 win over Parupalli Kashyap at the All-England though, was, if the Indian can draw out some last fuel from the reserves of his career. Kento Momota is badminton's wordless Terminator. More than once now, the three-and-a-half words "I'll be back" have loomed large when the Japanese World No.1, allergic to errors, has returned to the court from grimmer catastrophes than a mere shuttle limping into the net. Once again after a long absence owing to a car crash and later Covid, his snappy shuttle kills announced his grand return, though this Arnie wore a scar on his lean bicep. The question after Momota's 42-minute 21-13, 22-20 win over Parupalli Kashyap at the All-England though, was, if the Indian can draw out some last fuel from the reserves of his career. If he could ever murmur a confident "I'll be back." And if the 34-year-old can resurrect a resistance on the home stretch of

Olympic qualification. The question sprung up in fact when his down the line jump smashes, reflex flicks at the net and craftily constructed points were unsettling Momota, a tad. A walk in the Winterbourne park was predicted for Momota against the Indian, cur-

ter-effects of Covid, and an asthmatic, his effort was commendable. Kashyap trailed 13-5 in the second, after flatlining in the opener post the break. From there, he would launch an audacious counter—not scathing in intensity, but deliberate in deception—and

from the Indian. But the former CWG champion, who fell agonisingly at the quarters stage of World's and Olympics, seemed like his brain was drawing out perfect plans to push the top-ranked Japanese, but the body couldn't keep pace with that clarity of strategy. His

his second set fightback threw up the poser: Why not try for himself. It was evident that coaches Park and Agus Dwi can help him from the coach's chair. He will need a humongous effort to physically spruce up his fitness, which is a frustrating task given how often he's broken down with niggles. It is also apparent that Kashyap can continue guiding his juniors—Sai Praneeth, Prannoy, Sameer and Srikanth along with Ajay Jayaram, another keen student of the game. But Kashyap could do himself and the country a favour by backing his own game in 2021—and pushing those like Srikanth to up their game, by staying in contention when the Asian swing comes. Kashyap seemed to be enjoying the feeling of matching wits with the best, after a long time in his opener at Birmingham. It's been a long illustrious career, which deserves a Super Series title. 22-20 last set score versus Momota pointed to a last push the Hyderabad can work himself up towards.



rently 29th in Race to Tokyo list, but often prone to breaking down in impeding injury. Instead, the Indian would settle into snapping at the top seed's heels. The effort drawn out and poured into every smash was an almighty audible panting grunt, pointing to unsatisfactory endurance. But for someone who's still struggling with the af-

peppered with those horse-power neighing smashes. Collecting points swiftly, moving faster, he would parry 4 match points, inducing a hint of doubt in Momota's mind. The Japanese, dazed at times from the unexpected rebellion brewing in Kashyap's effort-full winners, would close out when another straight one drifted wide

first-round loss isn't shocking. What does beg the question is why Kashyap won't back himself to focus on his own game in the next two months. He has taken upon himself to push Saina Nehwal closer to heading to her 4th Games. He strategies, spars and stands like a rock in support of her career. But the manner of

Wrestler Ritika Phogat dies by suicide in Haryana

Haryana, Mar 18: Wrestler Ritika Phogat (17), a cousin of the Phogat sisters, allegedly died by suicide in Haryana's Charkhi Dadri district after she lost the final bout of a tournament, police said on Thursday. Ritika took the extreme step on the night of March 15, they said. A native of Rajasthan's Jaipur village, Ritika was staying with her uncle and Dronacharya awardee Mahavir Singh Phogat in



Charkhi Dadri's Balali village under Jhohju Kalan police station for the past four years, said Station House Officer (SHO) Dilbagh

Singh. She died at her uncle's house on the night of March 15 as she was upset over losing to her rival by one point in the final bout

of a championship, he said. The championship was held in Rajasthan's Bharatpur from March 12 to 14. Ritika was learning and practising wrestling at the Mahavir Phogat Sports Academy in Charkhi Dadri. Wrestling star Geeta Phogat described Ritika, her maternal sister, as a "talented wrestler". "It's a very sad moment for my family. Ritika was a talented wrestler and I don't know why she took

such a step. Victory and defeat are a part of an athlete's life. We should never take such a step," she said in a tweet in Hindi. "Terrible news that we lost #RitikaPhogat who had a brilliant career ahead. The world has changed from where it was some decades ago. Athletes are facing pressures which were not there earlier. An essential part of their training should be to deal with these pressures," he said.

Saina Nehwal injures hip, retires hurt; Indonesians forced to withdraw

New Delhi, Mar 18: It was a regulation forehand pick, dipping low, as Saina Nehwal attempted an awkward mix of squat and stretched retrieve. She would immediately wince in pain, and carry the shadow of that discomfort felt in the side hips for the next two points. Trailing 21-8 in the first against Danish Mia Blichfeldt, Saina would finally turn to the umpire, raise her racquet and retire hurt, after an afflicted

watch their pace-setter fade away on Court 1, as anything to her deep backhand or forehand back corner would extract a mighty effort out of her. Points came from Mia's nervous pushes that ended as errors. But any diagonal sprint that a Saina of yore would've scrambled to retrieve, would worsen her movements in the next rally. All Mia had to do was tire her out. On the day, the 23-year-old didn't even

ing her kitbag for she looked in grave pain. Saina would decline and head back to the stoic applause of the empty stadium. PV Sindhu, meanwhile got over the first-day adjustment with drift and the light, and packed off Soniia Cheah 21-11, 21-17 in 39 minutes. A charge on the All England title will require her to expend as little energy as possible against Danish 20-year-old Line Christophersen in Round



4-10 score in the second. Commentator Gill Clark who had spent the match, enumerating Saina's body of work—15 straight All England appearances with consistent quarterfinals and a dozen World Championships, would wonder if this was the last that the Utilita Arena of All England would be seeing of her. But in a game where Saina struggled to cover the court, her lunges laboured and her return to the central T reluctant, the iconic Indian trailblazer betrayed the toll a decade and half of badminton had taken on her body. Indians who had not been allowed to take to the practice courts after another chaotic testing episode—would

need to hit the top gear. Kashyap, sitting in the coach's chair, would look ashen and worried even from behind the mask. At one point, Saina ran backwards and completely missed the dipping shuttle, straggling back to balance with a glazed look. She had been bothered in Thailand similarly, but not looked this dire. The straight smash, a sign that the Indian ranked 19 can put up a fight, was nowhere to be seen. For a split second it seemed like Saina would call for a doctor and get on with it. But she would shake her head imperceptibly, looking like she wanted to leave, but also knowing that she must. Mia would check if she needed help with carry-

2, while guarding against thinking too far ahead. On Wednesday, Sindhu would free her arms for some zipping cross-court powerplay. Briefly, it looked like she'd allow the match to dawdle into a decider. But she would regroup and finish it off, taking the last 4 points like a pro. Prannoy vs Momota next: HS Prannoy might not be boastful about it. But he likes the giant-killer reputation he carries. Right uptill the Thailand Opens, he was revelling in his shock treatments of higher ranked players. The one exception might be Japanese Kento Momota, against whom he is subdued at a 0-6 head to head.

Bhavani Devi uses her sword and Dravid's mentorship to chart road to Tokyo

New Delhi, Mar 18: When a young Bhavani Devi's school in Tamil Nadu introduced fencing as an activity, it was one of five sports that students could choose from. The seniors in the school came to divide the students into groups and get them started on these sports. By the time Bhavani's turn came, the other four disciplines were full and there was a vacant slot in only one sport. Fencing it would be for her. Years later, the 27-year-old has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics and is set to take part in the sabre category of the fencing event. Her ticket to Tokyo was printed when South Korea beat Hungary in the quarterfinals of the World Cup in Budapest last Sunday that allowed Bhavani to take the second qualification spot from Asia. Now that a spot in India's Olympic campaign is hers, Bhavani looks back at her initial years in fencing and how she was

dealt harsh lessons on money and the cost of chasing one's dreams from a very young age. "When I joined this sport, the first question they asked students was, 'How much is your father's annual income?' They said fencing is a very expensive sport and one couldn't afford it if they came from a poor family. At that point, I lied about how much my father was earning in those days," Bhavani told reporters on a Zoom call. "It was only later that I understood why that teacher had asked us that question. The swords and the equipment were very expensive. In the beginning, we would practise with bamboo sticks and use our swords in competition only. This was because if we broke the swords, we couldn't afford to buy them and that process wasn't easy either because it had to be imported." And while her initial years in the sport witnessed a constant

battle to find sponsors and fund her travels, constant equipment changes and coaching, a lot of those troubles subsided when got sponsored by the GoSports programme—specifically, the Rahul Dravid



Mentorship Programme. It was Dravid who challenged the GoSports team to pick up sports which were not mainstream, and had more girls playing as well as dominating at the national level. GoSports would end up picking up gymnast Dipa Karmakar and Bhavani as part of that mentorship programme. The question of money

would be one that would hover over Bhavani's family for years. But it wasn't the only issue. Fencing in India has always been a lonely sport for her. With no compatriot competing on the international stage like her,

was a worry. As a young student of the game, Bhavani was travelling to different countries and taking part in different competitions. Our neighbours and family members would ask us why we were sending our daughter to different countries, especially if the Olympics was such a far-off prospect," recalled Ramani Devi, Bhavani's mother. Now that the Tokyo Olympics are a few months away and the fear of cancellation from last year that Devi went through has been replaced by a sense of anticipation after her qualification, the hard work restarts. The lockdown that forced athletes around the world to stay indoors hampered valuable progress made. But in Bhavani's case, the period of lockdown was when she could continue to focus on the technical aspects of her game and maintain a steady level of fitness while recovering from past injuries.

Special Train Between Puri & Indore And Kanniyakumari & Howrah



(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, Mar 18: It has been decided to run special train between Puri & Indore and between Howrah & Kanniyakumari up to further advice. PURI – INDORE SPECIAL: 09371 Indore-Puri Special from Indore will leave at 1500hrs on every Tuesday w.e.f. 23rd March and will arrive at Puri at 1845hrs on the following day. In the return direction, 09372 Puri-Indore Special from Puri will leave at 0030hrs on every Thursday (mid night of Wednesday) w.e.f. 25th March, 2021 and will

reach at Indore at 0540hrs on the next day. This train has 10 AC 3 Tier Coach, 06 Sleeper Class Coach, 02 Guard cum luggage van and one Pantry Car in its composition having stoppages at Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Angul, Sambalpur City, Jharsuguda Road in ECoR jurisdiction and important stations like Bilaspur, Raipur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Gondia, Nagpur, Itarsghi, Bhopal and Dewas between Puri and Indore from both the directions. H O W R A H - KANNIYAKUMARI SPECIAL: 02666 Kaniyakumari-Howrah

Special from Kanniyakumari will leave at 0530hrs on every Saturday w.e.f. 3rd April, 2021 and will arrive at Howrah at 2355hrs on the following day. In the return direction, 02665 H o w r a h - Kanniyakumari Special from Howrah will leave at 1625hrs on every Monday w.e.f. 5th April, 2021 and will reach at Kanniyakumari at 1015hrs hrs on the next second day. This train has 10 Sleeper Class Coach, 04 AC 3 Tier Coach, one AC 2 tier coach, Two Second Class Seating and Two Guard cum Luggage Vans in its composition having stoppages at Bhadrak, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Brahmapur, Visakhapatnam in ECoR jurisdiction and some important stations between Howrah and Kanniyakumari from both the directions.

Vedanta spreads message of safety at workplace during 50th National Safety Week

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 18: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added products, observed the 50th National Safety Week from 4th - 10th March at its alumina refinery at Lanjigarh, and aluminium & power operations at Jharsuguda, in Odisha. As part of the commemoration, various activities like awareness campaigns, quizzes and interactive sessions with employees and business partners were conducted in line with this year's National Safety Day theme 'Learn from disaster and prepare for a safer future' to reinstate and reinforce the principles, rules and regulations of safety at the workplace. During the National Safety Week, the company also launched an e-Learning CHES [Consolidated Health, Environment, Safety and Sustainability (HSE&S)] module for the leadership, covering the different aspects of the HSE&S functions. Takeaways from this module will be further imparted to other employees and business partners and practised in Vedanta's day to day operations. Reiterating Vedanta's safety practices and standards, Mr. Rahul Sharma, Dy. CEO Aluminium Business, Vedanta Ltd., said, "Vedanta puts in global best practices and rigorous processes to make its world-class operations safe for employees and business partners. In our mission to become the world's

best in aluminium, we are committed to deploying cutting edge technology and adopting best-in-class global practices, aligned with our culture of care, to create a safer and responsible workplace for our people." Vedanta is extensively working to-

knowledge and update every person associated with them on safety standards and best practices." For integrating advanced policies, management systems and best-in-class practices to create safety-focused operations based on the three pri-

where the leadership teams of various units are tasked with observing and assessing the safety of employees and business partners at work through regular visits and interactions at shopfloors; At its Jharsuguda operations, the company has

with safety at the site; At the alumina refinery in Lanjigarh, the company has digitalized various aspects of safety like deployment of Leadership-SafetyInteraction Portal, to ensure strict adherence to safety across all levels; At regular intervals, both units



wards creating a safe workplace for its employees and business partners by bolstering its performance in safety, health and environment, while driving steady enhancement in its Safety Management System. Mr. Sandip Kumar, Site In charge - JCPL, Vedanta's business partner for operation and maintenance of the Bauxite Handling Unit of Vedanta, Lanjigarh, says, "Vedanta consistently tries to streamline and enhance safety performance within and beyond the plant premises contributing towards their adage of Zero Harm. The company has incorporated advanced safety initiatives and digital interventions for efficient safety management to foster a culture of care for all stakeholders. Throughout the year, they make regular and robust efforts to share

primary pillars Zero Harm, Zero Waste and Zero Discharge, Vedanta has bagged many accolades such as APEX INDIA Green Leaf Award, CII's 16th Environment, Health & Safety Award, Greentech Safety and Sustainability award, and Kalinga Safety Excellence award over the years. Some of its best practices, highlights and notable initiatives in the safety domain are: Vedanta has instituted the Vedanta Sustainability Assurance Programme (VSAP), a robust governance system following International Finance Corporation (IFC) & International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) guidelines that guide its operations and measures performance across 34 elements, with safety as a core dimension; It has institutionalized Visible Felt Leadership,

launched the Safety Booster Program that aims to overcome safety gaps arising out of cultural and behaviour issues, and inculcate a culture of safety through coaching, counselling, monitoring and feedback on safety behaviour; Vedanta has formed an all-women fire-fighting team 'Agnivahini' at Jharsuguda, who have been meticulously trained to act effectively and efficiently in emergency situations; At Jharsuguda operations, robust Safety MIP (Management in Place) allows it to deploy personnel with the required safety skillset, knowledge and attitude at the right place within the safety structure, making safety a shared responsibility. Additionally, it also has Safety Scorecards for leadership & business partners that link performance

conduct Safety Stand Down, a programme wherein leadership teams engage with employees and business partners on various facets of health, safety and environment, to build a holistic safety-first culture. Vedanta Aluminium & Power, a part of Vedanta Limited, is India's largest producer of aluminium, producing almost half of India's aluminium or 1.9 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) in FY20, and is also one of the largest private power producers in the country. It is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications in core industries. With its world-class smelters, power plants and alumina refinery spread across India, the company fulfils its mission of spurring emerging applications of aluminium as the 'Metal of the Future' for a greener tomorrow.

Dalmia Bharat Sugar and Industries Ltd forays into B2C segment

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, Mar 18: With a vision to expand its reach to the consumers, Dalmia Bharat Sugar and Industries Ltd. (DBSIL) today announced the launch of its packaged sugar under the brand name "Dalmia Utsav". In the initial phase of the transition from B2B to B2C segment, DBSIL plans to launch Sulphur Free White Crystal Sugar & Natural Brown Sugar in branded packets & sachets across markets including Delhi/NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh, Bihar and West Bengal. The products will be available on top E-commerce platforms like Amazon, Big Basket & Flipkart, and in offline stores. Going forward, the company plans to have a PAN India presence and introduce new sugar vari-

- Launches Packaged Sugar under the brand "Dalmia Utsav"
- To be available on all e-commerce platforms and other offline stores in the near future
- Aims for a pan India presence

ants such as Icing Sugar along with other core FMCG products. The production of Sulphur Free White Crystal Sugar & Natural Brown Sugar is being done at the Nigohi Unit of DBSIL in Uttar Pradesh. The company plans to produce and dispatch the projected quantity of approx. 250- 300 MT of sugar till March'21. To support production, the unit has undergone a few upgradations such as setting up of latest Ion Exchange Facility for better quality/sulphur free sugar grain. The company has also commissioned a state-of-the-art integrated production line for branded/specialized sugar. Speaking on the launch, Mr. B.B. Mehta, Whole Time Director, Dalmia Bharat Sugar and In-

dustries Limited said, "We are extremely excited at the launch of 'Dalmia Utsav' which signifies "Celebrating Purity". We aim to provide high-quality sugar to consumers by using a world-class and eco-friendly production process in line with Dalmia Bharat Group's commitment towards Quality and Sustainability. With this launch, our mission is to achieve sustainable sugar production, creating value for farmers, consumers, and business partners." This transition will accelerate the company's evolution from commodity to brand space, transforming the DNA of the business that would in turn enhance value for all the stakeholders. Through this move, DBSIL will drive the growing awareness, easier access, and changing lifestyles of the consumers.

ICICI Venture and Morgan Stanley PE Asia Lead a Rs 525 Crores Transaction in Magma HDI

(A.O. Bureau) Mumbai, Mar 18: Magma HDI General Insurance Limited (Magma HDI) has announced a transaction, which involves bringing in funds managed by ICICI Venture and Morgan Stanley Private Equity Asia along with the CyzaChem Pvt Ltd (a Poonawalla Group Company), and two family offices as new shareholders in the Company. The transaction of Rs 525 crores includes a primary capital raise of Rs 250 Crores. Fresh capital infusion of



Rs. 250 crores will provide growth capital to meet the needs of the expanding distribution capabilities of the company. The secondary sale of Rs 275 crores enables Magma Fincorp Limited and its group companies in complying with the Reserve Bank of India's guidelines for ownership of stake in insurance companies. The transaction is subject to share-

holder and regulatory approvals, including the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) and the Competition Commission of India (CCI). Mr. Rajive Kumaraswami, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Magma HDI General Insurance commenting on the capital raise said, "We are glad to welcome the new shareholders into the Com-

pany and appreciate the continued support from our existing shareholders. The growth capital which the investors bring on board will enable us to expand the business and explore new opportunities. The insurance sector is poised to see exponential growth given the low penetration and the trigger of the pandemic which has led people to look at insurance as protection." Magma HDI General Insurance has been one of the fastest growing GI companies, with a CAGR of 45% in the last

three years. The company's solvency stands at 1.81 times as on 31st December 2020, against the required regulatory solvency of 1.5 times. For the 9MFY21 period ending Dec'20, the company recorded a Profit After Tax of Rs 22.3 Crore on a Gross Written Premium (GWP) of Rs 911.2 Crore compared to Rs 7.3 Crore PAT on a GWP of Rs 948.5 Crore, same period last year. As of Dec'20, the investment book stands at a robust level of Rs 2,881 Crore.

The statue of 3 God's built for Bad yatra a wave of joy among devotees

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Mar 18: The statue of the three Gods was built for the big pilgrimage, a wave of joy among the devotees in the Malkangiri district. The Malkangiri district is celebrating with great enthusiasm for the pilgrimage. After the trumpet blasts

of the great pilgrimage associated with this great historical cultural tradition, the special puja team has been on its way to Manyamkonda for the past two days, while on the last Monday, the 9th, the Balsa Chhapar was held on Tuesday in Telpeda, on Wednesday

in Baunshamra, on Thursday in Pole. The three idols Kanmaraju, Balaraju and Taraju have been completed in three days from Saturday to Monday, while preparations are underway at Malkangiri today to bring Gods and Goddesses from



Manyamkonda. Today, the Ghat Pujari is scheduled to tour Myanmar in a well-equipped carriage. The model of the legendary Lord Krishna Lila street play is still celebrated today as a great festival of pilgrimage and ancient culture. Kanmaraju, Balaraju,

Potaraju and Maa Yajnasena (Mrityulamma) are worshiped during this centenary. The priests of Bada Yatra Committee has made all sorts of preparations to make this great tradition complete with all rituals and bids