

# AROUND ODISHA

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RNI Regd No: ODIENG/2019/77780

BHUBANESWAR

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VOLUME - 4

ISSUE - 214

Rs- 2/-

THURSDAY 09 FEBRUARY 2023



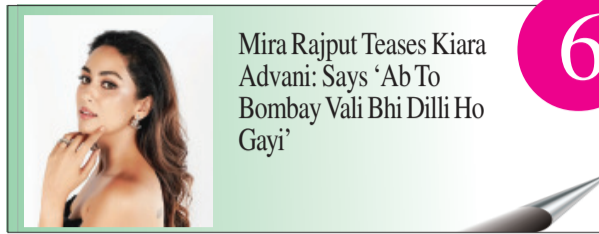
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## Turkey-Syria Quake Toll Crosses 11,000

Ankara/Damascus: The death toll from Monday's devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria has surpassed 11,000, according to data released by the authorities and rescuers. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said during his visit to the worst-hit region on Wednesday that a total of 8,574 people in the country have died from the massive earthquakes, Xinhua news agency reported. Earlier, the country's disaster management agency had said more than 40,000 people have been injured. In Syria, at least 1,250 were killed and 2,054 injured, said the Syrian Health Ministry. Media reports also cited rescue workers as saying that at least

1,280 were killed and over 2,600 injured in the opposition-held region in Syria. A 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Turkey's southern province of Kahramanmaraş at 4:17 a.m. local time on Monday, followed by a 6.4 magnitude quake a few minutes later in the country's southern province of Gaziantep and a 7.6 magnitude earthquake at 1:24 p.m. local time in the Kahramanmaraş Province. Rescuers were racing against time and bitter cold to find survivors in Kahramanmaraş, the epicentre of two huge and deadly earthquakes that struck Turkey and Syria on Monday. Many countries and global aid agencies are offering rescue teams and relief supplies to the quake-hit regions.

## Jajpur To Become Number One District In Odisha: CM

Bhubaneswar(AO Bureau): Jajpur would become the number one district in the state and will create a role model for all, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday. While inaugurating the Jajpur Mahotsav-2023 through video conferencing, Patnaik said Jajpur is the confluence of many religions, spiritual and philosophies. Various theories are reflected in the culture of Jajpur, he added. The district was the center of religion, literature and culture where Buddhism also



flourished like Hinduism, the CM pointed out. The Chief Minister said that Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri and Udayagiri are now the center of attraction for Buddhists all over the world. Addressing the

gathering on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that Jajpur is the confluence of many religions, spiritual and philosophies. In the culture of Jajpur, various theories are reflected. Jajpur

was once the capital of Odisha. It was the center of religion, literature and culture. Like Hinduism, Buddhism also flourished. Paying obeisance to Goddess Birja, who is presiding deity of

Jajpur, Patnaik said that Jajpur is the Shakti Peeth which has a glorious history. "From the freedom struggle to art, literature, culture, agriculture, tourism, Jajpur has a unique identity in every field. Jajpur is moving ahead on the path of development today with its heritage," the CM said. On the occasion, 5T secretary VK Pandian was present. MLA and BJD organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das also spoke on the occasion. The district festival will last for six days.

## 12 Terrorists Killed In Pakistan Military Operation

Islamabad: Twelve terrorists were killed in an armed offensive of the Pakistani army in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military said in a statement on Wednesday. In the overnight operation, the security forces targeted a vehicle of the terrorists associated with the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group by acting on an intelligence tip-off, the

military's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in the statement. "Terrorists' movements and activities were being watched by intelligence tentacles for the last week. Terrorists were lured in by providing a vehicle for escape that was intercepted and neutralized," Xinhua news



agency quoted the ISPR as saying. Weapons, ammunition, and foreign currency were also recovered from the terrorists during the operation, the statement added.

## CM To Attend Departed Naba Das's Sraddhanjali Sabha In Jharsuguda ToDAY

Bhubaneswar(AO Bureau): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will visit Jharsuguda and pay his tribute to former Health Minister Naba Kishore Das on the occasion of Das's 12th day (Dwadashah) rituals tomorrow. Secretary 5T VK Pandian will accompany the CM, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said today. Several senior BJD leaders are also to attend a function being organised on this occasion. Tight security arrangements are in place for the CM's visit. Twenty platoons of force have been deployed and Jharsuguda police have issued a traffic advisory for the purpose, a source said. The Sraddhanjali Sabha will be organised at play ground of Sarabahal high school in Jharsuguda. The CM is to remain present at the condolence meeting for about half an hour after reaching at 12.15 pm.

## Former Odisha Chief Secy To Join Congress ToDAY

Bhubaneswar(AO Bureau): Former chief secretary of Odisha, Bijay Patnaik, will be joining the Indian National Congress at the headquarters of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) in New Delhi tomorrow. Patnaik, a 1976 cadre IAS officer, was the principal secretary of CM Naveen Patnaik from 2004 to 2010. He served as the Odisha Chief Secretary from September 2010 to 2013. Later, he was appointed as the chairman of the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (2013-14) and then as a member of the Odisha Human



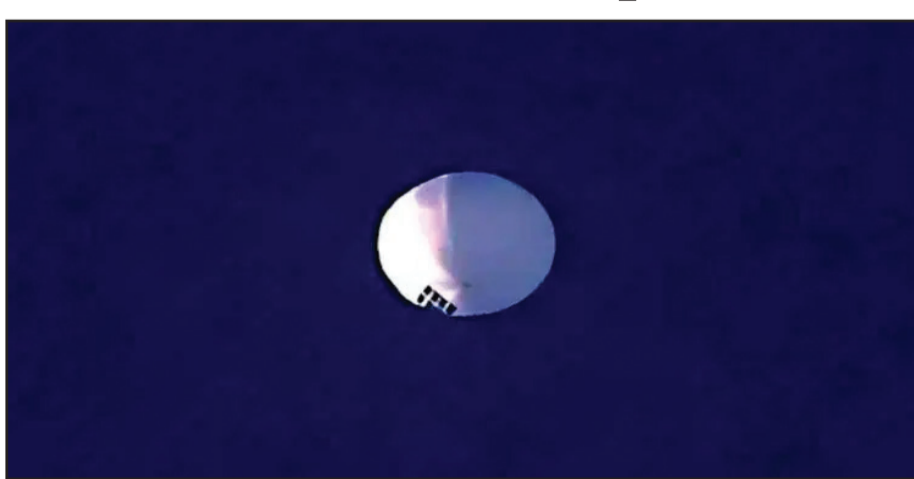
Rights Commission (2014-14). In 2015, Patnaik joined the Anil Agarwal Foundation as the President of the Vedanta University Project. However, he quit the Group two years later.

## 5G Connectivity In All Odisha Towns By December: Telecom Official

Bhubaneswar(AO Bureau): All urban areas in Odisha will get 5G connectivity by December, while 1,814 villages will get 4G network by that time, PTI reported quoting an official on Wednesday. In Odisha, 5G connectivity was launched on January 5 with services in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar through 510 BTSs (base terminal stations), Department of Telecom's deputy director-general BK Nayak said, adding that at present, 13 districts are being served with 5G services by Reliance Jio and nine districts by Airtel. "It is in the rollout phase now to cover all major cities by March 2023, and all cities and towns by December 2023," he said. Total 1,814 villages in the state will be covered by 4G services at an approximate cost of Rs 2,000 crore with a target to complete the project by December, Nayak said. The project is being implemented by BSNL, he said. So far, 42,425 villages have 2G, 3G and 4G services with 25,115 towers. The state has 3.32 crore subscribers, he said. The telecom density in the state was 80 per cent against the national average of 85 per cent. "There are 7,113 villages without 4G service," Nayak said. In Naxalism-hit areas, 483 4G towers were being set up in nine districts at a sanctioned cost of Rs 422 crores and the project is being implemented by Reliance Jio, he said. The project will be completed by March next year and already 102 towers are in place, he added.

## US Says Chinese Balloon Also Spied On India, Others

Washington: The US believes that the suspected Chinese surveillance balloon that it shot down on February 4 over the Atlantic Ocean, was part of a wider effort by Beijing to spy on military assets in other countries, including India. Meanwhile, an Indian official had attended a briefing conducted by Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman on Monday for representatives from 40 embassies. These developments were first reported by The Washington Post citing unidentified US officials who further said that such a balloon had been sighted over five continents. The Post reported that US officials believe the surveillance



balloon effort, which has operated for several years partly out of Hainan province off China's south coast, "has collected information on military assets in countries and areas of emerging strategic interest to China including Japan, India, Vietnam, Taiwan and the Philippines". No other details were available of the spying on Indian military assets, not about the ex-

tent or time period. "What the Chinese have done is taken an unbelievably old technology, and basically married it with modern communications and observation capabilities," an official told the Post. The suspected Chinese spy balloon which was shot down by an American F-22 fighter jet over the Atlantic Ocean on February 4. US defence officials had first an-

nounced they were tracking the "strange object" on February 2, and waited until it was safely over water before shooting it down. The officials described it as a violation of American sovereignty and internal laws. Debris of the balloon and its payload were salvaged off the coast of Myrtle Beach in South Carolina a day after it was shot down. The develop-

ment came at a time when the two countries were moving to put the relationship on an even keel, building on the first in-person summit between Presidents Joe Biden of the US and Xi Jinping of China on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Bali. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also called off a scheduled visit to Beijing for wide-ranging talks, including a meeting with President Xi, even after China had expressed regret in a rare display of contrition — it said the "airship" was meant to study weather and had strayed into American airspace. China also expressed regret over the incident.

## Ten Indians Stuck, One Missing In Quake-Hit Turkiye: MEA

New Delhi: One person is reportedly missing and ten Indian nationals are stuck in remote parts of earthquake-hit Turkiye, Ministry of External Affairs Secretary Sanjay Verma said. During an MEA briefing on the situation in Turkiye, MEA said, "We set up a control room in Turkey's Adana. Ten Indians are stuck in remote parts of affected areas but they are safe. One Indian National who was on a business visit is missing. We're in touch with his family and the company in Bengaluru which employs him."



# Leopard That Attacked 3 In Ghaziabad Court Captured

Ghaziabad: A leopard that entered the premises of a Ghaziabad court on Wednesday, and attacked three persons including a lawyer, a cobbler and police constable near the old building complex, has been captured, officials said. A 12-member team of the Forest Department along with the police personnel were engaged in a 4-hour-long operation to capture the leopard. Nets were strategically placed in several points to capture the big cat. The leopard was also administered tranquilizer. A huge crowd of people, including the court staff and lawyers, was witnessed outside the court, which was sealed while the



operation to capture and rescue the leopard was underway. The Forest Department team had brought nets and cages to trap the leopard. Earlier, the cobbler was admitted to a hospital after he sustained critical injuries. Several people were also injured in the commotion. All the rooms of the old building were evacuated as soon as news of the leopard entering the premises spread. A video of

the incident has surfaced, where three lawyers are seen patrolling the building with sticks to catch the leopard. One of them was filming the video when the big cat suddenly attacked them, injuring one lawyer. The main building was eventually cordoned off. According to eyewitnesses, the leopard was first seen under the stairs in the CJM court building.

# Assam MLA Booked On Charges Of Kidnapping A Girl

Guwahati: Ashraful Hussain, an All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) MLA in Assam, has been booked on charges of kidnapping and physically abusing a girl at his house. A case has been lodged against him by the victim at the Dispur police station in Guwahati. Hussain is an MLA from the Chenga Assembly constituency in Barpeta district. In the FIR, the victim alleged that one of Hussain's associates, Ritul

Hussain, and his friends abducted her from Barpeta. She was then forcefully brought to the MLA quarters in Guwahati where she was physically and mentally tortured for a long time, as per the complaint. The girl also alleged that she was even forced to sign a marriage contract. Speaking to mediapersons here on Wednesday, the victim's father said, "Ritul Hussain abducted my daughter while she was going to

college to appear for an examination." He claimed that MLA Ashraful Hussain was the mastermind behind the kidnapping of his daughter. "The MLA used to pay money to his men for committing such crimes. My daughter was released only after repeated phone calls from some local people in Chenga," the father said. Ashraful Hussain, meanwhile, denied the allegations levelled against him.

# Coal Scam: ED Recovers Rs 1 Crore From Businessman's Office In Kolkata

Kolkata: Enforcement Directorate (ED) sleuths, probing the multi-crore coal-smuggling case in West Bengal, reportedly recovered an amount worth Rs 1 crore from the office of a Kolkata-based businessman after a marathon raid and search operation at his residence and office on Wednesday. Although the ED sleuths have refused to disclose the name of the businessman concerned, they said they have got specific clues that the money recovered from his office was part of the

coal scam proceeds which the said business was supposed to divert to different channels. As per the latest report, the ED sleuths have detained the businessman for questioning. Sources said that the said businessman was involved in multiple business activities – the prime of which were real estate and food chain. He is also an owner of a popular dhaba in Kolkata. It is learnt that the team conducting raid and search operations on Wednesday at the residence and office of

the said businessman was led by three special officers of the ED who arrived from New Delhi specially for this purpose. Sources said that the name of the businessman in question came from the examination of different documents and statements given by different witnesses in connection with the coal smuggling scam. Sources said that the names of some other businessmen on this count have also surfaced and similar raid and search operations will be conducted at their premises as well in the days to come.

# Delhi Ridge Acts As A Lung, Supplying Oxygen To City Residents: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said Delhi Ridge acts as a lung which supplies oxygen to city residents, while directing the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to not go ahead with land allotment in areas considered to be notified as protected areas. A bench, headed by Justice B.R. Gavai, said: "It cannot be doubted that the ridge in Delhi acts as a lung which supplies oxygen to the citizens of Delhi..." Citing an order,



the bench, also comprising Justice Vikram Nath, said it was observed that other areas having morphological ridges were required to be protected and no permission for construction should be given there. It noted that

it appears that there has been some difficulty in identifying the areas of ridge which are not notified but also have the same ridge-like features. In order to identify areas, which need to be protected as a notified ridge,

the apex court directed the Ministry of Environment and Forest to set up a committee consisting of a senior officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary, one representative each of the Delhi Forest Department, the Geological Survey of India and the DDA, and a nominee of the Ridge Management Board to work out modalities. Seeking a preliminary report by March 15, the top court said the ministry's officer would be the chairman and convener of the committee. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Ministry of Finance, had filed an application seeking permission for diversion of 6,200 square metres of morphological ridge area for construction of office building for DRI headquarters in Vasant Kunj. The DDA had allotted the land to the DRI. The DRI's counsel contended that the Supreme Court-constituted panel, Central Empowered Committee, has imposed a condition on it to plant 500 trees and his instructions are that they were ready to plant 1,000 trees.

# Tripura Polls: EC's Special Efforts For Voting In Bordering Villages, Vigil On Border

Agartala: The Election Commission ahead of the February 16 Tripura assembly elections has made special arrangements for voting for the people living in Indian territory but outside the barbed wire fencing erected along the international border with Bangladesh, officials said on Wednesday. As the India-Bangladesh areas bordering Tripura have no 'No Man's Land', several hundred families live outside the fencing but in Indian territory just along the border line. There are



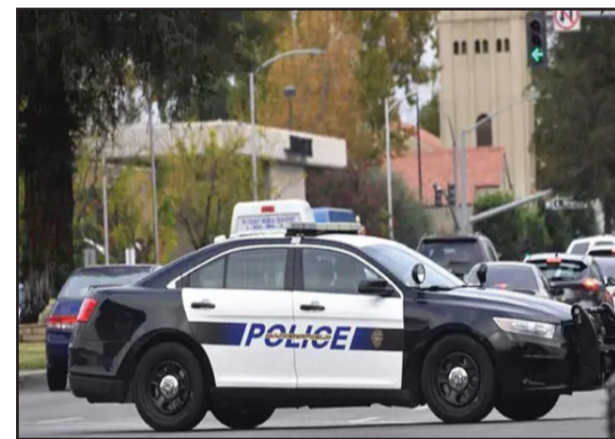
some gates operated by the Border Security Force (BSF) and whenever the villagers are required to go deep inside Indian territory or to a different location or market or any offices, the Indian villagers taking permission

from the border guards move to their places. Tripura Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Gitte Kirankumar Dinkarrao said that lists of the voters living outside the border fencing have been given to the BSF

authorities. "Our officials have asked the BSF to cooperate with these voters on February 16," he told the media. Following the directive of the Election Commission, the authorities have taken strict security measures along the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura. A senior police official said that all 32 police stations along the border with Tripura are working in close coordination with the BSF to check intruders and smuggling of drugs and contraband.

# Telangana Student Shot Dead In US; Parents Seek Help In Bringing Back Body

Hyderabad: The parents of a 25-year-old Indian student, who died after suffering a fatal bullet injury in a shooting incident in Alabama State in the United States, have sought governments' help in bringing the body back home. Akhil Sai Mahankali, who was studying MS in the US, hailed from Madhira town in Khammam district. He died in the state



of Alabama, US, on Monday and an Indian national was arrested and charged with manslaughter, police said. Following this, his parents re-

quested the Telangana, India and the US governments to help in sending their son's body to their native place. Police and medical personnel

in the US found Akhil Sai Mahankali with a life-threatening gunshot wound around 9.30 pm on Sunday. They took him to the hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead, according to reports. Both the victim and the accused are from Montgomery, the capital city of Alabama, it said, adding that the latter is now in jail.

# 2 IAF Planes Carrying Relief Materials, Rescue And Medical Teams Land In Quake-Hit Turkey

New Delhi: India on Tuesday sent to Turkey relief materials, a mobile hospital and specialised search and rescue teams in two C-17 Globemaster military transport aircraft to help the country in the wake of the devastating earthquake and multiple aftershocks that killed over 4,000 people. Two more flights are expected to carry more relief items, including medical supplies, soon to Turkey while another one is set to be sent to Syria which was also hit by the earthquake on Monday, people familiar with the matter said. Several countries around the world have extended help to both countries in their rescue and recovery efforts. "India expresses its solidarity at this challenging moment," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar tweeted. In another tweet, Jaishankar said he contacted his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad to express solidarity and convey India's support. "Two C-17 Globemaster III heavy lift aircraft of #IAF have departed India for Türkiye carrying @NDRFHQ teams and #HADR equipment. India stands in solidarity with the people of Türkiye in this difficult time," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted.

# CBI Arrests Hyderabad's CA, Former Aide Of KCR's Daughter, In Delhi Liquor Case

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Hyderabad-based Chartered Accountant Butchibabu Gorantla for his alleged role in the formulation and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy. Butchubabu Gorantla is believed to be a former aide of Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao's daughter MLC Kavitha whose name has already been

dragged into the case. The policy caused 'wrongful gain' to Hyderabad's wholesale and retail licensees and their beneficial owners, the agency said. He will be produced in court today. The CA was summoned to Delhi and was arrested late on Tuesday as he was non-cooperative and his responses were found to be evasive, news agency PTI reported. This is not the first time that the CA's name has come

up in the case. In 2022, his residence in Aravind Nagar, Domalguda was raided by the Enforcement Directorate as he served as the personal auditor of many eminent persons including Kavitha. Kavitha was questioned by the CBI in connection with the policy and denied all allegations of receiving kickbacks through the policy. Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia has been named as the prime ac-

cused in the case of alleged violations in the Delhi Liquor Police 2021-22. It was scrapped in the wake of the row. It was alleged that there was a South cartel of liquor contractors who gave ₹100 crore to AAP functionaries to get an advantage in the liquor policy. This cartel included P Sarath Reddy of Aurobindo Pharma, BRS MLA Kavitha and YSRC MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy.



# OAS Trainees asked to follow a Path of Integrity and Professionalism

Bhubaneswar (AO Bureau): The Induction Training of OAS Officers Trainees was inaugurated at the Gopabandhu Academy of Administration (GAA) today. Sri R. Balkrishnan, Chief Advisor, Office of the Chief Minister (CMO) inaugurated the programme while Dr. Subroto Bagchi, Chairman, Odisha Skill Development Authority presented key-note address. The three month long Induction Training is scheduled to continue till 22nd May. Sri R.



Balkrishnan, in his inaugural address, shared a few anecdotes from his long professional experience in Odisha. Highlighting the vastness and diversity of the state, he mentioned the ever-growing and glowing narratives of the state that have transformed

women's empowerment. Besides, he emphasized upon the importance of 5T principles that have helped in successful organization of mega events like World Cup Hockey and Make in Odisha. Dr. Bagchi, Chairman, in his keynote address, inspired the Officer Trainees (OTs) to imbibe principles of ethical values to lead a well composed professional and personal life. His lucid expressions, rich with vast experience, drew attention of the OTs. He advised the young officers

to never compromise with their own conscience, integrity, honesty, and commitment to the cause under any circumstances. Shri Raj Kumar Sharma, IAS, Director General, GAA, presiding over the programme emphasized on three Cs: character, compassion, and competency, which are the important qualities that an officer needs to possess. He asked the young officers to keep giving regular feedback in order to make the training more interactive, productive, and beneficial.

Jharsuguda (AO Bureau): The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court here today allowed the Crime Branch (CB) to take prime accused in former Health Minister Naba Das murder case, dismissed ASI of police Gopal Krishna Das on a further remand of five days. The court further granted permission for conduct of narco analysis and polygraph tests of Gopal. The Crime Branch investigating the former Health Minister's murder case had sought the court's permission for conducting narco analysis and polygraph tests of



prime accused Gopal. Gopal whose second phase four-day police remand ends today was produced before the JMFC court today. "Gopal Das was again produced in the court today. The Crime Branch had sought to him on five-day remand. Their

main objective was to conduct his narco and polygraph tests. The court first sought to know from Gopal Das on whether he was consenting to undergo the tests. Gopal told the court in the affirmative," informed Remand Advocate Hari Shankar Agrawal.

# Six Including Ranger, Forester Arrested Over 'Poacher's' Death In Custody

Athagarh (AO Bureau): Police on Wednesday arrested six forest department officials including a ranger and forester in connection with the death of a man in custody of forest department here in Cuttack district. Badamba police nabbed Ranger Subrat Behera, Forester Manoj Das, Deepak Sethi, Forest Guards Sunayak Majhi, Kuna Behera and Prabhat Pradhan



in connection with the death of Dhaneswar Behera. Police also seized four sticks used in beating up to Dhaneswar. Two Bolero jeeps have also been seized,

police said. Dhaneswar Behera (59), a resident of Khuntakata Satagochhia village, was picked up by forest department officials of Athagarh area for al-

legedly poaching a tusker and removing its tusks. However, Dhaneswar was found dead while in forest department custody following which irate villagers staged a road blockade at Badabasuni Chhak. Deceased's wife Tulasi had alleged that her husband was hacked to death by forest officials. Irked over the incident, the mob also set fire to the forest beat house.

# Revenue Official Caught Taking Bribe From Blind Person In Mayurbhanj, Arrested

Bhubaneswar (AO Bureau): Odisha Vigilance officials today arrested one Sanjay Kumar Padhi, Revenue Supervisor of Suliapada tahasil in Mayurbhanj while he was allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 2,500 from a blind person (complainant) to facilitate the sanction of incentive amount in his favour towards marriage between a disabled and a normal person. As per the scheme of the SS&EPD Department of the State Government incentive is awarded for



marriage between person with bench mark disability and other person. The blind person got himself married with a normal person (without disability) on November 3, 2022. He was entitled to get the incentive amount of Rs 2.5 lakh as per the afore-

mentioned scheme of the State Government. Revenue Supervisor Padhi was demanding bribe from him to submit enquiry report as regards his marriage to the Tahasildar. On getting information from the complainant about this, accused Padhi was

nabbed by Vigilance team while he was accepting the bribe. The entire bribe money has been recovered from the possession of accused Padhi, Revenue Supervisor and seized. Following the trap, the Vigilance has launched simultaneous searches at two locations of Padhi to trace possible disproportionate assets accumulated by him. The Vigilance has registered a case against Padhi in this connection, and further investigation is in progress against him.

# Home Minister Amit Shah To Visit Odisha



Bhubaneswar (AO Bureau): Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Odisha, informed BJP state secretary Kalahdi Samal today. However, the date is yet to be finalised, said Samal. As per reports, Shah is slated to attend several

programmes in Bhadrak and Dhenkanal Lok Sabha constituencies during his visit. The Home Minister is also likely to hold meetings with senior state party leaders as well as workers during the visit. Earlier in August last year, the Home Minister had visited Odisha.

# Boat Capsizes In Kendrapara, Passengers Escape Narrowly

Kendrapara (AO Bureau): A boat carrying 20 passengers and several two-wheelers capsized in the Bramhani river on Wednesday. The passengers escaped narrowly and no casualties were reported in the incident. As many as 6 two-wheelers were damaged due to the incident which took place in Keredagada in Rajnagar in the district. The boat was going from Aali's Ekamania to Keredagada in Rajnagar.

# BJD Suspends Naresh Chandra Mohanty For 'Anti-Party' Activities

Jajpur (AO Bureau): The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has suspended Naresh Chandra Mohanty, Jajpur Zilla Parishad president, from the party for allegedly indulging in anti-party activities.

# Tight Security For Prez Murmu's Odisha Visit On February 10 & 11

Bhubaneswar (AO Bureau): Security arrangements have been beefed up in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack city in view of President Droupadi Murmu's two-day visit from February 10. Commissionerate Police DCP Prateek Singh said 40 platoons of the police force will be deployed during President Murmu's visit to the Twin City. Altogether 200 police officials are being mobilised and they will be entrusted



with the security arrangements, he added. In addition to this, plain-clothed police personnel as well as rooftop security forces will be deployed as part of the security measures. The full dress rehearsal will

be conducted on Thursday for a review ahead of her visit. Singh said that the preliminary part of the security review, including a guard of honour, will be conducted at Biju Patnaik International Airport

(BPIA). All security arrangements are being made following the rule book. During her two-day visit to Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, the President will attend two programmes in Bhubaneswar and one in Cuttack. She is scheduled to visit the Lingaraj Temple to offer prayers on February 11 morning. Tight security measures will be ensured all the way from the airport to the Raj Bhawan and the venues of the President's programmes. The Central Industrial Se-

curity Force (CISF) personnel will look after the President's security at the airport during Murmu's arrival and departure. The President is scheduled to attend the convocation of Rama Devi Women's University in Bhubaneswar and another programme at Utkal Mandap on February 10. The following day, President Murmu will visit the Lingaraj temple in the capital city and then inaugurate the 2nd Indian Rice Congress at ICAR, Cuttack.

# Ailing Elephant Dies At Langeda Forest

Ganjam (AO Bureau): Battling for life since the last five days, the ailing tusker died at Langeda forest under Galeri area of Bhanjagar North Ghumusar in Ganjam district on Wednesday morning. The elephant was ill due to an infection in its mouth about a month ago. As per reports, the elephant was found roaming near Lengada village a few days ago. After observation, the animal was found to be sick. Following this, the pachyderm was tranquilised and under treatment by a team of veterinary officials from Nandankanan. However, the elephant succumbed this morning.

# Driver Burnt Alive As Truck Catches Fire After Accident In Sambalpur

Sambalpur (AO Bureau): In an unfortunate incident, a truck driver was charred to death after his vehicle caught fire following an accident on Rairakhol-Naktideul road near Terabeda village in Sambalpur dis-

trict, today. The identity of the deceased was not known immediately. As per reports, the speeding truck overturned and then fire broke out in the engine portion of the vehicle. Following this, the driver got stuck inside

the truck and was burnt alive. On being informed, a firefighting team rushed to the spot and doused the flames. Later, the body was recovered and sent to a local hospital for post-mortem, said sources.

# Woman Killed At Bus Terminal In Jagatpur!

Cuttack: A married woman was allegedly killed at a bus terminal in Jagatpur area of Odisha's Cuttack, last night. The deceased was identified as Kuni Sahu. According to reports, the woman went missing last evening, following which her husband lodged a complaint with police. Shockingly, she was found dead at the bus terminal, this morning. Police have recovered the body for post-mortem and initiated an investigation. "We have registered a case while further probe is underway to ascertain the circumstances under which the woman died.



## EDITORIAL

## Faith healing can do more harm than good

A few days ago, in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district, two infant girls with pneumonia died. The girls, belonging to the Kol tribe, were allegedly subjected to a faith healing practice called 'Daagna' (poking with hot iron rods to cure the illness). These shocking incidents have raised a range of questions. They point to a major challenge faced by the Indian healthcare system in an age when the health sector is getting beefed up with technologies like telemedicine and more effective drugs.

Two women faith healers have been booked in the case, where one infant was poked with a hot iron rod 51 times while the other was poked 24 times. The first died in a government hospital on February 1 and the second died at a private hospital on February 4. The district health authorities initiated action against some permanent and contractual health department staff, ranging from issuing show cause notices to removal from posts over dereliction of duty for failing to prevent the incidents. But will such action halt these practices? Moreover, will it discourage people from taking to faith healing? For one, centuries-old "cures", linked to rituals and ceremonies, are embedded in people's mindsets. Hence the demand leads to continued supply from faith healers. While such practices may have a placebo effect by making patients "feel better", they cannot cure cancers, severe viral infections like Covid-19, pneumonia (as in these two cases), or a whole range of diseases. Faith healing could more likely than not do more harm than good. There is reluctance among many young doctors to move to rural areas to practice medicine. High medical education costs discourage young doctors from moving to rural areas, making them prefer urban hospitals for larger incomes to help them repay running loans earlier taken for their professional education. The all-India average doctor-population ratio is nearly 1:1800 against the World Health Organisation (WHO)-recommended 1:1000. It is worse in the rural areas. The lack of adequate access to scientific healthcare and intense faith in these practices in rural areas encourage the persistence of these forms of "treatment". What is urgently needed is for awareness to be raised across rural India to dislodge such beliefs and convince misguided minds to trust tried-and-tested, medically proven cures and treatments for diseases and illnesses. It is time we realised that faith healing practices could potentially claim or maim lives.

## No one's complaining about India's soaring Russian crude imports

India's Russian crude oil play is getting curiously and curiously. Imports of Urals crude have topped the Indian order book position for four months in a row. The previous month of January had Russian crude accounting for 28% of our supplies, with Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the US—our traditional suppliers—left far behind. This is a massive turnaround considering Russia only accounted for 0.2% of India's crude imports before the Ukraine war. As the West's sanctions have tightened over Russia, India's refiners have seized the opportunity and have been sealing deals at discounts ranging from \$10 to \$35 per barrel. January purchases have broken all records as imports touched 1.27 million barrels per day (bpd), up from the already high 1.2 million bpd in previous months. But the twist in the tale is that much of these supplies are not for domestic consumption but are destined for US and European shores. The US, for instance, used to be a big buyer of an intermediate refined product called virgin gas oil (VGO), which can be further refined and sold upstream as diesel and gasoline. With Russian VGO cut off after the sanctions kicked in, US refiners are buying VGO from Indian refineries run by Reliance Energy and Nayara Energy. According to data intelligence agency Kpler, India shipped 89,000 bpd of gasoline and diesel to New York last month, the highest in four years. So what's becoming of the West's sanctions? And is this round-tripping of refined products to western refiners by India at a handsome profit going to be tolerated by the Western powers? Clearly, India has gone far beyond its original brief of negotiating the best deals to ensure energy security at the most competitive prices. On the other hand, the West is not blind to what's going on. It knows sanctions are being broken and has chosen to turn a Nelson's eye. The rationale of the West's diplomatic play is to squeeze Russian oil revenue the best it can without creating a shortage of petroleum products in their markets. India's export of refined products made of Russian crude seems to suit that rationale. No one seems to be bothered if Indian refiners make money off the international gambit. The problem will begin if someone turns the screws and begins a retaliation process against India for breach of sanctions. Are we prepared? And is there a Plan B?

## MINORITY SCHOLARSHIPS: AN UNDERUTILIZED RESOURCE DEMANDING MORE EFFORTS BY MINORITIES

On January 29, 2006, the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MOMA) was established as a division in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to ensure a more targeted approach to issues relating to the notified minority communities, which include Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, Parsis, and Jains. One of the core principles of MoMA is to ensure that minority community participates fairly in economic, educational, and employment opportunities and to ensure their uplift. "Education is a fundamental right in India, but not everyone can afford quality education especially in the higher education sector. With financial system in disarray, millions of children belonging to the minority community fail to continue their education after crossing the threshold of Right to Education (RTI). To overcome such difficulties, the government established various scholarship programmes for these minority students, including pre-matric scholarships, post-matric scholarships, and merit-cum-means scholarships for students belonging to disadvantaged category. In 2021-22, while the number of recipients of cen-

tral scholarship schemes increased to 15,532, the percentage of students from the minority community receiving such scholarships is still

## Insha Warsi

dismal in comparison to their population. The number of recipients of the "Naya Savera" fellowship program even decreased from 9,580 in 2019-20 to 5,140 in 2021-2022. The Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship Program is only for female students in grades 9 through 12 belonging to minority communities. Students are eligible for the scholarship if their family's annual income is less than Rs 2 lakh. Beneficiaries of this program decreased significantly from 2.95 lakh in 2019-20 to 1.65 lakh in 2021-2022. "One of the most important reason behind underutilization of scholarship schemes is lack of awareness as the vast majority of minorities are landless laborers, casual workers involved in menial occupations, living in back alleys, and lacking a regular, certain and sufficient income. More than half of the minority population falls into this category. They do not value education as a means of self-improvement. They see it as a burden on scarce financial resources. Poverty can

force people to give preference to earning livelihood than to spend their earnings for acquiring education. Attitude of minorities towards modern education is ignorant and their emphasis on theological education combined with their lack of efforts to change the traditional educational system in consonance with the needs of a changing world, is responsible for their educational backwardness. Lack of awareness about the various scholarship schemes stop many brilliant but underprivileged children from continuing their education due to financial constraints involved and apathy of poor parents. "While dozens of reasons may be cited for minorities lagging behind in the field of education, a simple solution may overcome most of problems faced by them: awareness about various scholarship schemes meant for them. This would allow them to participate in the educational progress of the country, which in turn would make them a contributor in the development process more meaningfully and actively. It is critical for the minorities to bear some of the burden of emerging from the mire and intellectually empowering themselves. Through the combined efforts of the State and the civil society, minorities can surely be rescued from the depth of educational backwardness.

## WATER POLLUTION &amp; NATURE

Water pollution is the contamination of water sources by substances which make the water unusable for drinking, cooking, cleaning, swimming, and other activities. Pollutants include chemicals, trash, bacteria, and parasites. All forms of pollution eventually make their way to water.

The Causes of Water Pollution are Industrial Waste. Industries and industrial sites across the world are a major contributor to water pollution, Marine Dumping, Sewage and Wastewater, Oil Leaks and Spills, Agriculture, Global Warming, Radioactive Waste. Key causes of pollution include: spills or leaks from oil and chemical containers, trade effluent going into surface water drains instead of foul water drains, or straight into watercourses.

## Gopinath Dash

removing too much water from surface waters and groundwater. More than 50 kinds of diseases are caused by poor drinking water quality, and 80% of diseases and 50% of child deaths are related to poor drinking water quality in the world. However, water pollution causes diarrhea, skin diseases, malnutrition, and even cancer and other diseases related to water pollution.

The main types of water pollution include groundwater pollution, surface water pollution, suspended matter, oil spillages, microbiological pollution, chemical water pollution, thermal pollution, and oxygen-depletion pollution. All of these can cause pollutants and contaminants to enter our waterways. Use the minimum amount of detergent

and/or bleach when you are washing clothes or dishes. Use only phosphate free soaps and detergents. Minimize the use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers. DO NOT dispose of these chemicals, motor oil, or other automotive fluids into the sanitary sewer or storm sewer systems. Ways to Prevent Water Pollution. Pick up litter and throw it away in a garbage can. Blow or sweep fertilizer back onto the grass if it gets onto paved areas. Mulch or compost grass or yard waste. Wash your car or outdoor equipment where it can flow to a gravel or grassy area instead of a street. Preventing water pollution and conserving water are important to assure a continuing abundance of water that is safe to use for ourselves and future generations. Water pollution is any human-caused contamination of water that reduces its usefulness to humans and other organisms in nature.

## VIRGINITY TESTING &amp; HUMAN RIGHTS

Virginity testing confirms which girls are virgins and exposes them to the risk of being raped and contracting HIV/AIDS. Many people attend the ceremony not because they are happy for the girls who are virgins but because they can identify which girls are virgins and will run after them asking for marriage.

The Virginity test has no scientific or clinical validity. The virginity test relies on the belief that the hymen completely covers the opening of the vagina and that it can only be broken through penetrative sex, but the fact is that it can be torn, stretched or "broken" through sports and tampon use. Some medical practitioners use 'virginity testing' as part of the sexual assault assessment of female rape survivors. The two most common techniques used for 'virginity testing' are the visual inspection of the hymen for size or tears and the two-finger vaginal insertion.

The less sex you've had before marriage, the happier you'll likely be. How shy women ask men out. Marrying a virgin, or being one heading into a marriage is linked to higher, prolonged marital happiness, this study claims. On court orders to opine whether the girl is virgin or not, doctors routinely examine girls' hymens for hymenal opening size or tears. The two finger test is rampant to assess vaginal laxity. No tests can detect previous sexual intercourse. But if you test the vaginal fluids within 7 days of having sexual intercourse, you can detect semen and can confirm sexual relation. Virginity testing refers to the practice of evaluating—through a physical ex-

amination of the hymen—whether a woman or girl has ever engaged in vaginal sexual intercourse (with or without consent). "Virginity" testing is practiced in countries from multiple regions of the world, but appears to be most established in Asia and the Middle East and countries in northern and southern Africa. This practice is controversial and broadly considered to be unethical and ill-advised. As part of the global call to eliminate violence against women and girls everywhere, on 17 October 2018, The UN Human Rights Office, UN Women and WHO issued a statement stressing that 'virginity' testing

## Gangadhar Samal

was unscientific and a violation of human rights and that 'this medically unnecessary, and often times painful, humiliating and traumatic practice must end.

"Virginity" testing usually involves visual inspection of the hymenal membrane by a medical professional (physician, nurse or midwife). In some cases, the examination includes a 'two-finger' test to assess the size of the vaginal opening. The purpose is to 'determine if a woman is a virgin' though it is based on an incorrect and false assumption that penile penetration results in predictable observable changes in the vaginal introitus, and especially in the shape and appearance of the hymen.

We recognise that 'virginity' testing is a complex, culturally mediated practice that is poorly understood by Western clinicians in host countries, and considered a human rights violation by major international groups. The social value of women's virginity is deeply ingrained

in some societies, and the practice of 'virginity' testing by examination of the hymen by clinicians plays an important role in a woman's marriageability and social status.

Changing social norms, attitudes and practices about 'virginity' testing will not occur easily, and change must come from within the culture and must be spearheaded by members of the community. 'Virginity' testing lies on a continuum of other harmful cultural practices specific to women and girls such as female genital mutilation/cutting, and forced or child marriage. Efforts to change cultural norms have not always been successful and any attempts must include recognition of the role of society, gender norms, economic empowerment and legal status, among others. Engagement with religious and community leaders is crucial for enacting change. While advocating for global elimination of the practice of virginity testing as a fundamental human rights violation, it is critical that the clinician always act in the best interest of her patient.

Education about the lack of reliability and the possible harms of "virginity" testing should be provided in communities who follow this practice, through training community members, reading materials and inclusion in other reproductive health discussions. Simply condemning the practice is not sufficient to successfully promote change, nor does it help the women we are obligated to protect. Finally, research on the sexual and reproductive issues of adolescent girls and women from communities in which this and similar practices are prevalent is urgently needed so that health systems can be designed to meet those needs.



# Task Force Committee Meeting for Special Vaccination Campaign

SUBARNAPUR(AO Bureau): Special vaccination program to start from February 10. A special vaccination campaign and an awareness program related to National Deworming Day has been held at Community Health Centre, Tarbha Confrnce hall. Collector and District Magistrate Mrs. Aboli Sunil Narwane presided over the said workshop. All Asha workers, female and male health workers and visitors under the health center, CDPO



Sabita Dora, A B E O S a t y a n a r a y a n Mahapatra, CDM & PH O Dr. Biswaranjan Pati, AD P H O (FW) Dr. Daitya Narayan Padhi, D M R C H Sudhanshu Shekhar Naik and Supdt. Of Health Center Dr.

out of the program. Shri Nayak, DMRCH from the District Office, enlightened the participants about the various aspects of the campaign. All the programs were conducted by BPM-Ashok Kumar Mishra, PHO-Amita Chand. At the end of the meeting, posters were unveiled by the guests present. February 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 and the second phase will be held on March 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20 for Tarbha block.

Kshirod Kumar Mishra were present. To make this special vaccination program that will be started on February 10, the Collector and District Magistrate advised to manage it properly at the group level, so that not a single beneficiary is left

# Sambalpur district level Pani Panchayat Assembly-2023

Sambalpur, (AO Bureau)Sambalpur district Irrigation Division organized the district level Pani Panchayat Assembly at Tapasvini Auditorium. Though Hon'ble Higher Education Minister government of Odisha and Opposition Leader in Odisha State Assembly gave consent to be the Chief Guest and Guest respectively, both were not able to grace the occasion. Due to some other reason Chairperson of the Sambalpur district level Pani Panchayat Assembly, District Collector also not been able to attain the Assembly. Pani panchayat is a voluntary activity of a group of farmers engaged in the collective management of surface



and ground water, principles of which covered equity, demand management, rights of landless, community participation and sustainability of the resource comprised structures as, Water user group for each lift irrigation scheme which in turn had a representation in the village level pani panchayat, Election of the representatives of the village level committee. Decentralized decision making with public participation, monthly meet-

Panchayats". The responsibility of operation and maintenance (O & M) of the reservoir/diversion weir (as the case may be) Dam, Spillways, Sluices, Primary and Secondary Distribution Networks etc. rests with the Department of Water Resources, whereas the responsibility of O&M of the tertiary systems i.e. (Below minor/sub-minor) will be with Pani Panchayat. The geographical extent of the programme covers the entire State comprising of about 16.00 lakh hectares of Major, Medium & Minor Irrigation Command Areas in all the 30 districts of Orissa (Department of Water Resources, Government of Orissa, 2001).

ing of the committee to resolve conflicts, Ensuring equitable water distribution, Collection of pani patti. And Maintenance of the scheme. The Government of Orissa with a view to providing equitable, timely and assured irrigation has introduced the concept of Pani Panchayat for PIM. The concepts will finally lead to transfer of tertiary irrigation networks (Minor/Sub-minors) to registered 'Pani

# Training for National Deworming Day

Bargarh:(Ao Bureau):- On Wednesday 08.02.2023, a training program was held on the National Deworming Day under the chairmanship of Dr. Sushanta Meher, Group Public Health Officer, at Bijepur C.H.C Assembly Hall, Bargarh District. In the said program, ABEO Purna chandra pradhan, A B E O Sushanta Kumar Pandey, Public Health Extension Officer Sudam Charan Panigrahi, BAM



Balgopal Panda, BDM Narayan Padhi, STS Debashis Debata conducted the training program. In the training program which was completed in two phases, all the schools and colleges of Bijepur block, Bijepur

the government, National Deworming Day will be celebrated from 10.02.2023. Albendazole tablets to all children and beneficiaries from 01 years to 19 years/directly taught by teachers only. The children who are deprived of this program will be able to eat on the mop-up day from 17.02.2023. Dr. Meher wished the cooperation of all the teachers, students, lecturers and lecturers present in the training program. Finally, PHO Mr. Panigrahi gave vote of thanks.

participated one teacher and one faculty member how to teach the students how to administer Almindazole tablets in their presence. It was discussed about the side effects of food etc. According to the program of

# Dilip Kumar Sarangi joined as new Tehsildar of Chilika

Chilika(AO Bureau): joined as the new Tehsildar of Chilika tehsil under Khordha district on Wednesday. Mr. Sarangi had previously served as BDO in Delanga Block of Puri district. "When asked by our correspondent what will be the priority in the Chilika tehsil, the priority will be given to how the urgent cases of the beneficiaries can be carried out under the 5-T initiative" he said. After taking office charge, all the staff of the tehsil welcomed new Tehsildar. It is learned that former Chilika Tehsildar Pradip Kumar Sahu has been relieved of his post as BDO, Athagarh. However, public dissatisfaction has been seen due to the transfer of Chilika Tehsildar twice in the last one year.



# Model Police Seized 560 Gram's Brown Sugar & Arrest 4 Drug peddlers

Khordha(AO Bureau): Acting On a tip-off a team of Khordha Model Police raided a place near Fish Godown in Totapada, Khordha and seized 560 grams Brown Sugar, One Auto Rickshaw and arrested Four drug peddlers including a women. In a press meet at SP, office Khordha, Superintendent of Police, Khordha, Siddhartha Kataria, told media persons that the Four accused have been identified as Susama Mallick (36)



Siba Mallick (42) Jaya Pattnaik Mallick (21) all tree persons are belongs to one family, of village Durga Prasad, Ramchandi, Khordha and Pratap kumar Mohapatra

(33) of Mahatapalla, Ranpur, Nayagarh. The seized Brown Sugar approximate value is 56 Lakh's. They brought to the Brown Sugar from Nayagarh District to

sale in Khordha. In this connection Khordha Model Police registered a case vide PS, case no-86/23 and forwarded all accused to the judicial court of Khordha. Additional SP, Khordha, Surendra Nath Murmu, SDPO, Khordha, Dillip kumar Das, IIC, Khordha, Model, PS, Tareque Ahemad, Additional, IIC, Khordha Model, PS, Kanhu Charan Swain and other police officers were present in the press meet.

# Subarnapur Collector warning to be gender on identification

SUBARNAPUR(AO Bureau): A female feticide awareness workshop has been held under the chairmanship of District Magistrate and Collector Mrs. Aboli Sunil Narwane in the Confrnce hall of Tarbha Community Health Center. In the said workshop all the staff and supervisors of Community Health Center Tarbha, women health workers and integrated child development project were present. In the said workshop, CDM&PHO, Dr. Biswaranjan Pati, ADPHO (Family Welfare), Dr. Daitya Narayan Padhi, DPM Bishambara Behera, DSWO Renubala Das, DMRCH, ICM, AM-CP DCPO, DC Child Marriage, sensitized the senior staff on the issue of female foeticide. The District Magistrate and Collector urged the aspirants to report the details of the female embryo identification immediately and advised them to be very careful about it. At the end of the meeting, the Supdt. of the health center, Kshirod Kumar Mishra, gave a vote of thanks

# GSD raid in Kantabanji Bhawani steel for tax evasion



Kantabanji, AO Bureau: GSD Raid at Shree Bhabani Steel Cement, Rod shop, near Jharbahalia Chowk Kantabanji. This Raid is being done on the allegation of tax evasion. This Raid has been done by the GST team of Balangir. Various papers are being checked. Bhavani Steel is Wholesaler of ce-

ment, iron and various hardware products. There were allegations that he was evading GST. It is known that this raid was done on the basis of complaint. The joint team of Bhawanipatna and Balangir CT GST department. Raid is going on and various papers are being checked.

# Protest rally on Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan

SUBARNAPUR:(AO Bureau):- Nabanirman Krushak Sangathan on behalf of Subarnapur district branch has been fighting for the development of farmers and agriculture for the past 12 years. First, among the demands are the respect of the farmers, the fair price of the farm produce and the farmers' security allowance. Agriculture loan waiver, outstanding electricity bill waiver, old age and widow allowance increased from Rs.500 to Rs.2500 and the new bank linking is facing huge problems for the elderly. It should be investigated and arrangements should be made to give allowances to the poor. MSP



of Paddy (Rice) 2950 rupees per quintal and reform the mandi system. 250 units of electricity will be provided free of cost to poor and middle class families. Provision should be made for education and employment for the children of farming families. Electricity bills should be completely waived for irrigation of farmers. Govt to running Sonepur Spinning Mill

again. Cotton cultivation has increased greatly. In a huge rally from local Royal Field with various demands related to the construction of the cotton corridor and the improvement of cotton storage, a demand letter was presented to the Subarnapur district head by the Nabanirman Krushak' Sangathan Subarnapur district branch. In this protest rally, National Convenor

Akshaya Kumar, Umakanta Bharat, Chinu Dash, Sonepur convenor Bisheshwar. Panigrahi, district Advisor Rajendra Mishra including Shishprasad Panda, Nitin Pradhan, Krishna Chandra Sethi, Rajendra Sa, Trilochan Tandia, Purnachandra Dhal, Dayanidhi Meher, Bishnu Palia, Debasish Das, Jagannath Das, Ganga Khamari, Mahadeb Bhai, and Shri Ganesh are prominent farmers. Hundreds of workers of the Sangathan were joined by hundreds of farmers representatives from different blocks of the district.

# No End In Sight To Traffic Mess At Moter Chowk

KALAHANDI, (AO Bureau): Commuters continue to face congestion due to mismanagement of traffic control and parking of vehicles, roadside at Moter Chowk ads to chaos. As it is most important on administrative view point and commuters, Moter Chowk provides communication and transport facilities connecting to various important cities of Odisha B e h r a m p u r ,



Bhubaneswar, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Balosre & Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad and Raipur like cities of neighboring states. The important place of this region is under Koksara Police limit of Kalahandi

District, door step of simultaneously Koksara, Kalampur, Junagarh, Dharamgarh and Jaipatna Block is quite vulnerable. People used to come this vulnerable Chowk to meet their demand if they have some life risk dur-

ing travelling to here as they have less option to maintain their daily life affairs except this location which increased the sensitivity of Moter. Still than in this sensitive place most of Auto Rickshaw and Motor bike seen being logged at triangular adjoining this Moter Chowk and jammed the both side of road. The pilots had been facing difficulties by safe driving of vehicles.





## Mira Rajput Teases Kiara Advani: Says 'Ab To Bombay Vali Bhi Dilli Ho Gayi'

Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani tied the knot in Jaisalmer on Tuesday. Shahid Kapoor's wife Mira Rajput teased Kiara about how she is now married into a family from Delhi. Taking to her Instagram Stories, Mira wrote, "Love and only Love, Congratulations Mr and Mrs Malhotra. Magic and masti forever and ever. Ab toh Bombay vali bhi Dilli ho gayi (now the Bombay girl belongs to Delhi now)."

## Impress Your Love With Heart-Shaped Red Velvet Cake; Recipe Inside



Are you confused about how to impress your love on the special occasion of propose day? Here we have come up with an easy yet effective idea by baking a heart-shaped red velvet cake. Let's check out the dessert recipe.



### Ingredients

1/2 cup butter, softened	2 cups all-purpose flour
1-1/2 cups sugar	1/3 cup baking cocoa
2 eggs	1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract	1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1 cup buttermilk	1 tablespoon vinegar
2 tablespoons red food coloring	1 can (16 ounces) vanilla frosting
	1 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips, optional

### Directions

In a bowl, cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Combine milk and food coloring; set aside. Combine flour, cocoa and salt; add to the creamed mixture alternately with milk. Mix well. Stir in baking soda and vinegar. Pour into a greased and floured

13-in. x 9-in. baking pan. Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes or until cake test done. Cool on a wire rack. Cut into squares or mark top of cake with a 3-in. heart-shaped cardboard template or cookie cutter and cut with a knife—frost with vanilla frosting. Sprinkle with chocolate chips if desired.



## Improve Your Vision With These Yoga Asanas



Living in front of our digital screens for a large part of the day and even night has caused much strain on the eyes. Your eyesight is one of your most important senses. This is why it is important that you take all possible measures to protect your eyes. Let's learn some yoga asanas and pranayama techniques to keep your eyes healthy.

### Chakrasana (Wheel pose)

#### How to do it:

Lie down on your back. Fold your legs at your knees and ensure that your feet are placed firmly on the floor. Bend your arms at the elbows with your palms facing the sky. Rotate your arms at the shoulders and place your palms on the floor on either side beside your head. Inhale, put pressure on your palms and legs and lift your entire body up to form an arch. Look back and relax your neck as you allow your head to fall gently behind. Your body weight should be evenly distributed between your four limbs.

### Halasana

Lie down on your back. Place your palms on the floor beside your body. Using your abdominal muscles, lift your legs up 90 degrees. Press your palms firmly onto the floor and allow your legs to fall back behind your head. Allow your middle and lower back to lift off the floor to enable your toes to touch the floor behind. Try to bring your chest as close to your chin as possible. The palms can remain flat on the floor but one may bend the arms at the elbow and support the back with the palms as per their level of com-

fort.

Hold the asana for a while.

### Bakasana (Crane pose)

Begin with Samasthithi.

Lean forward and place your palms flat in front of your feet but slightly away from them.

Your fingers should point forward and they should be spread apart.

Keep your elbows straight and place your knees as close to the armpits as you can.

Lean forward in such a way that all your body weight shifts to your arms.

Find your balance and slowly lift both your feet off the ground. Bring your feet together.

Straighten your arms as much as possible.

Focus at a point and hold this asana for a while.

### Sarvangasana

Begin by lying down on your back.

Place your arms beside your body.

Gently lift your legs off the floor and position them perpendicular to the floor with feet facing the sky.

Slowly lift your pelvis and back off the floor.

Bring your forearms off the floor and place your palms on your back for support.

Try to achieve a straight line between your shoulder, torso, pelvis, legs and feet.

Try to touch your chin with your chest and focus your gaze towards your feet.

## Impressive Health Benefits Of Strawberry Juice

Strawberries are among the most popular fruits around the world and offer the same nutritional value as strawberries, with the notable exception of the dietary fiber found in the strawberry itself.

Strawberry juice is a low-calorie beverage used to aid in weight loss, while at the same time it can also provide a concentrated boost of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants to the body.

### Skincare:

Featuring antioxidants and essential vitamins, such as vitamins E and C, this juice is ideal for treating skin inflammation and irritation while reducing the appearance of lines and wrinkles, as well as age spots. The juice can be drunk or applied topically for these effects.

### Improves bone strength:

Strawberry juice contains manganese, copper, iron, phosphorus, potassium, and zinc, so it helps increase bone mineral density, which reduces the risk of osteoporosis with age.



### Lowers blood pressure:

Fruits, like vegetables, help lower blood pressure because they contain fiber, vitamins, and minerals. If you drink fruit juice instead of fresh fruit, the fruit should be juiced fresh and without added sugar. Strawberries, melons, bananas, apples, peaches, pineapples, mangoes and citrus fruits are high-blood-pressure-balancing fruits.

### Promotes healthy blood circulation:

Strawberry juice contains a good level of iron and other key minerals that can give your circulatory system a boost, thus providing the resources and oxygen that the cells and tissues in your body need properly.

### Improves metabolic activity:

The B group vitamins are important in metabolic activity, in terms of regulating energy production to hormonal balance, and strawberry juice provides high levels of vitamin B6, folic acid, riboflavin, niacin, and thiamine.



# IND V AUS: Going To Follow Horses For Courses Policy, Says Rohit Sharma As India Face Selection Dilemma

Nagpur: India skipper Rohit Sharma said they will be following the horses for courses policy for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against Australia and will not go with the same combination for each of the four home Tests. The Indian team management and touring selector will be facing a selection dilemma with key player Rishabh Pant unavailable following a car accident and a bevy of exciting players lining up to get into the squad. Pant's absence creates a headache for the Indian team's think tank as they have to decide on a few positions that have opened up — a middle-order spot and a wicketkeeper (they can combine that into



one too). Sharma said it was going to be a tough call for them to make as some of these players like Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav have been in tremendous form in the last few months in different formats. "It is going to be a tough one. We know a lot of the guys are in good form, so it is a good sign for the team. When you have selection issues that

say a lot about how the guys are performing. So, that is very crucial from the team's perspective. "What we have to do is we have to go to each venue, try and check the conditions and pick the best eleven. It is as simple as that and that is what we have done in the past and that is what we will do going forward. The message to the boys has been very clear. We are ready to play horses for courses. On whichever pitch, whoever we need we have to bring them in. As simple as that. "That is something that we have spoken to the guys at the start of the series and we will continue to do that. We will have to assess the conditions we are playing in, who are the right guys to counter that con-

ditions, so we are quite open to all of the options," Sharma told the media on Wednesday. Pant has played a crucial role for India in the last couple of series, coming in at crucial times and playing aggressive innings in the middle order that has proved invaluable to the team. In his absence, who will they pick to fulfil the role? "Rishabh was a very, very important player for us, how he batted for us in the middle order in the past few years for us. We will definitely miss that. But yeah, we have got a few guys to come and do that job for us in the middle. Keeping an eye on that particular aspect, not the middle order, even the top order.

# Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay Submit Joint Bid To Host FIFA 2030 World Cup

New Delhi: Four South American nations, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Paraguay, have officially submitted the joint bid to co-host the 2030 FIFA World Cup. The South American nations are calling for the tournament to return to where football was born. However, Fifa will announce the host of the 2030 World Cup next year. "The South American countries Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile officially launched their joint candidacy to host the highest soccer event in 2030," the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) said in a tweet. CONMEBOL president Alejandro Dominguez said: "We have a team. We believe big and FIFA has an obligation to honor the history of those men who



made a world tournament possible 100 years ago. I am sure those men would be surprised to see what soccer has achieved." Claudio Tapia, President of the Argentine Football Association added: "We dream of hosting this cup again on its centenary. All South Americans have a lot of passion, we live football that way. "We must show the world that Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile are up to the job

of hosting the 2030 World Cup. We have the support of all the presidents of the 10 federations that make up CONMEBOL." The bid follows a similar pattern to the 2026 tournament that will be co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada. The four South American nations will compete with a Spain-Portugal along with individual bids from Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

# "It Was A Memorable Debut In Cape Town," Says Indian Women's Hockey's Newest Member Vaishnavi Phalke

Bengaluru: After a series of strong performances with the Junior Women's side, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke is ready for the big stage with the Senior Indian Women's Hockey Team. She made her International debut during the Indian Team's Tour of South Africa recently where she impressed with a total of three goals against South Africa. The team secured three victories and one draw against the home side followed by three matches against World No.1 Netherlands, against whom she scored in the first match. Talking about her memorable debut, Vaishnavi said, "I was quite surprised when



Chief Coach Janneke announced my name in the squad for South Africa. I didn't expect to get a call-up for the Senior side so early. It also made me quite nervous that I would be playing against a top team like Netherlands." "But I spoke to the Senior players and also Janneke before the match and they really

calmed my nerves. They asked me to play simple hockey and not play with any pressure. That gave me some confidence and also scoring goals against quality teams automatically helps you gain confidence," stated the youngster who marched into the Senior National Camp in September last year

after playing for the Junior side for about three years. Born to a humble farmer's family in Satara district, Maharashtra, Vaishnavi picked hockey as her No.1 choice when she joined a Government Sports Academy in Pune. "We were given one year to try different sports and eventually we had to pick one as our choice to pursue. Although my Coaches there wanted me to take up athletics as a walker, I absolutely enjoyed hockey and had picked up the skills over a span of nine months in the academy so I ended up choosing hockey," she recalled.

# Shubman Gill, Hardik Pandya Gain Big In ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings After Series Victory Over New Zealand

New Delhi: Opener Shubman Gill and fast-bowling all-rounder Hardik Pandya have gained big in the latest ICC Men's T20I player rankings after India registered 2-1 series win over New Zealand at home last week. Gill's 126 not out off 63 balls in the series decider at Ahmedabad that contributed to India's huge 168-run victory and helped seal the series 2-1, lifted him by an incredible 168 places in the rankings to be at 30th position. Gill, who has now slammed centuries in all three formats of the game, is ranked sixth in ODIs and 62nd in Tests. Pandya, who



grabbed 4/16 and smashed a 17-ball 30 in the Ahmedabad T20I, has progressed in all three lists. He has moved up from 53rd to 50th among batters, 66th to 46th among bowlers and is in second place among all-rounders, only a couple of rating points behind Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hassan. Left-arm fast bowler

Arshdeep Singh, Gill's team-mate in the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup-winning squad of 2018, is another Indian player to move up the rankings, gaining eight slots to reach a career-best 13th position after finishing with 2/16 in Ahmedabad. Daryl Mitchell, who top-scored for New Zealand with 35 in their total of 66 at

Ahmedabad, has gained four spots and is at joint-25th position. In Men's ODI rankings, England captain Jos Buttler's match-winning 131 in Kimberley has helped him progress six places to 20th position. South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen is up 11 places to 42nd among batters. South Africa fast bowler Lungi Ngidi has advanced five places to reach 19th position after finishing with four for 62 in the high-scoring match. Dawid Malan (up 31 places to 58th among batters) and fast bowler Jofra Archer (up 13 places to 22nd among bowlers) are other England players to move up in the ODI rankings.

# Goalkeeper Ahmet Eyup Turkaslan Dies In Turkey Earthquake



NEWDELHI: Turkish goalkeeper Ahmet Eyup Turkaslan has been found dead in the deadly earthquake that struck his home country, confirmed Yeni Malatyaspor. "Our goalkeeper, Ahmet Eyup Turkaslan, lost his life after being under the collapse of the earthquake. Rest in peace," the club said on Twitter. More than 5,000 people have lost their lives in Turkey and Syria following the earthquake.

# Second ICC World Test Championship Final To Be Played From June 7-11 At The Oval

Dubai: The International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed on Wednesday that the second edition of the ICC World Test Championship Final will be played between June 7-11, 2023, at The Oval in London, England. The Oval has hosted over 100 Test matches in its rich history, and in June will welcome the top two Test sides in the ICC World Test Championship standings, which will compete for the ICC World Test Championship Mace following two years of hard-fought competition. The ICC World Test Championship final is the pinnacle event in the Test calendar and is a week-long



celebration of the longest format of the game. Termed as the "Ultimate Test" by the ICC, the final is the culmination of two years of intense competition in the cycle spanning 61 Test matches over 24 series played till date. "Leading Team India out onto the field of play at the World Test

Championship Final would be special. We have grown and developed as a team during this competition and to be in with a chance of lifting the Mace at the Oval in June, we know we first need to overcome a tough Australia side." "There have been so many dramatic moments in

Test cricket lately, and there are undoubtedly more to come. I am excited by the prospect of booking our place at the Final and hopefully creating history later in the year," said India captain Rohit Sharma. Australia currently top the standings, with India in hot pursuit in second place, and both teams go head-to-head across a four-Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy from February 9 with a place for the final at The Oval, and the coveted ICC World Test Championship Mace, firmly in their sights. "The prospect of playing in the World Test Championship Final has been a big motivator for us over the last couple of years,

# LeBron James Become NBA's All-Time Leading Scorer



Los Angeles: Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James scripted history as he became the NBA's all-time leading scorer on Tuesday. James broke the all-time NBA record in the third quarter of Los Angeles Lakers' match against Oklahoma City after sur-

passing Abdul-Jabbar's tally of 38,387 points. The 38-year-old surpassed Abdul-Jabbar's mark with a step-back fadeaway jumper from the foul line over the Oklahoma City Thunder's Kenrich Williams with 10.9 seconds remaining in the third quarter.



## Infosys Foundation Announces the Third Edition of the Aarohan Social Innovation Awards

Bhubaneswar (AO Bureau): Infosys Foundation, the philanthropic and CSR arm of Infosys, has launched the third edition of the Aarohan Social Innovation Awards. To further social innovation in India, Infosys Foundation is inviting innovators and social entrepreneurs from across the country to participate in the awards. The Aarohan

Social Innovation Awards 2023 seek to encourage and reward individuals, teams and NGOs developing unique technology-based solutions that have the potential to bring about a significant difference to the underprivileged across India, at scale. The Infosys Foundation will commit up to INR 50 lakh per winner, with a total

award purse of INR 2 crore. "At Infosys Foundation, we have always believed in the power of working relentlessly towards social good. Aarohan Social Innovation Awards further this very aim through a platform where the finest innovations with the potential to impact social good are valued, encouraged, and rewarded. The past editions of the

awards have been a huge success, creating tremendous impact. With the 2023 edition, we hope to carry this momentum forward by encouraging social innovators across the country to translate their ideas and passion into impactful award-winning solutions, with the potential to bring real change, at scale," said, Sumit Virmani, Trustee, Infosys Foundation.

## AIIMS Bhubaneswar to join hands with Chang Gung University, Taiwan over use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Bhubaneswar, (AO Bureau): To provide emergency treatment, early detection of disease is much more important. But, in case a cancer or brain stroke patient is admitted to the emergency department of a hospital, it has always been a challenging task to provide the patient with the required emergency treatment. Hence, applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in medical data analysis for disease prediction are the need of the hour, said AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Prof (Dr) Ashutosh Biswas. Dr. Biswas after having



a meeting with Prof. Prasan Kumar Sahoo, a Professor in the Department of Information Engineering, Chang Gung University, Taiwan and Director of Artificial Intelligence, has expressed the pleasure to join hands with the prestigious University for research and training programmes on AI and its use in the field of di-

agnosis, therapeutics and management of patient care. Prof. Sahoo also had a talk over AI at AIIMS Bhubaneswar attended by faculties of the institute. Huge volumes of images and for clinical data are generated when a cancer or brain stroke patient is admitted to the emergency department of a hospital. Doctors may

use varieties of images such as Histopathological, Computed Tomography (CT), Computed Tomographic Angiography (CTA) and Magnetic Resonance Image (MRI) for disease diagnosis. Those collected images are highly unstructured and are stored in NDPI or DICOM format.

## JSP Foundation awards O.P. Jindal Scholarships to 40 students of Angul

Angul, (AO Bureau): JSP Foundation, the CSR arm of Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) awarded O.P Jindal Star Scholarship and O.P Jindal Jewel Scholarship to 40 meritorious students of the Angul district. Additional District Magistrate, Angul, Mr Santosh Kumar Pradhan, presented the scholarship cheques to the selected meritorious students in presence of Mr Damodar Mittal, Executive Director, JSP, District Education Officer, Mr Niranjana Sahu and other functionaries of JSP CSR Foundation. Mr Santosh Kumar Pradhan urged all students to see the dreams of a great person in life by adhering to the core human values and social responsibilities. He expressed his sincere thanks to JSP and JSP Foundation for their commitment to-



wards Corporate Social Responsibility. Mr Damodar Mittal shared experience of his personal life's journey towards fulfilling of his dream to become an engineer and expressed the importance of financial support/scholarship to achieve the desired dream of students. He expressed about the exemplary work of the Founder Shri Om Prakash Jindal in holistic development of society as an industrialist as well as philanthropist. He also said about the inspiration getting from Shri Naveen Jindal, Chairman of Jindal Steel & Power and Smt. Shalalu Jindal, Chairper-

son of JSP Foundation, which propels the JSP to strive for the best for development of the community. On this occasion, Mr Niranjana Sahu, advised the awardees to do hard work with perseverance to achieve the desired goal. O.P. Jindal Scholarship aims to motivate young meritorious students from financially weaker sections of society to pursue higher education and professional studies. It has been conceived as a merit-cum-means scholarship for high performing rural students from weaker financial backgrounds to pursue higher education.

## BIRLA SCHOOL OF COMMERCE ORGANIZES PANEL DISCUSSION ON UNION BUDGET

Bhubaneswar (AO Bureau): The Birla School of Commerce, Birla Global University organised a panel discussion on "Analysis of Union Budget-2023" on 7th February, 2023. The session involved eminent resource person who fervidly appor- tioned their knowledge and information regarding the various aspects covering the Union Budget of 2023-24 which illuminated everyone. The session started with the address by Prof. Samson Moharana,



Dean, Birla School of Commerce who emphasized on future implication of the budget, expectation of recession, strong points of economy, Bank NPA, debt, and impact on stock market in the pres-

ence of Prof. Premendu P. Mathur, Vice Chancellor, Birla Global University. Prof. (Dr.) B. K. Das, Registrar, Birla Global University. Renowned Chartered Accountant & Financial Consultant CA A.K.

Sabat, accentuated on inflation, layoff's problem, benefits given to middlemen, budget vs. actual and variance analysis introduction, benefits for senior and super senior citizens, alternative tax schemes and many

more. Mr. Trinath Lenka, CFP, Managing Director, Wallet Finserve Pvt. Ltd. pitched primarily on compulsory and statutory deduction, financial planning, fiscal deficit, agriculture credit, Shree Anna Yojana, NDL, highest allocation till date on Railway, infrastructure, Artificial intelligence, tourism, Start-up and insurance sector. The Panel discussion was coordinated by Dr. Radha Krishna Mishra & Dr. Sonika Suman from Birla School of Commerce, Birla Global University, Bhubaneswar.

## OKCL ANNUAL MEET-2023

Bhubaneswar (AO Bureau): Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited celebrated its annual meet with a theme of "GARUDA UDAAN-2023" with much excitement at KIMS auditorium on 5th February 2023. More than 630 participants from 450 authorised learning centres

along with District Lead Coordinators participated in the event. Dr. Manoranjan Puthal, Managing Director, OKCL inaugurated the ceremony by lighting the lamps and explained the importance, purpose and uniqueness of the network programme & the activities

undertaken by everyone in the district. He also elaborated the vision & growth strategy for the year 2023. In this ceremony Prof. (Dr.) Arka Kumar Das Mohapatra, Vice Chancellor, Odisha State Open University and Prof. (Dr.) Sasmita Samanta, Vice



Chancellor of KIIT University graced the occasion as chief guest & guest of honour respectively.

## Rungta Steel TMT associates with St. Xavier's Kolkata's 2023 Edition of their cultural festival 'Xavotsav'.

Kolkata: Rungta Steel TMT, one of the fastest growing integrated steel companies in India, partners with 'Xavotsav'23', the annual cultural festival organized by the St. Xavier's College Students' Council, Kolkata held on 8-9th February. Commenting on the association, Mr. Arvind Kumar, Senior GM and Head, Sales & Marketing (TMT) said, "It is a pleasure for us to gear up for Xavotsav for the first time, along with the young minds at St. Xavier's College



Kolkata. Youth engagement is one of the key focus areas at Rungta Steel and will continue to be. One way to contribute back to through associations that promote sports, arts, education and culture that acts as

stirring agents for conversations. We are hopeful that the 2023 edition of Xavotsav will continue to act as a catalyst for change and inspire the change-makers of tomorrow." Spread across various spec-

trums such as performing arts, literature, sports and management, Mr. Kumar hopes that "the festival serves as a platform to inspire and entertain by offering innovative and creative solutions that will help audiences discover new ideas and reimagine the world around them". This collaboration establishes Rungta Steel as a long-term stakeholder bringing impact and a difference to the communities they serve thereby creating newer avenues for continued relationships for the future.

## Subarnarekha Port facilitates on-the-job training of 21 JNTVTI students in Jamshedpur

Baliapal, (AO Bureau): Subarnarekha Port Private Limited (SPPL) has sent the second batch of trainees consisting of 17 students from J N Tata Vocational Training Institute (JNTVTI), Baliapal for on-the-job training at Jamshedpur. All the 17 trainees are local students from the Site Safety Supervisor Course being run at JNTVTI, Baliapal. These trainees have completed their classroom training and have



will now be attending on-the-job training at Jamshedpur. It must be noted that 16 candidates from the previous batch have completed their training and have already been

successfully placed in jobs at various organisations. It has been SPPL's constant endeavour to focus on skill development of local youth for increasing their employ-

ment opportunities. It is with this thought that a centre of JNTVTI has been opened at Baliapal, with a focus on skill development of the local population in and around SPPL's project area. Subarnarekha Port Private Limited is committed to the overall development of the community, and is thus implementing programmes & interventions for various segments of the community.