

Absconding BSF Jawan held in Sundargarh

On charge of sexually exploiting minor girl under marriage pretext

MALAY RAY ■ SUNDARGARH

A jawan who was facing a sexual harassment case and absconding was arrested and forwarded to court by Town police of Sundargarh district on Sunday.

According to sources, Rohit Chanchan works as a Jawan in Border Security Force (BSF) at Darling. He is a native of Bankibahal village under Kinjrikela police station. He had come to his village last year and come in contact

with one minor girl under Sadar police station. He allegedly kept physical relation with her by promising to marry her. On February 2, 2020, Rohit had taken the victim to a rented house and had kept her there. When the parents of minor girl came to know about it, they lodged a complaint with police. When police called Rohit, he told about his love relationship with the minor girl and had also given in writing that when the minor girl will be of 18 years age he would marry her in court. Thereafter, the minor girl spent one year in that rented house.

Rohit in the meantime married another girl during December 2020 in Sikha Mahadev temple situated at

Balishankara. After about one month and a half, the victim came to know about the marriage of Rohit. She dialed Rohit and Rohit threatened her to kill her and disconnected the call.

Later, the minor girl's mother lodged a complaint in the Town police station on February 5. The Town police after registering a case against Rohit, started searching him but he absconded. The Town police got information on Sunday about Rohit's presence in his father-in-law's house where his pregnant wife was there at Dileima in Bamra under Jharsuguda district and under the leadership of Town police station IIC Suryakanti Das, a police team reached there and nabbed Rohit.

Union Min Pradhan, Sarangi visit Yaas-hit Baleswar

Receive memo

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Pratap Chandra Sarangi visited various places of Baleswar which were devastated by the recent Cyclone Yaas. During

Pradhan's visit, the district unit of BJP gave a memorandum to him demanding construction of a synthetic wall along with the sea coast from Talseri of Bhograi to Anantapur, Soro, apart from construction of a Coastal Highway, creation of coastal mangrove forests and a commercial port at Bahabalar.

In the meantime, local MP and Minister Sarangi in a Press brief stated that still several seaside villages were waterlogged and residents were facing a lot of difficulties. They were not getting safe drinking water, electricity and roads for conveyance as their areas lay submerged.

The cattle were facing scarcity of food and drinking water. While a large area of crop land is still under water, breaches have occurred at several places.

The residents without roofs were not getting polythene sheets to cover when no Government officials visited affected pockets, mainly Sartha and Chargoohia, he alleged. Sarangi demanded free kitchen arrangements for those without a shelter.



In Jagatsinghpur Brown sugar seized; 2 held



JAGATSINGHPUR: Acting on a tip-off, the Jagatsinghpur police arrested two youths in connection with brown sugar trading at Lalasahi village on Sunday. Meanwhile, cops have recovered seven grams of brown sugar, two bikes and cash of Rs 2 lakh under the duo's possession.

According to police, the accused two youths were identified as Biswajit Singh from Niali in Cuttack district and Pratap Kumar Rout, a resident of Balipatna village in Khordha district. However, an associate of theirs managed to flee from the spot after the arrival of police.

3 B'ngir kids in lurch after rendered orphan

PNS ■ BALANGIR

Three children of Gaonbhatli in Luhasingha panchayat of Khoraakhol block have become orphans after their father died due to illness.

According to reports, Sudan Nag (60) died after suffering from fever for 15 days. His wife had died two years ago in 2019 due to TB.

With the death of Sudan, his three children, including two girls and a boy, become orphan. They are now staying in a small house and local neighbours are helping them.

The Sarpanch gave them Rs 2,000 and also rice. "We produced them before the CWC on Sunday evening. Today, a meeting was held in the village in the presence of Sarpanch and these children were brought from there.

As per the rules, Covid test of the children was held and one of them tested positive who was admitted to a Covid care center at Balangir.

The other two children were admitted into child care institute," said District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Laxmi Singh.

'No Tobacco Day' observed in B'pur

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A special meeting was organised by local voluntary organisation KRANTI at the Old Bus Stand here on Monday to observe the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD).

The WNTD is observed worldwide called by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on May 31 to sensitise people on the harmful effects of tobacco consumption.

Tobacco survivor Dr Debendra Das chaired the meeting and recalled the trauma he had undergone and appealed to the Government to strictly implement the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Act 2003 (COTPA, 2003) and

National Tobacco Act of 2007 (NTA 2007) and also urged people, especially youths, not to use tobacco products. The other speakers underlined the need for creating more awareness against tobacco use among youths, who are nowadays under severe mental stress for unemployment, poverty and

various stress, etc. They said that mostly under the influence of friends, the youths start using tobacco. It is now time for them to realise the dangerous effects of tobacco on their health and life. Among others who spoke were social activists Harihar Padhy and Sai Prasad Samal.



Prajnana donates O2 cylinders to 3 dists

BHUBANESWAR: Even now, most of district- and block-level hospitals in State do not have sufficient oxygen cylinders, oximeters, etc., which are crucial lifesaving devices. To fill this bottleneck, the Prajnana Mission joined hands with the district administrations of Cuttack, Kendrapada and Ganjam and donated 100 D-type jumbo cylinders to each district on Sunday. Along with cylinders, it is also supplying oxygen concentrators, oxylflowmeters, pulse oximeters, etc., to hospitals and Covid Care Centers. Kendrapada



Collector Amrit Rituraj has tweeted and thanked Prajnana Mission for generosity and said, "This support will strengthen our fight against

Covid-19." The Prajnana Mission is also planning to buy oxygen cylinders and other medical devices for districts of Puri and Koraput too.

Van hits cows; 6 killed, 2 injured

Irate Narsinghpur villagers block road

PNS ■ NARASINGHPUR

Six cows were killed and two others were seriously injured when an unidentified pick-up van dashed into the bovines near Kandhabherani on the Cuttack-Narsinghpur main road on Sunday evening. The irate villagers blockaded the Cuttack-Narsinghpur main road near Kandhabherani in protest, demanding arrest of the van driver, compensation to the victims who lost their ani-

mals and construction of humps. According to sources, the pick-up van struck the cows at around 7pm on Sunday evening near Gai Paul Kandhabherani and fled the spot soon.

The owners of the dead cows are Balbhadra Behera, Sahadev Behera and Niranjana Dehuri, while one each cow of Niranjana Dehuri and Kalika Khatua were seriously injured. The roadblock was lifted after Kanpur police and local Tehsildar Alok Ranjan Dehuri reached the spot and held talks with the protesters.

ATM loot bid foiled; 2 held in Barbil

Siren alerts police as accused try to smash machine

PNS ■ CHAMPUA

Miscreants failed in their attempt to loot an ATM as a siren installed in the ATM counter blew, alerting the locals and police in Barbil. Barbil PS IIC Sushanta Kumar Dash revealed that on June 30 night, the accused attempted to loot cash from the SBI ATM counter at Thankurani Bazar near NMDC around 10 km away from Barbil by trying to break open the

ATM with a hammer. But soon a siren blew and seeing the patrolling police reach there, the miscreants immediately fled taking with them the broken ATM.

IIC Dash further added that in that night he had also received a phone call from SBI head office Mumbai and after that he contacted the patrolling team to take prompt action.

After discussing with SBI Manager Barbil Branch Sushanta Kumar Nayak and going through CCTV footages, the police raided at different places and were able to arrest culprit with 24 hours.

The arrestees were identified as Babu Samuel Munda (22) and Bhagwan Das (26), a native of Thankurani. The police suspected involvement of another person in crime and launched a manhunt to nab him.



OSL continues logistics support to fight Covid

Helps in customs, airport clearances of special cargo flight

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a major step towards ensuring full logistics support to the State Government, the Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) carried out the customs and airport clearances of a special cargo flight carrying a consignment of 1,300 medical grade oxygen cylinders and other medical consumables which were airlifted from China and landed at the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) on May 30. The OSL Group extends this support by

not claiming any service charges. This is for the second time this month that the OSL Group has rendered logistics

support. As part of the Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR), the OSL Group has been aiding the

Government and the people of the State by extending and sharing resources, helping in the vaccination process, focussing on employee welfare and many more.

Extending his support to his own home State, OSL Group Managing Director Mahimananda Mishra said, "The need of the hour is to provide critical healthcare supplies and equipments to save precious lives of our fellow human beings.

This is our common fight and our contribution reaffirms our steadfast commitment to the State. I'm extending my deep gratitude to the AMNS India Limited for arranging such a huge volume of oxygen cylinders for our State."



Woman hangs self hours after hubby's death

KENDRAPADA: A woman allegedly committed suicide after a few hours of her husband's death in a road mishap under Rajkanika police limits. Manoj Kumar Tarai (35) of Chherantpada village, who was working as DPO of DRDA, Bhadrak, met with a road mishap near Mahulia under Chndabali police limit on May 25. He was rushed to a Bhubaneswar private hospital for treatment in a critical condition but youth succumbed to his injuries on May 28. Swapna, wife of Manoj lost her

mental balance over the incident and committed suicide by hanging herself at a ceiling fan by locking door from inside a room. The in-laws later rescued her by breaking open door. She was rushed to Rajkanika CHC but doctor declared her brought dead. Meanwhile, Prasanjit Majhi, younger brother of deceased Swapna, lodged an FIR at Rajkanika police station alleging that his sister was killed for more dowry. Manoj and Swaona married a year back.

INBRIEF

BJD MINORITY CELL SUPPORTS DISTRESSED WOMAN



Brahmapur: After knowing about the distress of a widow near Hillpatna here, some senior Government officials and BJD leaders came to her rescue on Monday. The woman living with three children lost her husband on the day. BJD Minority Cell leader Md Fiaz Khan helped the family in conducting the funeral rites of the woman's husband. On Khan's appeal, the district administration took immediate action and helped the family by providing a cheque of Rs 15,000 from the Red Cross fund.

MP DOLA SEN LAUNCHES BLOOD DONATION CAMPS IN WB



Bhubaneswar: West Bengal Trinamool Congress labour front Indian National Trinamool Trade Union Congress (INTTUC) president and Rajya Sabha member Dola Sen has organised a series of blood donation camps on Sunday. He inaugurated the camp at Chanditala in Hooghly district which was organised in the memory of late INTTUC leader Pradeep Banerjee. Sixty youth donated blood. The camp was coordinated by district INTTUC leader Subir Mukherjee. In the first round, ten blood donation camps are being organised at Sonapur, Bhangar, Baruiapur, Mograhat, Bishnupur, Behala, Bandel, Berhampur and Medinipur from May 30 to June 19.

Gandhiji was a great believer of Lord Jagannath

But was averse to Dalits being barred from temple



GOURANG CHARAN PARIDA

Was Mahatma Gandhi a true worshiper of Lord Jagannath of Puri? When this question comes up, there are two different groups of thoughts who present two different opinions. One group very bluntly says Gandhiji's misunderstanding of Dalits' entry into the Jagannath Temple has tarnished the image of the Lord. But the other

group refutes the charge saying that Gandhiji always wanted to see Jagannath as a true symbol of synthesis of culture where all caste and religious distinctions are dismantled. Gandhiji, in fact, this group asserts, was a true devotee of the Lord

Gandhi's love for Jagannath was ostensibly surfaced in South Africa when he lauded the greatness of our Lord in his magazine, 'Indian Opinion'. Gandhiji had founded this magazine, 'Indian Opinion' in 1904 to speak for the causes of the Indians residing in South Africa.

But the Indians in South Africa, Gandhiji was upset, were not in a mood to disown their distinct identities of Indian caste, religions and regions which they had taken with them from India. Gandhiji wrote an article in 'Indian

Opinion' on August 20, 1904 under a title, 'The Uses of Adversity' in which he said South Africa ought to be for the British Indians a 'Great Puri' where all divisions are abolished and levelled up. Gandhiji was as young as 35 years old only then in 1904 when he first internationalised our Lord as a sole representative of our cultural integrity.

He had never visited Puri till then when he gave this remark about Jagannath. He had only heard about Him from his mother, Putulibai when his mother was talking about Srikrishna and His present reincarnation in Puri. Putulibai was a die-hard Krishna devotee. Gandhiji's article in 'Indian Opinion' filled in Indians in South Africa a new sense of Indianness.

Gandhiji had visited

Odisha eight times and had covered several miles in Odisha on foot. On three occasions in the year, 1921, 1934 and 1938 he spoke very highly of Shree Jagannath while he visited Puri and attended the Gandhi Sevashangh Conference in Delang. On March 27, 1921, he had a pious darshan of Jagannath in the temple.

It happened in connection with Gandhiji's first visit to Odisha. In his Odisha diary published in Navjeeban on April 10, 1921, Gandhiji sharing his experience says, "When I went to the darshan of Sri Jagannath, a great many reflections filled my mind. It is an ancient temple and an inspiring one.... The images being of huge size are awe inspiring too." Gandhiji was an independent and rational thinker. He loved traditions,

but was not slave to traditions. He preferred reform whenever it was required. Change is only constant, he says. Untouchability in Hinduism was very painfully irritating him. And Dalit entry into Hindu temples was equally for him a disgusting concern. Therefore, he had taken the vow of not visiting a temple where untouchable Dalits were not allowed to enter and to worship. In May, 1934 Gandhiji had remained in Puri for three days from May 7 evening to May 9 morning in participation with his historic 'Harijan Padajatra'.

He had started his pilgrimage tour on foot for the cause of the Dalits from Puri Grand Road (Badadand) on May 9 morning. On May 8 in Puri on an occasion of unveiling the statue of late Pandit

Gopabandhu Das, Gandhiji, to a huge gathering present, conveyed that he was glad that his walking tour was to commence from Jagannath Puri, the great eastern shrine, par excellence where all Hindus received the prasad of the Lord of the universe on a footing of a perfect equality. The walking pilgrimage from Puri emphasized the spiritual nature of the Harijan movement, Gandhiji boasted.

To the Sanatanists, Gandhiji assured from that meeting place looking at the sight of the temple that he would love the day when this great temple would be thrown open to Harijans with the consent of the temple goers and never by force. Gandhiji was never hesitant to praise Lord Jagannath when the occasion arose.

In the inaugural meeting of Gandhi Sevashangh Conference which was held for seven days from March 25 to March 31,

1938 in Berboi, Delang of the Puri district, Gandhiji loudly said to the audience that 'the temple of Lord Jagannath has the reputation of being the most famous in India for, there all human distinctions are supposed tovanish and all sorts of people Bramhins and Pariah brush shoulders with one another vying for a darsan of the Lord and even eat His prasad out of one another's hands.'

But when the great incident of Kasturba's Jagannath Temple visit happened on March 28, 1938, Gandhiji clarified that he was unhappy with his wife, Kasturba that she entered a temple where Dalits' entry was not still acceptable to the priests.

Gandhiji was a passionate worshipper of Lord Jagannath but unhappy with tradition of not permitting Dalits to enter the temple. But it is alleged that Gandhiji was misinformed of

the Dalit's entry to the Jagannath Temple. In fact there is 'Harijan seva' in the temple and therefore, there is no bar for them (Dalits) to enter.

After Kasturba's incident, the priests (Pandas) of Jagannath temple had come to Gandhiji Conference at Berboi on March 30, 1938 and invited Gandhiji to Puri to have darshan of the Lord along with the Dalits.

March 30 was the last of the conference for all purposes. (Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi vol 66, page 66/67) After the Gandhi Sevashangh Conference in 1938, Gandhiji had no major visit to Odisha and Puri whatsoever. Had he come to Puri since then, his conviction of Dalit entry into the Jagannath temple perhaps could have taken a new turn.

(The writer is a Gandhian author. Phone: 9861469328)