

Odisha: Wildlife criminal sentenced to 3 years RI for trading leopard skin

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) The Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Baragarh on Saturday convicted an accused under section 51 of Wildlife Protection Act, and sentenced him to three years rigorous imprisonment. The court also imposed a fine of Rs.10,000 on the convict for commission of offence under section 51 of The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. According to the prosecution, one Satyaban Sahu, wildlife criminal of Khajuria village under Baragarh district, was apprehended by the STF of Bhubaneswar on November 24, 2020 and leopard skin along with other wildlife products, was recovered from his possession. Sahu was nabbed while waiting at a place to deliver the leopard skin to a customer.

After successful investigation, a chargesheet was submitted against the accused persons under section 379/411/120-B IPC/r.w. 51 of Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. During investigation the seized Leopard skin was also sent to Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for biological chemical examination and opinion was received affirmatively. The trial was conducted against the accused person and the judge after examining 12 witnesses including the Scientific Officer of WLI Dehradun, convicted the accused. This is the fifth case of STF where the accused persons were convicted under Wildlife Protection Act. Till date trial has been completed in five Wildlife cases and all the cases ended in conviction, STF sources claimed. The conviction rate of wildlife crime cases in India is less than five per cent. However, the STF Odisha has taken special efforts to ensure that the investigation is of the highest standards so that the cases are brought to logical conclusion/conviction. STF is the specialized wing of Odisha Police to curb the organized crime as well as cases against wildlife in the state. The STF had the power/authority to investigate wildlife cases in 2018. So far, STF has detected 100 cases and have arrested 232 wild life Criminals. Among the seizures, STF had so far seized 58 leopard hides 27 elephant tusks, 23 life pangolin, 42 Pangolin scales, two tiger hides and eleven deer hides.

Excise department seized 37.5 kgs of ganja



Kantabanji, (TNB) : A team of kantabanji excise department seized 37.5 kgs of ganja cannabis in kantabanji railway station On dt. 31.05.2024 At about 11 am with the help of RPF Staffs who detect the accused person. The Accused is Bikram Singh of Madhya Pradesh, age - 33 yrs. after all formalities accused person forwarded to the hon'ble court balangir. In this raid DSE harihara dhal, Prabin Kumar sahu OIC kantabanji, Asi Aratratana bohidar, constable ashish Patel , ranjan Mishra, mamata behera , RPF Staffs tapan Kumar sahuo head constable were present.

Goods train derailed near kantabanji

Kantabanji, (TNB): Four wagons of a goods train got derailed near kantabanji station under sambalpur division of East coast railway at about 11.00 pm on Friday night. Restoration work is going on in full swing. It is expected to be completed on Saturday June 1. morning all the derailed wagons have been removed from the site. More labourers were working at the site. Two hydra cranes and other machinery were deployed at the site for the restoration work. The East Coast Railway has cancelled several trains following the derailment of a goods train near Kantabanji railway station in sambalpur division. Four wagons from the rear and front end derailed, and some of them fell on their sides with pds rice thrown off over the tracks.

A 70-year-old woman serious after bitten by a dog



Buguda, (TNB) : A dog has bitten a 70-year-old woman's head in Antarapada village under Buguda block. The old woman of Antarapada village, Rangabati Sethi, was sleeping in her house with the door open due to the unbearable heat and scorching weather. Meanwhile, a dog entered the house and bit the woman's head causing it to bleed. Local Sarpanch Basant Kumar Shatapathi reached the woman's house in a bleeding state and with the help of the villagers brought Rangabati Sethi to the Buguda Community Health Center for treatment. Now the woman is undergoing treatment in Buguda and her health condition is critical. However, about a month ago, when 18 people were injured in the bite of the dog, now the villagers are afraid of this incident. The villagers demanded immediate action from the administration.

New OIC took charge at Balipadar Buguda, (TNB) : K.Niladri Reddy took charge as the new OIC in Balipadar Out Post of Buguda police station under Ganjam Police District on 1st June. OIC Mr. Reddy was working in Tarasingi Police Station before taking charge at Balipadar Fandi. Many eminent persons and organizations have congratulated OIC Mr. Reddy after taking charge of the Ballipadar out post. OIC Mr. Reddy said that the priority will be given to maintaining peace and order in the Balipadar region and anti-social activities.

Tension during polling in Bari: Voters attacked, stopped from voting' BJP Stages Demonstration

JAJPUR, (TNB) : Alleging booth rigging by the ruling BJD, scores of BJP activists on Saturday staged a demonstration in front of Ramchandrapur police station at Bari in Jajpur district. Earlier, a clash broke out between BJD and BJP workers at Sahupada booth no 106. Later, the BJP activists staged the demonstration in connection with the incident. Debanshu Sahu, an Armed Force personnel, who had come to cast his vote along with his family, was allegedly attacked by some BJD workers. The injured sepyo alleged, "I had come to vote along with two other family members. Some BJD activists

attacked me with wooden planks. I have sustained injuries in head. When two of my brothers rushed to the spot to rescue me, they attacked them. I want immediate arrest of those involved in the attack." Another injured said, "We had gone to vote, but BJD activists did not allow us to vote and attacked us. There was no security other hand a non-Odia personnel. Despite complaint, no action is being taken by the police." Asutosh Parida, a BJP leader said, "Voting started at 7 am, first two BJP agents were beaten up Kaharaganda booth and drove them out. We spoke to SP and Col-

lector and they were allowed. We are getting complaints that rigging is happening in 12 booths. An Army personnel was also not spared and it shows that common people are being deprived to exercise their franchise." According to Parida, it is a conspiracy to derail the election process. "This is murder of democracy in Bari and we are demanding repolling in 42 booths. We demand registration of case in connection with the attack on the Army personnel," he added. Meanwhile, the district administration officials or BJD could not be contacted over the allegations.

BJD nominee Pranab Balabantaray opposed at booth

JAJPUR; Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate Pranab Balabantaray was allegedly opposed by supporters of Independent candidate in the Dharmaasala Assembly segment in Jajpur while the former was visiting a booth at Antia panchayat on Saturday. As per reports, amid a tough contest between the BJD and Independent candi-

date in Dharmaasala, Balabantaray cast his vote at his booth and then visited booth 66 at Antia Panchayat High School. As soon as he reached the booth, supporters of Independent candidate Himansu Sahoo and other parties who had queued up for voting suddenly started shouting at the BJD leader and opposed his

presence. Even some of the supporters of Sahoo drove him away from the spot. Facing opposition, the BJD candidate returned from the booth while supporters of Sahoo were shouting in favour of their leader. However, no reaction was received from the BJD leader or the Independent candidate.

Jharsuguda Faces Severe Water Crisis Amid Scorching Heat

Jharsuguda, (TNB) : The water supply situation in Jharsuguda has become dire as temperatures soar to 44 to 47 degrees Celsius. Residents are struggling to access potable water due to a significant drop in the water table. Despite efforts by the Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO), the supply remains inconsistent and inadequate. WATCO constructed three underground and overhead reservoirs to store and distribute water across Jharsuguda. Water distribution commenced

two days before the recent elections, but the supply has been erratic since May 21. In areas such as Cox Colony, Shital Colony, and Babua Bagicha, water is available for only 10 minutes in the morning and is completely shut off in the evening. Attempts to resolve the issue have been met with unresponsiveness from local officials. Kishore Kumar Kandl, the Junior Engineer in charge, has not been available for comment, and linemen claim they are powerless to address the prob-



lem, urging residents to contact the main office. Subrata Kumar Naik, the Public Health Department Engineer and WATCO Secretary, is reportedly too oc-

cupied with duties in Rourkela to address the crisis in Jharsuguda. Despite being informed of the situation, he has expressed regret but taken no action.

The water supply project, initiated by the Public Health Department and approved by the Chief Minister in 2013, was handed to Megha Engineering Infrastructure Limited. Though construction began in November 2017 and was scheduled for completion by November 2020, delays pushed the completion to 2024. However, the project has yet to deliver reliable water supply to the city. Residents are calling for an investigation by the district committee to address the intricacies and ensure a consistent water supply in Jharsuguda.

District Administration Imposes 10 to 4pm Truck Ban Amid Severe Heatwave

JHARSUGUDA, (TNB) : In response to extreme heatwave conditions, the Jharsuguda district administration has decided to halt truck movements from 10 am to 4 pm. This measure comes after the city recorded temperatures hovering around 44 degrees Celsius daily, peaking at 47 degrees last Thursday. The severe heat has already claimed the lives of 7 truck drivers engaged MCL's in coal transport. A crucial meeting was held at the Brajrajnagar

Municipal Council auditorium, chaired by Sub Collector Sabyasachi Panda, with participation from the Truck Owners Association and district administration officials. Key attendees included RTO Dinabandhu Sundhi, Municipal Executive Officer Chandramani Swain, and SDPO Chintamani Pradhan. The meeting focused on raising public awareness about the heatwave and implementing measures to mitigate its effects. Truck owners have been

instructed to provide drinking water, wet towels, and Oral Rehydration Solutions (ORS) to drivers to prevent heat-related emergencies. Additionally, Jharsuguda Collector has directed the Mahanadi Coalfields management to ensure an adequate supply of cold drinking water for drivers and helpers in the mines area during the summer. These steps aim to protect the health and safety of workers and residents as Jharsuguda battles the relentless heatwave.

JSW BPSL Hosts Drawing Competition to Promote Environmental Awareness

Jharsuguda, (TNB) : In anticipation of World Environment Day, JSW BPSL and the JSW Foundation organized a drawing competition in local schools near the JSW BPSL plant. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about environmental protection and sustainability among students and the broader community.



This year's theme, "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience," encouraged participants to focus on restoring land, protecting biodiversity, and combating climate change. The event was managed by JSW BPSL's Corporate Social Responsibility and Environment Management

departments. A total of 51 students from Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Lapanga, and Government Higher Secondary School, Lapanga, participated in the competition. Their drawings highlighted critical environmental issues and the need for proactive measures to safeguard the planet.

The program received praise from local intellectuals, who commended the initiative for fostering environmental awareness and promoting sustainable practices. Through events like this, JSW BPSL continues to engage and educate local communities on the importance of environmental stewardship.

Central Blood Bank & TF Association conducts blood Camp

Bhubaneswar, (TNB) : Due to the scorching sun light in summer, Blood Centres in odisha are in dry condition. Patients are facing many problems for getting the blood. To provide blood to the needy patients, Blood bank and TF Employee Association of Central Red Cross Blood bank cutack organised a blood camp at Central Red Cross Blood Centre. From the camp one hundred three units of blood collected. President Basant Kumar Sahoo, vice president Pradipta Senapati, Secretary Pruthiraj Udaybhanu, joint secretary Sanjay Patra coordinated the blood camp. Alok Kumar Sahoo, Prasanna Kumar Swain, Abinash Dash, Bhagyadhar Sahoo, sasha mohan Satapathy, Ranjan Kumar Das, Prakash Kumar Jena, Ganeswar Behera, Prasant Barik, Bijay Swain, Ranbarabar Sahoo, Kirtan Banchhor helped in blood donation. Dr. Kanakalata Dei, Medical Officer joined for collecting the blood units.

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