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RNI Regd No: ODIENG/2019/77780

BHUBANESWAR

www.aroundodisha.com

VOLUME - 2

ISSUE - 249

PRICE- Rs.2/-

FRIDAY 26 MARCH 2021



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## 'Bharat Bandh': Employees Of These Odisha Offices Asked To Report By 9:30AM Tomorrow

Bhubaneswar, Mar 25: In view of the call for a 'Bharat Bandh' (nation-wide strike) on March 26, 2021, given by farmers' unions, the Odisha government asked employees of its major offices in

Rajiv Bhawan and the Heads of Department Building to reach office by 9.30 AM on March 26 to facilitate their smooth entry. As part of precautionary measures, the front gates of the Lok Seva Bhawan will

employees and visitors will be intensified. Travelling in a vehicle having car pass will not be permitted without valid authority for entry," the letter read. Entry of visitors to these office buildings will be restricted on



Bhubaneswar to report to duty by 9.30 AM tomorrow. In a letter, Special Secretary of Home Department, Santosh Bala directed Secretaries of different departments to advise officers and employees working at the Lok Seva Bhawan, Kharavela Bhawan,

be closed at 10:15 AM tomorrow and all the passage will be regulated thorough rear gates. Also, the connecting gate between the Red Building and Main Lok Seva Bhawan will remain open, the letter mentioned. "Security check of identity cards and passes of the em-

March 26. Persons having prior appointment, whose business is pressing and immediate will be given entry passes on the recommendations of the concerned Department by Special Secretary, Home Department. The visitors will leave immediately after the meeting, the letter stated.

## Odisha CM Lays Foundation For Re-Development Of Iconic Kalinga Studio

Bhubaneswar, Mar 25: As part of the re-development plan for Kalinga Studio, a state-of-the-art infrastructure will come up at the cost of Rs 200 crore. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today laid the foundation stone for the project. Patnaik said the entertainment industry will receive a massive boost promoting art, culture and heritage along with cinema due to the project. Also, it will create large scale employment opportunities for the people in film, media, and entertainment industry. The project concept and master plan has been designed by M/s Grant Thornton Bharat LLP. It will be executed by IDCO. The construction and landscaping of the core support area is expected to be completed by December 2022. It envisages direct employment for around 2,000 in film, media, and entertain-



ment sector along with indirect and induced employment generation of more than 10,000. The studio will be re-developed spreading into three different zones modern infrastructure that includes multi-sized indoor shooting halls, make-believe shooting locales, theme based parks, post-production facilities such as dubbing and mixing studio, animation work station, editing suite, DI (Digital Intermediate) Stu-

dio, preview theatre, directors' room, space for brainstorming, script narration, casting, recording lab, radio and media houses and many other facilities. Along with film production, the studio proposes to contain comprehensive fun, entertainment, and a leisure hub. The infrastructure includes live performance stage, adventure parks, kids play area, water games, castle view, snow world, iconic points

etc along with boarding and lodging facilities for the film crew, and space for social and cultural gatherings. Established in 1980, the studio had a significant role in changing the face of Odia cinema. During that period, the studio was the only film studio with all best equipment in the Eastern Region of the country. The infrastructure will create a film industry eco-system which would help develop not only the Odia

movie Industry, but also cater to many downstream affiliates of the sector in the larger entertainment and creative services industry. Among others, Industries Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra, OFDC Chairman Satyabrata Tripathy, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Industries Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma, IDCO CMD Sanjay Singh, IPICOL MD NB Jawale were present on the occasion.

## Plea In SC Seeking Direction For Stop Sale Of Lord Jagannatha Properties



New Delhi, Mar 25: A petition was filed today in the Supreme Court seeking a directive to stop selling of any prop-

erties of Shree Jagannatha of Shree Jagannatha Temple in Puri. Jan Swabhiman Welfare Society's

Counsel Shashank Shankar Jha moved the apex court seeking a directive to the Cabinet Secretary of Ministry of

Home Affairs, Chief Secretary of the Odisha government and Chief Administrator of the Shree Jagannatha Temple Administration to immediately stop settling and selling of any of the properties of Lord Jagannatha. The plea sought the SC's intervention to direct the parties to ensure any temporary or permanent settlement that has happened in properties of Lord Jagannatha comprise only of people who adhere to the religion that worship the Lord. Also,

the petition prayed for the SC's intervention to dissolve the current temple management and create a judicial committee in interim to oversee creating of an administrative mechanism for the temple in sync with Dharmik traditions of the Jagannatha Dham and the role of government is restricted to only facilitation of such a mechanism. The plea further requested for a judicial commission headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court to investigate the matter.

## COWIN Portal Modified For Persons Aged 45 To 59 Years To Get Covid Jab: Odisha Govt



Bhubaneswar, Mar 25: From April 1, 2021, persons aged 45 to 59 years will not be required to produce a co-morbidity certificate to receive Covid vaccine. In a letter to Collectors and District Magistrates, Municipal Commissioners, CDMOs and PHOs, Health and Fam-

ily Welfare Department's Additional Chief Secretary PK Mohapatra stated the COWIN portal has been modified by MoHFW for doing away with the need for confirmation of co-morbidities at the time of online registration. There will not be any requirement for co-morbidity

certificate during on-site registration at the time of vaccination. The registration at COWIN portal for the expanded priority group would begin from April 1, 2021. The letter further mentioned the cut-off date for persons aged 45 years and above are those born before January 1, 1977.

## Covid Fallout: Ravenshaw University Postpones Exams Until Further Orders



Cuttack, Mar 25: A crucial meeting chaired by Ravenshaw University Vice Chancellor Sanjay Kumar Nayak

today decided to postpone all exams conducted by the varsity until further orders. The varsity will take a decision on conducting

the exams only when the Covid situation improves. In another significant decision, physical learning at the varsity has been stopped from today. The Vice Chancellor directed the faculty members to hold online classes so that the study does not get affected. Outsiders will not be permitted to enter the varsity campus. Worth mentioning, the university reported five positive cases in last two days.

## Nodal officers meeting on pipili bye- Election

Puri, Mar 25: On smooth management of pipili bye- Election the Nodal officers had a meeting Special Circuit House in this meeting the Collector Samarth Barma presided and told that free and impartial Election must be obeyed Strictly with this voting period all should obey the covid

Guide line Strictly their were also other officers as ADM general Pradip ku Sahu ,ADM Subash ch Nath sarma , Project Director DRDA PURI Niti ranjan Sen Sub Collector Bhabataram Sahu, Deputy Collector Sumanta Ku Kar and Jitendra ku Sahu were Present in this meeting



## No Respite From Heat: 9 Places In Odisha Record 40 Degrees Or Above

Bhubaneswar, Mar 25: Even as the State is gearing up to check the surging cases of coronavirus, the heatwave issue has surmounted problems in Odisha. Nine stations across the State recorded temperatures 40 degrees or above on Thursday. According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Boudh was the hottest at 40.8 while Bhubaneswar

and Bolangir recorded 40.4 degrees Celcius. Sonapur recorded a maximum (daytime) temperature of 40.2 degrees and Angul recorded 40.1 degrees on Thursday. Baripada, Titlagarh, Malkangiri and Nayagarh recorded 40 degrees Celcius. Overall, nine stations recorded 40 degrees or above making March 25 one of the hottest days so far in this season.



## Osmania students protest against Telangana's move to close varsities, hostels



Hyderabad, Mar 25: The sudden closure of the university hostels and mess facilities left the students in the lurch. On Wednesday night, hundreds of students took out a protest demonstration at the NCC gate and women's hostel, forcing the authorities to call for deployment of police personnel. The decision of the Telangana government to close all educational institutions and hostels in the wake of the steady increase in the number of Covid-19

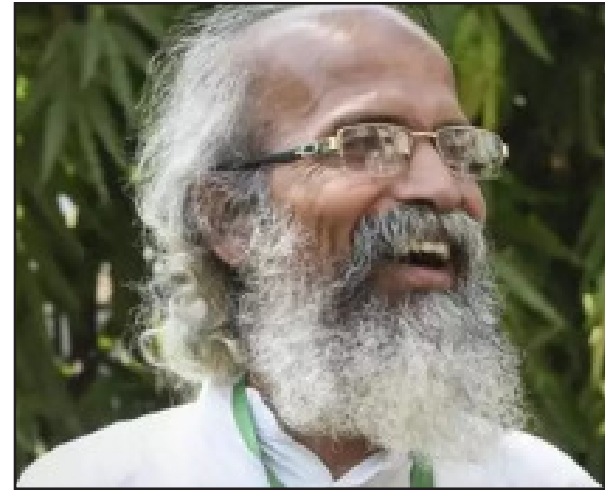
cases in the state triggered protests from the students of Osmania University in Hyderabad. A university spokesman said in a statement that the mess facility in the university would be closed with effect from Thursday afternoon and all the students have been asked to vacate their hostel rooms with immediate effect. The university authorities also issued a circular stating that all examinations for all courses scheduled from Thursday had been

postponed indefinitely. "The university will soon release a revised timetable," the circular said. The sudden closure of the university hostels and mess facilities left the students in the lurch. On Wednesday night, hundreds of students took out a protest demonstration at the NCC gate and women's hostel, forcing the authorities to call for deployment of police personnel. As the students blocked the main thoroughfare on the OU campus till the midnight, the police ar-

rested the student union leaders including All India Students Federation state organising secretary RN Shankar, executive member Uday Kumar and OU students' federation leader Sumer, Progressive Democratic Students Union leaders G Shyam and others. "The students lost most part of the academic year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. It has been not even three or four months since the hostels were open for students. Most of them are from rural areas, and have no access to online education. They are staying in hostels and are preparing for the University examinations as well as various competitive examinations. Where would they go suddenly, if they are asked to vacate the hostels?" AISF leader Shankar said. The students' union leader pleaded with the authorities to allow them

to remain in the hostels, even if the mess facilities are closed, but the authorities said they have to follow the government rules. The Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE), too, announced postponement of all semester exams of various undergraduate and postgraduate courses under different universities across the state. "We have postponed all degree and PG semester exams under all universities. A revised schedule will be announced soon by the universities concerned," TSCHE Chairman Prof T Papi Reddy said. The University of Hyderabad announced that the decision to allow the return of terminal semester PG students and research scholars (except the 2020 batch) to the campus was being put on hold until further notice.

## Union Minister Prata Chandra Sarangi, Appreciated Dr. Chittaranjan Jena Medical Officer of Community Health Center



New Delhi, Mar 25: Service to humanity is service to God. Doctors and medical staff always have been the saviors, they have been saving the lives of millions of people from impending deaths. The medical profession, however, in recent past, is getting commercialized and in the process the poor and destitutes are deprived of basic medical attention and care. In this world of growing commercialisation, there are few doctors, who have devoted their profession fully

to the disadvantaged sections of our society. One of such Doctors is Dr. Chittaranjan Jena, who is now posted as the Medical Officer, Community Health Center, Tihidi in Bhadrak District. His mission is to reach the poorest persons in the area and provide the best available medical facilities to all. His zeal for health for all has made him dearest to the local population. Dr. Jena earlier served at Primary Health Center, Girliguma, Koraput. His

job at Girliguma was very challenging. He had to raise awareness among the tribal population to rely on medical science and motivate them to keep away from superstitions. He succeeded tremendously to eradicate malaria, dengue, diarrhea and other diseases. To work in remote areas, infested with Naxal activities, is really difficult. However, Dr. Jena served the local tribal population with utmost dedication. Dr. Chittaranjan Jena's devotion and dedication have brought accolades both from Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Hon'ble Minister of State in the Government of India for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises as well as Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha. Both of them profusely lauded his selfless service to the poor and disadvantaged population and for taking governmental medical facilities to the masses.

## 'Dissent is being criminalised': Mehbooba Mufti after ED questioning

New Delhi, Mar 25: Without naming the BJP, Mufti said that the country is being run as per the agenda of a political party. Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, soon after being questioned by the officials of Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering case, today said that the country is not ruled according to the constitution and dissent has been criminalised. Without naming the BJP, Mufti said that the country is being run as per the agenda of a political

much money was received. "I was questioned about the funds as the chief minister and any money spent on youth engagement programs and how that was done," she said. "This country is ruled either by the ED, the CBI or the NIA, either you are charged in sedition or money laundering and whosoever talks on issues ED/CBI or NIA is used against him. This country is not running according to the constitution of India, it's running according to the agenda of a particular party. Dissent has been criminalised in the country," she said. The former chief minister

federal agency reached the PDP chief's Fairview residence with the summons. Soon after the ED officials' visit to her house, Mufti had said in a tweet that such short-sighted scheming would not work. "GOI's tactics to intimidate and browbeat political opponents to make them toe their line has become tediously predictable. They don't want us to raise questions about its punitive actions and policies. Such short-sighted scheming won't work." Earlier, she had said that she was ready to appear before the ED in Srinagar for any sort of investigations. How-

## Kumbh Mela duration curtailed to 1 month for first time; pilgrims must show 'negative' Covid test report

Dehradun, Mar 25: According to a notification, the congregation on the banks of the Ganges in Haridwar in Uttarakhand will take place from April 1 to 30, with three "shahi snan" (major bathing) dates on April 12, 14 and 27. The duration of Kumbh Mela in Haridwar has been curtailed to just one month for the first time in its history in view of a recent surge in Covid-19 cases and it has been made mandatory for pilgrims to have a "negative" RT-PCR test report to attend the mega congregation. According to a notification, the congregation on the banks of the Ganges in Haridwar in Uttarakhand will take place from April 1 to 30, with three "shahi snan" (major bathing) dates on April 12, 14 and 27. Thousands of devotees take a dip in the holy river during the mela with their number increasing manifold on the days of "shahi snan". Authorities also expect heavy turnouts on the occasions of Chaitra Pratipada on April 13



and Ram Navami on April 21. Held once in 12 years, the congregation usually lasts around three-and-a-half months. Its last edition was held in Haridwar from January 14 to April 28 in 2010. According to the notification issued on Wednesday, the Kumbh Kshetra (area) covers Neergarh, Tapovan, Bitthal Ashram Marg to Muni-Ki-Reti Road and Rishi-Haridwar bypass in the north, and Narendra Nagar-Rishikesh bypass, the forest checkpoint on Rishikesh-Dehradun Road, Rishikesh-Haridwar bypass, Mansa Devi, Billkeshwar Mandir,

Tibri Mohand, BHEL residential buildings, Roorkee-Bahadarabad road and up to 13 km on Haridwar-Delhi road in the west. In the south, the congregation area will extend from Bahadarabad-Haridwar bypass to Siddha Sot Setu and from Siddha Sot Setu to Neelkanth Mahadev temple in the east. A "negative" RT-PCR test report, not older than 72 hours before arrival, has been made mandatory for devotees by the Uttarakhand High Court. Devotees who have taken the Covid-19 vaccination will have to upload their certificate in an official portal

and follow the guidelines. After the Centre called for stringent measures to control the spread of Covid-19 during Kumbh, the Uttarakhand government had asked people to strictly follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour during the congregation in view of the fresh surge in infections in various parts of the country. In the light of guidelines issued by both the central and state governments in the past for surveillance, containment and caution, Chief Secretary Om Prakash on Monday asked the district administrations, various state and central government organisations

and other stakeholders to take all necessary measures to ensure wearing of face mask, maintaining hand hygiene and social distancing by people. These measures are also included in the national directives for Covid-19 management which have to be strictly followed throughout the state, he said. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan had recently written to the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary underlining the need for taking strict measures to check the spread of the pandemic, especially during the congregation.



party. The ED had first summoned Mufti to Delhi for investigation in the money laundering case. However, she refused to travel to the national capital due to Covid-19. On Thursday, she was questioned at the ED office Rajbagh for five hours, soon after she went there at 11 am. After coming out, the PDP chief said that she was questioned about the land and property of his father. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed at Bijbehara in south Kashmir and other related details including how that was sold and how

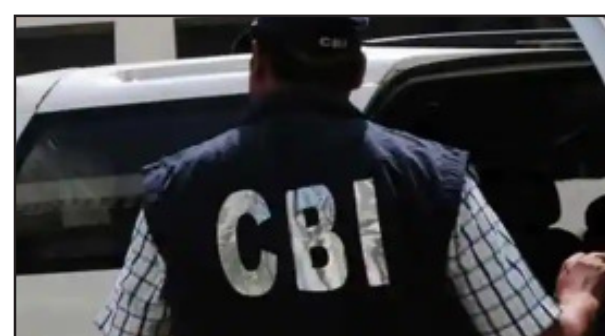
said that she has nothing to hide. "My hands are clean and have nothing to hide. It took them two years to search things and now they are asking details about my father's land or how much money was spent on the mausoleum of my father. They're asking about the secret fund, how it was used and the widows who got the fund. Our party PDP will remain steadfast on its agenda for which the party was formed," she stated. Mufti was summoned for questioning by the ED on March 15 in a money laundering case when a team of the

ever, due to Covid-19, she declined to travel to New Delhi. Since her release, Mufti has been vocal against the Centre, especially the BJP government, for the revocation of Articles 370 and 35A. She even said that her party's fight is not for Jammu and Kashmir's statehood but for the special status which was taken away by the Centre on August 5, 2019. She is the second former chief minister of J&K to appear before the ED after Srinagar MP and former CM Farooq Abdullah who appeared before the ED officials at Rajbagh.

## CBI conducts nationwide searches in connection with over 30 cases of bank fraud

New Delhi, Mar 25: These searches were a part of a special drive to book the fraudsters on the complaints received from different nationalised banks in India. In a nationwide special drive, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday conducted searches at over 100 places in 11 states/ Union Territories, in connection with more than 30 cases of bank fraud amounting to over 3,700 crore. These searches were a part of a special drive to book the

fraudsters on the complaints received from different nationalised banks in India. The complainant banks include Indian Overseas Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, IDBI, Canara Bank, Indian Bank and Central Bank of India. The various cities/towns where the searches were conducted include Kanpur, Delhi, Ghaziabad, Mathura, Noida, Gurugram, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruppur, Banga-



lore, Guntur, Hyderabad, Bellary, Vadodara, Kolkata, West Godavari, Surat, Mumbai, Bhopal, Nimadi, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Karnal, Jaipur and Sri Ganganagar. During searches, various in-

criminating documents and other material/digital evidence were recovered. The central agency has been receiving many complaints from various banks alleging cheating, diversion of funds, submission of fake/forged documents by different

defaulting firms while obtaining loans/credit facilities etc. There have been allegations that such firms have been turning defaulters resulting in the loans becoming Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), thus causing heavy loss to the public sector banks. After scrutiny, the cases were registered by the CBI. A thorough investigation is carried out in order to book the culprits, take them to face the law and endeavour to salvage public money.



## Profuse Accolades to Olympic Qualifier & KIIT Student CA Bhavani Devi at KIIT & KISS



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 25: KIIT & KISS fraternity felicitated CA Bhavani Devi, a KIIT student, who qualified for Tokyo Olympics 2021 in Fencing. She has earned the distinction of becoming the first-ever Indian to qualify for the Olympics in Fencing. Bhavani, who hails from Tamil Nadu, reached Bhubaneswar this morning along with her mother

and coach from Italy. They were given a rousing welcome at Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar. A felicitation ceremony for the ace fencer was organized at KIIT-DU in the presence of distinguished personalities like Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS; Mr. Bashir A. Khan, General Secretary, Fencing Association of India; Mr. Debendra

Sahoo, Secretary, Odisha Fencing Association; Noted Environmentalist & 'Green Man', Dr. Abdul Ghani; Sprint queen Dutee Chand; Prof. Hrushikesh Mohanty, VC, KIIT-DU, and Prof. Sasmita Samanta, Pro VC. In her speech Bhavani said, "KIIT is lucky for me. I qualified for Tokyo Olympics after enrolling in KIIT. Since childhood, I have

been dreaming of participating in the Olympics. I faced a lot of struggles and adversities to pursue my dream", she said at the ceremony. She bestows all the credit for her success to her parents and coaches who have been with her since childhood. She asserts that Dutee Chand has been her source of inspiration behind qualifying for the Olympics. "Not for me only, Dutee has

been a role model for thousands of budding athletes and sportspersons in India", she added. Congratulating Bhavani, Dr. A. Samanta said, "Apart from education, KIIT & KISS have given the emphasis on the promotion of sports and sportspersons. In fact, KIIT & KISS premises has the largest state-of-the-art sports and games infrastructure located in an educational institution across the globe. So far, the two institutions have produced about 5000 talented players". Dr. Samanta hoped that Dutee and Bhavani would definitely win medals in the forthcoming Olympics. Among others, Bhavani's mother CA Ramani; KIIT Sports Director, Dr. Gaganendu Dash, Registrar, Prof. Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, and many senior functionaries were present on the occasion.

## Efforts To Eradicate Tuberculosis Needs To Be Stepped Up: Experts

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 25: Efforts to eradicate Tuberculosis, one of world's deadliest infectious killers, has to be further stepped up as India carries the highest burden of TB patients in the world, experts said on Wednesday. India had registered 29.6 lakh cases in 2019 while Odisha had counted 45,602 TB patients in 2020, according to statistics made public at a World TB Day program organised at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here. A total number of

Das, Professor and Head of the department of Pulmonary Medicine at G.S.L. Medical College and Hospital, Rajahmundry, said. World TB Day is celebrated on March 24 every year to create public awareness about the devastation caused by the disease and its health, social and economic consequences. This date marks the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced that he had isolated the bacterium which causes TB. Prof. Das said 26 per cent of all TB patients in the world were

program was also addressed by Prof. Gangadhar Sahu, Dean of IMS and SUM Hospital, Prof. Pusparaj Samantasinghar, Medical Superintendent and Prof. Banani Jena, Head of department of Pulmonary Medicine. Dr. Sonali Parida of the department said TB had infected ten million people in the world in 2019 of which more than two million HIV positive people died while another 1.2 million people who were not HIV positive also perished. It predominantly affected male persons who accounted



61 million TB patients had been successfully treated in the world since 1995 when World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the disease as a global epidemic, Prof. Somnath

in India even as the government aimed to eradicate TB in the country by 2025. There were four strains of the disease and no drug was available for a dormant group of bacteria. The

for 56 per cent of the affected persons. Earlier in the morning, a rally was taken out to create awareness about tuberculosis in which doctors, nurses and paramedics participated.

## Week-long NCC Camp Concludes At SOA



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 25: A week-long Combined Annual Training Camp of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) for pre-

paring cadets for 'B' and 'C' certificate examination was conducted at the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), faculty

of engineering and technology of SOA, concluded on Sunday. Around 70 senior division cadets representing three engineering col-

leges, ITER, C.V. Raman College of Engineering and Technology and Aryan College of Engineering and Technology, attended

the camp while observing the Covid-19 guidelines. The camp was held under the supervision of Col. A.B. Padhi, Officer Commanding of 4(O) CTC NCC, Cuttack with the assistance of Lt. (Dr.) Sachidananda Sahoo, NCC Officer at ITER and Lt. Rudra Prasad Nanda, NCC Officer at Aryan College of Engineering and Technology. The cadets were imparted instruction in various areas including physical training, map reading and weapon training.

## BJP Names Candidate For Pipili Bypoll

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 25: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today announced its party candidate for the ensuing Pipili bypoll. In a statement, BJP National General Secretary and In-charge HQ, Arun Singh named Ashrit Pattnayak as the party candidate for the bypoll to Pipili Assembly seat scheduled to be held on April 17. The last date for filing of nomination papers is March 30 while the

scrutiny of papers will be on March 31. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 3. Counting of votes will take place on May 2 and the results will be declared the same day. The by-poll to Pipili Assembly seat was necessitated after demise of former BJD leader and seven-time MLA Pradeep Maharathy. He passed away while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Bhubaneswar on October 4 last year.

## Lord Jagannath's Fagu Dashami Chacheri Besha

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Mar 25: Sridebi and Bhudebi are taken to the Dakhini Ghara by Mahajan sevaks and are seated on a pre-arranged cot. They are dressed in Chacheri Besha along with

deities in Pancha Upachar. After the completion of the Bhoga, Suara Badu sevak cleans the Garbhagruha. After the cleaning is completed, Pujapanda, Pati Mohapatra and

Dwara. There, Mudirasta conducts Chandan Fagu Lagi, Bandapana and Alata Chamara rituals. After this, Dolagovinda, Bhudebi and Sridebi are seated in a Vimana which is carried by the



Dolagovinda after he is seated on the cot. After that they are offered Mandua Bhoga. After the completion of Mandua Bhoga they are taken to the Ratnasinghasana. There, after the completion of Prasad Lagi by Mudirasta sevaks, Pujapanda sevaks will offer Chacheri Bhoga to the

Mudirasta conduct Chandan and Fagu Lagi near Balabhadra, Subhadra and Jagannath respectively. After that Prasad Lagi, Alata Chamara and other rituals are conducted. After that Dolagovinda receives Agyanmaala from Mahaprabhu's right hand and is seated on a cot at the Jaya Bijaya

Vimana Badu Sevaks to Jagannath Ballav Matha in a procession amidst the playing of Ghanta, Kahali and the display of Chattras. There Fagu Anjali, Prasad Lagi, Panti Bhoga and Bandapana rituals are completed by the Mudirasta and after that the deities are brought back to Shrimandir.

## 'Bharat Bandh': Educational Institutions In Odisha To Remain Closed On March 26

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 25: Keeping in view the 'Bharat Bandh' (nation-wide strike) call given by farmers' unions on March 26, the Odisha government declared all educational institutions including schools and colleges to remain closed tomorrow. In a letter to the District Education Officers (DEOs), School and Mass Education Department Principal Secretary Satyabrata Sahu stated in view of the 'Bharat Bandh' call, all schools will be closed on March 26. In a similar move, the Higher

Education Department announced colleges and universities functioning under the department will also remain closed keeping in view the nationwide strike call. The educational institutions under the Skill Development and Technical Education (SD&TE) Department including ITIs, Polytechnics and Engineering Colleges will also remain closed tomorrow. Meanwhile, the Utkal University authorities postponed Plus III fifth semester exam of Arts/Science/Commerce streams scheduled to be held tomorrow.



row keeping in view the 'Bharat Bandh' call. The university authorities further stated the semester exam has been rescheduled on March 30, 2021.

Worth mentioning, farmers' unions under the banner of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) has given a call to observe a 12-hour nationwide shut-

down from 6 AM on March 26 across the country to mark four months of the farmers' agitation on Delhi's borders.

## Coaching centre, Super Market sealed for violations of Covid-19 norms in Cuttack

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Mar 25: The Cuttack district administration has sealed a coaching centre and a super-market today for violating the guidelines issued by the State government. The crowded places in the district were previously warned about



strictly adhering to the guidelines keeping in sight of the resurgence of Covid-19 cases. While an in-

spection today, it was seen that the students of the coaching centre were not wearing masks and not main-

taining social distancing following which the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) officials sealed the Coaching centre for indefinite period. Similarly, during another inspection the CMC along with the Mangalabag police sealed Ranihat Hind Cinema hall and Su-

per Sales Centre for not following the guidelines properly. Despite repeated warnings the authorities of the respective places failed to implement the guidelines properly due to which the enforcement team of CMC sealed the places till further orders.



## EDITORIAL

## Deafening

The practice of using loudspeakers for religious purposes is a social menace and must be discontinued. Fifteenth-century revolutionary poet-saint Kabir’s immortal lines “Kankar pathar jodi ke, masjid laye banay; Taa chadi mullah baang de, ka behra hua khudae?” (A mosque is made by cementing pebbles and stones; from its top the cleric calls out like a rooster, is the Almighty deaf?)” are more relevant today as the pitch of the “call” has been amplified to irritatingly high decibels by the loudspeakers installed atop the places of worship. Far from being mellifluous, it adds to noise pollution. However, people avoid raising this issue as talking about anything related to religion is considered blasphemous these days, thanks to religious bigots. Speaking out against any religious practice is a surefire recipe to fan unrest and may lead to communal violence. However, some politicians keep broaching the subject for the sake of popularity or political currency, though they are not at all concerned with noise pollution and its ill-effects on public health. Inspired perhaps by similar motives, a Minister in Uttar Pradesh has written to the Ballia District Magistrate against the “problems” he faces in doing yoga, meditation, worship and discharging his official duties due to the sounds emanating from the loudspeakers at a local mosque. Recently, the Allahabad University Vice-Chancellor also sought a ban on offering prayers via loudspeakers from a mosque, saying it disturbs her morning sleep. The Minister said the volume should be fixed as per the Allahabad High Court’s order. Last year, the court had ruled that the ‘azaan’ (prayer call) could be recited by a muezzin (Muslim crier) from mosque minarets but without using loudspeakers. Though our Constitution guarantees the Right to Freedom of Religion, it doesn’t mean that we can do anything in the name of religion with impunity. Not only ‘azaan’ through blaring loudspeakers, even ‘bhakti sangeet’ (devotional music) played on high volume hurts the auditory sense. Extreme noise pollution seriously affects children, patients and the elderly, in particular. The loud music accompanying religious processions is no less disturbing. The religious leaders and devotees must understand that noise and religion are not synonymous. It’s debatable whether the prayers aired through loudspeakers stand a better chance of catching God’s ears but these certainly hurt the human ears and can cause temporary or, given to regular and frequent exposure, permanent damage. We certainly shouldn’t turn a deaf ear to this problem.

## Wake-up call

The gigantic but inert Congress has now been called out for its ineptness by National Conference (NC) leader Farooq Abdullah. The 83-year-old former ally of the party sounded it out on its sagging fortunes without mincing words when he advised the national party’s leadership to wake up, focus on issues pertaining to the masses and galvanise into action rather than “staying at their homes”. This veiled dig was ostensibly aimed at Wayanad MP and Congress scion Rahul Gandhi. Farooq’s “honest” wake-up call to the Congress is nothing short of a scathing indictment of the goings-on in the party for long, which have resulted in it facing electoral losses in State after State and being reduced to only an also-ran in successive elections. The Congress, which has ruled the nation at the Centre and in States across its length and breadth for most of the last 70 years and has earned the moniker of the “Grand Old Party”, today resembles a tired and uninspired entity. It hits the headlines mostly for the wrong reasons, be it losses at the hustings or defections by senior leaders or, worse, complaints by its own senior leaders against democracy within the party being throttled owing to the autocratic hold of a particular family’s members on its functioning. Farooq’s remarks assume especial significance since the NC leader has been a long-time ally of the Congress, even serving as a Union Minister in the Congress-led UPA Government from 2009 to 2014. His relevance in the political sphere may also be gauged by the fact that the NC has been in power in Jammu and Kashmir since 1947 in one form or the other till 2002, and again between 2009 and 2015. In a letter addressed to Sonia Gandhi in August last year, 23 senior party leaders (who came to be known as G23) had complained about the absence of democracy within the party and stressed the need to hold free and impartial elections to choose the party president. They claimed that the uncertainty over the leadership and the rift in the Congress had weakened the party and left the workers demoralised. But now that even former allies like the NC are openly talking about and admitting to the “weakness” of the Congress, it just goes to show the bad times the ‘Grand Old Party’ of yore has fallen on. It is pertinent to mention that the Congress has continuously been ceding political space since 2014 to other national parties and even satraps. It would only benefit the Congress to heed Farooq’s remarks as these come at a time when the party is gearing up for the crucial Assembly elections beginning later this month in West Bengal, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. While it may be too early to call these election results, it’s a safe guess that the Congress may not be counted upon to perform dazzlingly in these States, especially after it announced its decision to ally with the Furufura Sharif cleric Pirzada Abbas Siddiqui-led Indian Secular Front in West Bengal.

## India needs a new political class: Farmers



Indra Shekhar singh

Until the farmers’ movement succeeds in making their voice heard in Parliament, the political parties will keep manipulating them. While the farmer leaders are busy campaigning against the three farm laws, building a pan-India farmers’ movement, something in Delhi has changed. The Opposition parties like the Trinamool, the Congress, the AAP and others have been vehemently opposing the laws; nevertheless, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, chaired by TMC leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay with members from other political parties, has recommended the implementation of “the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020, in letter and spirit, and without let or hindrances so that the farmers and other stakeholders of the farming sector in this country receive the benefits intended under the said Act”. This news comes as a shocker as the TMC and the BJP are locked in a battle for Bengal, yet the TMC-led committee echoes Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s corporatisation agenda. The BJP has also exposed through the months that the Congress and other parties, including the NCP, have also recommended corporatisation one way or another in the past. The corporatisation of the agrarian sector has been the aim, it seems, of all the Governments. The Modi Government has just expedited it due to its large numbers in Parliament. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act is the most dangerous step for rural India, without which Big Ag firms such as Cargill, Walmart and Bayer can never take control of India’s food system. Hence, the Modi Government didn’t want to make any amendments to it dur-

ing the 11 rounds of talks with the farmer leaders. Now, the Congress and the TMC have both tried to distance themselves from the report and have called it a “disinformation campaign”, blaming the bureaucracy of the “department”. Further, different members have stated that they weren’t present in the meeting. Derek O’Brien even alleged that the chairman was not present when the report was passed. If these allegations are true, Indian democracy will see its abyss. Imagine if one committee could be subverted in this manner, what about the rest of them? There will be a crisis of faith in the Government or perhaps the beginning of an oligarchical mafia State. But if it was actually passed with consensus, India’s farmers and democracy will have to be ready for a new challenge — a corporate hydra controlling the Indian Government. As for the politicians, birds of a feather flock together. Politicians and parties strive for their own interest and that of their donors, not of the farmers. And in the realpolitik,

post-Kissinger world, there are only a handful who harbour good intentions for farmers, the rest — whether in the US or Brazil — serve corporate interests. The Indian farmers also need introspection. Why in over 70 years of Independence, with over 70 per cent population engaged in agriculture, are there almost no national farmer leaders or any party started and run by growers? At best, the farmers have had temporal coalitions on issues, which retreat to the fields once the crisis is over. As a result, national and regional parties do only lip service to agriculture and growers, and the farmers have little choice but to vote for them. Most voters, urban or rural, are allured by caste, emotions and hate but fail to be stirred by hunger or economic prosperity. The Modi Government, along with the corporate media, has done its bit to dissuade the farmers from creating a political front. Rakesh Tikait, along with other farmer leaders, has been extra cautious in distancing the movement from any political party. But

how long can it remain apolitical? After all, man by nature is a political animal, as Aristotle rightly observed. In my recent travels covering farmer rallies, a youth in Haryana’s Chautala village asked Rakesh Tikait: “Where do we go from here? Why don’t we create a new political front? Without farmers in Parliament, how will we get farmer-friendly policies?” Tikait deflected the question, stressing on the apolitical nature of the movement. But it was an important question. Why can’t the farmers organise? The US corporations seized control of rural America because the farmers failed to stand united and to pressure the elected representatives. Only a handful of them got to enter the Senate or the Congress. Since the early history of the US, power brokers have divided farmers by class and race. By seeding hate and racial tensions, the US farmers were polarised. The result was devastation not just for the victims of the violence, but the bankruptcy of the survivors, too. Plato in the Republic warned us that any revolution without a better alternative quickly descends into greater chaos. The Arab Spring of Egypt serves as a recent example. So wisdom demands that the Indian farmers’ revolution does also present a new form of green politics. The farmers have already laid the foundation for this paradigm shift. Their movement is attracting a new wave of Government workers who are directly affected by the privatisation, besides climate activists like Disha Ravi and Greta Thunberg. Now we need the movement to seed a new green political revolution by embracing politics for the rights of land, water and earth and not shying away from it.

## Governing Delhi requires will to uphold Constitution — not alter it

Shailaja Chandra

Also required for the governance of the nation’s capital are a shared vision and maturity. On the face of it, the amendment to the National Capital Territory Act 1991 was introduced in Parliament to give effect to a July 2018 judgement of a 5-judge constitutional bench. While purporting to do so, the Bill has, in fact, planted several curbs on the functioning of the legislative assembly of Delhi as well as its council of ministers. The Supreme Court, without striking one single note of dissent or dissonance in a 536-page order, clause by clause, had clarified the difference between the constitutional arrangement designed for Delhi and that available for any other Union Territory. It had dwelt in detail with each aspect of the 69th Constitutional Amendment passed in 1991 through which Article 239 AA was added to the Constitution. The amendment envisioned a representative form of government for the NCT of Delhi which until then was just known as Delhi administration, with officers reporting directly to the lieutenant governor (LG). There were no ministers and scant public interface. It was only after the 1991 constitutional amendment was passed that Parliament enacted the NCT of Delhi Act 1991 based on the constitutional mandate. It is to Clause 2 of Article 239 AA that the Supreme Court accords overriding primacy. Because it is there that the Constitution refers to an obligation (the word is shall) to establish a legislative assembly, with elected representatives on par with the

legislatures of states. This is dissimilar to Article 239 B of the Constitution where Parliament has the discretion whether or not to create a legislature. The constitutional amendment also provided for Delhi’s legislative assembly to have the power to pass legislation on all subjects on the State and Concurrent lists of the Constitution, except for three — police, public order and land. These three subjects remained under the Centre, to be administered by the LG of Delhi, and barring a case of difference of opinion arising between the LG and the council of ministers, the Constitution enjoined the LG to act on the “aid and advice” of the ministers. It went on to say that the “LG has not been entrusted with any independent decision-making power. He has to either act on the aid and advice or is bound to act on the order of the President if a matter is referred to him” (by LG). And that, observed the Supreme Court, should be the exception not the rule. The principle of collaborative federalism and constitutional balance must be exercised with “profound sagacity and judiciousness,” it added. Leaving aside the Constitution and the Supreme Court, let us consider the ground realities based on firsthand knowledge of working in the erstwhile Delhi administration and later the Government of NCT (GNCT) of Delhi. In these times of intense polarisation, one cannot but marvel at the enormous reforms so successfully legislated and executed in the past. Some

landmarks which are remembered and enjoyed by the citizens include the privatisation of power by unbundling the Delhi Vidyut Board, the flagging off of Delhi Metro — the latter has remained a lasting partnership between the central and Delhi governments — the conversion of the largest fleet of public transport in the world to CNG, all of which happened in 2002. The unit area method of property tax collection was brought in by amending the Municipal Corporation Act 1956, giving enormous relief to harassed house owners. The Delhi Cooperative Societies Act 2003 brought fresh air into the murky functioning of cooperative societies. All these required the full backing and support of the then NDA government at the Centre and at least five central ministries. It was possible because there was a shared vision for Delhi, civility and respect for the observance of due process. Ever earlier, several pathbreaking bills had been passed by the Delhi government on the floor of the Delhi assembly — notable being the Delhi Prohibition of Smoking Act and Non-Smokers Health Protection Act 1996, a first for the whole country — followed by a slew of bills for the Medical Council, Nursing Council and several other bodies. The Supreme Court has referred to “skirmishes” between the two levels of government in its 2018 order and castigated “anarchy”. The reported nocturnal attack on the chief secretary at the official

residence of the chief minister, the nine-day sit-in at Raj Niwas, the insistence on the acceptance of the Jan Lokpal Bill and the demand for statehood for Delhi, besides starting anti-corruption cases against people who were not even under the government, were incompatible with the constitutional scheme envisioned for Delhi. The citizenry was lulled into believing that a huge mandate implied possessing the power to do anything. To ensure that none of this happens again may have, at least partially, propelled the effort to clip the wings of the Delhi Government through the amendment to the NCT Act 1991. Be that as it may, the amendment contradicts the inherent right of the legislature to frame rules for the conduct of its own proceedings. It also requires the government to obtain the LG’s opinion on decisions before executive action is taken, which runs counter to the constitutional bench’s specific interpretation on the need to inform but not to have to wait for a return of the LG’s opinion — something which could take days, or never come. Once the amendment to the NCT Act is enacted, the Transaction of Business Rules 1993, which stipulates the procedure to be followed by the lieutenant governor and the council of ministers, will also need to be altered. Both remain subservient to the language of the Constitution. Bharat ki rajdhani, India’s capital, needs a shared vision, maturity and the will to uphold the Constitution — not to alter it. It remains to be seen whether the legislation will hold up to the judicial review that is bound to follow.



## 72 IOHP workers of PPT joined in PPWU



(A.O. Bureau)  
Paradip, Mar 25: On the occasion of welcoming the new members, Paradip Port Workers Union

(PPWU) organised a get-together and welcoming meeting at the union office premises in Paradip on Wednesday. 72 IOHP

contractual workers of Paradip Port Trust (PPT) were joined to the union for a hope to fulfillment of their legitimate demands.

PPWU working president Anant Kumar Das, vice president Gunanidhi Choudhury, Asst. secretary Gurupad Mishra,

treasurer Brijesh Kumar Lenka and general secretary Nrusingha Prasad Satpathy were welcomed to the newly joined members and assured to try for their best to fulfill their major demands. It is noted, after Sri Satpathy took over as the general secretary of PPWU, many permanent and contractual workers of PPT were found to be attracted to the union due to his organisational skills.

## Ancient Black Marble Stone Shivling, Artefacts Found In Baitarini Riverbed

(A.O. Bureau)  
Jajpur, Mar 25: Days after an ancient Shivling and remains of a temple resurfaced from the Baitarini river near Dasharathpur in the district, another Shivling and other rare ancient sculptures were found from the riverbed at Devi Gada Ghat in the district on Thursday forcing the locals of the area to demand government's intervention to restore those rare artefacts. As per reports, the Shivling and other remnants of an ancient temple were found during lifting of sand by excavators from the riverbed. The sculptures included one Shivling, one stone carved Nandi idol and one idol of Goddess Laxmi- all reportedly made from Black

Marble stones. As far as the origin of these idols are concerned, there are varied opinions from locals and intellectuals. If the villagers' account of their origin is to be believed, these idols belong to the Bhouma-Kar dynasty between 8th and 10th Century AD while some intellectuals believe those to be from Somavamshi Dynasty (Between 9th and 12th Century). Jayanta Goswami, an intellectual said, "This is Jajpur and this area is a confluence of Shaivism, Shaktism and Vaishnavism. These idols probably belong to the Somavamshi era when King Yajati Keshari had held the Dasashamedha Yajnya near Baitarini river in Jajpur." "The government should take the historic significance

of this area into account before allowing indiscriminate sand lifting from the river bed. All

"Jajpur is an ancient place and there are thousands of ancient sculptures and artefacts

mention here that Dasarathpur village of Jajpur district witnessed a footfall of thousands of

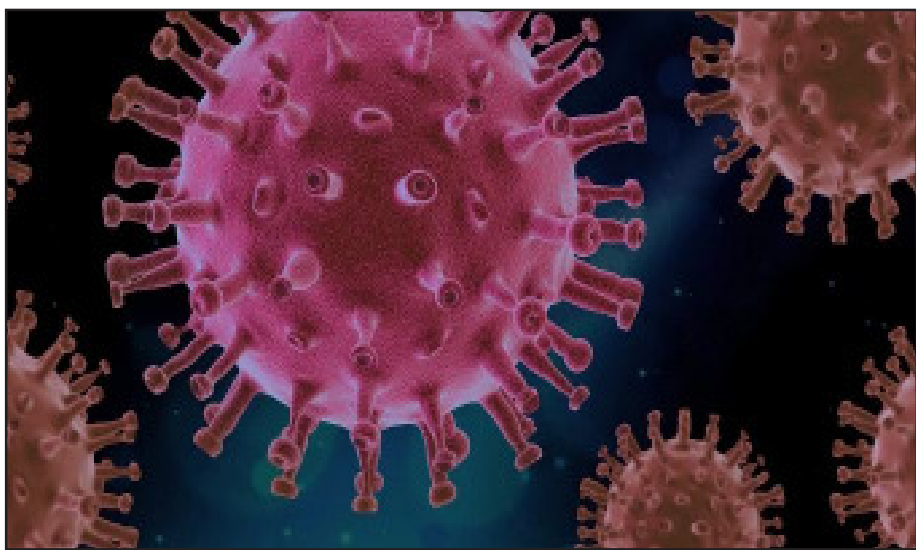


these ancient artefacts could have been recovered unbroken had they done the sand lifting carefully," said Goswami. Alleging that the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) is in a deep slumber, a local, Samarjit Mohanty said,

scattered all around the Baitarini river bank and riverbed. The ASI doesn't care to excavate those. They don't even care to come here and take a look at these remains which speak volumes of their apathy." It is pertinent to

people after the remains of a Shiva shrine were found in the Baitarini river here on March 16. The remains of the temple and an ancient lingam were reportedly found near the Siddheshwar Temple in the locality.

## Pharmacy College In Odisha Shut After Two Staff Test COVID-19 Positive



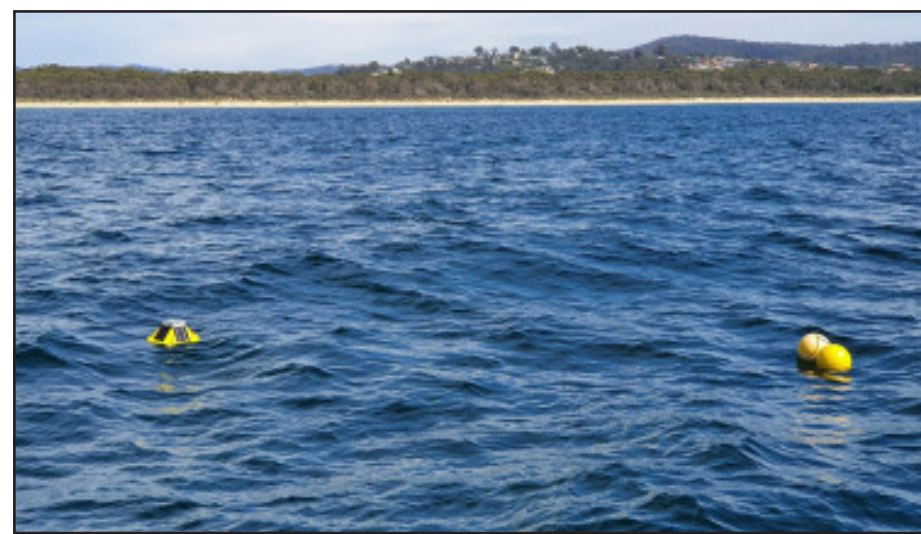
(A.O. Bureau)  
Sambalpur, Mar 25: With resurgence of Coronavirus across Odisha, two employees of a private pharmacy college tested

positive for the deadly virus in Sambalpur district. Two staff of Gayatri College of Pharmacy were found positive for COVID-19 following which the

college was shut to contain spread of infection. The college authorities announced to close the institution till Holi festival i.e March 29, 2021.

## Odisha Putting In Place Floating Buoy Barriers To Check Trawler Intrusion In Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary

(A.O. Bureau)  
Kendrapara, Mar 25: The Odisha Forest Department has undertaken an exercise to demarcate the Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary, widely regarded as the world's largest habitat for Olive Ridley sea turtles, by installing floating buoys to ensure the safety of marine animals. The installation work of the buoys along the boundary of the sanctuary to prevent entry of fishing trawlers, is underway and likely to be completed by March-end. As trawl fishing is attributed to be a major cause of turtle mortality, the boundary demarcation



programme was initiated, said Bikash Ranjan Dash, Divisional Forest Officer, Rajnagar Mangrove (Wildlife) Division. The Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary is regulated by the Wildlife (Protection) Act,

1972, where movement of boats and trawlers is prohibited up to 20 km towards the sea from the shore throughout the year. Outside the sanctuary on other nesting beaches, the movement of mechanised boats is

not allowed from September to March up to 5 km towards sea from the shore, under the Odisha Marine Fisheries Regulation Act (OMFRA). The state government had in 1997 conferred it ma-

rine sanctuary status in recognition of ecological significance and diverse floral and faunal resources. In order to ensure the turtles' safety, sea patrol is being undertaken and 35 trawlers, which had sneaked into the marine sanctuary for sea fishing, were seized and around 200 crew were arrested this nesting season, Dash said. This year, over 3 lakh turtles have crawled onto the Nasi-2 beach of Gahirmatha to lay eggs. An Olive Ridley turtle usually lays about 120 to 150 eggs from which hatchlings emerge after 45 to 50 days.

## Major Cattle Smuggling Racket Busted By Angul Police, 31 Arrested



(A.O. Bureau)  
Angul, Mar 25: The police here have busted a cattle smuggling racket with the arrest of 31 persons.

As many as 12 pick-up vehicles used for illegal transportation of cattle and a car were seized in connection with this racket.

Total 104 cattle were rescued while another succumbed. Besides, 21 mobile phones and cash of Rs 87,530 was recovered

from the possession of the smugglers. According to police, late-night on Wednesday Banarpal Police conducted a raid near Talmul and detained the convoy of 12 Pick Up vehicles loaded with cattle in 'miserable condition'. The convoy was being escorted by a car. The accused used to purchase the cattle from Narasinghpur, Athagarh and Hindol area and were transporting them towards Chamunda mar-

ket in Keonjhar, the police added. During the raid, the accused attempted to run over the police personnel who escaped narrowly from being hurt. The arrestees have been booked under relevant Sections of the IPC, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, and Odisha Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act. They have been forwarded to the court and further investigation is on.

## 3 Students Of NIT Rourkela Test COVID-19 Positive

(A.O. Bureau)  
Rourkela, Mar 25: Barely four days after the 18th convocation of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela, which was attended by President Ram Nath Kovind, three students of the institute have tested positive for coronavirus. Sundergarh Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan said the infected students have been kept in



isolation and steps are being taken to ensure that the virus does not spread further on the NIT campus. "Students, who attended the recent convocation ceremony, had come from across

the country. There was no corona case but three students have now tested positive. They are under home isolation and we will ensure that all students are tested," Kalyan said.



(A.O. Bureau)  
Paradip, Mar 25: Shri A K Bose, Deputy Chairman, Paradip Port Trust disbursed compensation of Rs 50 Lakhs by cheque to Smt. Sabita Lenka, wife and legal heir of Late Trinath Charana Lenka, contractual dresser of PPT Hospital, who succumbed to COVID-19 in October, 2020. The compensation was disbursed in this afternoon in the pres-

ence of Dr. P. Panda, CMO, PPT Hospital and other Medical staff. The scheme has been declared by the Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India. It may be noted that due to pro-active steps taken by the PPT Management and the PPT Hospital in particular, this has been the only loss of life at Paradip Port Trust in the ongoing COVID Pandemic.

## Post Master Gets 7-Yr RI For Embezzling Deposits In Odisha

Bhadrak, Mar 25: A post master of Ahrapada branch post office was awarded seven years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for misappropriation of deposits in Bhadrak district. Chief Judicial Magistrate Debadatta Patnaik, Bhadrak, convicted Kamalakanta Nayak under section 409 of IPC and sentenced him to seven years rigorous imprisonment in a 2016 postal deposit embezzlement case. The convict was also slapped with

Rs 10,000 fine failing to which he will undergo 1 year rigorous imprisonment. Nayak was accused of embezzling Rs 35 lakh deposited by 185 customers at the Ahrapada branch post office. The then Bhadrak Circle Postal Superintendent Paramananda Sahoo came to know about the massive misappropriation of postal deposits during an audit conducted in the year 2016 following which a written complaint was lodged at

the Bhadrak Rural Police Station. Based on an allegation, Police registered a case was registered under sections 409, 420, 467, 468 and 461 of IPC and initiated probe. The accused was arrested on August 23, 2017. During hearing of the case, the court today convicted him under section 409 of IPC and acquitted him under sections 420, 468 and 471 of IPC due to lack of evidence.



Godzilla vs Kong movie review: The colossal showdown recreates classic monster movie magic



New Delhi, Mar 25: Godzilla vs Kong movie review: This MonsterVerse movie would probably look spectacular wherever you watch it, but it absolutely dazzles on the big screen with epic monster-on-monster action and thunderous, almost deafening sound effects. If you needed a rock-solid reason to return to the cinemas, Godzilla vs Kong would easily fit the bill. This monster movie would probably look spectacular wherever you watch it, but it absolutely dazzles on the big screen with epic monster-on-monster action and thunderous, almost deafening, sound ef-

fects. The fourth film in Warner Bros and Legendary's MonsterVerse, a cinematic universe where giant monsters are real and have existed way before the human race came into being, Godzilla vs Kong pits two ancient alpha predators against each other. For some reason, Godzilla, a predator resembling a huge reptile who has the ability to bombard his enemies with nuclear radiation, has been attacking cities and killing people. Godzilla, always seen as more of a saviour than an indiscriminate killer, is mighty ticked off about something and has been felling cities like domi-

noes. Enter Kong. Since Kong: Skull Island, the giant ape on which many say the survival of humanity depends, has been dragged from his isolated island home to the civilisation. Luckily for humans, there is a little girl who has a connection to Kong and they communicate using sign language. Kong is bound and carried off aboard a ship to Antarctica, as the continent hides in its depths a door leading to a whole world inside the earth, the original abode of the titans. They intend to find out the secret to that hidden world and if the Hollow Earth theory has any truth. Meanwhile, a podcaster and a couple

of teenagers discover a nefarious conspiracy that may help explain why Godzilla has gone crazy. If you noticed why this review is talking about human characters in vague terms, there is a good reason. This monster mashup is another addition in the MonsterVerse in which human characters are seemingly thrown in just to have an excuse for the titanic clash. That is admittedly a shame, for there is actually quite an excellent ensemble. But chances are, if you bought a ticket to catch this movie in the theatres, you are here to witness the brawl. And when it comes to the promise of its title, Godzilla vs Kong

delivers immensely. Godzilla vs Kong : The two iconic movie monsters fight more than once, and each time it is like two gods battling it out for the supremacy of the world — which is perhaps not far from the truth. It is like recreation of the best of the classic monster movies, except this time everything looks ultra-detailed and realistic, if a word like that can be used here. The third act of the film is unadulterated big-screen goodness, and while the resolution of the conflict is something you see coming from a mile away, you'd hardly care. No matter which titan you wanted to win, you would likely feel satisfied with the outcome. Godzilla vs Kong is exactly what its trailers and promotional and marketing material said it would be: a big, thrilling, dumb action movie that no monster movie fan should miss. Forget Tenet, if the attendance in the cinema hall where this scribe watched the movie is any indication, it is Godzilla vs Kong that may end up renewing interest in the theatrical experience. It is the first quintessential popcorn-munching blockbuster you will see after a long, long time.

Deepika gets cosy with Ranveer in Silhouette Challenge but there is a twist

New Delhi, Mar 25: Deepika Padukone took up the Silhouette Challenge with Ranveer Singh, but the couple gave it their own playful spin. He, meanwhile, shared cute videos with her. Watch them here. Deepika Padukone gave the sensuous 'Silhouette Challenge' a fun twist, as she took it with her husband, Ranveer Singh. In a video posted on Instagram Reels, she could be seen cosying up to him but when the music transitions, they broke into a game of 'ring around the rosie'. "Should we Ring-a-Ring-a-Roses instead @ranveersingh!?" Deepika wrote, along with wink and laughing emojis. Ranveer's cheeky response was, "Sure, we can call it that," followed by a smirking emoji. Meanwhile, Ranveer took to Instagram to share two playful boomerang videos with Deepika. In the first, it looked like she was trying to bite his cheek, while in the second she gave him a kiss. "Pac-Man eats the Dot!" he wrote in his caption, followed by a zany face emoji and a heart. She commented, "Cutie! @ranveersingh," along with a heart-eyes emoji. On Wednesday,

Ranveer shared candid pictures of him and Deepika, on a set. In one of them, they could be seen gazing lovingly into each other's eyes, while the other two captured them mid-conversation. He captioned his post simply with a heart emoji. She gushed over him in the comments section and glimpses of their everyday activities with fans, from cooking to working out together. She told Hindustan Times in an interview that she was lucky that they 'didn't get locked down without each other'. Meanwhile, Ranveer and Deepika are awaiting the release of Kabir Khan's sports



Guide To Your Pre and Post-Workout Hair Care Routine



New Delhi, Mar 25: If you are struggling with messy hair, follow the pre and post-workout hair care regime by Agnes Chen, Technical Head of StreaX Professional. As the temperature starts soaring in this part of the year, working out gets increasingly difficult. Sweating in combination with summer heat can make working out tedious and also play havoc on the health of our hair, especially for those who exercise every day. There is always a dilemma of washing your hair every day to get rid of sweat and dirt, as dealing with greasy, sweaty, messy hair is not worth it. If you are also struggling with your messy hair — Agnes Chen, Technical Head, StreaX Professional, shares a pre-and post-workout hair care regime to help you achieve healthy hair too! Pre-Workout: Use Natural Oils, Shampoo Regularly for Healthy Hair in Monsoon. Ways to Rejuvenate Your Hair When Life Gets Busy. Always keep your hair fresh for the workout session and find a hairstyle that works with your work-

out plans. Relaxation exercise people prefer a loose bun to keep their mediating state comfortable. However, if you are doing cardio, something more secure like a braid or ponytail could work to keep your hair away from your face so that your workout sessions continue for a long time without any obstruction. Use hair accessories: It's important to tie your hair in a neat style, away from the face. Use hair accessories and headgears like sweatbands, scrunchy clips, pins and hairbands to tame flyaway caused by humidity and hold your style in place. Hair perfume and shine spray are the best. Traditional fragrance techniques tend to be loaded with alcohol, which can cause dryness if applied to hair. Hair perfumes have been designed pointedly for scenting your tresses, so they are free from any drying ingredients. Hair perfumes give your hair a boost of fragrance and leave it smelling fresh when you need it the most. Shine spray is excellent for giving your hair a lightweight pol-

ish, as well as long-lasting smoothness. Refresh your roots with shampoo and conditioning: Your hair care after workout sessions is key to refreshing your strands — and it does not have to be complicated. Schedule hair washes, according to your workout using a gentle, purifying shampoo. It helps cleanse even those harder to reach areas like your bangs — instantly absorbing excess sweat and oil. This helps to remove all sweat, grime, and dirt from the hair and scalp. Shampoo hair twice to ensure thorough cleansing. The temperature of the water should not be too hot or cold. Maintain between lukewarm to cool. Always use conditioner after the shampoo. Keep conditioner on the hair for 3-5 minutes. Rinse with cold water. Hair also needs TLC: It might be tempting to use an elastic hairband to tie up your hair but your strands deserve a little more tender love and care. Untie and loosen your hair and can use ribbon hair ties or spiralled ties to reduce the chance of hair breakages and prevent dents and kinks. Say a big NO to the hair dryer: Towel dry and let hair dry naturally. Do not dry using a hair dryer as it tends to dry up the hair. Don't forget to use a few drops of serum to remove frizz, detangle the hair and add a shine to the hair. So, you can save a little time from detangling and still have cared for hair.

Sona Mohapatra calls DMK leader 'moron' for sexist comment on women's bodies

New Delhi, Mar 25: Sona Mohapatra has reacted to DMK leader Dindigul Leoni's recent comments on women's bodies. She called him a moron. Singer Sona Mohapatra has reacted to DMK leader Dindigul Leoni's comments on women. Leoni, who is a party candidate from Tamil Nadu, said that modern women of the country no longer look like the shape of the number '8' as they drink foreign cows' milk. Sona called the leader a moron. "From Tamil Nadu to Uttarakhand, with many more in between & outside, moron's connected deeply by the disease of sexism & misogyny. Does this stupidity really appeal to

the masses? Anything for a cheap laugh or is it a considered choice to fuel & spread the toxic masculinity germ," she wrote in a tweet. From Tamil Nadu to Uttarakhand, with many more in between & outside, moron's connected deeply by the disease of sexism & misogyny. Does this stupidity really appeal to the masses? Anything for a cheap laugh or is it a considered choice to fuel & spread the toxic masculinity germ? Leoni made the comments during a campaign meeting. He said women have lost their shape and that they "increasingly look like a barrel". "In a cowshed, people use a milking machine for foreign



cows. These days, women drink milk from foreign cows because of which they have put on weight. Those days, a woman's hip resembled the number 8 [had curves]. When she lifted her child, the little one stayed put on the hip. But now they've become like a barrel

because of which women cannot carry their children on their hips," Leoni said, as per a report in India Today. Recently, Uttarakhand chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat caused a social media furore with his comments on women wearing ripped jeans. "Showing bare knees by

wearing ripped jeans just to look like rich kids is the value given now which is just a race towards westernisation when the Western world today is following us. Ripped jeans pave the way for societal breakdown and is a bad example parents set for children," he had said. Sona, Tahira Kashyap, Navya Naveli Nanda and Gul Panag had all criticised his comments. Speaking to ANI, actor-turned-politician Jaya Bachchan said, "Those in higher posts must think and make public statements. You say such things in today's times, you will decide who's cultured and who's not based on clothes? It's a bad mindset and encourages crimes against women."

Rajkummar Rao: I am getting offers from the West now



Mumbai, Mar 25: Actor Rajkummar Rao talks about the response to his Oscar-nominated film The White Tiger, and the box office of his film Roohi. 2021 has started off on a

great note for Rajkummar Rao, with two back-to-back projects hitting the desired mark. First came The White Tiger, his web film with Priyanka Chopra Jonas, which has been

making waves internationally, and then his film Roohi, which became the first major film to release in theatres after a year since Covid 19 hit. He reveals that pot TWT, the West has come calling with offers. "I did get some opportunities post it but am waiting for something exciting to come my way. It would be fun to explore work in the west as I had a great time being a part of this," he says. He is ecstatic though at the reviews pouring in, so much so that it will now compete in the Best Adapted Screenplay category at the Oscars. Rao says, "The film has

done phenomenally well worldwide. The kind of love I got from all over the world is overwhelming and for me to get an opportunity to work with Ramin (Bahrani, director) was a great experience. I've learnt a lot while filming it and would cherish that process forever." Back home, his film Roohi dared to release in theatres amid much uncertainty, and managed to attract people to theatres. The actor is satisfied with the response, and says, "I am very excited about the release and the kind of love it's getting from the audiences. I, as a cinema lover, was also

missing the experience of watching a film in theatres. Now the magic of cinemas has returned with Roohi." A fan of the big screen experience, he still advises people to take care of their health first. "Keeping the pandemic in mind, I would always encourage people to abide by the rules of the authorities and take proper precautions. Our film doing well at the box office is a sign that our audiences are ready to watch films in theatres again. I must say that the experience of watching a film on a big screen is something you can't recreate anywhere else," Rao says.



# Iyer to exit Eng series bio-bubble after shoulder injury



New Delhi, Mar 25: Shreyas Iyer will take no further part in India's three-match ODI series against England and will exit the bio-bubble after dislocating his left shoulder during the first ODI.

"Shreyas Iyer has been ruled out of the last two ODIs and he will exit the bubble," a Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) spokesperson told media said on Thursday. Iyer also

thanked those who have been expressing their support. "I've been reading your messages and have been overwhelmed by all the outpouring of love and support. Thank you from the

bottom of my heart to everyone. You know what they say, the greater the setback, the stronger the comeback. I shall be back soon Red heart," Iyer tweeted. The injury will be a cause for concern

for Delhi Capitals, who Iyer captains in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The IPL starts on April 9. "Absolutely devastated and gutted for our skipper @ShreyasIyer15 - stay strong captain - hope for a very quick recovery. Have full faith that you will come back even stronger from this. India needs you in the T20 World Cup. @DelhiCapitals @BCCI," said DC owner Parth Jindal in a tweet. During Tuesday's match, the BCCI said that Iyer had subluxated, or partially dislocated, his left shoulder while fielding during the first ODI. "UPDATE - Shreyas Iyer subluxated his left shoulder in the 8th over while fielding. He has been taken for further scans and won't take any further part in the game," the BCCI had tweeted.

# 2nd ODI: With series win in sight, India gear up for 'Surya Namaskar'

Pune, Mar 25: The immensely talented Suryakumar Yadav is likely to get a chance to showcase his '360 degree' hitting skills when a rampaging Indian team takes on a rather clueless England, aiming to seal off another series victory in the second ODI here on Friday. Shreyas Iyer's dislocated shoulder has once again brought Yadav in focus and his ODI debut, after a blockbuster T20 first outing, looks imminent after an all-round show by the hosts ensured an easy victory in the first game. Iyer has been one of India's most prolific 50-over batsman before the COVID-19 enforced lockdown but such is the team's strength that a debutant looks more formidable for a world champion opposition, who are no less menacing but seem utterly con-

worse, not find a place in the squad, which is a testimony to India's unimaginable depth of talent pool. The biggest positive during the opening game was Shikhar Dhawan's return to form with a match-winning 98. He was under pressure after being benched for a large part of the T20 series. The elegant southpaw would be raring to go one more time. Rohit Sharma had sustained a blow to his elbow during the first match but is expected to be fit in time for the second game. In case India want to give Rohit a short break, then Shubman Gill can open alongside Dhawan with KL Rahul coming in at his usual middle order slot. However, as per sources, Rohit is keen to get cracking as it's not very serious. It is expected that Pant would

recent past. We haven't won many good games in ODIs. I am, really a proud man right now," skipper Kohli had said after the first match as he sounded pleased with the team's effort. Meanwhile, England will look to level the series and stay alive in the contest. England have a lot to ponder on and injuries to skipper Eoin Morgan and batsman Sam Billings, while fielding, in the lung-opener have only added to their woes. Both appear doubtful for the second game. Bairstow was among the runs as he blazed to 94 off 64 balls as was his partner Roy (46). The two would be looking to put up another fine show and carry forward the aggressive brand of cricket, which was the cornerstone of the 2019 World Cup triumph. However, their middle

# 'I want my story to give hope': Alphonso Davies calls for support for refugees



New Delhi, Mar 25: Alphonso Davies, who played a key role in Bayern Munich's treble triumph last season, was born to Liberian parents in a refugee camp in Ghana, where he spent five years before moving to Canada. Bayern Munich defender Alphonso Davies said he hopes to boost support for refugees around the world after becoming the first footballer to be appointed a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Refugee Agency. Davies was born to Liberian parents in a refugee camp in Ghana, where he spent five years before moving to

Canada. The 20-year-old joined Bayern in 2018 and played a key role in the side that won the Champions League and Bundesliga titles last season. "My own experiences make me want to speak up for refugees, to share their stories and to help make a difference," Davies said in a statement on the Bayern website. "I want people to know about the importance of helping refugees, wherever they are, in camps or cities, in neighbouring countries or countries of resettlement such as Canada. "Refugees need our support to survive, but also access to education and sports, so they

can fulfil their potential and truly thrive." Davies said he was thankful his parents had fled from Liberia during the civil war and that he wanted his story to inspire refugees. "In that situation there are only two opportunities, either be part of the war or get out," Davies was quoted as saying by the BBC. "My parents had no intention of carrying guns and shooting guns. I am happy they chose to get out. "I will never forget where I came from and I want my story to give hope and excitement for other refugees to say, if he can do it, I can do it too."

# 'England doesn't operate on aggression': Ben Stokes on Virat Kohli's outbursts

Pune, Mar 25: Animated and aggressive body language might work well for Virat Kohli and his Indian team but that doesn't have a bearing on England's modus operandi, said their premier all-rounder Ben Stokes. The question was in reference to India captain Kohli's aggressive in-your-face demeanour while fielding or celebrating a fall of a wicket. "Every team and every player has a certain way of operating in the field, which makes them successful. As a team over the last four-five years, that's not the way that works for us," Stokes said on the eve of their must-win second ODI against India here. "We stick to what we do best and what we make is to build a better side. Each team is entitled to their own way of operations. India have there and we have ours," the dashing all-rounder said. Asked whether he preferred a "nice or spiky" Virat, Stokes gave a smart reply: "Personally, I prefer Virat doesn't get runs, because that's not good for us." After their 66-run loss in the first ODI, England risk of being usurped for their No 1 ranking but Stokes said it's not their driving force. "We deserve to be No 1 because of our results and how we played our cricket and we won't go away from that. Being No 1 is obviously a fantastic thing to have next to your name as a team, but it's not our driving force. "Our driving force is the way that we go about it and our attitude towards playing the game. And that's what's made us be successful, and the more successful we are obviously the more chance and the more opportunity we've got to be at No 1."



fused at this point. Being spoilt for choices is always a good headache to have for the think-tank and skipper Virat Kohli will be more pleased than anyone else. Kohli has not had Ravindra Jadeja's services for close to three months but neither Axar Patel in Tests, and now Krunal Pandya in the ODIs, have let the team miss their maverick from Rajkot. Prasidh Krishna, already a household name due to IPL, looked completely at home on his ODI debut, hurrying batsmen for pace in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami. And come to think of it, once Jadeja and Bumrah are back, a Krunal or Krishna will either cool their heels in the dug-out or even

play purely as a batsman and Rahul would continue to keep wickets. Chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav leaked 68 runs in nine overs and could be replaced by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal. The pace trio of experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Prasidh Krishna and the ever-improving Shardul Thakur took nine of the 10 wickets and would be keen to rock the England batting line-up again. The best part was how they came back after first 15 overs of mayhem by Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow. Shardul has been continuously playing and it won't be a bad option to try out T Natarajan or Mohammed Siraj for a bit of variation. "One of our sweetest victories in

order hasn't performed up to its potential and the likes of all-rounder Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler and Moeen Ali faltered with the bat. If England have to put a big total or chase a score, the trio needs to fire in unison. Their key spinners Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali haven't been able to trouble the Indian batters and both went wicket-less in the opening game. They will have to step up and deliver and along with Tom Curran, who will need to compliment his brother Sam and pace spearhead Mark Wood, who troubled the batters with his speed. Come Friday, it remains to be seen whether India are able to add "another sweetest victory" or if the visitors spoil their party.

# IPL will put players in good frame of mind ahead of T20 WC: Bairstow

Pune, Mar 25: England opener Jonny Bairstow feels the upcoming IPL will put the players in a "good frame of mind" going into the T20 World Cup as they will play in conditions similar to the ICC event in India later this year. Bairstow, who is currently involved in the three-match ODI series against India, will turn up for Sunrisers Hyderabad when the IPL gets underway on April 9. "It will be a great opportunity to play at different grounds that we could potentially be playing in the T20 World Cup. Also to see how different teams will go about bowling in those conditions," Bairstow said

during a virtual press conference on Wednesday. "Because, naturally with the dimension of the grounds and also wickets, it varies how attacks go about defending totals and batsmen go about setting them, so it will be an interesting competition." Sunrisers Hyderabad will open their campaign against Kolkata Knight Riders in Chennai on April 11. "Obviously playing over here, it was a new ground, it was a lot of learning but the games that we have got in IPL will be in Chennai. However, the acclimatisation in India, whether it would be to the conditions or weather or in general will hopefully help," he said.

# India win silver in 50m rifle 3 position women's team event at shooting World Cup

New Delhi, Mar 25: The Indian trio of Anjum Moudgil, Shreya Saksena and Gaayathri Nithyanadam claimed the silver medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions team event of the ongoing ISSF shooting World Cup here on Thursday. The Indian team shot 43 in the gold

medal showdown to finish behind the Polish team, which scored 47 to grab the top prize. Earlier, India had scored 1304 and 864 in the first and second qualifying rounds respectively. The Polish team comprised Aneta Stankiewicz, Aleksandra Szutko and Natalia



Kochanska. The bronze medal went to the Indonesian team consisting of

Vidya Rafika Rahmatan Toyyiba, Monica Daryanti and Audrey Zahra Dhiyaanisa, who beat the Hungarian troika of Lalita Gaspar, Eszter Denes and Lea Horvath 47-43. With this medal, India's overall tally swelled to 20 with 9 gold, six silver and five bronze medals.



# Special Train To Junagarh Road, Jagadalpur And Nayagarh Town From Bhubaneswar

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 25: It has been decided to run Special trains between Bhubaneswar & Junagarh Road, Bhubaneswar & Jagadalpur via Brahmapur and Vizianagaram and between Bhubaneswar & Nayagarh Town. BHUBANESWAR-JUNAGARH ROAD SPECIAL: 02097 Bhubaneswar-Junagarh Road Special will run from Bhubaneswar w.e.f. 10th April, 2021 and 02098 Junagarh Road-Bhubaneswar Special will leave from Junagarh Road w.e.f. 11th April, 2021. This train will leave Bhubaneswar at 2140hrs and will reach at Junagarh Road at 0910hrs on the following days. In the return direction, this train from Junagarh Road will leave at 1730hrs and will arrive at Bhubaneswar at 0520hrs on next day. It will have stoppages at Khurda Road, Balugaon, Chhatrapur, Brahmapur,



Ichhapuram, Palasa, Srikakulam Road, Vizianagaram, Bobbili, Parvatipuram, Rayagada, Bissamcuttack, Muniguda, Ambodala and Bhawanipatna between Bhubaneswar and Junagarh Road from both the directions. BHUBANESWAR-JAGDALPUR SPECIAL: 08447 Bhubaneswar-Jagadalpur Special will run from Bhubaneswar w.e.f. 20th April, 2021 and 08448 Jagadalpur-Bhubaneswar Special will leave from

Jagadalpur w.e.f. 21st April, 2021. This train will leave Bhubaneswar at 1935hrs and will reach at Jagadalpur at 1155hrs on the following days. In the return direction, this train from Jagadalpur will leave at 1630hrs and will arrive at Bhubaneswar at 0820hrs on the next day. It will have stoppages at Khurda Road, Nirakarpur, Kalupadaghat, Balugaon, Khalikot, Chhatrapur, Brahmapur, Ichhapuram, Sompeta, Palasa, Srikakulam

Road, Chipurupalli, Vizianagaram, Bobbili, Parvatipuram, Parvatipuram Town, Rayagada, Tikiri, Damanjodi, Koraput and Jeypore between Bhubaneswar and Jagadalpur from both the directions. Earlier, this Special Train was running between Bhubaneswar and Koraput via Sambalpur, Titilagarh & Rayagada. The original route via Brahmapur, Vizianagaram & Rayagada (of the pre-covid time) will now be restored for the

convenience of passengers. The service via Sambalpur & Titilagarh will be cancelled w.e.f. 19th April from Bhubaneswar and w.e.f. 20th April, 2021 from Koraput. BHUBANESWAR-NAYAGARH TOWN SPECIAL: 08423 Bhubaneswar-Nayagarh Town Special will run from Bhubaneswar w.e.f. 13th April, 2021 and 08424 Nayagarh Town-Bhubaneswar Special will leave from Nayagarh Town w.e.f. 14th April, 2021. This train will leave Bhubaneswar at 1840hrs and will reach at Nayagarh Town at 2045hrs. In the return direction, this train from Nayagarh Town will leave at 0630hrs and will arrive at Bhubaneswar at 0900hrs. It will have stoppages at Khurda Road, Khurda Town, Begunia, Rajsunakhala and Bolagarh Road between Bhubaneswar and Nayagarh Town from both the directions.

# Literary Meeting And Poem Recitation Held

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Mar 25: A "Sahitya Sabha and Kavita Pathotsava" courtesy of the Paradip Sahitya Sansad along with the Paradip Ladies Club has been held at the Shramik Bhavan Assembly Hall in Madhuban, Paradip. Mr. Prashant Kumar Raut, Secretary, Paradip Sahitya Sansad presided over the function on 25th March

Wednesday morning. former member of Odisha Sahitya Academy and prominent columnist Akshay Kumar Rout was the chief guest. He told that The world of literature is vast and the writers and poets are the small and strongest part of it. He elaborate how ordinary people become extraordinary and immortal by composing literature. Odisha

Sahitya Academy awardee Pitambar Tarai attended as chief speaker on this occasion. "The poet is fearless, he is not afraid of anyone, he preaches the message of poetry. The society does not remember the king, but the poet No one remembers Kapilendra Dev but Sharla Das. Pratap Rudra is not remembered but everyone remembers Jag.



# Congress targets Kerala CM Vijayan on fishing contract with US firm

(A.O. Bureau) Kerala, Mar 25: "There is ample evidence to substantiate that the Chief Minister was well aware of the project and all details about the controversial proposal submitted by the US-based firm," Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala alleged. The Congress on Thursday alleged that the involvement of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's office in the deep sea fishing contract between the state government and a US-based firm was exposed now and attempts by him to ab-

"proof" about the knowledge and involvement of the Chief Minister and his office in the controversial project. "There is ample evidence to substantiate that the Chief Minister was well aware of the project and all details about the controversial proposal submitted by the US-based firm which mooted the project for deep sea fishing in Kerala coast," the Congress leader alleged. "I have not seen such a Chief Minister who tells nothing but lies," he added. A row had erupted over the

proposing and proceeding with such a project without consulting or informing the state government. Prashant served as the private secretary to Chennithala when he became the state home minister in 2014. "There is a conspiracy hatched to target the Chief Minister's office. Since the probe is going on, I am not revealing much now. These days, nothing can be kept as a secret for long. The beginning of this issue itself was part of that conspiracy." "We have done so much



solve from its responsibility has "miserably failed". However, Vijayan refuted the allegation and said there is a conspiracy to target the Chief Minister's office in the matter. Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Ramesh Chennithala's attack on the chief minister came at a press conference here in response to a channel report that claimed rpt claimed

MoU signed for deep sea fishing resulting in the government terminating the pact inked with the US firm, EMCC, for deep sea trawling and construction of state-of-the-art trawler-boats. However, the government had put the blame solely on Prashant, Managing Director of the Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC) Limited, for

for the fishermen community and have their support...," Vijayan said, adding this has irked the opposition parties. The Chief Minister said the LDF has declared in its manifesto for the assembly polls a ₹5,000 crore package for coastal area development to protect the shores from erosion, harbour and market development along the coasts, among others.

# West Bengal Janata not afraid of Mamata Didi's thugs - Dharmendra Pradhan



(A.O. Bureau) West Bengal, Mar 25: A man is playing with Asmita of West Bengal in the ongoing elections "Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, campaigned for the BJP candidate in Nandigram, West Bengal, on the sidelines of the election campaign, Union Minister

Dharmendra Pradhan said on Thursday. Similarly, the people of West Bengal's Nandigram are no longer afraid of Mamata Didi's thugs. Mr. Pradhan said his mother and sister-in-law from West Bengal would respond appropriately on the 1st. "Mr Pradhan said Mamata had been cheating on West Bengal for 10 years" "It simply came to our notice then. West Bengal's values

- The Union Minister campaigned with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath
- For 10 years, Mamata Didi has been cheating on the people of West Bengal
- Nandigram wants public change to avenge the humiliation

are being jeopardized. Cut money, looting and tolls are being inflicted. Farmers in West Bengal are not benefiting from the PM Kisan Yojana. "Why didn't Didi pay after Prime Minister Modi paid for the families affected by

the violence? The money of the central scheme is being spent on the work of the family people without spending for the benefit of the people. "These 10 years will be counted in the Nandigram

people's elections. "West Bengal is ready for change. The voice of change that began in Nandigram "The whole of India is buzzing. "Nandigram by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee" "The rescue squad wasn't called for him," she told the Associated Press. On the other hand "In West Bengal, the BJP aims to bring development from the poor to the poor and to every sector "Promised. "As many as 3.5 million houses have been built under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme" "Under the Soubhagya Yojana, 1.5 crore households have been connected to electricity, under the Swachh Bharat Yojana, 6.3 million toilets have been constructed and under the Prime Minister's Ujjwala Yojana, 4.5 lakh gas connections have been made," he said.

# Param Bir Singh files plea against Anil Deshmukh in HC after SC directive

(A.O. Bureau) Mumbai, Mar 25: Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh on Thursday filed a public interest litigation in the Bombay High Court seeking an "immediate and unbiased" probe against Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, who he claimed asked police officer Sachin Waze to collect Rs 100 crore from bars and

restaurants. The IPS officer had earlier this week approached the Supreme Court, which on Wednesday termed as quite serious the matter in which he had filed a plea against Deshmukh, but asked him to approach the Bombay High Court with his grievances. Singh said in his plea before the High Court that Deshmukh held meetings at his residence with several

Mumbai police officials, including Waze, in February this year. In these meetings, Deshmukh instructed the officers to collect Rs 100 crore per month from various establishments, the plea reads. It added that Deshmukh regularly interfered with police functioning and often misused his office. Deshmukh's conduct warranted a probe by the Central Bureau of Investi-



gation (CBI), the plea read. Singh urged the court to direct the CBI to conduct an immediate, unbiased, unin-

fluenced, impartial, and fair investigation in the "various corrupt malpractices" of the minister.