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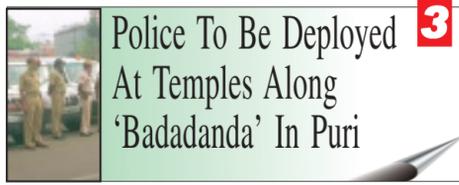
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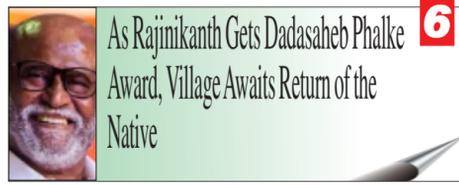
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Odisha govt transfers Rs 694 crore to accounts of 34 lakh farmers under KALIA scheme



Bhubaneswar, Apr 1: Odisha government has transferred Rs 693.94 crore to accounts of around 34 lakh farmers under the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme. Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik said that farmers have played an important role in economy of during Covid-19 pan-

demic. "I am proud of farmers and it's heartening to note that KALIA is having an impact in the lives of 37 lakh farmers in the state as well as 17 lakh landless poor. KALIA scheme is the only scheme in the entire country which also helps landless poor along with farmers," said Patnaik. The CM further said that he will continue to fight for the

rights of the farmers. "I have always been with the farmers and will continue to fight for their rights. We will continue to demand implementation of recommendation of MS Swaminathan Committee," he added. The Odisha government has spent Rs 6,690 crore under the scheme in the last three years.

Three Projects In Odisha Receive Ministry Of Road Transport And Highway's Approval



New Delhi, Apr 1: The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways today approved upgradation, rehabilitation and reconstruction of a number of projects in several states including India. The Ministry gave its approval for construction of a by-

pass on NH-59 for Berhampur town including 4L ROB on EPC mode with a budget Rs 196.94 crore. The proposed construction of a Railway Over Bridge at Matiapada on Puri - Konark Road on EPC mode with a budget Rs.

137.61 crore also received the Ministry's approval. Reconstruction of five submersible bridges replacing them with high level bridges of NH-326 (Malkangiri - Motu) was approved by the Ministry. A total of Rs 154.05 crore will be spent on the project.

People Are Not Mere Consumers, They Are Shareholders In Development: Odisha CM

Bhubaneswar, Apr 1: People are not mere consumers, they are shareholders in development, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. "My government is consistently making efforts for Odisha's development. But then development should not be limited to being merely an objective of the government. People are not merely consumers, they are shareholders in development," said Patnaik addressing the State level Odisha Day or Utkala Dibasa celebrations through video conferencing organized by the I & PR department at the Jayadev Bhawan here today. He said that for our real development we have to turn the development process into a peoples' movement. "I wish that our people should be shareholders in all the aspects of development. Our programmes like 'Mo School' and 'Mo College' are a special initiative in this direction," he stated. The Chief Minister in-



formed that 5 lakh alumni have come forward to extend their support in the development of their schools. "This is no small achievement. If we work in this fashion Odisha will certainly move forward," he stated. Patnaik while congratulating all Odias staying in Odisha and abroad on the occasion of Utkala Dibasa or Odisha Day said that it was for the sacrifice and struggles of stalwarts like Utkal

Gourab Madhusudan Das, Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das, Parala Maharaja Krishna Chandra Gajapati, Khallikote Raja Bahadur Ram Chandra Mardharaj Deo, Pandit Godavarish Mishra, Fakir Mohan Senapati, and Gangadhar Meher. He offered his tributes to those who made possible the dream of a separate State of Odisha. He said that at that time Odisha had shown the

way for the constitution of states on linguistic basis in the country. The Chief Minister pointed out that now Odisha has become a model for others in the country by excelling in several fields like women empowerment, disaster management, organising international sports competitions and welfare programmes for the poor people and several others. There has been visible development in the fields of

agriculture, industry, education, health, and infrastructure, he added. Patnaik reminded the people that now we are passing through an abnormal time. "For over a year with your cooperation, we have successfully tackled Corona. But now there is an apprehension of the second wave. I, therefore, appeal all to adhere to Corona guidelines. I strongly believe that we will succeed in eliminating Corona," he asserted.

Relief From Heat Wave As IMD Issues Rain, Thunderstorm Alert For Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Apr 1: After reeling under intense heat wave conditions for the past couple of days, the people of Odisha are expected to get much needed relief as India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted rain, thunderstorm in the next few days. As per the latest weather bulletin, the heat wave conditions will prevail in Odisha for the next 24 hours. Orange warning has been issued for 16 districts- Balasore,

Bhadrak, Jajpur, Cuttack, Nayagarh, Boudh, Sonepur, Bolangir, Nuapada, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Deogarh, Sambalpur, Angul and Dhenkanal. From tomorrow (April 2), maximum temperature (day temperature) is very likely to fall by 3-4 degree Celsius across the State. Besides, several districts will experience light to moderate rain or thundershower for the next four days.

When 'Bande Utkala Janani' Was Sung At The Foot Of Burj Khalifa On Utkala Dibasa

Dubai, Apr 1: It was a nostalgic moment for Odia families residing in Dubai as they gathered at the foot of Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world this morning and celebrated 'Utkala Dibasa' on the foreign land. Maintaining social distancing guidelines with face masks on, the Odia families who congregated at the foot on Burj Khalifa celebrated Odisha's formation Day by singing Katakabi Laxmikant Mohapatra's 'Bande Utkala Janani.' Later, they relished on Odisha's much-loved traditional delicacies 'Arisa Pitha', 'Aloo Dum' and 'Baraa.' This little celebration was apparently a humble gesture from the Odia people who have been residing in the UAE for almost a decade now, expressing that they missed their motherland and are yearning to visit once the COVID-19 pandemic situation normalizes. Richa Samantray, an Odia en-

trepreneur settled in UAE for the last 10 years had volunteered to prepare the Odia delicacies for today's special occasion and that gave her immense joy, she said. Another Odia Priyandarshee Panigrahi who is working with an FMCG company said that reciting 'Bande Utkala Janani' at

that venue was a unique experience for him. Adding to the list, Rajesh Tripathy, who has been working with a large global business school expressed that the celebration was symbolic and inculcated a sense of patriotism and fraternal bonding among the fellow Odias residing in the foreign land.



Pipili hots up for the bypoll

Pipili, Apr 1: The campaign for the bypoll to Pipili Assembly constituency in Puri district has gained momentum with ruling BJD and Opposition BJP leaving no stone unturned to woo the voters. However, the fight is between Rudra Pratap Maharathy of BJD, son of Pradeep Maharathy, and Ashrit Pattanayak of BJP. Ajit Mangaraj is contesting on Congress ticket. A number of ministers and senior leaders of BJD have camped for campaigning in the constituency which

will go to polls on April 17. The BJD had assigned four senior party leaders responsibility of management of the party's campaign for the bypoll. Party vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra, bypoll observer Pratap Deb, former Puri MLA Maheswar Mohanty and deputy chairperson of State Planning Board Sanjay Das Burma have been appointed to supervise campaigning in Pipili. Today it gave charge to six more leaders to manage poll campaign. Besides,



scores of office bearers of party's youth and student wings are engaged in groundwork for door-to-door campaign. The BJP has also accelerated the pace of its campaign with party heavyweights addressing several meetings

across the constituency with announcement of a long list of star campaigners. On the other hand, the Congress camp appears to be in a demoralised position even though the party leaders are campaigning for Ajit

Mangaraj. In 2019 election, Pradeep Maharathy had won with 88,518 votes defeating Ashrit Pattanayak who got 72,731 votes. Congress candidate Ajit Mangaraj had secured only 9,830 votes. The BJP candidate in the 2019 election Pattanayak had given a tough fight to Pradeep Maharathy but lost with a margin of 15,787 votes. This time, the bypoll is expected to witness a close fight between ruling BJD and opposition BJP.

IIFL Home Finance launches India's first handbook for affordable green housing

New Delhi, Apr 1: India's leading home loan company, IIFL Home Finance has launched India's first handbook for affordable green housing to provide consumers, builders and the construction ecosystem with a definitive framework for building green homes. The handbook conceived by IIFL and renowned architect Mr Ashok Lall was recently launched at a virtual event attended by leaders from the industry regulator, corporates, funds and socially responsible housing community. Speaking at launch, Mr S.K. Hota, MD, National Housing Bank, the housing finance sector regulator said, "The need of the hour is to take green buildings to residential housing and more particularly to the ones in affordable housing segment. It is a myth that green housing is only for the premium segment and is not viable for the affordable housing segment." Mr S Sridhar, Chairman, IIFL Housing Finance Ltd said, "Our vision is to main-

BUILDING GREEN

IIFL Home Loans' Guide to Sustainable Affordable Housing



stream sustainable housing and by sustainable housing we mean green affordable housing in India." Mr Monu Ratra, CEO, IIFL Home Finance, who has been a pioneer through his green housing in India and brain behind this book said, "Books last forever and this handbook is our contribution towards sustainable affordable housing in India." IIFL Home Finance has already been propagating the idea of affordable green housing in India, through 'Kutumb' and addressing issues of financing, technical know-how and creating a common

platform for solution. With the intent of reducing carbon footprint and supporting climate action in the long-run, IIFL Home Finance provides extensive support from inception to delivery of the project through their highly skilled technical team of 'Green Value Partner'. Considering the housing needs of a billion plus population, green affordable housing is the only way forward to prevent climate crisis while ensuring social impact. Appreciating, IIFL Home Finance's efforts, Susan Olsen, Senior Specialist, Private Sector Financial Institutions,

South Asia - ADB said, "We need to find more companies like IIFL Home Finance Ltd, who have the vision to support green affordable housing construction." Green Housing to attract investments and support climate action. With increased focus on climate action globally, finance institutions and funds across the world are recalibrating their financing and investment strategy and providing higher allocation to businesses that have adopted sustainable approaches. Mr N Srinivasan, MD and Head of South Asia, CDC Group said, "If we are not following the lines of green agenda, global institutions will not invest in the country." Agreeing to Mr Srinivasan's views, Mr Nirmal Jain, Founder and Chairman of IIFL Group said, "Investment will automatically flow to the private sector if they ensure green and sustainable development in India and housing is a major part of it." In this context the role of the housing sector becomes extremely important as

the construction industry is one of the biggest consumers of non-renewable resources. Even after completion, most buildings continue to be responsible for huge CO2 emissions. Buildings in India already accounts for more than 30% of India's electricity use, and two-thirds of the buildings that will exist in India by 2030 are yet to be built. There is a sizable opportunity in pre-empting these consequences considering that much of this growth in floor spaces. Mr R Venkataraman, MD, IIFL Finance said, "This is why green construction is so important. To quantify the benefits, green construction has potential to reduce global CO2 emission by as much as 84 gigatonnes by 2050." Mr Sean Kidney, CEO, Climate Bonds initiative said, "We need to grow, expand, promote and ensure appropriate labelling scales that address the performance of built in environment, to ensure sustainable development and reverse climate change."

NTPC delivers electrifying performance in FY21

New Delhi, Apr 1: NTPC, India's largest power generating company recorded its highest ever group generation of 314 BU in FY 21, a growth of 8.2% compared to previous year. On a standalone basis, NTPC generated 270.9 BU in FY21, an increase of 4.3% over the previous year. NTPC group recorded highest ever single day generation of 1192.42 MU (Group) & 990.65 MU (NTPC). The coal plants registered a PLF of 66% with an Availability factor of 91.43%. In another feat, Singrauli Unit-1 in Uttar Pradesh, first and the oldest Unit of NTPC which was commissioned 39 years ago and Korba Unit-2, in Chhattisgarh commissioned 37 years ago has achieved more than 100% PLF (Plant Load Factor). The stellar performance of Singrauli and Korba Units is a testimony to the expertise of NTPC engineers, Operation & Maintenance practices and NTPC systems. NTPC also realized 100% of the billed amount from

the Discoms and for the first time, realization crossed Rs. 1 Lakh Crore. The total installed capacity of NTPC Group increased by 5.96% to 65810 MW with 4160 MW of capacity addition in FY21. On a standalone basis, NTPC Capacity increased by 4.03% to 52385 MW. Along with power generation,

The group has over 18 GW of capacity under construction, including 5 GW of renewable energy projects. Uninterrupted supply of electricity through environment-friendly energy projects at affordable prices has been the hallmark of NTPC. NTPC is striving to achieve highest reliability and efficiency keeping safety



NTPC has also ventured into various new business areas like e-mobility, Waste-to-Energy and participated in the bidding for power distribution of Union Territories. NTPC is also actively exploring Green Hydrogen solutions and captive industries in its plant premises. NTPC Group has 70 Power stations including 26 Renewable projects.

and environment issues on top. With global shift in energy space, NTPC is increasingly emphasising on ESG and changed its focus to renewable for future growth while improving on sustainability matrix. Sustained efforts are underway for transforming into an Integrated Energy Company.

Russian foreign minister in Delhi next week



New Delhi, Apr 1: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will visit India next week and meet his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar. Spokeswoman of the Russian Foreign Ministry Maria Zakharova said on Thursday that "On April 5-6, Sergey Lavrov will visit New Delhi to hold talks with Foreign Minister Dr S. Jaishankar". She added that the ministers "will discuss bilateral relations and preparations for the upcoming Heads of State

meeting". Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to come to India later in the year. It is a usual bilateral visit by the Russian minister. However, it comes at a time when India's multi-billion-dollar deal to buy the air-defence S-400 systems from Russia has come under pressure from the US recently. Last month US Defence Secretary Llyod Austin had mentioned the deal in his conversations with Indian leaders during his Delhi visit. Apart from

defence, the visit of the Russian foreign minister comes soon after India was formally given a seat on the negotiating table to draw a roadmap for peace in Afghanistan, along with Russia, the US, Pakistan, Iran and China. The Indian Express had reported on March 9 that Moscow had tried to keep India out of the process, however, after hectic diplomacy by India for months, the US-suggested mechanism had included India. On March 10, in response to the story, a Russian embassy statement had said that India's "eventual" involvement was natural. "Russia always stated that India plays a very important role in Afghanistan, and its eventual deeper involvement in dedicated dialogue formats is natural," the embassy said.

PFC pays interim dividend of Rs 1182.63 crore to Government of India for the financial year 2020-21

New Delhi, Apr 1: Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, CMD, PFC presenting bank advice of an interim dividend of Rs 1182.63 crore to Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) Power and New & Renewable Energy & Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. New Delhi: Power Finance Corporation, a Schedule - A Navratna CPSE and India's leading NBFC for the Power Sector has paid an interim dividend of Rs 1182.63 crore to Government of India for the financial year 2020-21 on March 31st, 2021 on 1,47,82,91,778 number of equity shares



(56%) held by the government. The interim dividend RTGS intimation bank advice was presented to Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) Power and New & Renew-

able Energy & Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship by Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, CMD, PFC in the presence of Shri Alok Kumar, Secretary (Power), Shri

Ashish Upadhyaya, Additional Secretary (Power) & FA, Government of India, Shri P.K. Singh, Director (Commercial) PFC and Smt. Parminder Chopra, Director (Finance) PFC. The in-

terim dividend for FY2020-21 at the rate of Rs 8/- per equity share of face value of Rs 10 each was declared by the Board of Directors of PFC in its meeting held on 12th March 2021.

Narmada canal broke 100 times in last two years



Gandhinagar, Apr 1: Between 2019 and 2020, the total number of incidents where the canal broke in the district rose by 43 per cent, the government stated in a written reply to a question asked by Congress

MLA Gulabsinh Rajput during the Question Hour. The Narmada canal broke 100 times during the last two years in Banaskanta district of North Gujarat, the state government said on Thursday. Between

2019 and 2020, the total number of incidents where the canal broke in the district rose by 43 per cent, the government stated in a written reply to a question asked by Congress. MLA Gulabsinh Rajput during

the Question Hour. The government said there were 41 incidents where the canal broke in 2019, while in 2020, the incidents rose to 59. In 72 cases, the cost of repairing the canal was recovered from 10 contrac-

tors. The highest number of such recovery (30 cases) was from Jalaram Project Pvt Ltd, the government stated. The firm was also fined in six cases. In 13 cases, where farmers suffered crop loss a total of Rs 2.42 lakh was given as compensation. In response to a different question asked by Congress MLA Ritvik Makwana about the status of construction of Narmada canals, the government stated that 7,729 kilometers of canal network was yet to be built. The government also said that a total of 62,099 kilometers of canal network has been completed.

Lt Gen Manjinder Singh is new Chief of Staff, Western Command

Chandigarh, Apr 1: Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh laid a wreath at the Command War Memorial and paid homage to the soldiers who had laid down their lives in the line of duty under the Western Command. Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh took over as the Chief of Staff, Headquarters Western Command, Thursday. He laid a wreath at the Command War Memorial and paid homage to the soldiers who had laid down their lives in the line of duty under the Western Command. Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, YSM, VSM, Colonel of The Madras Regiment took over as

the 47th Chief Of Staff of Western Command. The general is an alumnus of Sainik School Kapurthala, National Defence Academy and

environment in J&K, an infantry brigade at the Line of Control and an infantry division as part of a Strike Corps. He has been an instructor at



Indian Military Academy. He was commissioned into 19 Madras in December 1986. He has commanded a battalion in counter-insurgency

the Indian Military Academy and Indian Military Training team at Bhutan. He also attended National Defence College in Thailand.

Odisha Durniti Sangharsh Manch condemns bombing of RTI activists

Bhubaneswar, Apr 1: On the night of March 26, 21, Dharamsalara-area information rights activist Sarveshwar Behera and journalist Sushant were hit by a car bomb and were

dropped off by miscreants. Fortunately, he survived and is being treated at Cuttack General Hospital. Fearless journalists were also injured. "Sarveshwar brought to light the looting of minor minerals in Jajpur district and also raised the issue of the demolition of the Kelua River by Mamuvanja Ghai, which is believed to have been carried out by some vested

interests. "Earlier, RTI activists in Niali, Kendrapara and other areas were killed and RTI activists were attacked in many parts of the state. "The Odisha Anti-Corruption Forum

strongly opposes such attacks and political violence by vested interests. Manch is urging police to take immediate and firm action against those involved in such acts.

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Gotipua Utsav and Aradhana Samman-2020

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 1: The Aradhana Dance Academy celebrated its eighth Gotipua Utsav

ater, Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Center, Bhubaneswar. Many dignitaries attended the

Rajhansi, social workers were present. This year, the Worship Award-2020 was given to Mr. Basudev Malvishoi, Mr. Lalit

Samantaraya Youth Talent Award-2020, the role of Das and Shivani Sangeeta, and the Worship Award for National

beginning of the evening. Later, Kumari Rajalakshmi (Mahari), Aradhana (Gotipua), Guru Pitambar Bishwal (Suravi) and Aradhana (Odissi) performed Shivaya. Later, Amulya Balbantrao (Rudraksha Foundation), Guru Pusparanjan Mangraj (Nriyjanjali), Guru Sanatan Nayak (Dance Hall) and Guru Pankaj Kumar Pradhan (Odissi Creation) performed Odissi dance. The stage was managed by Dr Ing Srinivasa Ghatwari and Biswajit Baliyar Singh. Dr. Sneha Prabha Samantaraya, President of the Institute, and Chitra Sena Swamy, Editor, thanked the participants.



and Aradhana Samman-2020 for two days on Tuesday and Wednesday. The festival was held at Utkal The-

ceremony. On the first evening, Suresh Kumar Rautaray, MLA Jatani, L.N. Agrawal, Director Hemraj, Mrs. Sushmita

Narayan Rath. The Worship Gotipua Award-2020 was given to Guru Satyapriya Palai, the Sneha Prabha

Integration 2020 was given to Mohan Mohapatra (Silver Gandhi). Evening music to Balakrishna Jena at the

beginning of the evening. Later, Kumari Rajalakshmi (Mahari), Aradhana (Gotipua), Guru Pitambar Bishwal (Suravi) and Aradhana (Odissi) performed Shivaya. Later, Amulya Balbantrao (Rudraksha Foundation), Guru Pusparanjan Mangraj (Nriyjanjali), Guru Sanatan Nayak (Dance Hall) and Guru Pankaj Kumar Pradhan (Odissi Creation) performed Odissi dance. The stage was managed by Dr Ing Srinivasa Ghatwari and Biswajit Baliyar Singh. Dr. Sneha Prabha Samantaraya, President of the Institute, and Chitra Sena Swamy, Editor, thanked the participants.

"Water Service Camp" by Odisha State India Scouts and Guides



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 1: Every year, the Odisha State Scouts Guide or-

ganizes a water service center to quench the thirst of pedestrians. This year, the state chief

commissioner, Dr. As per Kaliprasad Mishra's order, since 01.08.2011, water service centers have been set up near the main gates of the headquarters and some schools in Bhubaneswar and yogurt lemons have been distributed everywhere. The function was attended by all the officials of the State Chief Commissioner, the State Treasurer and the State Office. The program will run until May 31.

Sex Racket In Cuttack, Woman Rescued, 4 Arrested

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 1: The police today busted a sex racket operating in the Ranigata area of Cuttack

city. Acting on a tip-off, Mangalagiri police conducted a raid on a house in the Ranigata area and rescued a young woman.

Police To Be Deployed At Temples Along 'Badadanda' In Puri

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Apr 1: Hours after cash and valuables were stolen from the Shree Mausima Mandira, the Puri Police today decided to deploy police personnel at all the temples along the 'Badadanda' (Grand Road). Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh reviewed the

security measures at all the temples along the 'Badadanda' and informed about the decision on police deployment. Earlier in the day, Puri King Gajapati Dibya Singha Deb demanded the Puri District Administration to ensure safety and security of temples in



Puri town. "I am surprised to learn about the incident of theft last night at Shree Mausima Mandira on Puri Bada Danda. The District

and Police Administration must take all steps to nab the culprits and work out a comprehensive and effective strategy to ensure

safety and security of all places of worship in Most Holy Shreeekshetra," said the Puri King. Meanwhile, the Puri SP informed one person was detained by Kumbharapada police for questioning. This apart, two teams have been formed to probe the matter.

Odisha needs to be determined to make it the world's richest state by 2036 - Dharmendra Pradhan

Bhubaneswar, Apr 1: April 1, 1936 The linguistic state of Odisha was formed. "With great goals and objectives, great men are boundless, racial and non-linguistic. "Brought the fragmented Odisha together. "Addressing the Oriya people through a virtual platform from the Huguli river crossing in Kolkata on Thursday on the occasion of the 7th 'Utkal Day', the people of Odisha will never forget the efforts made by the great men to unite the isolated Odisha. "Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said. "By 2036, we must be determined to make Odisha the richest state in the world," he said. "On the occasion, Mr. Pradhan paid homage to the forefathers and great men of the formation of the special Utkal Pradesh and sang the state anthem "Bande Utkal Janani" with the Oriya expatriates of West Bengal. "He said 2034 would mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Odisha Linguistic State. Similarly, 204 will mark the 100th anniversary of the



country's independence. "During this time we have to make Odisha a stronger society. "We need to take responsibility for building a prosperous region not only in India but also in the world. "Utkal Gaurab Madhusudan Das, Utkalmani Gopbandhu Das, Maharaja Sri Ramchandra Bhanjdeo, Maharaja Krishnachandra Gajapati, Basakbi Fakir Mohan Senapati, poet Radhanath Rai, Swabha poet Gangadhar Meher and many other heroes made a special union for Odisha. "The first Utkal Conference was formed in 1903 in the struggle of this heroic son. "The Utkal Confer-

ence was organized by Madhusudan Das. "After the Yordaan struggle, a separate state of Odisha was formed on April 1, 1936. "Remembering our Oriya story evokes a kind of shiver in the minds of Oriyas. "Beginning with King Kharbel, leaders like Narasimha Deb, Bakshi Jagbandhu and hero Surendra Sai did not bow down. "Oriya caste, language, culture and its traditions are unique. "Odissi dance and music, Raghurajpur's portrait, Oriya food have made a name for themselves all over the world. Oriya saints have traveled to Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka and are proud of our ancient history of doing

business. "The state of Odisha has been able to withstand not only external enemy attacks, but also famines, droughts and storms. "Odisha is the only state where long beaches, abundant forest resources, mineral resources, hard work and intelligent manpower are considered to be areas of immense potential. "On the auspicious occasion of Utkal Diwas, I wish Mahaprabhu Shri Gannath that with the blessings of Mahaprabhu, the people of Odisha will still be able to work harder as in the past and may all be more successful in their personal lives and social life. "It will bring success to the world of human

civilization," he said. "Notably, Mr. Pradhan answered various questions of the Oriya people asked on Facebook at the event. "Asked about the development of the temple, he said that everyone needs to come forward for the development of the temple. "Meanwhile, President Ramnath Kobind has come to the temple and handed over Rs 1 lakh from his salary to the temple administration. "Banks will also be involved if everyone contributes to the development of the shrine. "Mr Pradhan also called on the Prime Minister's vocal for local call for a lasting solution to the border dispute in the state, including Malkangiri, with the promotion of art and culture in western Odisha, as well as emotional ties. "Everyone is taking responsibility for protecting the Shimlipal forest from the blaze, which is like a gift from the mother of nature," he said. "Everyone needs to be determined to build a state," he said.

Oriya boys did not put in the Andamans



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 1: Ram Prasad, an Oriya boy, did not put in the Andamans. Ram Prasad Muduli of Rameshwar, Patna, Old Bhubaneswar, is the Chief Executive Officer of Sonar Group of Companies and an Oriya entrepreneur. He has built a new passenger ship at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The ship is a new and fast-moving ship that will travel to the 7th

Light Capital. The ship was inaugurated at Port Blair by Union Minister for Port, Shipping and Water Resources Mansukh Lal Mandvi as the chief guest. It was attended by State MP Vikas Mahatme, Mr. Muduli, CEO of Sonar Group of Companies, members of Sri Lanka's Adventure, many dignitaries and employees of the company. Later, the Oriya boy in Andaman and Nicobar Islands became pregnant.

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Man arrested for killing wife in Cuttack

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Apr 1: The Sadar police arrested a man for brutally killing his wife for repayment of loan and marrying another woman at Bambilo village under Harianta gram panchayat in the district today. According

to the police report, the brother of the deceased, Manoj Kumar Behera, lodged a complaint against his brother-in-law Pradipta Das alleging that he had murdered her sister, Manasi Behera on March 29. Based on the complaint the

police launched an investigation and arrested Pradipta after having ample evidences against him. On the other hand, Pradipta had confessed that he killed his wife for repaying his loans and marrying to another woman during the interrogation.

EDITORIAL

All hands on deck

All countries must now stand together against the virus and not look expectantly only towards India. Coronavirus is the most formidable enemy that mankind has encountered in living memory. COVID-19 has ravaged the world as no calamity or war did in history. The World Health Organisation (WHO) officials have said that the ongoing pandemic has caused more “mass trauma” than World War II, besides warning of its lasting consequences. What makes it supersede all human efforts to contain it is not only its ability to spread fast but also to mutate — generating new lethal strains against which the current vaccines are rendered ineffective. These new strains are no less than the “weapons of mass destruction” and have left scientists confused. Moreover, the virus has proved that institutions like the WHO and governments across the world alone are not capable of dealing with every impending danger. A sub-microscopic infectious agent has proved its superiority over us and tackling it needs global concerted efforts. Realising it, the leaders of more than two dozen countries, the European Union and the WHO recently called for an international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response. The leaders outlined a treaty meant to provide universal and equitable access to vaccines, medicines and diagnostics. However, it cannot be denied that any such effort could be marred by the complacency on the part of some countries or their unwillingness to help others. For instance, when the COVID-19 first broke out, despite an obligation for nations to share critical epidemic data with the WHO, China declined to do so. In our own backyard, with the surge in cases across States, we are clearly racing against time. India, which has supplied indigenously-made vaccines to several distressed nations and whose vaccination programme has been lauded around the globe, is now struggling to maintain its domestic vaccine supply. Several Asian countries sought alternative sources for COVID-19 inoculation after India’s export restrictions left a WHO-backed global vaccine-sharing programme short of supplies. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said India would need to calibrate its external supplies keeping in mind its domestic needs as the rise in COVID-19 cases highlighted the urgency for an accelerated vaccination programme. India provided medical assistance, including essential drugs, test kits and protection gear, to over 150 countries as part of its efforts to extend global help in dealing with the pandemic. However, it’s hard to maintain global commitments at the cost of the health of our own citizens amid the latest spurt in COVID-19 cases. The need of the hour is that all countries should work together to create a secure, resilient and sustainable supply chain of vaccines. Any global commitment or resolve against the pandemic is incomplete without Indian participation. We have established our prowess through indigenous vaccines and now there is a need to amp production significantly, for which other nations should step forward and lend a helping hand. We need to think out of the box to defeat the pandemic.

Nefarious plan

The guns and mortar shells are not booming in the Kashmir Valley for quite some time now. Earlier, late last year, the District Development Council elections were conducted peacefully in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and people enthusiastically participated in the exercise. In no uncertain way, it was a big sign of democracy staging a happy comeback to the grassroots in the newly carved out Union Territory. However, a recent Intelligence report, citing intercepts between terrorists and their handlers, doesn’t portend well for the still-recuperating region. The exclusive report, citing intercepts by the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and carried out in this journal recently, points to the nefarious designs of the Pakistani and homegrown terrorists to loot protective gear from Indian security personnel, even at the cost of martyring them. It appears that the outlaws hit upon the idea after realising that an Al-Badr operational commander, who was gunned down during an operation, could have been saved had he been clad in protective gear, like a bullet-resistant helmet. Apart from the specialised headgear, the security personnel also use bulletproof jackets and patkas. The RAW, the country’s premier external Intelligence agency, has since shared the input with other important stakeholders, including the Army, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Rashtriya Rifles (RR). Since such incidents of weapons and safety gear-snatching have been occurring not infrequently both in the Valley and as far away in the Moist-dominated regions of the Red Corridor, the shocking development does have an ominous ring to the entire affair. Even the homegrown terrorists, though currently forced by the security personnel and the Government to lie low, may dare to stir up at the behest of the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence and foment trouble. Going by the latest RAW report, the approaching summer months this year could turn out to be restive in the region, unlike in the recent past. As the snow melts over the currently-frozen passes along the Line of Control in the warmer months, there is an undeniable possibility of infiltrators from Pakistan making their way, or at the minimum trying to do so, into the Indian side of the border and again start spilling blood and spreading terror amid the sylvan, picturesque surroundings. We sincerely hope that our uniformed personnel would stay alert, as always, and deal with the troublemakers with an iron fist.

Range Anxiety is a real concern

This uneasiness is quite realistic and no matter what the industry or the Government says, it isn’t going away anytime soon. The latest season of the Netflix animated comedy series ‘Big Mouth’ introduces a character called ‘Tito the anxiety mosquito’. While the character is comedic, it does highlight the serious anxiety issues that young teenagers face. And let’s face it, anxiety is quite real, and severe anxiety can drive people to both mental and physical health issues. Most of us strive to reduce anxiety levels in our lives. So why should your vehicle be a source of anxiety, when it need not be? I remember a time when the all-night petrol pumps in Delhi were few and far between. If you found yourself short of fuel after 10 o’clock at night and if you did not live near a 24-hour petrol pump, well, good luck. This brings us to the single-biggest issue with electric vehicles (EVs), at least in the minds of consumers today. Range. Range has become such a big issue that the Delhi Government and Tata Motors have gotten into a legal fracas about subsidies given to the Tata Nexon EV that the State Government claims is not meeting its range targets. And as this story has made national headlines, it has impacted potential consumer confidence in EVs. I have been driving cars for over a quarter of a century and professionally evaluating them for a decade and while I generally refrain from making absolutist statements, one thing is true, range or mileage is a function of how a person drives a car. It is also true that the figures advertised by carmakers and certified by the Automotive Research Association of India



Kushan Mitra

are extremely optimistic because the real world is extremely different from the ideal situations that the tests are conducted in. Everything from the number of people in the car, to how strong you run the air-conditioner and other accessories, and so on and so forth, matters. A car that advertises a mileage of 20 kilometres per litre (kmpl) could deliver under 14 kmpl. At the same time, if you drive carefully, with a very light right foot and indulge in a practice that is called “hypermiling” in the west, you can eke out significantly more fuel economy than advertised. The same is true of electric cars. In fact, since EVs usually regenerate energy from braking, they could deliver a very good energy economy in urban conditions. But if you drive an EV like a bat out of hell, or use advanced features on the car, the battery could drain faster than usual. I have seen this on a Tesla Model 3 where the brilliant autonomous

driving feature works well, but like running a graphics intensive game on a computer, it sucks up energy because the processors are working like crazy. The point here is that just like in petrol or diesel cars where we have learnt to ignore the “advertised” fuel economy and just use it as an indicator, we should do the same with EVs. But we can’t, because there is a fundamental flaw, both in the human condition and EVs. You see, when you run out of fuel, filling up is just a five-minute job as there are pumps available in the vicinity. You can charge an EV at home, but only if you have an assured parking spot. Of course, on electric two-wheelers with removable batteries, you can take these home or office to charge but for a car, that isn’t possible. Now, there will be issues with neighbours in an apartment complex with a common plug-point because who will pay? And while there have been huge ad-

vancements with fast-charging, the fact is that batteries charge the fastest when they’re empty. So to get a car battery from empty to 50 per cent might take just 12-15 minutes on a fast charger, the remaining 50 per cent could take 45 minutes. It therefore might be faster to charge a car halfway, drive till the next charging station and charge halfway again. And we need to speak of charging because batteries are expensive; the range issue can be solved with a large battery pack under the floor. But batteries are 40-50 per cent of an EV’s cost, so if you want more range and less of anxiety, you will need to pay for it. Which leads to another sort of anxiety, that of affordability. Sure, vehicles like the Hyundai Kona or the Mercedes-Benz EQC have enough range to be able to manage the daily office commute over a five-day week. But these vehicles are expensive, the latter costs Rs 1 crore; and if you can afford them, there are no reasons to worry. But for widespread adoption of EVs, there needs to be a sea change: Building our charging infrastructure, starting with a standardisation of charging points like Europe has done as well as changes in residential by-laws. Moreover, there need to be major advancements in battery and charging technology, but if mass adoption of EVs is the primary goal here, we need to address Range Anxiety. The biggest irony about EVs today, particularly with the subsidies on them, is that the biggest beneficiaries are the top tier of Indian society. The buyers will not go for EVs for altruistic reasons, they will buy them because it makes economic and practical sense. We are ticking the economics box, practicality though is still long away.

The return of caste to Bengal

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay

Issues specifically related to SC-OBC communities are featuring again in electoral politics in the state, with implications for both BJP and Trinamool. It was in the early colonial period that caste had entered the modern arena of organised politics in Bengal. The new political elite, the bhadralok — who mostly belonged to the three upper castes of Brahmin, Kayastha and Baidya — demanded democratic reforms, but fiercely guarded their own privileged position by denying the middle and lower ranking castes their fair share of power. The latter from the early 20th century began to organise themselves into exclusive caste associations. Among them were several Dalit castes, such as the Namasudras in eastern Bengal and the Rajbansis in the north. These movements worked for their self-improvement and stayed away from Congress politics. In 1937 a Dalit-Muslim alliance in the legislative assembly effectively blocked the Congress from assuming power. But the situation changed with the onset of Partition politics which divided the autonomous Scheduled Caste movement. While a section of the Dalits under the leadership of Namasudra leader Jogendra Nath Mandal joined Dr Ambedkar’s All India Scheduled Caste Federation and opposed Partition, another large segment under the leadership of P R Thakur, also a Namasudra, supported the Hindu Mahasabha-Congress instigated campaign to divide Bengal and create West Bengal as a Hindu majority state within India. Partition did not help the Bengali Scheduled Castes. While the Rajbansi territory was divided down the middle, the entire Namasudra

habitat went to East Pakistan. But they did not migrate immediately, as they lacked financial and social capital to do so. The situation changed after the riots of 1950, which triggered a mass exodus of Dalit peasants from East to West Bengal. Unfortunately, on arrival in India these Dalit refugees did not get a fair deal from the Indian state. They were first put in refugee camps and then dispersed to Andaman Island and Dandakaranya for resettlement. Those who did not go to camps settled in the border districts of North 24-Parganas and Nadia. In post-Partition West Bengal, the main attention of Dalit leaders like Mandal and Thakur therefore focused more on the rehabilitation issue; refugee agitations displaced caste movements from West Bengal’s public space. But caste did not disappear, as Dalit empowerment remained a far cry. P R Thakur became disillusioned with the Congress and decided to reinvigorate the Matua movement. It was an anti-Brahmanical heterodox religious sect for the Dalits, started by his great grandfather and grandfather — Harichand and Guruchand Thakur. By the 1990s the Namasudras regrouped themselves under its banner and were in a better position to negotiate with the mainstream political parties. In the 2011 assembly election, the Matua support went to Trinamool Congress (TMC), as Mamata Banerjee, unlike her communist adversaries, had no qualms in becoming a member of the Matua Mahasangha and touching the feet of Boro ma or Binapani Debi, the widow of P R Thakur and the then head of the sect, in an open public

meeting. But although she promised them many things, being primarily a state power, she could not offer any real help to address their major grievance against the Citizenship Amendment Act of 2003, passed by the previous NDA government, announcing March 1971 as the cut-off date of arrival for granting citizenship to the refugees. Historically, Dalit support for mainstream political parties in Bengal had always been strategic, rather than unconditional. Since 2009, the Matuas have been articulating their grievances against the citizenship act, as Dalit refugees faced continuous harassment, some of them even facing prosecution. While the TMC-led state government could not offer them any reprieve in such matters, BJP offered them CAA 2019 as a final solution for their citizenship-related woes. Hence, from the 2019 parliamentary election, Matua support began to shift to the BJP. In the current election, also, the citizenship issue is expected to influence outcomes in about 30 seats. Due to memories of post-Partition violence, Dalit-Muslim relations are already at a low point in these border districts. But there is another issue. The Matua Mahasangha is actually an oppositional religious movement that is against Brahmin domination and Vedic Hinduism. So, one would suspect that they would find it difficult to support Hindutva ideology. But not all of them position themselves firmly within a Matua-Hindu binary in everyday life. And Modi’s symbolic gesture to visit Orakandi in Bangladesh, the birthplace of Guruchand Thakur, may appeal to

the emotions of Matua pracharaks and gosains with grassroots level networks, tilting the balance for BJP. But my colleagues on the field also tell me that the Matuas are no longer a united house. The Thakur family which leads this movement is divided. There are now many Ambedkarites in the community. Many of them know that the proposed CAA-NRC regime is unlikely to ease their problems. A radical Dalit literary movement has emerged in recent years and it certainly has a following among the educated Dalit refugees. But their votes will possibly be split between TMC and the Left-Congress alliance. The other issue is the extension of the OBC list, ostensibly to rope in the Mahishyas and a few other Hindu castes. A section of the Chasi Kaibarttas chose to call themselves Mahishyas and got that nomenclature recognised in the 1911 census. It was a heterogeneous group, consisting of landed magnates and small farmers in Medinipur as well as industrial entrepreneurs and working classes in Howrah. A politically powerful upwardly mobile elite were opposed to being labelled as “depressed classes” because of the social stigma attached to it. Even today the group is divided on the OBC issue, although it is likely that the lower middle classes among them see the advantages of reservation. Since both TMC and BJP have offered to include them in the OBC list, their entry is almost guaranteed, and therefore it is unlikely to affect their voting behaviour. The Mahishyas or any other OBC in West Bengal have never voted as a united vote bank, and today the Mahishyas are an even more diverse group.

Shyam Metallics other than restraint Niali tehsil record in revenue collection



(A.O. Bureau) Rengali, Apr 1: The Pandloi Shyam Metallics factory, which has taken over all government departments, starting with the Pollution Control Board, has exceeded all pollution limits. The smoke coming out of its chimney two days later has created panic among the people. The smoke was so intense that there was a risk of a huge explosion inside the factory. Even in

front of the factory, there were reports of some pedestrians and locals shouting. Since the inception of the Shyam Metallic Factory in the last two decades, its horrific pollution has been the subject of repeated discussions. Even though the House Committee on Foreign Affairs has repeatedly slammed the company, starting with the Pollution Control Board, no action has been taken. Two

days later, the smoke from the factory's chimney, which lasted for two days, shocked locals. Huge black smoke billowed from the chimney, causing a large explosion inside. The smoke from the chimney covered the entire sky like clouds. While many pedestrians are taking photos and videos of it, it is going viral on social media. There has been a backlash from locals and locals alike.

Niali, April 1: Niali tehsil recorded revenue collection in the financial year 2020/21, according to the husband of the tehsildar Vidyadhar.

“According to sources, the state government had demanded Rs 2.58 lakh crore from Niali tehsil and Rs 2.40 crore from the state govern-

ment. However, the revenue collection was Rs 3.18 crore.” Which is 153 of the claim. The target was 43 percent, and the target was 113

points. Which is a record in the history of Niali tehsil. “Tahsildar Shri Patishthaniya Video Ashok Kumar Lenka, Niali Police Officer

Bijay Kumar Mallick and all the staff of the tehsil thanked the participants.” He said he would look into raising revenue this year.

Paradip Port Handled All Time Record Cargo Of 114.55 Million Metric Tonnes During Fy 2020-21

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Apr 1: With a record cargo handling of 114.55 MMT cargo in FY 20-21, Paradip Port Trust achieved the coveted 100 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of cargo handling fourth consecutive year in row. Despite cyclone Amphan and COVID-19 crisis, it once again repeated the feat by crossing the 100 MMT mark in succession, said Shri Vinit Kumar, Chairman, PPT addressing a Press Meet held at Officer's Club this afternoon at Paradip. The above achievement of highest ever Cargo handling 100 MMT of cargo again by PPT in the FY 20-21, is despite 2 of its existing berths are not available for handling of cargo, since these are under mechanization process. For the above feat, Shri Vinit Kumar, Chairman, PPT congratulated Shri Mansukh Mandavia, Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, the Ministry, the user Industries, Stevedores, Steamer Agents, Trade Unions to have their continued faith on the ability of the Port to serve them. He congratulated the employees and officers of the Port for their continued commitment to



serve the trade. Given an overview of the Port Chairman, PPT said that. TRAFFIC PERFORMANCE: Paradip Port Trust achieved all time traffic throughput of 114.55 million metric tonnes during the year 2020-21 as against the previous year's traffic of 112.68 million metric tonnes exhibiting a growth of 1.65%. PERFORMANCE PARAMETER: During the year, the port performance parameter viz. Berth-day out-put improved to 23,943 MT, Pre-berthing detention has improved from 15.32 Hrs. in FY 19-20 to 6.20 Hrs. in FY 2020-21 and the Berth Occupancy is 74% as against 73% in the previous year. The Port's profit before tax stands at Rs.722Cr. which is an increase 6.02% over last fiscal which stood at Rs.681Cr. ACHIEVEMENTS: Medical Department -

Total 862 CoVID-19 ANTIGEN tests performed and Total positive- 198. Treated 52 CoVID-19 patients in Covid Care Centre. Treated around 180 CoVID-19 Patients in Home Isolation as OPD Patients. PPT Hospital has been declared as CoVID-19 Immunization Centre. Vaccination to 277 healthcare workers and support staffs have been performed. 3951 Health and frontline workers and Senior citizens have been vaccinated for CoVID-19. Traffic Department - The Port has handled the highest ever cargo of 114.55 Million Metric Tonnes and improving its performance year-on-year. In the month of March' 2021 the Port has also handled highest ever monthly total of 11.64 Million Metric Tonnes, as against the previous record of 11.17 Million Metric Tonnes in January' 21 in

the current fiscal. The port has also handled the highest ever Average Rakes per day i.e. 51.82 Nos. in February' 2021. Wherein, the Average of Incoming & Outgoing Rakes are 29.93 & 21.89 respectively. As EQ3 berth undergoes renovation, it received its first Baby Cape vessel MV ANGLO JESSICA, LOA - 255 mtrs. with 95,000 MT Iron Ore(con) cargo, on 5th November at 11.30 Hrs. E & M Department - IOHP posts record 188 rakes' tipping in March, 2021 surpassing the previous monthly best of 182 rakes done in Feb., 2021. MCHP achieved another milestone by unloading Highest Nos of BOBRN Rakes carrying Thermal coal in a month i.e: 572 in the month of March-2021 surpassing the previous record of 570 in the month of January-2018 Projects under different

stages of implementation: Over Rs.2000 crores worth of projects for Port modernization are under implementation. These are: Mechanization of 03 existing EQ berths to 30 MMTPA capacity for handling thermal coal exports at an approximate cost of Rs.1440 crores. Development of a New Coal Import Berth of 10MMTPA capacity at an approximate cost of Rs.650 crores. Further, development of Western Dock of capacity 25 MMTPA at a cost of Rs.3005 Crores has been recently approved by the Government of India and the project is now in tendering stage. On completion, this will transform the Port with facilities to handle Cape size vessels. The Haridaspur-Paradip railway line has recently been completed. This is a major game changer and makes Paradip Port very competitive in international trading.

Glory to Rengali police station



(A.O. Bureau) Rengali, April 1: Utkal Day is a day of glory for Rengali police station in Sambalpur district. Dhableswar Sahu, Sub-Inspector, Rengali

Police Station, Rengali was awarded as the Best Sub-Inspector of Sambalpur District on Thursday to mark the 86th Odisha Police Rec-

ognition Day. Similarly, Kailash Chandra Pradhan, ASI working at Rengali police station, has been awarded as the best ASI of Sambalpur district.

Sambalpur deer park looks deserted as dancing bear Eliza dies

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, April 1: The dancing bear of Sambalpur deer park 'Eliza' that attracted children, died on Wednesday morning. Eliza was a sixteen-year-old female bear that used to reside inside Sambalpur Deer Park on the outskirts of

the city. It was amusing the visitors with its slow march and magnificent dance. Especially, it was very fond of dancing with the mobile music played by children. That is why the deer park was a special attraction for the kids for years. As Eliza is no more, the



park has a deserted look since yesterday. Eliza was rescued by Rairakhole forest officials sixteen years ago who was beside her mother's carcass when she was one month's baby. Since then Eliza had been living as an inmate in the deer park's enclosure.

Mother At Border: Housewife From Odisha Selected To Join BSF

(A.O. Bureau) Ganjam, Apr 1: Hard work never fails and Reena Nayak of Ganjam district has nailed it like none else. Once looking after her family, the housewife and mother of a seven-year-old girl is now all set to join the Border Security Force (BSF).



Reena Nayak of Bayali village under Rangeilunda block in Ganjam district has bro-

ken the glass ceiling by getting selected to join the BSF eight years after her marriage.

Bodies Of Woman & Daughter Found From Closed House In Sambalpur

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, Apr 1: Bodies of a woman and her daughter were found from a locked house in

reports, one Kishore Patel of Kisinda village on Tuesday accompanied by his elder daughter had left to attend the marriage

locked, as no one responded to his knockings at the door, he with the help of neighbours broke open the door. After forcibly breaking open the door, he found the bodies of his wife Sujata Patel and younger daughter lying inside the house. Upon informing at Kisinda police station, police have seized the bodies and are investigating the matter. However, it's not clear whether the woman and her daughter were murdered or they had committed suicide.



Kisinda village under the same police limits in Sambalpur district today. According to

ceremony of a relative. On his return today, Patel found the door of his house

Congress OBC Cell Chief Arrested For Illegal Arms Trade

(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, Apr 1: Aska police on Thursday arrested the President of Congress' OBC Cell in Ganjam district, Amir Bhuyan for his alleged involvement in an illegal arms trafficking racket. As per reports, Bhuyan who is said to have close associations with Congress party leaders was apprehended by the police from Khairaputi village under Aska police limits late on Wednesday night while he was en route to Bhubaneswar in his SUV. Upon searching his vehicle, police recovered two firearms

loaded with ammunition from his possession. The police said there was concrete information that Bhuyan was indulged in illegal arms trade. He was supplying arms and ammunition to criminals of Ganjam district. As per the order of the SP of Ganjam, he was put under a close watch. “He was under surveillance since last six months. In the intervening night of March 31 and April 1, 2021 at 03.00 AM, information was received that the said arm trader is coming in his SUV from Gangapur towards Aska. The police

swung into action and conducted extensive blocking. Finally he was caught at Pakalapalli gate of Aska,” the police said in a statement. During the search, one loaded pistol found from his waist while another loaded pistol was found from the boot of the SUV, the statement added. “It is learnt that he is involved in arms trade since long. The involvement of others is under scrutiny. Police on duty are yet to unearth the details of the deal,” the statement further stated. Speaking about the case, the Additional SP of Ganjam,

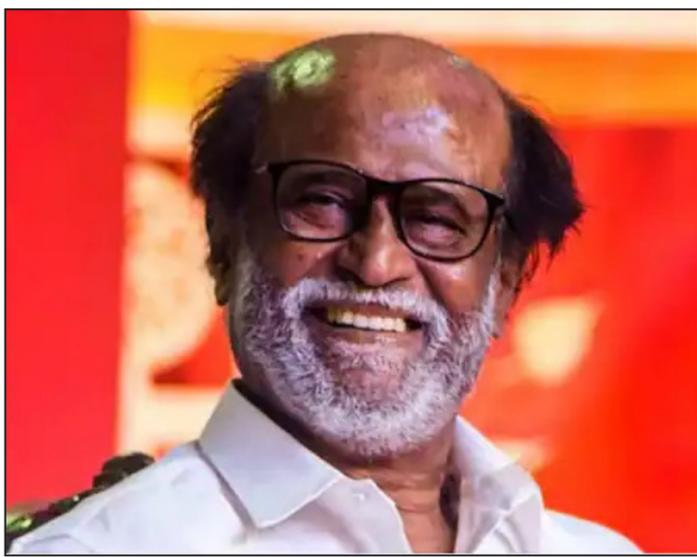


Thakur Prasad Patra said, “Bhuyan's name had cropped up while investigating a previous case in which eight suspects were arrested and 10 firearms were recovered from them. Bhuyan is a realtor working at Sunderpada in Bhubaneswar.” Bhuyan, however, refuted all the allegations and feigned

ignorance about the presence of fire arms in his vehicle, “I do not know how these ended up in my car. It might have dropped by one of my friends.” “I never committed any crime ever. Let the police investigate the matter. If found guilty, I will face action as per the constitution,” Bhuyan added.

As Rajinikanth Gets Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Village Awaits Return of the Native

New Delhi, Apr 1: As news of Rajinikanth getting the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award reached Mavadi Kathepathar village, about 60 km from Pune, some villagers said they are awaiting the Tamil superstar to keep his promise of visiting his native place. "Shivajirao Gaikwad (Rajinikanth's name before he became an actor) is a son of the soil who made it big in the movies. He had assured us when he was shooting at Lonavala a few years ago that he will visit his native place and we feel he will keep his word," a villager said. Rajini's roots are in the village that is still home to many Gaikwads, he said. Some villagers met Rajinikanth a few years ago when he was in Lonavala for a shoot, he added. "We tried to catch up with him during the shoot but were sent away by the security guards. Later, we went to his hotel and waited for him near the lift. "We introduced ourselves in Hindi and he asked us to speak in Marathi. We were surprised to know that he



speaks fluent Marathi," he said. Sadanand Jagtap, former sarpanch of Mavadi Kathepathar told PTI that the entire village felt proud after hearing the news of Rajinikanth being honoured with the prestigious award. Jagtap was in the delegation which went to Lonavala to meet the actor. Another villager Hanumant Chachar was also a part of the delegation, Jagtap said. Akash Chachar, the 29-year-old son of late Hanumant Chachar said that after meeting

Rajinikanth, his father and a few other villagers corresponded with the actor's office but there was no response. "We will once again invite the 70-year-old actor as he has roots in this village," Akash said. Vijay Kolte, another resident of the region, said, "I hope someday Rajinikanth will come to the village and fulfill the wish of the villagers as for them he is still Shivaji Gaikwad, the local lad who made it big." In and around Pune, Mavadi Kadepathar is

known as 'Rajinikanth's village'. A village elder said Rajinikanth's grandfather moved to Basavanna Bagewadi in Karnataka's Vijayapura tehsil and then to Bengaluru, where the actor was born. The family migrated in search of work almost like many others in the village. Though they had land in the village, the family remained in Karnataka, he said. In 2013, they invited Rajinikanth to inaugurate a Marathi literary meet in Saswad,

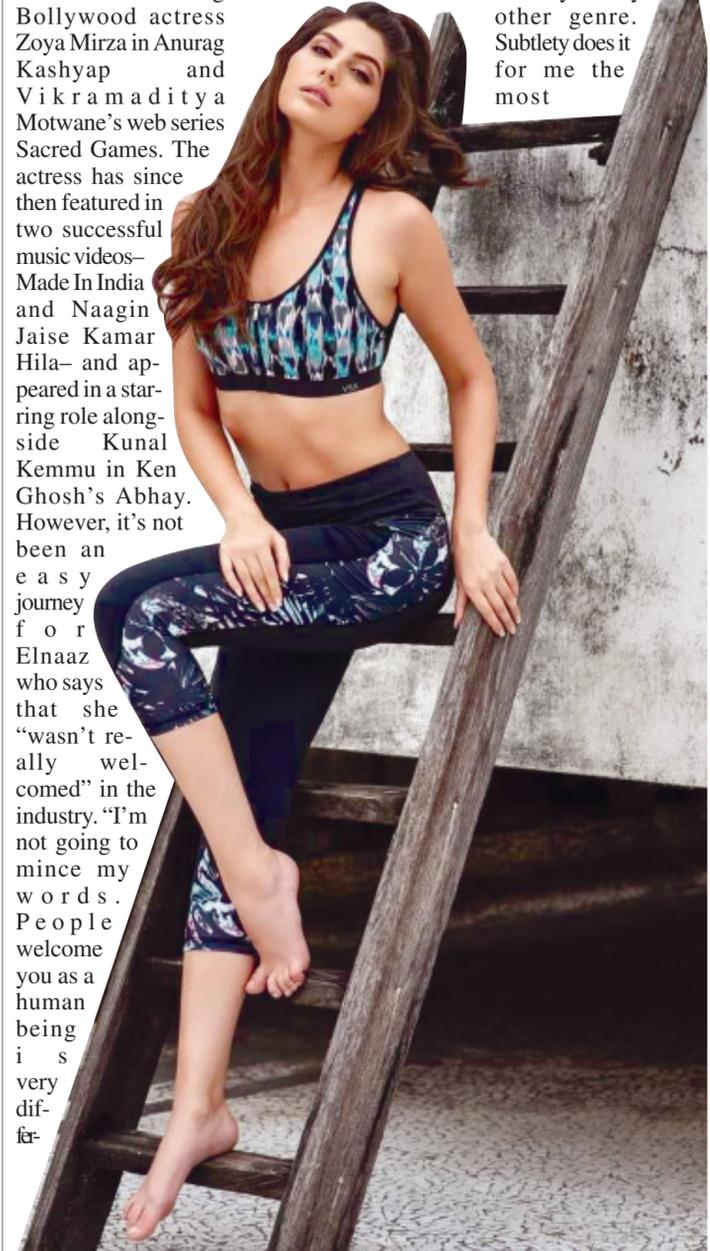
but there was no response. In 2016, then BJP MLA Anil Gote had demanded that the Maharashtra Bhushan, the state's highest award, be given to Rajini. He also claimed the Gaikwad family is from Kolhapur. Born on December 12, 1950, as Shivajirao Gaikwad in a Marathi family settled in the then Bangalore, the actor was named after Maratha warrior ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji. Rajinikanth was the fourth child of Jijabai and Ramojirao Gaikwad. His father was a police constable. His mother died while he was eight. Early in his career, while doing a stage play at the Madras Film Institute, Rajinikanth, whose mother tongue is Marathi, was advised by noted film-maker K Balachander to learn Tamil. He mastered the language soon and thus began his celluloid journey which made him a demigod. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Indian cinema's highest honour, will be presented to Rajinikanth on May 3.

I Still Need to Fight for Small Things in Bollywood Because I'm Foreigner: Elnaaz Norouzi

New Delhi, Apr 1: Elnaaz Norouzi, who hails from Iran, talks about her struggle of being an outsider in Bollywood and her upcoming film 'Hello Charlie'. Born in Iran and raised in Germany, Elnaaz Norouzi rose to prominence in India with her impressive turn as a calculating Bollywood actress Zoya Mirza in Anurag Kashyap and Vikramaditya Motwane's web series Sacred Games. The actress has since then featured in two successful music videos—Made In India and Naagin Jaise Kamar Hila—and appeared in a starring role alongside Kunal Kemmu in Ken Ghosh's Abhay. However, it's not been an easy journey for Elnaaz who says that she "wasn't really welcomed" in the industry. "I'm not going to mince my words. People welcome you as a human being is very difficult-

better target than anyone else who is maybe an Indian or from the industry. I think I was eventually welcomed because I worked really hard on my acting and I give myself that credit because if I hadn't worked hard enough on my acting and my language, I wouldn't have been

Mumbai to Diu. A series of unexpected events unfolds along the way. Talking about her experience working in the film, Elnaaz says, "It's a situational comedy and the best part about it is that none of us really tried being funny. I don't like it when you try to act the obvious, be it comedy or any other genre. Subtlety does it for me the most



Sussanne Khan Excited to Watch Arslan Goni's Web Series 'Mai Hero Boll Raha Hu'



Mumbai, Apr 1: Arslan Goni recently shared the news about his upcoming web series on social media and Sussanne Khan commented on the post as she expressed her excitement for it. If rumours are anything to go by, superstar Hrithik Roshan's ex-wife Sussanne Khan is rumoured to be dating Bigg Boss 14's popular contestant Aly

Goni's brother, Arslan Goni. The interior designer is often seen partying with Arslan. Some time back, she was also spotted hanging out with Ekta Kapoor, Arslan, Nandita Mahtani, Ridhi Dogra, Anushka Ranjan and Adiya Seal. Arslan posted a picture from the party where Sussanne can be seen wrapping her arms around his shoulder. But



what caught the eye of netizens was Arslan wishing Sussanne's son Hrehaan Roshan on his birthday by dropping a wish for him on her birthday post. Despite all these, neither Sussanne or Arslan has yet confirmed or denied the reports of them being a couple. However, just days after Arslan's comment on Sussanne's post, the rumoured

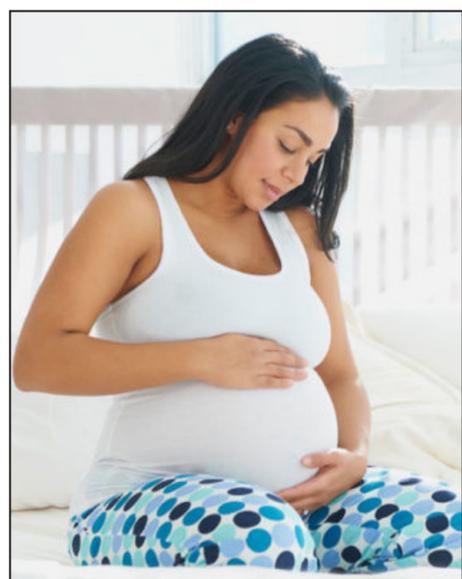
couple is in news again. This time, it is all due to Sussanne's reaction on Arslan's social media post announcing his upcoming show Main Hero Boll Raha Hu. Arslan took to Instagram to share the teaser of his upcoming show. He captioned the post as, "Bambai me aaya ek dost, dost ko salaam thoko! Kyunki, Mumbai will now be

ruled by Nawab Miliye apne hero se, jald hi #MaiHeroBollRahaHu trailer out on 6th April." Sussanne couldn't stop raving about the show and expressed her excitement in the comment section. Her encouraging comment read, "Looks Superr cool!!! Waiting to see." The show will start streaming on April 20 on Alt Balaji and Zee5. Sussanne tied the knot with Hrithik in 2000. The duo called it quits in 2014. Despite ending their marriage, the former couple share a cordial equation with each other. They also stayed together in the lockdown phase last year so that their kids?— Hrehaan and Hridhaan Roshan — could spend more time with them. The four also go on vacations together. They love co-parenting their kids and often enjoy time with their sons.

ent from welcoming you into the whole industry and saying, 'we are going to take care of you.' It wasn't like that. I wasn't welcomed. I can openly say that it's been a hard struggle and it still is," says Elnaaz. Describing her struggle and experiences of being an outsider in Bollywood, Elnaaz says, "I still need to fight for small things that any other actor would not have to fight for because I'm an outsider or maybe a foreigner or because I'm a

welcomed at all. The reason why I'm getting all these offers is that people see the talent in me and they want to work with me." The actress is currently gearing up for the digital release of 'Hello Charlie' on Amazon Prime Video on April 9. The film, also starring Aadar Jain and Jackie Shroff, is an adventure comedy of a young simpleton (Charlie) from a small town who is given the task of transporting a gorilla (Toto) from

and that's why I liked this film." On collaborating with Aadar and Jackie Shroff, Elnaaz says, "I really loved working with Aadar. He is a gentleman, well-spoken, and so lovely to be around. He is one of those people who speak very little but when you get to know them you realise how lovely they are. And, working with Jackie sir was like a dream come true. He is an absolute legend. I just learnt so much being around him."



Pregnant women and their babies at a higher risk due to Covid-19

New Delhi, Apr 1: The finding of recent studies have revealed that pregnant women and their unborn babies are at a higher risk of stillbirth and maternal mortality during the pandemic. Pregnant women and their babies are suffering worse outcomes during the Covid-19 pandemic, and researchers are sounding the alarm for immediate action to avoid rolling back decades of global investment in safe maternity care. Data from an analysis of 40 studies

published during the last year across 17 countries found rates of stillbirth and maternal mortality increased by a third. Outcomes were worse in low- and middle-income countries, according to a report Wednesday in The Lancet medical journal. The increases may be driven by the pressure Covid-19 put on health systems rather than measures aimed at limiting the spread of the virus, such as lockdowns, the researchers said. Studies from individual countries

suggested pregnant woman reduced their care-seeking because of the fear of infection, as well as reduced provision of maternity services. "It is clear from our study and others that the disruption caused by the pandemic has led to the avoidable deaths of both mothers and babies, especially in low- and middle-income countries," said Asma Khalil, lead author of the study at St. George's University of London. The meta-analysis included studies from countries in-

cluding Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, India, Israel, Mexico, Nepal, the UK and the US. Though the report is the first global assessment of the collateral impact of the pandemic on maternal and child health, it has its limitations. Studies included in the analysis varied in their methods, making it more challenging to compare results. The outcomes represent a reversal of recent progress toward making pregnancy safer for

mothers and children worldwide, said Andreea Creanga, physician and associate professor in the Department of International Health & Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Johns Hopkins University. The world had made progress in ensuring antenatal care and deliveries in health facilities staffed by health workers, and the focus had shifted in recent years to increasing the quality of the care that women and

babies received. Difficult Road "Now, we are going to go back and make sure that women come to facilities to get the care they need for themselves and for their infants," she said. "It's a difficult road ahead." In Sierra Leone, which until recently had the highest maternal mortality ratio in the world and had suffered an outbreak of deadly Ebola, government officials and partners have taken pains to ensure access to routine health services.

Azharuddin backs Pant as future India captain



New Delhi, April 1: Former India skipper Mohammed Azharuddin feels a s h b u c k l i n g wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant will be a frontrunner to lead the 'Men in Blue' in future, having established himself across formats in the past few months.

The highly-rated Pant is set to lead the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League this season in the absence of injured regular skipper Shreyas Iyer. "Rishabh Pant has had such fabulous few months, establishing himself in all formats. It won't come as a sur-

prise if the selectors see him as a front-runner for Indian captaincy in near future. His attacking cricket will stand India in good stead in times to come. @RishabhPant17 @BCCI," Azharuddin tweeted. The 23-year-old Pant has dazzled across all three formats in the international season that went by. He notched up scores of 97 and unbeaten 89 in the third and the fourth Test against Australia to help India clinch the Border Gavaskar Trophy Down Under 2-1. He continued his rich vein of form in the home Test series against England, playing match-winning knocks for the team. The selectors took note of his consistency and included him in the white-ball squads. Pant did not disappoint, scoring important half-centuries in the two ODIs he featured in against England.

Maxi fits what RCB require in middle order: Hesson

New Delhi, Apr 1: Glenn Maxwell's aggressive batting during the middle overs and back-end will add dimension to their side and also help Big Show to play freely, feels RCB Director of Cricket Mike Hesson. Maxwell, a perennial under-performer but someone who has always raked in moolah at the IPL auctions, was snapped for Rs 14.25 crore by the Royal Challengers Bangalore after Punjab Kings decided to release him. "He (Maxwell) is fantastic and fits in the middle-order for us. We wanted to have a player of his quality during middle overs and at the back-end as well, he brings in huge amount of experience," Hesson said at a virtual media conference, indicating that Maxwell is that impact player in the

middle-order which RCB lacked last year. "On his day, he can turn a game on its head. We need to use him in a space where we can maximise his skills and we are looking at how we do that," the former New Zealand coach said. Hesson wants Maxwell to understand his role. "I am waiting to speak to him and be clear about his role. It's just been a few days. Amongst peers, he is going to bat, so its better he understands his role implicitly. He has good skills, highly experienced and will also be part of leadership group." The 6 feet 9 inch Kyle Jamieson has been one of New Zealand's heroes in Test cricket but Hesson feels that even in India, the bounce he can extract due to his height will be very handy for RCB. "As I said, in



some grounds, we will want bowlers who would bowl predominantly cutters and in some other ground, here the ball swings and there is bounce, Kyle will be deadly. "It's about complementing with skills and what brings to the group, obviously with bat he has skills about being a power

player," Hesson justified the insane bidding of the young Black Cap. As far as the Indian pace bowling group is concerned, Hesson is looking at 'horses for courses' while picking between Navdeep Saini and Mohammed Siraj. "Siraj is exceptional with new ball. He has ability to swing the

new ball while Kyle will get that bounce and bring in different challenge. Saini has a little bit more pace and bowls a different length. They will be used in different phases of the game." Hesson was also pleased with the kind of form skipper Virat Kohli, who will be opening in the upcoming season. "I think Virat is so experienced with what he does with RCB and he is going to bat at the top of the order. It's a position, he knows well. He is in fine touch. "I thought the way he played in T20s against England and how he controlled the tempo, on his day when he does for RCB." On uncapped Indian players, Hesson mentioned the names of Rajat Patidar of MP and Mohammed Azharudeen of Kerala as the talents to look out for.

'Dhoni helps players improve their game' ABD joins RCB bio-bubble in Chennai

Chennai, Apr 1: Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Moeen Ali on Wednesday vouched for Mahendra Singh Dhoni's captaincy and said most cricketers look forward to play under him as he helps them improve their game. Dhoni is gearing up to lead the CSK franchise in the upcoming edition of the IPL. "I've spoken to players who have played under MS and they tell me how he improves their game. I believe a great captain does that," the England all-rounder



was quoted as saying by the CSK website. "I think it's something on every player's wish list to play under MS. I think it's the confidence and the clarity he gives people. It's exciting," he added. Moeen, who

said he was looking forward to playing under Dhoni, said it is very important to have strong leadership and coaches who stay calm. "It's very important to have strong leadership and coaches

who stay calm, who take the pressure off the players as much as they can and are consistent. We are very lucky we have that," he added. "At CSK I feel the reality is there for us to win the competition.

I'm excited about playing with the players we have here," the 33-year-old left-hand batsman cum off-spinner, who was picked up at the IPL auction in February, further said. Moeen, who previously turned out for Royal Challengers Bangalore, said, "I think what differentiates CSK from other teams is actually how they structure everything, from the squad they have to the way they do things. They look a very calm franchise that doesn't panic."



Chennai, Apr 1: Star South African batsman AB de Villiers on Thursday joined the Royal Challengers Bangalore bio-bubble here for the Indian Premier League beginning on April 9. The 37-year-old batting great has been a key player for RCB since he joined the franchise in 2011. Since then, he has been playing for the

Bengaluru-based franchise. "The spaceship has landed! AB de Villiers has joined the RCB bubble in Chennai," the RCB tweeted. De Villiers retired from international cricket in 2018 after playing 114 Tests, 228 ODIs and 78 T20 Internationals. He scored 8765 Test runs (at an average of 50.66)

and 9577 in the ODIs. Head coach Simon Katich also came out of quarantine, as did pacer Navdeep Saini. As the RCB team underwent another practice session. The RCB, led by India captain Virat Kohli, began a nine-day conditioning camp on Tuesday. The team will take on Mumbai Indians in the league's opening clash.

WC qualifiers: Spain beat Kosovo, national broadcaster downgrades visitors



New Delhi, Apr 1: The game in Seville was played in accordance to UEFA etiquette, with Kosovo's national anthem played before the match. But on television, Spain's national broadcaster disregarded normal protocol by not mentioning Kosovo as a country and using lowercase letters for "kos" in

its graphics. Spain cruised past Kosovo 3-1 on Wednesday in a World Cup qualifier that attracted more attention off the field because of Spain's non-recognition of the visiting country. The game in Seville was played in accordance to UEFA etiquette, with Kosovo's national anthem played before the match. But on

television, Spain's national broadcaster disregarded normal protocol by not mentioning Kosovo as a country and using lowercase letters for "kos" in its graphics. Spain does not recognize Kosovo's 2008 independence from Serbia. Ahead of the game, the Spanish federation had already upset Kosovo

officials by referring to the country as a "territory." The Kosovo federation warned it wouldn't play the match unless Spain pledged to respect the Balkan country's sovereignty. But commentators on TV referred to the opponents as the "team from the Kosovo federation," and used phrases like "players from the federation of Kosovo." It used "ESP" in uppercase letters for the hosts' on-screen graphic in Spanish — as it had for both countries in previous qualifying games — but kept lowercase "kos" at all times for the visitors. The TVE public network did not immediately an-

swer a request for comment on why is used lowercase letters for Kosovo in its graphic. Spanish media said that the signal sent internationally did show "KOS" in uppercase. There was also a lot of talk about a player who was on the field for only a few minutes, as Spain captain Sergio Ramos again was left out of the starting lineup and came off the bench only near the end. It was still enough to give him 180 international appearances, putting him four behind the record held by former Egypt captain Ahmed Hassan for the most caps in men's soccer.

Virat Kohli reaches Chennai to join RCB squad, to be in quarantine for seven days

Chennai, Apr 1: India and Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli reached Chennai on Thursday before which he will undergo a seven-day quarantine. The team has already started its

training camp on Tuesday for the upcoming season which begins on April 9. "Captain Virat Kohli has arrived in Chennai," RCB said, announcing Kohli's arrival in a tweet, along with a picture of their captain wearing

a mask. RCB face defending champions Mumbai Indians in the tournament opener on April 9 in Chennai. Kohli, who has been with the RCB since the inception of the IPL in 2008, quit the bio-



bubble in Pune on Monday after India's ODI series win against England. He has been part of bio-secure bubbles since the end of January, ahead of the England series, and was part of each of the four

Tests, five T20 Internationals and three ODIs. Another key RCB player and South African star batsman A B de Villiers also joined the RCB bio-bubble on Thursday. The 37-year-old batting great

has been a key player for the team since he joined the franchise in 2011. Head coach Simon Katich also came out of quarantine, along with pacer Navdeep Saini as the RCB team underwent another practice session.

"With its indomitable spirit and sheer determination Team RSP achieved ABP targets for the first time in the history of the Steel Plant," says Mr. Dipak Chattaraj, CEO, Rourkela Steel Plant



(A.O. Bureau) Rourkela, Apr 1: "With its indomitable zeal and sheer determination of the result oriented team RSP, we could achieve the ABP targets in the Financial Year 2020-21, for the first time in the more than six decades history of the Steel Plant," said Mr. Dipak Chattaraj, CEO while presenting the awards to different departments and individuals of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) on 1st April 2021. The CEO visited different departments on the occasion of the 1st day of the financial year which bears a great significance for the plant. He extended heartiest greetings of Utkal Divas as well as the beginning of the financial year and profusely thanked the collective for the outstanding performance in

the last financial year in spite of all the odds. The CEO who began his speech in Odia to the loud applause of the collective said, "It is a momentous occasion as we are not only celebrating the foundation day of the State with a rich heritage, at the same time we are also celebrating the enormous success that we scaled in the last financial year which bears more significance because of the toughest challenge of the pandemic. As we enter the New Financial Year, it gives us the confidence that we can replicate the performance in future and our journey of excellence would continue surpassing even more milestones in the coming days." Mr. Chattaraj emphatically praised all the production units, associated departments

and support units who worked in tandem and excelled as a whole to help RSP scripting history. The Plant visit of the CEO started with an award function at HRD Centre in the morning. He presented the Individual as well as Group Performance awards. Soon after the CEO visited Sinter Plant - III where the CEO interacted with the Senior Officers and Employees of Raw Material Handling Plant and Sinter Plants. Mr. Chattaraj went to Blast Furnaces - 5 and met the Senior Officers and Employees of Blast Furnaces and Captive Power Plant - I. Similarly, in his visit to Steel Melting Shop - II (SMS-II), the CEO interacted with the employees of SMS-II, Calcining Plant - II, Oxygen Plant, Steel Melting Shop - I,

LDBP and Refractories. Thereafter he interacted with the employees from Research & Control Laboratory, Production Planning & Control, Air Conditioning, Repair Shop (Electrical), Electronics and Automation, Instrumentation, C&IT, Civil Engineering (Services), Water Management Department, Crane Maintenance, Heavy Maintenance (Electrical), Design, Energy Management Department, Mechanical Shop and other Shops units at ED (Works) garden. At New Plate Mill premises the CEO met the employees of New Plate Mill, Pipe Plant, Material Recovery Department, Cold Rolling mill and Silicon Steel Mill. Similarly in Hot Strip Mill, the CEO interacted with the employees from Plate Mill, Hot Strip Mill, Roll Shop and Spe-

cial Plate Plant. Later he went to the Project Building and interacted with the Projects Department Collective. The CEO interacted with the Town Administration Collective in the programme organised at Town Engineering Department. The visit concluded with the CEO addressing the doctors and paramedics at New Conference Hall of Ispat General Hospital. The CEO presented the Group Performance Awards to the departments concerned in the respective venues. He also presented saplings to the HoDs of the departments to mark the occasion. The CEO was accompanied by Mr. Raj Vir Singh, ED (Hospital Administration), Mr. Pankaj Kumar ED (Works), Mr. S K Behera, CGM (Projects), Mr. C R Mohapatra, CGM In-charge (MM & Marketing), Mr. P K Satpathy, CGM In-charge (P&A), Mr. Praveen Nigam, CGM (F&A), and other senior officers. It is worth mentioning here that the Annual Performance Awards were presented this year in a staggered manner in view of the COVID guidelines.

ECoR: The Most Profitable Zone In India

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, April 1: When the going gets tough, the tough gets going. The pandemic last year 2020-21, had initially dampened the spirits of the railway men across the zone. With trains cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown, in the initial months of April, May and June, the loading figure by the end of July was -14% as compared to that in previous year. But there was a ray of hope. The courage, determination, belief and hard work put in by the work force in the succeeding months not only made the zone, the highest loading zone, but it surpassed all records of Indian Railways. By loading 205 million tonne of freight in 2020-21 financial year i.e., from 1st April, 2020 to 31st March, 2021 and ECoR became the 1st Zonal Railway to cross the milestone of 200 million tonne of loading for the 2nd consecutive year. It also broke the previous record of highest freight loading of 202.56 million tonne achieved by erstwhile undivided South Eastern Railway in 2002-03 fiscal. With an operating ratio of 47.71%, the zone easily becomes the most profitable zone of Indian Railways. Operating ratio is the term used to determine the profitability. For every rupee earned by the zone, it has to spend 0.47 paise. Different sectors across the spectrum have shown tre-

mendous increase over last year. In 2020-21 financial year, East Coast Railway has carried 112.46MT of Coal, 29.49MT of Iron Ore, 18.23MT of Iron & Steel, 7.62MT of raw materials for Steel Plants, 6.18 MT of fertilizer, 3.14MT of container, 2.76MT of food grains, 2.91MT of Petroleum Products and 22.09MT of other commodities. During the period, East Coast Railway loaded 42.9 rakes per day from Talcher area, 21.1 rakes per day from Paradeep area, 14.1 rakes per day from Dhamra area, 11.7 rakes per day in KK Line, 16.5 rakes per day from Steel Plants, 7 rakes per day of Aluminum over ECoR jurisdiction. Coal contributed to 55% and Iron ore contributed to 14% of overall loading. Khurda Road and Waltair have obtained 4th and 6th position respectively among 64 zones of Indian Railways. The period also saw increase of average speed of freight trains by 117% as compared to corresponding period of last year. The credit for the success of ECoR goes to its selfless, dedicated and hard working workmen who are ably guided, motivated and encouraged by its General Manager Vidya Bhusan. All the departments have their share of contribution in this stupendous feat achieved. With this achievement, the zone will aim higher and higher.



Tata Steel dedicates ambulance with advanced life support system to the people of Joda

(A.O. Bureau) Joda, Apr 1: With an objective to provide better medical facilities to the locals, Tata Steel dedicated an ambulance with advanced life support system to the people

Kamarjoda and Dr Jagadish Sahu, Medical Officer, Community Health Centre, Kumarjoda jointly inaugurated the ambulance in the presence of Mr Rajesh Kumar, Chief

Head Administration, OMQ Division, Tata Steel. This specialised ambulance with facility of advanced life support system will be in addition to the existing 2 routine ambulances of Tata Steel Hospital, Joda. This advanced life support ambulance is equipped with all emergency features like ventilator, defibrillator, multi-para cardiac monitor, oxygen system, auto loader stretcher, spine board, head immobilizer, emergency kit rescue bag, air conditioner, rescue tools, syringe pump, etc. Among others present on the occasion were officials of Tata Steel, Hospital staff and Union officials.



of Joda in a ceremony at Tata Steel Hospital, Joda on Thursday. Dr Sisir Kumari Patnaik, Gynecologist, Community Health Centre,

Joda, Tata Steel, Dr Suchismita Das, Officiating Chief Medical Officer, Tata Steel Hospital, Joda and Mr Deepak Srivastav,

JSPL observes 86th Utkal Divas



Angul, Apr 1: Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (JSPL) observed the 86th foundation day of Odisha. JSPL's Chairman, Mr Naveen Jindal greeted the People of Odisha through social media platforms and wrote "Heartiest congratulations and greetings to the people of Odisha on the 86th Statehood day. May Lord Jagannath bless

the state with happiness and prosperity". The Executive Director of JSPL's Angul unit Mr Hridayeshwar Jha also reached out to the employees of the Plant and greeted them for Utkal Divas and prayed for the wellbeing of each and every family of the state." As the world is passing through the COVID pandemic phase, stay-

ing safe by following and abiding by Covid appropriate behaviour is the need of the hour, said Mr Jha. On this occasion, the O.P. Jindal School located in Jindal Township also celebrated Utkal Divas through virtual mode where principal, Headmistress, staff and students joined the 90mins program consisting of speech about Odisha

and it's origin, a dance performance and songs. Thereafter the winners of Utkal Divas competition were acknowledged. The JSPL Foundation, the Social Arm of JSPL in its tweet greeted the People of Odisha living across the globe on the 86th Foundation Day of the State and said "Odisha's ancient name Utkala literally trans-

lates to the land of Rich-Art, Culture, Heritage and Art Forms those fascinating in its abundance. Modern Odisha marches on the path of Inclusive development". The Foundation observed Utkal Divas with the local community through various mode of partnership with the villagers in promoting local art and culture which are unique to Odisha. In this endeavour, the JSPL Foundation also provided musical instruments to various Sankirtan Groups in the local villages who are engaged in promoting the rich traditional art and culture of the State and spreading the message of spiritual co-existence amongst the co-villagers.

Tata Power takes over power distribution in North Eastern Odisha from 1st April'2021 onwards

New Delhi, Apr 1: Tata Power, India's largest integrated power utility, today announced that it has taken over the management and operations of NESCO (North Eastern Electricity Supply Company of Odisha) upon completion of the sale process. Now, NESCO will operate under the company name as TP

Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL). As per order issued by the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC), Tata Power holds 51 percent of equity with management control and the State-owned GRIDCO will have 49 percent equity stake in the company. TP Northern Odisha Dis-

tribution Limited (TPNODL) shall now be responsible for the distribution and retail supply of electricity in five circles of NESCO covering close to 2 million consumers with annual input energy of 5450 MUs in areas of Balasore, Bhadrak, Baripada, Jajpur and Keonjhar. This covers a geographical spread of more than 27,500

- Tata Power holds 51 percent equity, 49 percent owned by Government of Odisha
- Retains all the existing employees of NESCO; aims to create a successful PPP model in Power Sector

sqkm and a network of more than 90,000 CKT.KMs. for a license period of 25 years. With this, Tata Power now distributes power in the entire state of Odisha with a total customer base of 9 million. Tata Power consumer base now stands at 11.5 million across Mumbai, New Delhi, Odisha and Ajmer as the largest

private sector power distribution company in the country. Commenting on this occasion, Dr. Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD, Tata Power said, "It is a proud moment for us that on the auspicious occasion of 'Utkal Divas', we have taken over the operations of NESCO in State of Odisha. We are committed to pro-

vide reliable, affordable and quality power supply along with superior customer service. We are thankful to the Odisha Government and OERC (Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission) for giving us this opportunity and reaffirm Tata Power's commitment of 'Lighting up Lives' for the people of Odisha."