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## Dr. Mahtab was strongest milestone in India's Freedom struggle: Modi

New Delhi, Apr 9: Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released the Hindi translation of the book 'Odisha Itihaas', written by 'Utkal Keshari' Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab. The book, available in Odia and English so far, has been translated into Hindi by eminent Hindi author and translator Shri Shankarlal Purohit. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Minister and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab MP(LS), Cuttack were also present on this occasion. While unveiling the Hindi edition of 'Odisha Itihaas', Prime Minister Modi said, "It is important that diverse and comprehensive history of Odisha should reach people of the country. The collective history of our states represents the historical strength of entire India. It is important for today's youth to learn and get inspired by our history as history is the mirror to the future". The Prime Minister re-



membered Dr Mahtab's rich contribution in the freedom struggle of India and lauded him for his efforts in simultaneously working towards reformations in the society. He appreciated the vision of Dr. Mahtab as the first Chief Minister of Odisha in bringing growth and prosperity to the state by developing industry and infrastructure. Prime Minister also mentioned how this book launch coincided with the celebrations of Amrit Mahotsava, which is celebrating 75th

independence year, with the aim to revive the stories about our valiant freedom fighters. The Prime Minister emphasized how struggles like The Paika Rebellion, Ganjam Revolt, Sambalpur Struggle etc always gave new energy to the fire of revolt against the British rule. The Prime Minister remembered the contribution of brave hearts from Odisha like Pandit Gopabandhu, Acharya Harihar, Surendra Sai, Laxman Nayak, Ramadevi, Malti Devi, Kokila Devi and Rani

Bhagyawati besides others. On this occasion Union Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said, that Dr. Mahtab's 'Odisha Itihaas' is not only a book but it stands for intelligent, valiant and courageous Odias. He said the Hindi version of this book will make it possible to take the history of Odisha to a wider readership. On behalf of the Odia community, Shri Pradhan thanked the Prime Minister for his immense affection for Odisha and

for always appreciating the rich heritage and culture of Odisha. He went on to add that PM Modi was the first PM who deeply cared for Odisha and helped take the state to newer heights. While speaking about finally realising the dream of having the Hindi version of 'Odisha Itihaas' ready, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab MP(LS), Cuttack reflected upon the relentless efforts put in by the translator Shri Shankarlal Purohit. He profusely thanked Shri Dharmendra Pradhan for initiating this project, which could enable Hindi readers to get an in-depth knowledge about Odisha. He fondly recollected how his father Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab had worked 10-12 hours daily for 2 years to write the original book. On this occasion a short film on Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab and his achievements was screened. Intellectuals from 34 places in 30 districts joined this programme.

## Odisha CM Announces 14-Day Mask Wearing Campaign, To Check COVID-19 Spread

Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today announced a 14-day mask-wearing campaign to thwart COVID-19 spread in Odisha. In an address to the people of the State, the CM urged people to wear masks anytime they move out of their houses. This protocol apart from other COVID appropriate behaviour needs to be followed religiously if we want to avoid lockdowns or shut-

protocols sincerely, we will put our own lives and the lives of our family members in danger," said Naveen. The Chief Minister said, the Government and police is on its duty outside homes, on the streets. But the women in the houses need to be on alert and ensure that family members moving out must wear masks. If mothers are alert, Corona can not make an entry into their houses. The Government will be



downs. Naveen said, we have endured a lot of difficulties to brave the first wave of COVID-19. Many of our COVID warriors lost their lives in this war. "Today, the infection has resurfaced in the form of a second wave. The situation is critical, and if we do not adhere to the COVID pro-

forced to resort to steps like lockdown or shutdown if some of us are negligent, the CM warned. Naveen insisted that those who have already taken COVID-19 vaccines should also wear masks. Penalty for not wearing masks has been doubled, he said

## Teeka Utsav: Odisha Seeks 25 Lakh COVID Vaccine Doses From Centre

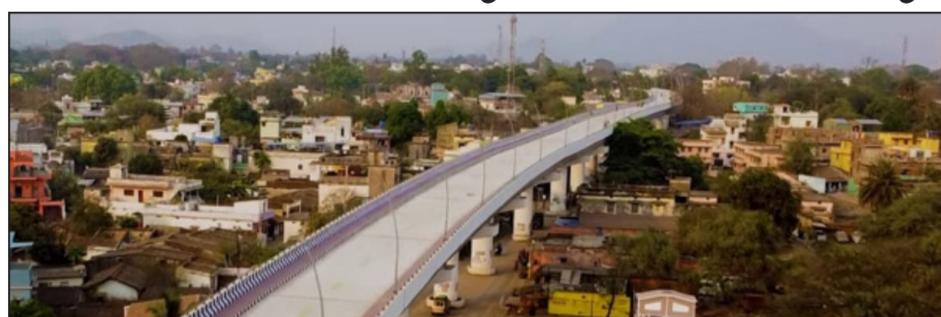
Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: The Odisha Government has sought 25 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccine from the Centre for 'Teeka Utsav' between April 11 and April 14. PK Mohapatra, Additional Chief Secretary to Odisha Government, Health & Family Welfare Department has written to Additional Secretary, Union Health Ministry in this regard. "Covid vaccination in Odisha should be stepped up and we are prepared to undertake 3 lakh vaccinations daily. Unfortunately, due to ex-

tremely low supply of vaccines to our state, we had to close down two third of our vaccination centres. Several districts are now in a stock-out situation and are unable to continue the vaccination programme. This issue has been raised repeatedly with Union Health Ministry earlier but remains unaddressed," Mohapatra wrote in the letter. "You are therefore requested to allocate at least 25 lakh doses of Covishield to Odisha immediately, to make the 'Teeka Utsav' more successful in our

state and also improve the vaccination coverage in the entire state in coming days," Mohapatra urged. Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had yesterday interacted with the Chief Ministers of various states regarding the COVID-19 situation via video conference and called for 'Teeka Utsav' (Vaccination Festival) between April 11 and April 14. Effort should be to vaccinate maximum number of people during the vaccination festival, the PM had said.



## CM Naveen Patnaik Inaugurates Rail Over Bridge At Titilagarh



Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated a 1,042 metre rail over bridge (ROB) at Titilagarh in Bolangir district through video conferencing. The ROB has been built at a cost of Rs 71.59 crore, said an official press release. "Titilagarh is an important rail junction. The construction of the ROB will be of great use for the people for communication. Apart from Titilagarh, it will benefit the people of Bhawanipatna, Kesinga, and Nuapada," said Patnaik in his inaugural

address. He informed that the State government aims for extensive development of Titilagarh town. Apart from this ROB several developmental works like a modern bus stand, swimming pool, renovation of Maharaja Sagar, wastewater treatment plant are underway, he added. The Chief Minister expressed hope that these will be completed in due time. While opining that infrastructure is the base for development, Patnaik stated that he always emphasized on development of infrastructure. He said that today has become a

leading State in the field of infrastructure, development of roads, bridges, ports, etc. Odisha has made tremendous progress in the field of connectivity. While expressing that infrastructure is property of the citizens, all should take care of it, he appealed. Seeking co-operation of the public to contain the Corona second wave, the Chief Minister further appealed all to wear masks. Participating in the function through video conferencing Works Minister Prafulla Mallick said that for ushering in development, there is a

need for connectivity. Under the leadership of the Chief Minister there has been remarkable progress in the development of roads, he added. Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahoo thanked the Chief Minister on behalf of the people of Titilagarh. Bolangir MP Sangeeta Singhdeo said that the ROB was the fulfillment of a long-time cherished dream of the people of Titilagarh. Singhdeo thanked the Chief Minister for the developmental works in western Odisha and remarked that the Chief Minister has a soft

corner for western Odisha. She also thanked the Chief Minister for making Mission Shakti an independent department. Thanking the Chief Minister, Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) chairman Asit Tripathy said that today is a day of joy for the people of Titilagarh. Throwing light on the several developmental works in western Odisha, Tripathy said that from this it can be easily deduced where western Odisha ranks in the priority list of the Chief Minister. The event was coordinated by Secretary to Chief Minister (ST) V K Pandian. Commerce and Transport Minister Padmanabha Behera, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Agriculture Production Commissioner R K Sharma, Works Secretary Krishan Kumar among others were present during the event.

## Penalty For Not Wearing Mask Doubled In Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: A fine of Rs 2,000 will be imposed for not wearing mask at public places in Odisha, the state government said today. Violators will have to pay Rs 2,000 for first two vio-

lations and Rs 5,000 for subsequent offences, it said. The fine amount was earlier Rs 1,000 for first two violations and Rs 5,000 for subsequent offences. Earlier in the day, Chief Minister



Naveen Patnaik in a message to the people of the state initiated the 14-day 'Mask Abhiyaan' and urged them to wear mask properly for the said number of days in order to make it a habit.

## Sushil Modi Took A Dig At Maharashtra Government



Mumbai, Apr 9: Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Kumar Modi on Thursday strongly targeted the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). He said that governance in Maharashtra is at zero levels, hence the corona is spreading the most. Senior BJP leader Sushil Modi said that by upholding the High Court's verdict of the CBI probe against NCP's Anil Deshmukh in the case of illegal recovery of Rs 100 crore on the Mumbai Police Commissioner, the Supreme Court has given a rude shock to the

Congress. Modi said, "Just as the RJD-Congress government in Bihar was involved in the scam, kidnapping industry and land capture, the top leadership of Maharashtra government is engaged in illegal recovery." The Rajya Sabha MP tweeted from his official Twitter handle, writing, "The Congress, which befriends Lalu Prasad's party, found guilty in four cases of fodder scam in Bihar, is also defending the Maha Corrupt government in Maharashtra, which has another minister He has been accused of pressurizing the illegal recovery of Rs 2 crore."

Sushil Kumar Modi further wrote that Congress is silent on this issue, while two of its strong lawyers stood in defense of the Maharashtra government and former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh in the Supreme Court. Modi said that the governance in Maharashtra is at zero levels, hence the corona is spreading the most. The BJP leader said that corrupt governments do not work to serve the people and protect them in distress, but leave the people on their own and build assets for many books.

## Led by woman sarpanch, Rajasthan village votes to become liquor free

Jaipur, Apr 9: The special vote was carried out under the Rajasthan Excise Rules, which empowers a panchayat to opt for closing a liquor shop if 50 per cent of its residents vote for it. Thaneta village in Rajasthan's Rajsamand district became a liquor-free village on Friday after its residents voted to shut down all liquor shops in their panchayat. 2206 out of the 3245 eligible voters were in favour of alcohol prohibition. Only 61 votes were cast against prohibition while 40 votes were declared invalid. This comes after an anti-liquor campaign by the women of the village. The village bore a festive look on Friday as people enthusiastically participated and officials of the Rajsamand district administration, including Collector Arvind Poswal and SDM CP Varma, supervised the polling. The special vote was carried out under the

Rajasthan Excise Rules, which empowers a panchayat to opt for closing a liquor shop if 50 per cent of its residents vote for it. The villagers celebrated their victory by dancing outside the

in Thaneta were inspiring each other to vote for this liquor ban and our work for the past several months has borne fruit with people's support." Alcoholism has been a worrying issue in this

eas, women used to complain that their husbands wasted a lot of their earnings on liquor. Often the men used to even beat their wives or met with accidents while they were drunk and it's

ined many families here," said Malti, among those who voted for the liquor shop's closure. She added, "We women are badly affected since we lose our husbands and sons to this habit. I hope we will now see the end



polling booth after the result was declared. Thaneta village Sarpanch, Deeksha Chauhan was delighted with the result and said, "We are happy that the wait of people of our village has finally ended. We want all liquor shops to be banned. People

region and since women are the ones who often suffer its ill-effects the most, they led by their fellow-woman sarpanch have been campaigning for prohibition for quite some time. Sarpanch Deeksha Chauhan remarked, "When I used to go to different ar-

women and children who suffered. But now I think people's lives will improve a lot as we will have prohibition in our panchayat." Among those most thrilled with the verdict is Malti Devi, who said her husband often thrashes her when he is drunk. "Alcohol has ru-

of this disease of drinking." The results of Friday's vote will be presented before the district administration and once they approve it, the excise department is likely to issue a notification announcing the closure of all liquor shops within Thaneta panchayat.

## Drastic Rise In Coronavirus Cases, 1.31 Lakhs Detected In Last 24 Hours

New Delhi, Apr 9: The Coronavirus is breaking its record all over the country every day. Late Thursday, Corona had the biggest ever attack in India. A total of 1 lakh 31 thousand 968 new positive cases in the country in 24 hours. During this time 780 patients lost their lives. However, 61 thousand 899 people also recovered from Corona. A day before this, 1 lakh 26 thousand 265 people were infected. Till

Thursday, 9 crores 43 lakh 34 thousand 262 people have been vaccinated. With this, the figure of corona infected has now gone to 1 crore 30 lakh 60 thousand 542. Of these, 1 crore 19 lakh 13 thousand 292 people have been cured, while 1 lakh 67 thousand 642 patients have died. There are 9 lakh 79 thousand 608 patients who are undergoing treatment. The rate of recovery from corona in the



country has come down to 91.67 percent and the rate of active cases has increased to 7.04 percent. The corona death rate has come down to 1.29

percent. According to the Union Health Ministry, there are 12 states in India where corona cases are increasing and people are being killed due to

infection. These states include Maharashtra, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala. On Thursday, PM Modi took a meeting with the Chief Ministers of all the states. In the meeting, PM Modi gave strict instructions to the states to follow the corona guidelines. Also said that it is most important to make people aware.

## Bihar asks shops to shut down at 7 pm in new guidelines to fight Covid surge



Patna, Apr 8: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar also extended the closure of all educational institutions including schools, colleges and coaching centres till April 18. With Covid cases rising, the state government has issued fresh guidelines allowing shops to remain open only till 7 pm. The order came into immediate effect from Friday. Bihar CM Nitish Kumar also extended the closure of all educational institutions including schools, colleges and coaching centres till April 18. After chairing a high-level meeting with officials on Friday, the Chief Minister said, "We are ready to take whatever steps may be required to check the spike in the positive cases. A massive testing has started at all places for the passengers returning from Maharashtra (in par-

ticular)." He added that in the next few days an all-party meeting will be held to decide further steps. The CM categorically said that no decision was taken to impose night curfew or lockdown in the state. What was decided was to get people to adhere to safety measures through a mass mobilisation drive. The Chief Minister said 17 passengers who had returned from Mumbai had tested positive in Patna. He added that if the situation deteriorates further in Bihar, more stringent steps will be taken to check the pandemic. Principal health secretary Pratyay Amrit, who was also present at the media interaction, said that all religious places will remain closed till April 30 and restrictions have been imposed on gatherings and public

events in view of the rising graph of Covid positive cases. He also said that a special vaccination drive on mission mode will be carried out from April 11 to 14 to vaccinate at least 4 lakh people each on the four days. "For special vaccination drive, additional vaccines have also been requested by the state government," Amrit said. He said that only 35% attendance has been allowed in the government offices. "Only 25% of customers will be allowed in restaurants and 50% in movie halls," he said. "Restaurants and dhabas will be allowed to remain open after 7 pm but with only 25% of their capacity. But a total ban on home delivery or takeaway system in the state will remain effective," Pratyay Amrit said.

## BJP MLA backs Varanasi court order, says Gyanwapi mosque will be removed



Ballia, Apr 9: A Varanasi court on Thursday ordered an archaeological survey of the Kashi Vishwanath temple and the Gyanwapi mosque premises to resolve a lingering dispute involving the two shrines. Controversial BJP MLA Surendra Singh on Fri-

day waded into the Kashi Vishwanath temple-Gyanwapi mosque row, saying the mosque will be removed and India will become a "Hindu Rashtra" soon. A Varanasi court on Thursday ordered an archaeological survey of

the Kashi Vishwanath temple and the Gyanwapi mosque premises to resolve a lingering dispute involving the two shrines. Referring to the order, the Bairia MLA told reporters, "I welcome the decision of the Varanasi court. I am happy with it. Gyanwapi

mosque will be removed from Varanasi and a grand Shiva temple will be built." "This is an era of change and empowerment of Hindus. Similar to the hurdles in establishing 'Ram Rajya', there are problems at present too. These issues will be resolved and Bharat will soon become a 'Hindu Rashtra'," the legislator said. This dream will be fulfilled during the regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Regarding the ticket distribution for the upcoming panchayat polls in the state, Singh said he was justified in fielding three of his sup-

porters against party candidates. The order in the temple-mosque row was issued by a senior division civil court in Varanasi on a plea pending before it since 2019, the petitioner's counsel said. Reacting to the court order, UP Sunni Central Waqf Board in Lucknow said it will challenge the subordinate court's order in the Allahabad High Court. Last month, Singh courted controversy when he said the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra will be renamed as "Ram Mahal" and claimed that the Mughal-era monument used to be a Shiva temple before it was demolished and rebuilt into the famous tomb.

## Bomb scare-murder cases: Sachin Waze sent to judicial custody till April 23

Mumbai, Apr 9: On Friday, after Waze was produced in court, special public prosecutor Sunil Gonsalves said that the NIA wanted to bring to

the notice of the court that on the last hearing on April 7, a letter written by Waze was circulated. Gonsalves said that while the court had allowed Waze to give

whatever he wanted to say in writing, he was asked to follow procedure. He said this was not done and the letter written by Waze, given to his lawyers, was

circulated. He said the court had not taken the letter on record as it was not done as per procedure, but it was nonetheless made public.

Gonsalves added that it was a serious matter since Waze was in NIA custody when this happened and the agency was not aware about this.

## Daily cases surge past 1,000 in Odisha, up by 46% in 24 hours



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: The daily caseload breached the 1,000-mark for the first time this year. Of the fresh cases spread across 28 districts, 755 were in quarantine and 527 local infections. The local transmission also saw a rise of 46% and the addition of 166 cases in a day. The test positivity rate (TPR) shot up to 4.4% from 2.83% a day before. The state had conducted 29,081 tests during the period taking the total number of tests to over 93 lakh. Three districts crossed a three-digit figure with Sundargarh reg-

istering maximum of 224 cases, followed by Khurda (192) and Kalahandi (108). Among other districts, 84 cases were detected in Bargarh, 82 each in Nuapada and Sambalpur, 63 in Cuttack, 52 in Mayurbhanj, 49 in Angul, 45 in Balangir, 36 in Jharsuguda, 32 in Ganjam, 28 in Puri, 27 in Nabarangpur, 26 Jajpur and 24 in Bhadrak. Seven districts bordering Chhattisgarh recorded 569 cases accounting for around

44% of the daily caseload. Since the border districts emerged as hotspots, the Odisha government suspended all public transport from the state and vice versa till April 30. People coming to Odisha from any parts of the country or outside by any means of transportation will have to produce a Covid-19 negative report or fully vaccination certificate from April 12 or else they will have to undergo a seven-day home or institutional quarantine. Districts

have been directed to set up and operationalise temporary medical centres/Covid care centres in clusters as per requirement for extending institutional quarantine facilities to returnees. Meanwhile, two healthcare workers, including a lady doctor of Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar tested positive for Covid-19 in the last two days. Director of Capital Hospital Dr Laxmidhar Sahoo said contact tracing was done as per the protocol and those who had come in contact with them have tested negative. "The two found positive were vaccinated earlier. Their samples have been sent to the Regional Medical Research Centre for RT-PCR test once again," he said. With the new cases, the tally soared to 3,46,808, of which 3,38,890 have recovered. One more Covid patient succumbed to the disease taking the death toll to 1924. The active cases climbed to 5,941.

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## Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd inaugurates its 5th Customer Care Centre at Nayagarh

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, recently inaugurated a new Customer Care Centre (CCC) at Nayagarh. With this recent addition, the number of TPCODL CCC chains now stand at five Customer Care Centres in Odisha. The CCC was inaugurated by Dr. Poma Tudu, Collector and District Magistrate, Nayagarh District in the presence of TPCODL's Senior Management and employees. It will be entirely managed by a team of officials who are trained to handle a gamut of customer service offerings such as new power supply applications, monthly bill payments, addressing to customers' queries & concerns along with other customer related services at the centre thereby, strengthening their participation in offering excellent services. Besides this, in order to provide better customer experience, the CCC is fully equipped with a Queue Management System for efficient management of customer footfall at the centre, a Self Help Kiosk as well as a Feedback Tabto capture customer's feedback on the services rendered at the centre. Speaking on the occasion,

Mr. M. Shenbagam, Chief Executive Officer, Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited said, "We are extremely delighted to inaugurate our new CCC in Nayagarh. Our aim is to consistently offer customers an easy access to a gamut of services and create customer delight through our innovative solutions, all under one roof." Last year, TPCODL inaugurated four



CCCs including one at Bhubaneswar and two All Women CCC at Cuttack and Puri to influence the employability and empowerment of the local women. This is the 5th CCC of TPCODL. In 2018, Tata Power created a new milestone by inaugurating India's first All-Women CCC for its Mumbai customers, a first by any power utility in India. With this, Tata Power has smooth and successfully operational chain of over 5 All-Women CCCs across Mumbai, Delhi and Ajmer.

## RCM Sealed For COVID Norm Violation



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) today

sealed the Regional College of Management (RCM) here for violation of COVID-19 norms. An event

was underway at the college, when a BMC team raided the place and took action. The civic body has also issued a show cause notice to the educational institution. Earlier, Oxford College of Engineering and Management and Silicon Institute of Technology were sealed by the BMC for violation of COVID-19 guidelines.

## Tourists are sleeping on the side of the road and the government is spending billions

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: Hundreds of pilgrims flock to Ekamra area every day. However, they do not have the added benefit of staying overnight. As a result, tourists are sleeping on the side of the road. Tourists say the government is spending the night on such roads as there are no passenger lodges in the area. There are many attractions in Ekamra. Hundreds of people visit the temple every day, apart from the Sri Lingaraj temple. Now various developments have taken place around the temple. Which is attracting tourists. So tourists don't have the facility to stay overnight. As a result,



many tourists were seen sleeping on the side of the road at night in the Lingaraj Market area. The tourist, who hails from Kolkata and Maharashtra, says he slept on the side of the road as there was no place to sleep at night.

The passenger housing area in the area, which is under the control of Gautam Nagar Mouza, is in the possession of a private plot of land. This plot no 3335/5732, khata no- 1331/415, with a capacity of 70 decimals. Plot no 3335/

5824, khata no- 1331/806, with a capacity of 57 decimals. Plot no 3335/8525, khata no- 1331/807, with a capacity of 129 decimals. Plot no 3335/5826, khata no- 1331/808, with a capacity of 141 decimals. Plot no 3335/

5827, khata no- 1331/809, with a capacity of 39 decimals. Plot no 3335/5885, khata no- 1331/415, with a capacity of 13 decimals. Plot no 3335/5882, khata no- 2151/287, with a capacity of 40 decimals. Plot no 3335/5985, khata no- 1907/09, with a capacity of 25 decimals. Efforts have been made to compensate the BMC for crores of rupees under the Ekamra Development Plan in lieu of this land. Which, of course, made the video an overnight sensation. As the original owner of the land is Lingaraj, the Bhubaneswar Anchalika Parisad has demanded a high-level investigation into the cost of passenger accommodation here.

## Alert! Thundershower, Lightning Warning For 11 Odisha Districts Today

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Regional Centre today issued thundershower warning for as many as 11 districts across the state. As per the latest bulletin issued by the MeT centre, rain accompanied with lightning is likely to lash several parts in the dis-

tricts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Boudh, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur. The weather condition in the districts is likely to prevail till 5 PM today. The weathermen advised people of the said districts to remain cautious and stay safe during the lightning.

## India's eternal spiritual and classical traditions marked ICCR Foundation Day Festivity



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: India's cultural diversity, particularly those based on spiritualism, has significantly contributed towards harnessing the spirit of Indians throughout the ages. The 71st ICCR Foundation Day, organised and live streamed at Utkal Rangamancha, GKCM ORC, Bhubaneswar today, was a celebration of

these eternal spiritual heritage and classical traditions, with staging of Odissi Dance Drama SABARI and Odissi dance performances by Kasturi Pattanaik and SANKALP Group. Kasturi Pattanaik, the outstanding Odissi dance exponent, performer, choreographer, teacher, trainer and music composer, proved her mantle as the pioneer of Odissi Dance

Dramas, with her magnificent choreography, superb musical composition and lively script of Dance Drama SABARI. Kasturi Pattanaik, played the central character of Sabari of Hindu epic Ramayana, the ardent devotee of Lord Rama in perennial wait to get HIS Darshan and blessings to attend salvation. The other artists, who performed in the Dance Drama

traditions. SANKALP Group- Kasturi Pattanaik's disciples- Purnima Das, Bharti Mishra, Manikarnika, Tejaswini Pallai and Rasmitha Bhoi staged "Thei Ghara Nata", a unique contribution of Kasturi Pattanaik to Odissi dance. It has been specifically conceptualised and choreographed by her as the second item of Odissi dance repertoire. Thei Ghara Nata, with Raga Majkhamaj and Taal Triputta, intercepted by Khemta; is marked by its rotational and multi-dimensional portrayal of the creative growth process of Odissi dance. The performers brilliantly provided a consonant and converging collage of Odissi dance in its most traditional and purest form. The elegance of the classical depth of Odissi dance was epitomised

in Hansadhwni Pallavi, with magnificently graceful and lyrical performance by Manikarnika, Bharti Mishra and Tejaswini Pallai. Hansadhwni Pallavi, choreographed, along with music composition by Kasturi Pattanaik, is based on Raag Hansadhwni and Taal Ektaal. The programme also had excellent participation by the ICCR international students. The majestic celebration was vividly coordinated by Minakshi Mishra, Director, ICCR Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar and her enthusiastic team. Dr. Sangita Gosain, renowned scholar and vocalist and Chief Executive, GKCM ORC excellently compered the programme, which was indeed a celebration of our civilisational values and ageless traditions.

## Water Treatment Plant inaugurated at IMFA Mines



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: A Water Treatment Plant (WTP) with a capacity of 6000 Litre per hour at our Mahagiri Chromite Mines was inaugurated by Shri Pritiranjana Gharai, Hon'ble MLA of Sukinda, in presence of Shri Sanjeev Das, SVP, Head - Mining Business Unit, IMFA Ltd and Shri Sudhanshu Patni, VP (Mining) on Wednesday. Mrs Kalpana Jena, Kaliapani Sarapanch was also present among other dignitaries on this occasion. In this WTP, the waste water from the underground mine

is processed without using chemicals and made potable. Speaking on this occasion, Shri Pritiranjana Gharai, Hon'ble MLA of Sukinda lauded the efforts for installing this kind of Water Treatment Plant and said it is an example for other mines in this region. On this occasion, Shri Sanjeev Das, SVP, Head - Mining Business Unit; IMFA Ltd said about the benefits on this Water Treatment Plant. At the end of the meeting, Shri Sudhanshu Patni, VP (Mining); IMFA Ltd gave vote of thanks to all.

# EDITORIAL

## Goons in khaki

The civil defence volunteers are acting as if they are law unto themselves. They don the khaki uniform, just like policemen, and can dangerously come in the way of your vehicle, surrounding it from all sides and forcing you to stop. They can even pull out the ignition key of your vehicle. Usually, at the first instance, a Delhi Civil Defence (DCD) "volunteer" will threaten you with a hefty challan if s/he catches you for even the minutest violation or accidental slip of mask. Naturally, one would immediately apologise or offer a genuine reason for the momentary slip-up rather than eagerly and willingly paying the fine. So the volunteer now asks you to pay less than the actual amount to "warm" their hands and let you walk away. All this is done in the name of compliance of the COVID-appropriate behaviour and hapless citizens are at the receiving end of it. No doubt, apart from those who are manufacturing masks, sanitisers and other medical essentials, the pandemic has opened up the opportunity for these civil volunteers to be out on an extortion spree. These "pseudo-policemen" desperately hunt for their prey, particularly those who appear poor, labour class or villagers who often take them to be policemen. Several people have complained that these volunteers often assume the role of traffic police and stop even those who might be wearing a mask but not the helmet or who haven't fastened their seat belt. No wonder, they must be indulging in moral policing, too. These civil volunteers extort money by threatening people with a jail term in case they fail to pay the fine. Ironically, there is no check on such activities and these continue unabated, with even the real policemen standing by as mute spectators to the deeds of the civil volunteers. Incidents of people clashing with the civil defence personnel are increasing in the Capital. In a recent case, a heated argument between a student and DCD volunteers turned violent at a traffic signal in South Delhi's Hauz Khas and a volunteer allegedly hit the student with a belt in full public view. Thereafter, the DCD personnel were attacked by an irate crowd. These volunteers act like goons in khaki uniform. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal always demands that the police should come under the control of his Government, saying it will help rein in crime. However, such claims are a mere rhetoric and it's hard to believe that a Chief Minister who cannot control the actions of civil defence volunteers will control the crime rate in the Capital. The Delhi Government has imposed night curfew and nobody, except those who are facing an emergency or are deployed in emergency duties or those with valid passes, is allowed to step out. As the police alone cannot handle the situation, the role of civil volunteers becomes indispensable. However, it must be ensured that these men in "uniform" do not overstep the limits of their duty; else we must be ready for something gruesome like the Nirbhaya incident hitting the headlines soon.

## Shameful

The Assembly polls in West Bengal this year are witnessing a record number of violent incidents. More than 100 years ago, political leader and social reformer Gopal Krishna Gokhale had said: "What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow." It must have rung true for the "Aamaar shonaar Bangla" of that time and age; sadly, that is no longer the case. The post-Independence Bengal is known more because of its trade unionism, impromptu strikes and election violence, at least since the 1960s. The ongoing Assembly elections in the State are no exception. Of the crucial eight-phase election, the three phases that have already been completed have had their share of bloody arson, mob violence, exploding crude bombs, threats to rival politicians and their followers and brandishing of lathis and iron rods. Quite unlike other States and Union Territories in the country, West Bengal has always reported blood, gore and violence in its elections, be it for a panchayat or Parliament. In the latest round of voting, five candidates, including two women, were assaulted, while clashes between rival political groups during the polling were also reported. The balance of hooliganism seems to be tilted evenly — of the five people arrested for their alleged involvement in the assault of a female candidate, three belonged to the TMC and two to the BJP. Several candidates in the poll fray have been attacked. There were also allegations of attacks on polling agents in certain constituencies. Along predictable lines, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged the misuse of Central forces deployed on election duty, and the BJP charged the "TMC goons" with running amok and trying to influence the election outcome by intimidating voters. However, what is notably interesting is that the violence surprised neither the citizens nor political pundits. Everybody, it would appear, was in fact waiting for the violence to be unleashed, especially since in this election a resurgent BJP has thrown a direct challenge to the might of Mamata, who herself is a street fighter. The stakes of the Congress and the Left may be considered somewhat limited, but the latter — having ruled the State with an iron hand for more than three decades before surrendering to a feisty Mamata — itself is an old hand in managing violence during successive elections. In toto, democracy in the State can't be termed healthy by any stretch of imagination, which is a sad thing. One can only hope that the upcoming poll phases will witness less of violence and more of the dance of democracy.

# Farmers' sympathy for leaders grows

Rakesh Tikait's March campaign, which covered Nandigram to Rajasthan and Punjab to Tamil Nadu, turned heads everywhere. As the Samyukta Kisan Morcha was blocking roads all across India on March 26 and celebrating Bharat Bandh, the situation in Ahmedabad got out of hand. The Bharatiya Kisan Union's (BKU) Yudhvir Singh was arrested in the middle of a press conference. The arresting officer, with the IPS stars on his shoulder lapel, told the media that the "arrest is being made because no permission was taken". Since when is the Government's permission required to host a press conference? Keep in mind that there was no protest or demonstration at the site, and the press meeting was being attended by only a few people. Still, did the event undermine Prime Minister Narendra Modi? By arresting Yudhvir, a seasoned leader having a long-term relationship with the Tikait family, the Gujarat Government did him a political favour as a normal press conference turned into national news and the BKU's second-level leadership is now headed towards national fame. The Modi Government may have actually helped Rakesh Tikait's BKU by making Yudhvir a twitter martyr. But, was the arrest necessary to nullify the press conference? By any measure, no. So, the schemes being hatched in the Modi-Shah mind are unfathomable. Are they trying to divide the Kisan Morcha by playing favourites? By giving the Tikait faction more limelight, they may cause tension among the 40-



Indra Shekhar Singh

leader group. This is very much like Modi. Keep in mind, Yudhvir was later released and he participated in the Kisan panchayat in Rajasthan on March 27. Yudhvir and Rakesh Tikait came out strongly against the "oppression" of the Modi Government at the centre and in Gujarat. They termed it the "Gujarat model of slavery" and said the "people and farmers of Gujarat were not free". These statements are powerful as in Mahatma Gandhi's home State, people are being arrested for holding a press conference. It looks like a political blunder to detain and release Yudhvir the same day. But let us consider another possibility — Is Modi actually getting scared of Tikait's tactics and messages? Since the night of January 27, Rakesh has catapulted himself into national politics by gaining huge support from the Jat-dominated belts of Rajasthan to UP. His March campaign, which covered Nandigram

to Pipad, Rajasthan, and Punjab to Tamil Nadu, turned heads everywhere. Popular support has swelled from farmers, especially the youth. A recent media survey names him among 100 powerful Indians. And he will soon be a force to reckon with. Hence, the Modi Government is keeping a close watch on him, unnecessarily burning the tax-payer's money for political gains. As Modi goes on the offensive, the growers' sympathy for their unions grows. Meanwhile, Tikait has been consistent in his appeal to farmers to rebel against unfair prices. Repeatedly across Pipad, Meham, Jaipur and other places, he stressed that farmers should be ready to enter Delhi and sell their crops outside Parliament. This strategy is bold and strikes a chord with the farmers. His appeal is simple: If Modi says that farmers can sell their produce anywhere, why not the DM's or SP's office? By mid-April, the Rabi har-

vest should be over in most parts of the country. If this campaign works, the Modi Government will have to be ready for a country-wide protest, especially if the prices once again dip below the MSP. Modi will then have a hard time assuring the nation that the "MSP will continue". The Tikait camp has repeatedly used "Walmartisation" to describe the corporatisation of Indian agriculture and farmers. The same position is being adopted by the RSS-linked Swadeshi Jagran March, which has been very vocal against the FDI and entry of e-retailers like Amazon. So the farmers' movement has been very aware and astute in public campaigns. A good example was the talk of police reforms. Tikait has emphasised in each rally the need for better salaries and accommodation for police and security forces' personnel. One really has to see the smiles on the faces of policemen deployed to "maintain peace" at his rallies. The most earthy message comes from his appeal to the youth: "Go to your land, touch the soil, put it on your forehead and feel the earth." The farm leaders, including Tikait, are offering after half a decade of hate-based propaganda a positive and inclusive message. They have connected the earth, agriculture and rights together and formed the perfect antithesis to the Modi Government. Their methods are feisty yet Gandhian and their political organisation is growing stronger each day. The Government has been on their back, hence cases have been registered against various farmer leaders. But how will Modi react to this new challenge in the long term, perhaps only Bengal will tell.

# Despite ruling party's silence, immigration from Bangladesh remains a theme in Assam politics

Sanjib Baruah

It will continue to animate and shape the state's politics in profound and unpredictable ways in the foreseeable future. Considering that immigration from across the Partition's eastern border has been a recurring theme in the politics of Assam, it may be useful to take a long-term view of the phenomenon. "All warfare is the way of deception", said Sun Tzu, the great Chinese military strategist. Deception plays a role in modern electoral strategies as well. If immigration does not appear to be a live political issue in the current election in Assam, most of the credit should go to a successful campaign of strategic deception. The ruling party won the past two elections in the state by staking its claim as the champion of local interests against the danger from immigration. But this time, as a matter of strategic calculation, the party decided to play coy about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) — a critical and controversial piece of legislation on the subject — and the Clause 6 committee's report, a proposal to provide local people with constitutional safeguards to mitigate the adverse impact of the CAA, which has apparently been shelved for now. However, both national and state-level BJP leaders rallied around one core message, depicting AIUDF leader Badruddin Ajmal as the central villain of the piece. A Congress-AIUDF alliance government, they darkly hint, will lead to a rise in "infiltration". Considering that immigration from across the Partition's eastern border has been a recurring theme in the politics of Assam, it may be useful to take a long-term view of the phenomenon. In world historical terms, the birth of India and Pakistan as separate countries, and the subsequent

break-up of Pakistan and the birth of Bangladesh, were the result of the emergence of the nation-state as the new global norm of political organisation. But as thinkers such as Hannah Arendt have warned us, the formation of new states is almost always a refugee-generating process. Indeed, the League of Nations — the predecessor of the United Nations — took it upon itself to manage the minority issues created in this process. That there are migration flows across the Partition's border even after seven decades wouldn't surprise many historians. The Partition was not a conclusive one-time event, it has been a protracted and long-drawn-out affair. It has followed two different trajectories in the east and in the west. The more or less complete "exchange of population" that occurred in Punjab during Partition — and the brutal violence that accompanied it — didn't happen in the east. The Hindu population of pre-Partition eastern Bengal was about 28 per cent of the population. It dropped to only about 22 per cent in 1951. The Nehru-Liaquat Pact of March 1950 was by no means an ad-hoc response to a major outbreak of Hindu-Muslim violence. The two countries borrowed from internationally available models of managing minority issues in newly crafted nation-states. They sought to create a bilateral institutional framework to restore confidence among minorities in East Pakistan, Assam and West Bengal. The goal was to maintain the demographic status quo of the two post-Partition states. The effort was hardly an unmitigated failure, as it is sometimes implied. After all, in the following two decades, the Hindu

population of East Pakistan decreased by only 3.6 per cent (from 22 per cent in 1951 to 18.4 per cent in 1970). But things began to change dramatically with the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971. The Pakistani military regime of the time, as Bangladeshi scholar Meghna Guhathakurta puts it, viewed the Liberation War as an Indian conspiracy and treated Bengali freedom fighters as if they were Indian infiltrators. Consequently, the repressive backlash of the Pakistani state fell upon almost 90 per cent of Bangladesh's Hindu households. And as the military campaign against Bengali resistance intensified, "the percentage of Hindu refugees fleeing into India increased manifold in relation to Muslim refugees." In August 1971, according to an estimate she cites, there were 6,71,000 Hindu refugees and 5,41,000 Muslim refugees in India. Scholars such as Zillur Rahman Khan agree with this general assessment. Of the 9.7 million refugees who migrated to India in 1971, he says, 70 per cent were Hindus. Many of the Hindu refugees of 1971, writes Bangladeshi commentator Sarwar Jahan Choudhury, are "suspected to have stayed back in West Bengal, Tripura, and Barak valley." Considering India's support for the Bangladeshi independence, it is ironic that the region's Hindu population continued to decline after Bangladesh became an independent country. The changed political landscape following the murder of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the embrace of Islam as part of its official national identity by military regimes of Ziaur Rahman (1975–1981) and Hussain Muhammad

Ershad (1981–1990), clearly didn't help. The proportion of Hindus came down to 12 per cent in 1981 and 9 per cent in 2011. However, emigration to India need not be the only explanation for the decline of the country's Hindu population. Viewed from the perspective of Bangladesh's Hindu minority, the CAA is a gamechanger. The goal of maintaining the demographic status quo of the post-Partition states has now been abandoned. The CAA is a welcome mat to Hindus: Immigration to India will now onwards be seen as homecoming. Years before the adoption of the CAA, Meghna Guhathakurta wrote that while insecurity and rejection led many Hindu Bangladeshis to choose the path of silent migration to India, it was "often looked upon by Bangladeshi elites and champions of Bangladeshi nationalism as a form of opportunism on the part of Hindu families". It was used as an argument to justify discrimination against them in employment and education on the pretext that they couldn't be trusted to serve the country if given those opportunities. This situation is only likely to get worse with the CAA. Even though the CAA currently has December 31, 2014 as the cut-off date, it is hard to imagine that a future Indian government, especially of the current ideological persuasion, will have the political inclination to close the doors on Hindu unauthorised immigrants who have entered — or will enter — India after that date. Like the previous cut-off date of March 25, 1971, which was superseded by the CAA, this cut-off date will probably also have to be abandoned in future. Migration will probably continue to animate and shape the politics of Assam in profound and unpredictable ways for the foreseeable future.

## Two tractors laden with valuable timber seized and 4 suspects arrested



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 9: From Kamalguda-Gurakhunta village in Malkangiri forest to MV-24 village, two tractors were being smuggled by truck, while forest officials arrested four suspects and seized a tractor-trailer. The Range officer Mr jagannath Prasad Bisoyi. At the behest of Malkangiri Divisional forest officer Pradeep Devdasi Mirase, Malkangiri forest officials were informed by reliable sources that two

tractors from Gorakhunta village were loaded with wooden logs and transported them to MV-24 village at 4 am. Two tractor drivers and two timber mafias were arrested! They were Bhairab Dhar and Mintu Biswas of MV-39 village, Kasha Sodi and Deva Pujari of Kodelmela village! About 120 sft logs seized Done! The Forrester Muralidhar Angulia, Rajesh Sethi, Forest Guard Dipti Ranjan Nayak, Arjun Batte and 15 para staffs took part in the seize!

## GIET University at Gunupur has been closed for three days



(A.O. Bureau) Rayagada, Apr 9: The GIET University at Gunupur in Rayagada district of Odisha has been closed for three days following the detection of Covid-19 cases in the campus. As per a notice issued by University Registrar, the varsity will remain closed from today till April 10, in view of the resurgence of SARS-CoV-2, as per the order of the Gunupur Sub Collector. All staff

and students in the University campus have been requested to cooperate with the medical team and other Government officers during these three days maintaining Covid-19 guidelines strictly. Staff members, parents, students, visitors, and outsiders staying out of the University campus are not allowed to enter the campus during these days. However, all essential services will continue as usual, the notice read.

## A man was killed in a lightning strike due to Kalbaishakhi

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 9: Mangala Madhi, a 43-year-old son of Bhagirathi Madhi, a resident of Sarigiguda village near Siripeta village under Kudumuluguma Gram panchayat, was standing under a tree near his house last



evening. Mangala Majhi, who was injured in the blast, was rushed to a nearby Kudumuluguma health center with the help of villagers, who were pronounced dead at the scene by the doctor. Today, Mangala's body was dismembered and handed over

to the family. The news has created a mournful atmosphere throughout the region. Social activist Gopi Pangi and villagers immediately appealed to the tehsildar to provide Harishchandra assistance and lightning compensation to the family of the man.

## The Maa Ghar Mahila Sangathan protesting against the opening of a liquor shop in Malkangiri

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 9: A lottery was held in the Malkangiri DRDA conference room today to open new government liquor stores in 10 places in the district. More

than 200 people took part in the lottery. Upon learning of this, the women of Malkangiri District Maa Ghar Shantishena went to the DRDA conference room and protested at

the lottery site where the new liquor store was about to open. Tenders have already been tendered for the opening of two government liquor shops in Malkangiri district headquarters subdi-

vision and four in other parts of the district. The lottery was up today about who would open the liquor store and where. Today's youth society is getting polluted for liquor stores, so the

women organization has protested against this and wrote a written complaint against this to CM Odisha District Magistrate Malkangiri and Superintendent of police Malkangiri.

## Cinema hall sealed in Rayagada

(A.O. Bureau) Rayagada, Apr 9: The Rayagada district administration today sealed a cinema hall for violating Covid-19 guidelines. The district administration today conducted a raid and found violation of Covid protocols at Ashok Talkies in the town following which it was



sealed. The cinema hall had not strictly implemented social distancing and mask protocol for

audience. The hall was sealed in presence of district Collector and Superintendent of Police.

## Brick Kiln Labourer Killed, Wife Injured In Sundargarh

(A.O. Bureau) Sundargarh, Apr 9: A man has been arrested on Friday for murdering a brick kiln labourer and injuring his wife at Diamunda village under Lephripara police limits in Sundargarh district. Reportedly, the accused Sukru Nayak of the village along with the deceased person and his

wife, both natives of Chhattisgarh, were working at separate brick kilns in the village. Following an argument last night, Sukru slit the throat of the victim with a blade. When the victim's wife attempted to save him, Sukru attacked her with a spade. After death of the victim, Sukru along



with his young brother buried him near a canal

of Ichha River. While the victim's wife was

later admitted to VIMSAR in Burla by the brick kiln owner. On getting information, Officer-in-charge (OIC) of Sargipali Police Outpost, Kashinath Barik, reached the spot and apprehended Sukru and his brother. A probe into the matter has been initiated with recovery of the body.

## OCA Senior and U-19 Intraclub Cricket tournament concludes in Paradip

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Apr 9: Senior and Under-19 Intra club cricket match from 26.03.2021 to 07.04.2021 conducted by Odisha cricket association with assistant of Paradip Port District unit. In the final match of senior & Under-19 Intra club cricket match of Paradip Port District at Gopabandhu Stadium, Paradip played between Port Club VS Officer's Club. In which Port Club was all out in 302 runs in 49 overs loss of 10 wickets against which Officers Club loose the match scoring 271 runs in 49.5 overs with loss of 10

wickets. In the final match Sri Keshav Negi got man of the series, Sri Subham Kumar got best batsman & Sri Suryakant Jena got best bowler Trophy. Captain Atulya Kumar Mohapatra, Deputy Conservator & Sri Bablu Sikdar, Sr. ME and working President Paradip Port Sports Council, Sri A.C. Sutar Member Paradip Golf Club was present in the closing ceremony at Gopabandhu Stadium as chief guest and guest of honour respectively. Sri George Paul Rabinson, Sri Nihar Ranjan Baliarsingh & Sri Debendra Kumar



Nayak were the match Umpires of today. Sri Sanjeet Kumar Jena & Sri Rajkishor Mandal was the official scorer of the match. Sri M.R. Sathy SE electrical

and captain of Paradip Port cricket team, Sri Ravindra Kumar Das, adviser sports and member of OCA, Sri R.R. Beura, Secretary GKS, Sri

Sisir Kumar Pati, Technical member were associated with throughout the day for smoothly conduct the final match. It was maintained all covid-19 guidelines.

## 11 Students Of Another University In Odisha Test COVID-19 Positive

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, Apr 9: With various educational institutions across the state reporting COVID-19 cases, Sambalpur University Institute of Information Technology (SUIT) in Burla here has become the latest to join the list. SUIT Vice-Chancellor today informed that 11 students from the educational institute have

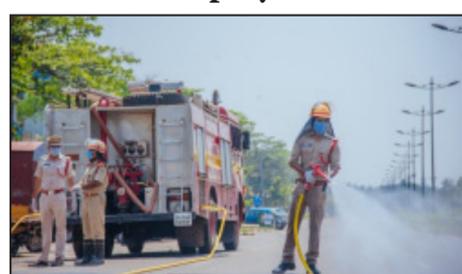


contracted COVID-19. All the infectees have been kept under isolation. All precautionary measures, including sanitization, are being taken up to curb spread of the virus in the campus, said an official. Yesterday, one positive case was reported from Gangadhar Meher (GM) University here. A girl student of the varsity has tested positive for the virus.

## Govt Office In Sundargarh Sealed After 3 Employees Test COVID-19 Positive

(A.O. Bureau) Sundargarh, Apr 9: The Sadar Tehsil Office in Sundargarh district was closed after three of its employees tested positive for COVID-19, the Tehsildar informed today. A closure notice has been released by the

office today for public. It has been decided to close the Tehsil Office as part of precautionary measures after the COVID test report of three employees came positive, the notice stated. Meanwhile, the single-day COVID tally



has created alarming situation in Sundargarh district. Total 224 fresh infections have been detected from the district in the last 24 hours. The night curfew is already in force and police are enforcing the COVID norms in the district.

## COVID-19 Upsurge: Ganjam Admin Imposes Fresh Restrictions At These Tourist Sites



(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, Apr 9: As part of precautionary measures in view of steep hike in COVID-19 cases, Ganjam administration has imposed fresh restrictions in many tourist sites in the district. Ganjam district administration informed this on its official Twitter handle today. As per the decisions taken in view of 'alarming' COVID situation in the second wave of the

pandemic, Gopalpur and Sunapur beaches will remain closed on weekends. To avoid congregation and crowd, the district authorities have closed Ramalingeshwar park and Tampara Lake for every Monday. Similarly, the restrictions have been imposed in the Maa Taratarini Temple for the devotees. The famous Shakti shrine will remain closed on every Wednesday.

## Irrfan Khan's Son Babil Khan Breaks Down As He Accepts Award For Father



Mumbai, Apr 9: It will be almost a year for Bollywood veteran actor Irrfan Khan to say goodbye to this world. After the news of his death came to light on 29 April 2020 (Irrfan Khan Death Anniversary), there was a wave of mourning not only in the whole country but also abroad. Because, as an actor, Irrfan Khan got his iron not only in Bollywood but also in Hollywood films. Even today, Irrfan Khan is remembered for his brilliant acting. In this episode, Irrfan Khan was given a Tribute from Filmfare. Late actor Irrfan Khan was honored with the Filmfare Award, which was taken by his son Babil Khan. A video

of the show is fast becoming viral on social media, in which Irrfan Khan's son Babil Khan can be seen crying bitterly. In fact, when the Tribute was being given to Irrfan Khan, Babil became very emotional after hearing a special word for his father. Not only Babil but all the people who were present during the award show, it looked emotional by remembering Irrfan Khan. Rajkumar Rao, who was present on the stage, looked emotional remembering the late actor. In such a situation, when Babil reached the stage to receive the father's award, Rajkumar Rao hugged him with love and was seen cheering.

## 'Karnan' movie review: Mari Selvaraj and Dhanush weave a solid tale of angst, retribution

New Delhi, Apr 9: While Dhanush and Lal are the backbone of the film, Mari slowly begins to weave in the story of Bodiyanakulam and its colourful inhabitants. Karnan, just like Pariyerum Perumal, begins with an emotional high. If Karuppi's plight tugged at your heartstrings, Karnan's condition will leave you at the edge of your seats. It is from this high that Mari Selvaraj slowly begins to weave in the story of Bodiyanakulam and its colourful inhabitants. Dhanush as Karnan: Dhanush and Lal are the backbone of the film, and their relationship might remind the Paruthiveeran-Chevvaizhai equation. Dhanush embodies the angry young man as Karnan and is always ready for a physical altercation. There is a lot of anger in his character, and Dhanush's credentials as an actor-star is established once again. Meeting Karnan: Karnan, just like Pariyerum Perumal, begins with an emotional high. If Karuppi's plight tugged at your heartstrings, Karnan's condition will leave you



at the edge of your seats. It is from this high that Mari slowly begins to weave in the story of Bodiyanakulam and its colourful inhabitants. Violence overdrive: While Karnan might seem to have an overdose of violence, it doesn't seem out of place considering the fight is not for petty issues. It is for basic rights. We understand Mari Selvaraj sees no merit in bringing roses to a gunfight. The women of Karnan: Lakshmi Priya Chandramouli as Dhanush's sister doesn't think twice before slapping the living daylights out of her brother. We have the feisty Rajisha Vijayan, in her Tamil debut, being the pursuer in

her relationship with Karnan. However, it is also a masterclass in how someone can pursue without stalking. Gouri Kishan functions as the catalyst to get to the basic conflict of Karnan. They are all go-getters just like the other women of the village who exhibit a lot of spunk. Be it in voicing their opinions in the village panchayat to backing Karnan for standing up against the system, it is the women of Karnan who shoulder him till the end. Mari Selvaraj takes his time to build up the world of Bodiyanakulam, but I strongly believe it is okay because Karnan is not just about Dhanush, Lal, Rajisha

Vijayan, Poo Ramu, Yogi Babu and other noticeable names. It is also about the bed-ridden paati, Gouri Kishan's angry father, the young son who can't see injustice, a horse, the pigs, the earthworms, the dogs, the cats, the trees, the thorny shrubs, a donkey, and even a few chickens. It is important that the time is taken to establish the structure that will have to stand tall against the systemic violence that happens to them. Music and visuals: Santhosh Narayanan makes a case for why he is one of the most important music composers of our time. It is a stellar album, and the visual translation on screen makes the songs

all the more special. Theni Eswar is as strong a support as the music is for Karnan. Mari Selvaraj's political tool: Caste-based oppression has been the theme of both his films so far, and it is clear that Mari is definitely using his cinema as his political tool. He brilliantly establishes the dangers of our upholders of law and justice having caste pride. Through Karnan's character, Mari poses questions that are already present in our society. Basically, Karnan is a film where the actor and the star in Dhanush are as satisfied as the writer and director in Mari, and thanks to that, I was too.

## Vakeel Saab movie review: Pawan Kalyan towers over film on importance of consent

Bengaluru, Apr 9: Vakeel Saab movie review: Director Venu Sriram and Pawan Kalyan also honour the main subject and the message of the original film, which says 'no means no'. Vakeel Saab is not the remake of Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury's Pink. It is the remake of Nerkonda Paarvai, which was the Tamil remake of Pink. It is a copy of a copy of a copy. Unlike the original film, the heroic lawyer is not an elderly man with a sick wife and a tormented soul. In the Telugu remake, he is a revolutionary leader with great aspirations to create an egalitarian society where the rights of other people, especially women, are not curtailed. Pawan Kalyan's Satyadev has quit his practice as a lawyer. He

felt betrayed by the very people he was fighting for as they failed to stand by him during a case at the right time. He is dejected and lost as he mulls over existential questions like what is the meaning of his life? What is the point of fighting for people who don't stand by you? What is in it for me? Although he doesn't think these questions out loud, this general sentiment is implied. Obviously, his absence from public life has led to a rise in injustice. But, Satyadev is away from limelight as he drowns himself in alcohol and barely keeps his temper in check. He is forced to come out of his hibernation after three independent women are wronged and systematically persecuted by men in power. He can no longer watch it as a spectator



as his blood boils by the injustice. He picks his lawyer's robes, and off he goes to protect the honour of the three innocent and helpless women. As far as this premise goes, it is standard 80s fare. Consent is not the main cause of concern for Satyadev, unlike his predecessors in Hindi and Tamil. We see him fight for the rights of people living in slums, forests and college students. He is

fighting the injustice done to all sections of the society. The case involving three women is just another aspect of what he hopes to be a long and eventful journey. Pawan's loss in 2019's election is the main theme of the film. "Even if you don't need people. People need you," various versions of this dialogue is repeated throughout the run time. Nevertheless, director Venu

Sriram and Pawan also honour the main subject and the message of the original film, which says 'no means no'. When a huge star like Pawan Kalyan emotionally makes a strong case for consent and respecting boundaries, the message will reach far and wide. Also, the face-off between Prakash Raj and Pawan in the courtroom is highly entertaining.

## Ira shares fresh pics, calls herself: 'Cutie little rebel princess'

New Delhi, Apr 9: Ira Khan, daughter of actor Aamir Khan, took to her Instagram on Friday and shared fresh pictures. She was seen enjoying in Rajasthan's Ranakpur with another person. She has been giving a sneak peek of her life for a while now. Earlier in the day, Ira shared a picture of doing a handstand with the help of her boyfriend Nupur Shikhare. She captioned it, "Getting there." She had also shared a clip where she is seen jumping into a swimming pool. She captioned it, "My definition of a belly flop. I can't fall on purpose!! Frontwards, backwards, trust falls... none. Not happening. Nihal was so confused but trying to be nice. Throw back thursday." Amid the rising Covid-19 cases in Mumbai, she reposted a black-and-white picture of Nupur and herself gaz-

ing at each other. "Ready for the lockdown," she said, adding a heart emoji. Earlier in 2021, the couple made their relationship official on Instagram. Ahead of Valentine's Day, she posted a picture with Nupur and wrote, "Its an honour to make promises with and to you..." Ira also shared photos of her celebration with him and a video of a bouquet that he made for her. Though

the daughter of an actor, Ira has said she isn't inclined towards a career in front of the camera. Last year she had directed a play, titled Medea, starring Hazel Keech. "Maybe someday, when I have a better understanding of the craft. Working with somebody you know personally can be complicated, and that's not specifically for my dad, but applies to anybody.



## How physical therapy can help prevent, treat opioid use disorder

New Delhi, Apr 9: When one thinks of ways to treat opioid use disorder, they might think of methadone clinics and Narcotics Anonymous meetings. People probably don't imagine stretches and strengthening exercises. However, a new study has shed light on how physical therapy can help prevent and treat opioid use disorder. The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Physical Therapy'. Anne

Swisher, a professor at the West Virginia University School of Medicine, is working to address opioid misuse in an unconventional way: through physical therapy. She and her colleagues have enhanced physical therapy instruction at WVU to emphasise the profession's role in preventing and treating opioid use disorder. "Students have different interests and passions within the profession, and they



find their niche," said Swisher, a researcher and director of scholarship in the Division of Physical Therapy. Swisher added,

"No matter what their passion is, there is a way they can make a difference, whether it's by preventing people from

starting down the road of opioids--by minimizing pain medication and doing movement interventions--or whether it's by

helping people in the recovery process become healthier overall." Swisher and her team devised a model to show doctor of physical therapy students how key topics in their curriculum--such as women's health, pediatric care and sports therapy--could all address opioid use disorder in various ways. Their model is innovative because it goes beyond musculoskeletal issues and addresses how

physical therapists can assist people across the lifespan, from neonatal to hospice settings. It also illustrates how physical therapists can help improve human movement across what Swisher calls the "whole addiction spectrum." "In our curriculum, our students learn about all of these different aspects--what to do with somebody who's critically ill, the appropriate developmental milestones for children, how

to help older people stay active--but it was really just a matter of connecting it all together," she said. For instance, by making it easier for pregnant women to manage their aches and pains without opioids, physical therapists can help prevent neonatal abstinence syndrome in newborns. By combining special exercises with pharmacological treatment, they can reduce opioid use in patients after spinal surgery.

## From tennis and dancing to sailing, Nethra Kumanan's journey to Olympics



Chennai, Apr 9: By the time she was 12, Nethra Kumanan had tried her hand at tennis, cycling, basketball and even some Bharatanatyam but it was in sailing that she found her true calling in life, a choice she justified by becoming the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics. The Chennai-based 23-year-old spoke to PTI from Oman, where she made the cut for Tokyo in the laser radial class at the Asian Olympic Qualifiers. She first made a mark with a bronze medal in the World Cup last year after having competed in the Asian Games in 2014 and 2018. "I tried my hand at tennis, basketball, cycling, art and I also trained in Bharatanatyam also

which I had to give up for sailing. My mother put me in a summer camp for one year which is something I've done every year growing up so this is the one that stuck!" Nethra said, looking back at how it all began, in an interaction from Mussanah in Oman. Nethra said she had been working hard for the one and a half years staying away from home and it had paid off. "I've been working hard for this for the past 18 months and away from home for a long time...and it is good to know that it all paid off and the event is done and we've got what we came for," she said. Nethra has been training with Hungarian coach Tamas Eszes, a two-time Olympian, and she said they had been

focussed on dealing with the stress of racing. "We've been working (with each other) for more than a year...So we've worked on everything from learning to be a full-time athlete to learning to deal with the stress of racing." The soft-spoken second year engineering student at the SRM College here said she was stuck in Spain during the COVID-19 lockdown last year but used the time to good effect by training with international sailors. "I got stuck in Spain due to the coronavirus lockdown. I was able to use the time once the lockdown was lifted by training with international athletes in Gran Canaria," she said. Having qualified for the Olympics, she is aware of the

challenges that await her. She said Tokyo would be the first step towards being truly competitive at the 2024 Games in Paris. "As these are my first Olympic games, I will try to do my best and it's the first step to get ready to be able to compete with the top girls in Paris in 2024," Nethra said. Asked how she has managed to balance sailing with her engineering course, she said education going online during the lockdowns has been a boon for her. "I've been lucky this year to have everything online...and they have been very understanding to help me when I needed time off," she added. Nethra said her parents, especially her father, who

runs a software company, have been a great support. "My parents are the reason where I am today...They support me emotionally, and financially. I can't be more grateful. My father has backed me always, which is a great thing to have," she said. Meanwhile, her coach Eszes praised the Nethra and said she is a hard-working and determined. "Nethra joined our team, Sailing Academy Gran Canaria in 2019, since then we organise her training programmes, and help her to find the best ways to support her performance. "Definitely she is a hard working, determined, persistent and has great talent," the Hungarian added. About how the lockdown impacted her training, he said it was actually helpful. "In March 2020, Nethra arrived at our training base for a one week, shortly after we were not allowed to leave our house till 60 days. We prepared one of the rooms as a gym, so she was able to train physically. "Also we focused on nutrition and mental strength during this period. After 60 days we went back to the normal training schedule," Eszes recalled.

## South Africa vs Pakistan: Temba Bavuma ruled out of T20I series due to hamstring strain, Heinrich Klaasen to lead

Tshwane, Apr 9: South Africa limited-overs skipper Temba Bavuma has been ruled out of the upcoming T20I series against Pakistan due to a Grade One hamstring strain. Bavuma sustained the injury during the third and final ODI against Pakistan on Wednesday. Cricket South Africa on Friday announced that Heinrich Klaasen will lead the Proteas in the four-match T20I series. South Africa coach Mark Boucher had revealed the state of Bavuma's injury after the third ODI. The Proteas suffered a 28-run loss in the third ODI and as a result, Pakistan won the three-match series 2-1 on Wednesday. "Tamba is a tough guy so when you see him hobbling around and it's only got worse in the change room, the way he is walking, I think he might have done something fairly bad. He seems to be in pain. It doesn't look good which doesn't put us in a good position," ESPNcricinfo had quoted Boucher as saying. In other team news, Reeza Hendricks

has withdrawn from the series after the birth of his child on Tuesday. Dwaine Pretorius has not been medically cleared to take part in the series as he continues rehabilitation from a rib fracture. Rassie van der Dussen will continue treatment and monitoring of his Grade One left quadriceps muscle strain. The following players have been retained from the ODI squad: Aiden Markram, Andile Phehlukwayo, Daryn Dupavillon and Wiaan Mulder. Proteas T20I Squad: Heinrich Klaasen (captain, wicket-keeper), Bjorn Fortuin, Aiden Markram, Andile Phehlukwayo, Beuran Hendricks, George Linde, Rassie van der Dussen, Janneman Malan, Sisanda Magala, Wiaan Mulder, Tabraiz Shamsi, Lutho Sipamla, Kyle Verreynne, Pite van Biljon, Daryn Dupavillon, Migeal Pretorius, Lizaad Williams, Wihan Lubbe. The first T20I between South Africa and Pakistan will be played at The Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg on Saturday.



## Sloane Stephens beats Ajla Tomljanovic to enter Volvo Car Open quarters

Charleston, Apr 9: Former US Open champion Sloane Stephens reached the quarterfinals of the Volvo Car Open, her first time advancing this far in a tournament since the French Open in 2019. Stephens, the American who won her grand slam title in 2017, ousted Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic 6-3 6-4 on Thursday. Stephens will play for a spot in the semifinals against Russian Veronika Kudermetova. Kudermetova, seeded 15th in the season's first clay-court event, topped Kurumi Nara of Japan 6-0 6-3. World no 1 Ashleigh Barty, who won the Miami Open title last Saturday, has

a third-round match on Thursday night. She is the last of the top eight seeds left in Charleston. Stephens had been on a slide the past two seasons, falling from No.3 in the world to 57th entering this event. But she's won three times here, winning 11 of the final 12 points against Tomljanovic. Things are starting to come together, Stephens said. "Just getting my competitiveness back, I think, makes me happy," she said. "And being able to fist pump without fighting my own brain, it's nice." Also reaching the quarters is the youngest competitor here in 17-year-old American Coco Gauff, the 14th seed who defeated

countrywoman Lauren Davis 6-2 7-6(2). Gauff has advanced to the quarterfinal round in three of last four tournaments. She said when she lost several points in a row in the second set against Davis, she snapped herself back into the match. "I try and keep track of that because sometimes you lose focus for 10-15 minutes and that's three or four games," she said. Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, seeded third, fell to Danka Kovinic of Montenegro, 6-4 6-1. The sixth seed, Garbine Muguruza of Spain, was ahead in her match with Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan before retiring with a left leg injury.



## Japan to raise coronavirus steps in Tokyo, three months ahead of Olympic Games

Tokyo, Apr 9: The measures expected to be announced later Friday by Japan PM Yoshihide Suga would start Monday and last until early May. Japan is

approval to the emergency measures that would include binding orders in Tokyo, in Kyoto in western Japan and in the southern island prefecture of

business owners for shorter hours and for the residents to be mindful of basic preventive measures. The virus upsurge in Tokyo underscores the difficulty of

binding orders, which Suga says is aimed at preventing another state of emergency. Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike said she is alarmed by the pace of the recent rise

come days after the government designated Osaka for the new binding anti-virus measures because of a resurgence blamed on the spread of the variant. Osaka has declared a medical emergency after its hospitals became overwhelmed with new cases and has taken next week's Olympic torch relay off the public roads. With Japan's vaccination drive still at an early stage - just over 1 million, or less than 1% of its population have received their first of the two shots - the surge may cause further re-routing or cancellations of Olympic related events. Inoculations started in mid-February with medical workers, and elderly people are scheduled to get their shots starting next week through late June. The rest of the population will likely have to wait until around July, making it almost impossible for Japan to reach so-called herd immunity before the Tokyo Olympics begin on July 23.



set to strengthen anti-virus measures in Tokyo on Friday to curb the rapid spread of a more contagious coronavirus variant just three months before the Olympics begin in the capital where most people are not yet vaccinated. Experts on a government panel gave preliminary

Okinawa. The measures expected to be announced later Friday by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga would start Monday and last until early May. The step comes less than three weeks after Tokyo exited a state of emergency that had included non-binding requests for

balancing anti-virus measures and the economy. Suga's government has been criticized for acting too slow on virus measures out of reluctance to damage the already pandemic-hit economy. The new measures allow prefectural leaders to target specific cities and issue

in virus cases and the possible impact of the new variants. On Thursday, Koike called for the residents to avoid nonessential trips, social distancing and other basic measures. She is also expected to issue an 8 p.m. closure order for bars and restaurants. The added steps would

## The Indian Premier League (IPL) has been staged outside India in the past, with South Africa hosting in 2009 and the UAE last year

New Delhi, Apr 9: Cricket fans in England could get the chance to see the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma clearing boundaries on a regular basis, with London mayor Sadiq Khan set to

spearhead a campaign to bring the Indian Premier League (IPL) to the English capital. Following its inception in 2008, the IPL has achieved stratospheric growth, developing into one of the world's

most lucrative annual sporting properties, pulling in millions of viewers each season. Khan, who is seeking re-election next month, has vowed to work with authorities to make the IPL the latest

league to stage matches in London, following the success bringing Major League Baseball and the National Football League to the capital. "This is part of my plan to build a better London after the pan-

demic," Khan said. "I know Londoners are hungry to see more of the likes of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant and, with two of the world's greatest cricket grounds in Lord's and

The Kia Oval, London is ideally placed to host IPL matches. "I will never stop banging the drum for investment in our city and bringing the Indian Premier League to London would not only guarantee

a home crowd for every country but boost tourism and generate much-needed revenue to help get our capital back on its feet." The IPL has been staged outside India in the past, with South Africa

hosting in 2009 and the UAE last year. The 14th edition of the cash-rich T20 league kicks off later on Friday with Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore facing Rohit's Mumbai Indians.

## Second Hand Cars Will Be Sold In This Part

(A.O. Bureau)  
New Delhi, Apr 9: The second-way Coronavirus in India is all upset. Prime Minister Modi (PM Modi) has also made it clear that there will no longer be a complete lockdown in the country. In such a situation, offices and factories will not be closed as before. Because of which people will have to go to their offices every day. In such a situation, if you do not want to use public transport to avoid Corona and want to travel



by your car. So you can get the best second-hand car in a low budget. Because we are going to tell you about the country's largest second-hand car market. Karol Bagh is the largest market for

second-hand cars – in Delhi's Karol Bagh market, you can buy second hand Maruti WagonR for just 50 to 60 thousand rupees. However, these models can be up to 10 years old. Let us know that the ex-showroom price of the new WagonR starts from Rs. 4.45 lakhs. At the same time, its price on road goes up to about 5.50 lakh rupees. At such a low price, you can easily buy a second hand car. Apart from this, you can get even better options in this market.

## Apollo Hospitals Group puts spotlight on Health of the Nation on World Health Day

(A.O. Bureau)  
New Delhi, Apr 9: On the occasion of World Health Day, the Apollo Hospitals Group, Asia's largest and most trusted healthcare group, unveiled a report on the Health of the Nation that puts a spotlight on how the last two decades have seen a steady rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The contribution of NCDs as the top causes of death in India has risen to a staggering 64.9% as compared to communicable diseases, maternal and other causes that dropped to 25%. The study provides a unique perspective drawn from Apollo Hospitals' 37 years of experience and its vast footprint across the country and underlines how Artificial Intelligence and Big data analytics can help to predict risk and prevent NCDs. Given the pandemic, this is also important as individuals with NCDs such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, chronic kidney disease, and chronic liver disease have a greater mortality risk from COVID-19. Dr Prathap C Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group said, "Even before the pandemic began, we have been facing an unacceptable loss of lives due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The silent epidemic of NCDs was evident with NCDs behind 40% of all hospital stays. However, in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, the data from our Health of the Nation report made it clear that we have let another epidemic slip, the epidemic of NCDs - the impact of which we are already beginning to see around us. We can overcome NCDs together as a country, only if each and every one of us take our health seriously. "At Apollo, we have been working on preventive health for over 37 years. From the very first Master Health Check in the country, we have been constantly evolving our programs for early detection and better clinical outcomes. Apollo



ProHealth is a proactive personalized health management program backed by cutting-edge technology - advanced diagnostics, artificial intelligence and predictive algorithms - to help identify your health risk. It coaches you to stay on the path to wellness until your health goals are achieved. With Apollo ProHealth, we hope to change the health check paradigm from a long checklist of tests to a meaningful conversation with the doctor on the status of your health, with a comprehensive plan to make you healthier tomorrow than you are today. Today, on World Health Day, on behalf of the Apollo Hospitals Group, I dedicate Apollo ProHealth to the health of our nation!" NCDs affect not just health, but also productivity and economic growth. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations recognises NCDs as a major challenge for sustainable development with the target to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by one-third by 2030. The pandemic last year has exacerbated the risks and impact of NCDs manifold, as also shown in the Health of the Nation report. Dr Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group said, "Apollo Hospitals' commitment is to the health of the nation, with a vision to make our nation healthier. With the urgent need to respond to the challenge of non-communicable diseases, we cannot afford a pure treatment and curative approach to health.

## Premium Laundry Service inaugurated in Smart City



(A.O. Bureau)  
Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: TumbleDry, The ultra modern premium Laundry and dryclean outlet was inaugurated today at Patia in Bhubaneswar. The

state of the art cleaning unit was opened with the cutting of traditional ribbon by the Distinguished Guests present like Ollywood Superstar Sabyasachi Mishra, World Odisha

Society's Chairman Kishore Dwibedi and CVO of Tata Power Brahmanna Dandpat. The Guests also switched on the machines to commence the washing process.

Established by Metanoia enterprises under the stewardships of three young and energetic entrepreneurs namely Raben Padhee, Srikant Nayak and Priyaranjan Patnaik, the setup is meticulously designed to provide customized and ecofriendly washing facilities to customers. Speaking on the occasion Sabyasachi Mishra lauded the effort of the young proprietors of TumbleDry for introducing first of its kind innovative cleaning technology in Odisha. Since cleanliness is getting supreme priority during Corona time, the attempt of the founders, is definitely praiseworthy, he observed. Addressing the gathering Kishore Dwibedi gave a clarion call to popularize the startup industrial culture in Odisha in the line of TumbleDry. Brahmananda Dandpat appreciated the unique and userworthy washing procedure being adopted by TumbleDry and wished them good luck. The highlights of the path breaking and world class superb services being provided by TumbleDry include Gentle drycleaning, easy - cum - Live washing, 100% perfection in stain removal, delicate washing, same day cleaning and delivery facility.

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## Facebook, Instagram And WhatsApp Down Once Again



(A.O. Bureau)  
New Delhi, Apr 9: Services on social media platforms Facebook (Facebook), instant messaging app WhatsApp and photo-sharing platform Instagram (Instagram) were once again down. Users from all over the world have complained about this through other social networking mediums. Many users said in the complaint that on Thursday, Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram had been out-

ages for some time. Meanwhile, they were unable to use these apps. However, the services have now been restored. According to the down detector website, Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram were not available for thousands of people for some time. Many users around the world have complained about this. Why is Facebook-WhatsApp getting down again and again? Facebook has issued a

statement on this. The company has said that the service was stalled for an hour but now it has been completely restored. Now users will be able to use these applications without interruption. Facebook says that the company is making some configuration changes in these apps because of which these services were not available to many people for a while. However, the issue has now been discovered and resolved.

## RAXA aims to bring latest techno-security solutions in India

(A.O. Bureau)  
Bhubaneswar, Apr 9: RAXA Security Services Ltd, a GMR Group company pioneer in security services, has announced it has enlarged its footprint in the techno-security services field by joining hand with UK, France and Israel-based companies to bring the world's latest techno security solutions to India. RAXA Security Services Ltd, with ISO 9001:2015, ISO 18788:2015, ISO 29993:2017 and ISO 45001:2018 certifications, provides quality security service to GMR Group assets and also to multifarious corporates. The services of RAXA stand apart from other security service providers on the strength of its unmatched training academy that imparts professional training of a very high order. RAXA, a

leader in the field of man-guarding, has already made its mark in the field of techno-security solutions by providing services and equipment relating to Access Control, CCTV surveillance, Fire Alarm & Public Address system, Perimeter Intrusion Detection System, Anti-sabotage and Anti-terrorism measures, Command & Control Centers etc. RAXA recently signed MoUs with four internationally acclaimed techno security companies namely Octopus from ISRAEL, Exavision from FRANCE and UK-based Westminister Group and Logically to provide some of the specialized and latest security solutions for its clients. The collaboration with Israel-based security solution company - Octopus will give RAXA the expertise in setting up an inte-



grated command and control centre, especially for smart cities, airports, large townships etc. for a well-coordinated effort while responding to any emergency situation. RAXA joining hands with French firm Exavision, will give it an edge in implementing long-range surveillance solutions by merging mechatronic, opto-phonic, electronic and software processing technologies. In addition to these, RAXA has also collaborated with

UK-based Westminister Group with offices in over 50 countries to provide advanced technology security solutions. RAXA has also joined hands with UK-based Logically that will enable it to provide AI-based security solutions. Logically develops the latest in cutting-edge AI technologies to combat misinformation and harmful content available in the online and social media. Commenting on the collaborations, CEO-RAXA Mr. GUG

Sastry said "RAXA Security Services Ltd. has been pioneer in the field of security services for several years, offering its services to some of the reputed clients in the country. Moving ahead, RAXA has partnered with four UK, France and Israel-based firms to provide a complete world-class AI-enabled techno security solutions to its clients. For the first time, some of the unique and specialized security solutions would be provided by us for a much enhanced client satisfaction."

## Bangladeshi terrorist of Ansarullah Bangla Team jailed for 7 yrs

Kolkata, Apr 9: A special NIA court here on Thursday sentenced a Bangladeshi terrorist of the outlawed Ansarullah Bangla Team to seven years in prison for his involvement in a conspiracy to commit terrorist acts in India. Rizual Islam, 25, of Bangladesh's Khulna was convicted under sections of the IPC, the UA(P)Act and

the Foreigners Act. The special NIA court sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment of seven years and imposed a fine of Rs 36,000. The case, initially registered by the

STF Kolkata in November 2017, pertains to the arrest of five members of the Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) in Kolkata. The ABT is a proscribed terrorist organisation in

Bangladesh. Four of the arrested members were Bangladeshi nationals and one was Indian. The NIA re-registered the case in March 2018 and filed a chargesheet against the

five accused. Earlier, two accused in the case were convicted and sentenced by the special NIA court in Kolkata. The Bangladeshi members of the ABT entered India in

2016 and were conspiring to commit terrorist acts in India, according to an NIA official. The accused, who travelled and stayed at Hyderabad, Pune and

Mumbai in the guise of labourers, had tried to procure chemicals from a shop in Patna and were planning to establish hideouts in Ranchi, the official said.

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