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VOLUME - 2

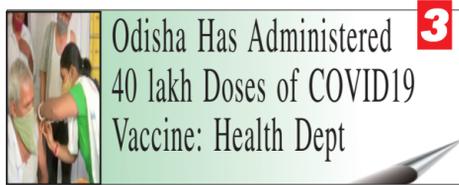
ISSUE - 262

PRICE- Rs.2/-

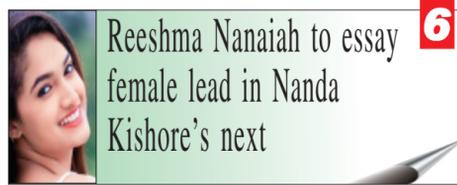
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 2021



2
Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi Appointed As The New Deputy Chief Of The Indian Army



3
Odisha Has Administered 40 lakh Doses of COVID19 Vaccine: Health Dept



6
Reeshma Nanaiah to essay female lead in Nanda Kishore's next



7
Kiren Rijiju inaugurates Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for rowing in Srinagar

Odisha CM To Review Progress Card Of Departments From May 15



Bhubaneswar, Apr 10: Ahead of completion of the second year of his government's fifth term in Odisha on May 29, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today told the Council of Ministers about his decision to review progress of differ-

ent departments. The Chief Minister will review the progress of different departments from May 15 to 25. During the review meeting members of the Council of Ministers in presence of the concerned department Secretary

will apprise the Chief Minister about the achievements of their five major programmes. Patnaik wrote to the members of the Council of Ministers in this regard today. Also, they will inform the Chief Minis-

ter on how the 5T initiative and 'Mo Sarkar' programme were carried out by their departments. In what way the 5T and 'Mo Sarkar' have improved the functioning of the departments will also be discussed dur-

ing the review meeting, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office mentioned. The Chief Minister said, "People are masters in democratic system. We have to tell the 4.5 crores people of Odisha how far we have succeeded to keep the promises given to them. This will strengthen the faith of people in democracy." On May 29, 2019, Patnaik-led government decided in-principle during the first meeting to execute the party's poll manifesto. The Council of Ministers on May 29 this year will discuss the success of each department so that the progress card will be subsequently presented before the people, the CMO statement mentioned.

Covid Upsurge: Odisha Govt Appoints Senior IAS Officers As Observers

Bhubaneswar, Apr 10: As Covid case surged in Odisha, the State government today appointed IAS officers as Observers for different districts and cities to monitor Covid management. IAS Satyabrata Sahoo has been given

Chitra Arungam was appointed as Observer for Sambalpur and Sonepur districts while Anu Garg was given in-charge for Bhubaneswar and Anil Samal for Cuttack. Earlier in the day, Odisha Chief Secretary SC

Kalahandi districts to take stock of arrangements for the Covid management. On April 7, Development Commissioner Pradeep Jena visited Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts to review the Covid situation. Chief Minister



charge of Observer for Nuapada, Bargarh and Balangir districts whereas Nikunja Dhal will be in-charge of Sundargarh and Jharsuguda districts.

Mahapatra along with Additional Chief Secretary PK Mohapatra, Health Director Sribatsa Nayak and DMET CBK Mohanty visited Nuapada and

Naveen Patnaik directed the Chief Secretary and senior IAS officials to tour the districts where there has been an increase in Covid cases.

World class film city in Chilika soon



Bhubaneswar, Apr 10: A world class film city is going to be established at Chilika. Sujoy Mukherjee, the younger brother of famous Bollywood actor and director Joy Mukharjee is working on it. During his visit to Odisha on Thursday in this connection, Sujoy said that Rs 20,000 crore is es-

timated to invest here for developing the proposed film city. The project will begin soon. The film city will have a sophisticated studio, complete shooting set equipped with latest technology. In addition, it will have its own helipad and airstrip within the campus to join it with the

Bollywood. It is to be designed over 650 acres of land near Chilika. The studio will be readied for film making within 3 years, said Sujoy Mukherjee. However, as many as 100 celebrity residences will be set up primarily to familiarize the spot with the actors and filmmakers, he added.

Cong Candidate For Pipili Bypoll Ajit Mangaraj Tests Positive For Covid-19

Bhubaneswar, Apr 10: Congress candidate contesting the bypoll for the Pipili Assembly constituency Ajit Mangaraj has tested positive for Covid-19. Sharing the information on his Facebook



page Mangaraj has said that he is undergoing treatment for the affliction.

He has requested his followers not to create rumours and focus on how the party can perform well in the bypoll. He has said that he will soon return on getting well. Mangaraj had unsuccessfully contested the last elec-

tion from Pipili and had polled 9,830 votes. Apart from the BJD, BJP, and Congress, 04 from unrecognized parties and 03 Independent candidates are in the fray for the bypoll scheduled on April 17.

Andhra Official In Verbal Duel With Odisha Officer In Kotia

Jeypore, Apr 10: At a time when the Odisha government has moved the Supreme Court against the Andhra Pradesh government's notification on panchayat elections in Kotia group of villages, the neighbouring State's Parvathipuram ITDA, R. Kurmanath along with other officials on Thursday

engaged in a verbal duel with an Odisha official while trying to enter Dhulipadar village in Kotia. The ITDA official and other officials of the Andhra Pradesh government reached the bordering villages of Kotia on Thursday morning and asked Narayanpatna Tahsildar Abhishek Das,

who was Executive Magistrate In-Charge and present at the border, to remove the barricades. As some villagers in the Kotia group of villages tested positive for Covid, the area was declared as a containment zone and prohibitory orders of Section 144 was clamped April 7-10. Even though,



the Narayanpatna Tahsildar opposed the Andhra official's bid to enter the bordering villages

of Kotia, the ITDA official from the neighbouring state engaged in an argument.

IMD Warning For Odisha: Thunderstorm, Lightning Likely In 16 Districts

Bhubaneswar, Apr 10: Rain and thunderstorm activities will continue in several parts of Odisha till April 15, predicted India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday. As per the latest forecast, moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Khordha, Nayagarh and Ganjam in the next 24 hours. "There will be no large change in maximum temperature (Day

temperature) over the districts of Odisha during next 3-4 days," read the IMD release. Day 2 (valid from 0830 hrs IST of 11.04.2021 up to 0830 hrs IST of 12.04.2021): Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Sonapur, Boudh, Nuapada, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri. Yellow Warning (To be updated): Thunder-

storm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Nabarangpur,



storm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Nabarangpur,

Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Boudh, Sonapur, Bolangir, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj. ay 3 (valid from 0830

hrs IST of 12.04.2021 up to 0830 hrs IST of 13.04.2021): Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Cuttack and Boudh. Yellow Warning (To be updated): Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati,

Ganjam, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Boudh, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar. Day 4 (valid from 0830 hrs IST of 13.04.2021 up to 0830 hrs IST of 14.04.2021): oderate rain or thundershower alert issued for Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Khurda, Mayurbhanj, Balasore. Day 5 (valid from 0830 hrs IST of 14.04.2021 up to

0830 hrs IST of 15.04.2021): Moderate rain or thundershower warning issued for the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Gajapati and Ganjam. Yellow Warning (To be updated): Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Gajapati.

Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi Appointed As The New Deputy Chief Of The Indian Army



New Delhi, Apr 10: Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi took over as the Deputy Chief of the Army on Saturday. The special thing is that before this he was the commander of 9 Corps. Prior to Dwivedi, Lt. General Chandni Prasad Mohanty was handling this responsibility in the Indian Army. Mohanty was made Deputy Chief of the Army Staff only on February last. The

present Indian Army chief is General Manoj Mukund Narwane. Lieutenant General Dwivedi, an alumnus of the National Defense Academy, was admitted to the 18th Battalion of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles in December 1984. He has held many important positions in his career of more than 35 years. He led a battalion in the Assam Rifle Sector (Operation Rhino) of

Manipur, taking action against the insurgency at Chowkibal during Operation Rakshak. The special thing is that in February last, Lieutenant General Mohanty took over as the Deputy Chief. Earlier, Lieutenant General SK Saini was in this post, who retired on Sunday. According to PTI language, Lieutenant General Mohanty has held many important positions during his four decades of service. He has led the multinational United Nations Brigade in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in addition to commanding the Line of Actual Control. Prior to his appointment to the post of Deputy Chief of Army Staff, he was the Chief of the Southern Command of the Army

Sonia Gandhi Took A Dig At Center Over Vaccine Issue

New Delhi, Apr 10: Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Saturday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government had mismanaged the Corona epidemic and allowed the vaccine to be exported and reduced in the country. He also said in a meeting of party chief ministers of party-ruled states and party ministers in Congress-led state governments, that it is

necessary to take strict steps to deal with the spread of corona infection as well as help the weaker sections. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi was also present in the meeting held through video conference. Sonia said, "Coronavirus infection is increasing and in such a situation, it is our responsibility as the main opposition party to take up

the issues and pressurize the government to work in the public interest instead of adopting public relations tactics." She stressed that there should be transparency. The government should present the actual figures of infection and death in all the states including the Congress-ruled. "Targeting the central government, Sonia said, "We should first focus on vaccination



campaign in India and then export vaccines and should be given as a gift to other countries. We need to insist that there is re-

sponsible behavior and that without exception, the guidelines and all laws related to Covid should be followed.

No Lockdown In Delhi: Kejriwal

New Delhi, Apr 10: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited the Lok Nayak Hospital in Delhi today and took stock of the arrangements, amidst increasing cases of corona in Delhi. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that people should get good arrangements in the hospital, this is our endeavor. The Chief Minister ruled out the possibility of a lockdown in Delhi but also said that some restrictions need to be imposed which

will be announced soon. Regarding the rising corona cases in Delhi, the CM said that the corona cases have been increasing very fast in the whole country and in the same time, there has been an increase in the corona cases in Delhi too. On the one hand we need to intensify vaccination and on the other hand we need to prevent the spread of infection. Also, hospital management also needs to be repaired. This is the fourth wave of Co-



rona has arrived in Delhi. The last wave came in November and after that the cases were reduced so much that there was some loosening in the system. Regarding the visit of Lok Nayak Hospital, the

Chief Minister said that I have been reviewing for the last few days and have seen the entire system of LNJP back today. We were preparing back in November, which was our preparation. The November

wave was handled very well by doctors and nurses in Delhi. The Delhi Government and all the hospitals are jointly preparing for the same level of preparation. Today LNJP has inspected what is needed in the hospital, MS and doctors told us, they will complete all those things and will not let the people of Delhi suffer any kind. If someone is ill and needs a hospital, then it is our best effort that he gets a system in the best hospital.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar Said Farmers Are Ready To Discuss



New Delhi, Apr 10: Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has said that the government is ready to

talk to the farmers' organizations opposing the agricultural bills. He has once again appealed to the peasant organiza-

tions to end their agitation. Narendra Singh Tomar said, "There is no dissatisfaction in the mind of the farmers. The government is ready to talk to the farmers organization which is against these bills. I will urge the farmers' organizations to postpone their agitation, if they come for talks, the government is ready to talk to them.

West Bengal polls: EC bans entry of politicians in Cooch Behar district for 72 hours



New Delhi, Apr 10: In a first major outbreak of violence during the West Bengal polls, five persons were killed and five candidates were attacked during the fourth phase of the

elections. In a major development following the fourth phase of the West Bengal elections which was marred by violence, the Election Commission banned the entry

of politicians in Cooch Behar district for the next three days in a bid to prevent another possible law and order flare up. The EC has extended the "silence period" from 48

hours to 72 hours. The move comes after the first major outbreak of political violence during the West Bengal elections where five persons were killed and five candidates were attacked during the fourth phase of the elections to 44 seats, on Saturday. Four people were killed as central forces opened fire allegedly after coming under attack from locals, who "attempted to snatch their rifles", in Cooch Behar district earlier today, police said in a report by PTI. The EC order

which is being implemented with immediate effect stated, "The Election Commission of India further directs that the silence period for phase 5 (i.e. for polls scheduled on April 17) shall be extended to 72 hours and no campaigning shall be permitted during 72 hours before the close of the poll in order to ensure the conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections." The highest turnout of 79.73 per cent was registered in Cooch Behar district, followed by 76.2 per cent polling in Hoogly.

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Tested Positive For COVID-19



Ayodhya, Apr 10: The number of Coronavirus cases is increasing drastically in India. Many politicians and celebrities infected by the

deadly virus. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat has been tested positive for coronavirus, the organization tweeted on its official handle. RSS tweeted Mr. Bhagwat, 70, has been showing common symptoms of

coronavirus infection. "He is currently having common symptoms of COVID-19 and has been admitted to Kingsway Hospital in Nagpur, is undergoing general check-up and caution," the RSS tweeted.

Eastern Ladakh: India, China agree to maintain stability on ground; avoid any new incidents

Amethi, Apr 10: India and China have agreed at their 11th round of military talks to jointly maintain stability on the ground, and avoid any new incidents in eastern Ladakh. A day after the talks, the Indian Army on Saturday said the two sides agreed on the need to resolve the outstanding issues in an expeditious manner in ac-

cordance with the existing agreements and protocols. "The two sides had a detailed exchange of views for the resolution of the remaining issues related to disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh," it said. "The two sides agreed on the need to resolve the outstanding issues in an expeditious manner in ac-

cordance with the existing agreements and protocols," the Army said in a statement. In this context, the Army said it was also highlighted that completion of disengagement in other areas would pave the way for the two sides to consider de-escalation of forces and ensure full restoration of peace and tranquillity and enable progress in bi-

lateral relations. "The two sides agreed that it was important to take guidance from the consensus of their leaders, continue their communication and dialogue and work towards a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," it added. "They also agreed to jointly maintain stability on the ground, avoid any new incidents and jointly maintain peace in the border areas," the statement said. The 11th round of Corps Commander-level talks took place at the Chushul border point on the Indian side of the LAC in eastern Ladakh. The parleys began at around 10:30 AM and ended at 11:30 PM. The border standoff be-

tween the armies of India and China erupted on May 5 last following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas in eastern Ladakh and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry. As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed withdrawal of troops and weapons from the North and South banks of Pangong lake in February in line with an agreement on disengagement. India has been insisting that a resolution of outstanding issues including in Depsang, Hot Springs and Gogra is essential for overall ties between the two countries.

4 People Died During 4th Phase Of Bengal Election

Kolkata, Apr 10: Four people have died during the alleged firing by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) during the fourth phase of

the Cooch Behar district. While giving information about this incident, TMC leader Dola Sena said that 'Central forces fired at two

caused the central security forces of torturing people. On the other hand, CRPF has put its side in Sitalkuchi case. In a statement, the



elections in West Bengal (West Bengal election 2021). According to the information received, this incident happened in the Jorpatki area of Mathabhang block under Sitalkuchi Legislative Assembly in

places. First, in Block-1 of Mathabhang in Cooch Behar, where one person was killed, three others were injured. While three people died in Sitalkuchi block, one person was injured. Sen also ac-

CRPF said, "CRPF was not deployed at the said booth nor was he involved in the said incident outside booth number 126 in Jorpatki of Sitalkuchi assembly constituency in Cooch Behar."



Mr Math Came In To Lime Light Soa To Work On Indian Knowledge System, Dig Into Past Wisdom



(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Apr 10: Yesterday more artistic silver ornaments with. Many more ancient and costly items and silver bricks found from a box inside MR math from room no 4 of the math some 8 numbers of silver bricks came in to light or found just after again 37 pieces of sil-

ver bricks were found with all these bronz pot were found during such out costly bronz idol ,16 piece of sword silver ornaments were found one second day investigation is going on with the presence of magistrate and trust board member with Endowment inspectors prepared the list of property.

Gangster Hyder Gives Slip To Odisha Police In Hospital



(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Apr 10: Notorious gangster Suleiman Hyder escaped from SCB Medical College and Hospital where he was undergoing treatment under police custody today evening. Hyder was admitted to the SCB hospital 12 days back after being referred by VIMSAR hospital in Burla. He was undergoing treatment at Cabin no-

5 of the SCB hospital's surgery department. Reportedly, one armed security guard was on duty today near Cabin no 5 where Haider was undergoing treatment. The security guard was reportedly given a spiked soft drink by Hyder's associates. After the guard fell unconscious, the gangster reportedly managed to escape. Hyder was convicted in a murder case and sentenced lifer. He was lodged at the Sambalpur Circle Jail. Meanwhile, the Jajpur SP and Kendrapara SP were directed to nab the gangster. Also, the Cuttack DCP was asked to trace the gangster. Cuttack DCP Prateek Singh informed all the teams have been alerted and a massive search operation has been launched to nab Hyder.

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 10: Though it has been ingrained into the collective psyche of the Indian society since long that science had its origin in the west and non-western societies had little to offer on the scientific platform, the time has come to focus on the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) developed by scholars over centuries and make it part of the public discourse, two eminent academicians said on Saturday. "IKS offers an alternative paradigm and it must be brought to the mainstream academia," Prof. Anuradha Choudry, Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT, Kharagpur, said at the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), a Deemed to be University, here. Prof. Choudry and Prof. Richa Chopra, former Founding Head-in-charge, Department of Contemplative and Behavioural Sciences, Sri Sri University, were interacting with SOA's top brass at a meeting to discuss induction of IKS in the education



system wherever necessary. The SOA Centre for Preservation, Propagation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (PPRACHIN), an initiative to address critical issues of conservation, has plans to set up a Centre of Excellence for Indian Knowledge Systems to reinvent and highlight the spirit of ancient India and its wisdom. Prof. Choudry said India had been carrying an academic legacy for nearly 200 years which implied that non-Western societies had hardly any knowledge to offer as the west had little regard for Indian knowledge. "The question is how do we allow our youth to get

the awareness back?" she said. SOA Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Mahapatra chaired the meeting which was attended, among others, by Prof. Damodar Acharya, Chairman of SOA's Advisory Board, Prof. R.P.Mohanty, academican and SOA's Chief Consultant, Prof. P.K.Nanda, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Manjula Das, Controller of Examination, Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) and Deans of different faculties. Prof. N.K.Sharma, Director, University Outreach Program moderated the meeting where Dr. Gayatribala Panda, Head, PPRACHIN

was also present. quoting Prof. Kapil Kapoor, an authority on IKS, Prof. Chopra said the question that had come to the fore today was "what does he know who does not know his own tradition?" Prof. Choudry said the New Education Policy 2020, advocated curricular integration of essential subjects, skills and capacities, focused on knowledge from ancient India and its contribution to the modern society, its successes and challenges and a clear sense of India's future aspirations with regard to areas like education, health and environment in an accurate and scientific manner throughout the school

curriculum wherever relevant. SOA, Prof. Chopra suggested, could adopt an Odisha specific approach in this context and set up a Centre for IKS to locate the missing links in different disciplines and find out what was happening in the yesteryears while providing research scope to foreign students in IKS. Dr. Panda said PPRACHIN, set up less than two years ago, had already undertaken two major projects which included publication of a critical edition of the original 15th century 'Salara Mahabharat' and digitalization of such texts. It also planned to take up research relating to tribal culture of Odisha, she said.

Three new advanced diagnostic facilities sanctioned to AIIMS Bhubaneswar

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 10: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar has been sanctioned with three new diagnostic facilities by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Health Research. The new facilities are namely VRDL (Viral Research Diagnostic Laboratory), Advanced

Mycology Diagnostic and Research Centre and DHR-ICMR Advanced Molecular Oncology Diagnostic Services (DIAMONDS) center. The Microbiology Department of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar has been selected as the State Level-Virus Research & Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) by ICMR for the State of Odisha under a National



Scheme of "Setting up of Nation-Wide Network of Laboratories for Managing Epidemics

and National Calamities". The institute has received a grant of 1.98 crore for establishment

of VRDL facility Further, the Indian Council of Medical Research has selected the Mycology Laboratory of the Department of Microbiology AIIMS Bhubaneswar for setting up an Advanced Mycology Diagnostic and Research Centre. A budget of 5 crores over five years subject to satisfactory annual performance has been approved.

Odisha Has Administered 40 lakh Doses of COVID19 Vaccine: Health Dept 45 silver ingots recovered from Emar Mutt in Puri

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 10: The Odisha government has so far administered 40 lakh doses of COVID19 vaccine in a period of 70 days, informed the State health department on Saturday. Those who have been inoculated against the virus include healthcare workers, frontline workers and 45 years and above citizens. While the State achieved the target of



the first 10 lakh doses of vaccination in 45 days, the second 10 lakh doses were administered in 11 days, the department said. Further, the subsequent 10 lakh doses

of #COVID19 vaccine successfully to our Healthcare Workers, Frontline Workers and 45 years & above citizens in a period of 70 days (16.01.2021 to 09.04.2021 excluding holidays)," the health department tweeted. "Congratulations to our Health Work Force for their commitment to fight the COVID 19 pandemic," the Health Department noted in another tweet. Meanwhile,

2.50 lakh more Covishield vaccines reached Odisha on Saturday. The State will get more vaccines in a phased manner, informed the additional chief secretary of the health department, Pradipta Mohapatra. The State will observe Tika (vaccine) Utsav tomorrow following the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said health director Bijay Panigrahi.

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Apr 10: As many as 45 silver ingots were recovered from Emar Mutt in Puri. The development came a day after a trust appointed by the Commissioner of Endowment took over possession of the mutt. Many valuable items including beautiful silver tree, flower, and bouquet were recovered from the ancient mutt on Friday. In 2011, as many as 522 pieces of



silver bricks, weighing over 18 tonnes worth and over Rs 100 crore

were recovered from four wooden boxes at the ancient mutt.

Transport Dept Asks Twin City Police To Arrest Topsy Drivers

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 10: The Odisha transport department has directed the Commissionerate Police to arrest drunken drivers as per the provisions of MV Act instead of compounding such offences. The direction came in response to a news article published in a newspaper that a woman who was caught driving on the wrong side and under the influence of alcohol at AG Square in the city was allowed to let go after a fine of Rs 500. In a letter, Transport Department Principal Secretary Madhu Sudan Padhi asked police commissioner of Bhubaneswar and

Cuttack to investigate under which circumstances the driver was allowed to compound the offence. Besides, the Police Commissioner has been asked to issue instructions to all the police stations not to compound the drunken driving cases and arrest the offenders. In the letter, Padhi referred the direction of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety which states that, "In case of driving a vehicle under the influence of drinks and drugs, the police should prosecute the offender and seek imprisonment as prescribed under Section 185 of MV Act, 1988 even for the first offence."

CCTV Surveillance To Identify Mask Offenders In Bhubaneswar

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 10: A day after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced 14-day 'Mask Abhiyan' to fight the second wave of Covid-19, the Commissionerate Police has formed special teams to keep an eye on the violators. "Special teams have been formed and as many as 10 platoons of forces are being deployed to conduct foot patrolling daily. The PCR vans are also running to



ensure whether people are wearing masks and wherever necessary violators will be taken to task, informed Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash.

Apart from the police personnel, CCTV cameras installed at various places in the city will also keep a vigil on the violators of Covid-19 safety protocols, Dash said.

"We are monitoring various places in the city through CCTV control room and checking whether people are wearing masks and creating gathering at any market place. Based on the footage the police team will reach the particular area and carry out enforcement," he said. "As the fine amount has been enhanced, we are hopeful that public will cooperate and follow the mask and social dis-

tancing guidelines properly so that police will not have to impose fine on them. People are urged to lend their full support to fight Covid-19," the DCP added. On the second day of the special COVID enforcement drive, Odisha Police on Friday acted against 11801 people violating mask usage norms and social distancing rules and collected fine of Rs 26,61,450.

EDITORIAL

In low spirits

The migrant workers are making their way back to villages after local curbs were announced. Roughly around this time last year, millions of migrant workers and their families — with their young ones and meagre belongings on their heads and shoulders — started a long, weary walk back to their native places after the Government clamped a nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. As the industries shut operations, they were forced to go back because they couldn't afford to pay for food and relatively higher rent in the cities, especially in the absence of any regular inflow of income. Their trudge was made more tragic as several of them died on their journey back owing to fatigue by walking under the scorching sun since all forms of public transport had also been ordered off the roads. To this day, a significant percentage of these hired hands has not rejoined their workplace, either because the industries they worked in haven't yet become fully operational or they are still scared and scarred by last year's sudden clampdown that brought the wheels of their already-mundane life to a grinding halt. Worse, the few who had dared to venture back to the big cities for want of employment opportunities in the hinterland, are again rushing back as local curbs and night curfews in several States have again spawned in them the fears of a total shutdown. The bitter experience of the abrupt March 2020 lockdown has undeniably played a huge part in their decision to return quickly to their native places before any restrictions on travel are announced. Now, since migrant workers play a key role in the manufacturing sector, their hasty departure has dealt a severe blow to the small and medium industry owners who are yet to level their losses accrued from the shutdown that extended across most of last year. The trend is worrisome also because a second reverse migration would likely result in surplus labour in the rural areas while creating manpower scarcity in the urban and industrial centres. The logical conclusion would be a depressed demand, more people pushed into poverty and an increase in the rate of unemployment. A hint of confirmation of this trend has come with the announcement of the Central Railway to run special trains from Mumbai — which is among the worst hit regions — to places where a significant number of migrant labourers in the nation's financial capital come from, including Gorakhpur, Patna, Darbhanga and Danapur.

Tightening the screws

It might be a good idea for the CBI and the NIA to work in tandem for unravelling the Vaze maze. The two independent agencies — the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) — will likely discover many common nodes and leads during their probe related to Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and suspended cop Sachin Vaze. The probes by these premier agencies will probably converge at several points and it would only serve the purpose of justice if both these agencies work in consonance. Extending this logic, the constitution of a common team — drawing officials from both these agencies — may also be considered to investigate the cases that are inter-related. Collecting evidence, recording statements and zeroing in on the culprits would become easier in a joint probe. In the latest development, two CBI teams reached the NIA office to record the statement of Vaze, who is in the latter's custody. Also, a special NIA court allowed the CBI to access the "extortion" diaries belonging to Vaze and Vinayak Shinde, both suspended policemen. In a startling revelation, Vaze had alleged in a four-page letter to the special NIA court that State Transport Minister Anil Parab of the Shiv Sena had asked him to initiate talks with a Trust for a "Rs 50-crore settlement" to close an inquiry. The Minister also asked Vaze to identify fraudulent contractors listed with the BMC and demand at least Rs 2 crore from 50 of them, the letter claimed. The letter mentioned an alleged "Rs 2 crore demand" by Deshmukh after NCP chief Sharad Pawar considered cancelling Vaze's reinstatement, and alleged that someone "very close" to Deputy CM Ajit Pawar asked Vaze to collect Rs 100 crore a month from illegal gutkha sellers. Earlier, Vaze had said he was being made a scapegoat. These allegations are indicative of the fact that not only Deshmukh but several other dirty fish in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government seem to be neck-deep in corruption. On the other hand, Deshmukh — who tendered his resignation on "moral grounds" only after the Bombay High Court directed the CBI to conduct a preliminary inquiry into corruption allegations against him — got no respite from the Supreme Court, which dismissed his as well as the MVA Government's petition challenging the Bombay High Court's order. The Maharashtra developments resemble a Bollywood potboiler on the underworld, portraying the nexus among politicians, corrupt officials and criminals. But unlike the movies which have heroes fighting the corrupt system, the Maharashtra saga has none. However, with the CBI and the NIA tightening the screws, one hopes that several other influential names in the MVA Government would be exposed. Corruption has become the hallmark of the State Government, which is a coalition of the NCP, Congress and the Shiv Sena. The Opposition has often alleged that the Centre uses these agencies to target adversaries and settle scores; nevertheless, it doesn't take away from the fact that the Uddhav Thackeray-led Government arguably has many black sheep whose rightful place is behind the bars rather than in the Assembly.

Hypocrisy is very much alive and well

In all spheres of life around us, every day we see leaders indulging in acts of abject pretence and insincerity. Having been slaves for the better part of a millenia, we tend to have a heightened instinct for survival that is best reflected in our hypocritical behaviour. It is no surprise then that, by and large, our adherence to principles, rules and regulations is inversely proportional to the impact that they might have on our lives, preferring them to be applicable only to others and not us. Take Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attitude towards the alarming spike in COVID cases. He is unable to see the dichotomy of, on the one hand, publicly berating State Governments and citizens for not adhering to basic precautions, while simultaneously rushing off to address election rallies. Rallies that are conducted with tens of thousands of attendees without masks, packed together like sardines. The truth is that not just him or his associates are being hypocritical but other politicians as well, regardless of party affiliations. All those associated with the ongoing State elections are guilty of such irresponsible behaviour. This nonsensical behaviour has been aggravated by the utter lack of political will on the part of leaders across the country in their refusal to stop religious and cultural events, be it events like Holi or the Kumbh. Their fear that they would be held responsible if they curtailed mass gatherings is not difficult to understand because, in their view, their career and reputation as politicians are



Deepak Sinha

at stake. Sadly, while they may well be, or become, renowned politicians, one thing they will never ever be is leaders. That requires the backbone to take difficult decisions, sometimes at great personal cost, when the occasion so demands. Obviously, the most affected are not just those attending such gatherings, who may be there "voluntarily", but public servants compulsorily co-opted for duties such as crowd control and security, who are now falling victim to the virus. They and their families are in effect being sacrificed on the altar of greed and personal aggrandisement. Undoubtedly, it also reflects poorly on the intellectual, administrative and professional abilities of the Election Commission which can come up with no better method to conduct elections other than stretching them to eternity. Of course, poli-

ticians and Government officials are the easiest to point fingers at, but others too are as much to blame for the hypocrisy that abounds. The Supreme Court, for example, has recently pointed to the delay in giving women permanent commissions in the military, blaming it on systemic bias within the Ministry of Defence. While there certainly is some truth in what it says, it is a complicated issue, especially the impact of women in combat roles. More importantly, the military's only job is to win wars and keep us safe and it is by no means an equal opportunity employer. While the Supreme Court's emphasis on gender issues is to be applauded, it would truly have credibility and value if its own actions were consistent in this regard. By some accounts, there are only two women judges among the 34 that constitute the

Supreme Court and it has had only eight women judges since its inception. Even the military has not been able to avoid this pernicious trend and its leadership seems to have lost its way in this regard. By stating that China has not occupied our territory in Eastern Ladakh, despite knowing it well that we can no longer patrol areas up to our claim lines, the Army chief has lowered his image and credibility. In addition, he has caused grievous damage to the Services' reputation. The reason for where we are today is not very difficult to diagnose. Interestingly, in 1893, Swami Vivekananda while addressing the first World's Parliament of Religions meeting at Chicago said: "I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth." Despite the fact that Modi sees himself as a devoted follower of the Swami, he has never let compassion or empathy get in the way of realpolitik. For all intents and purposes, we are now involved in an intense zero sum game where the winner takes all and losers are shown the door; where only the ends matter, not the means. What he and those who follow him have yet to realise is that all this can only get you so far and at the end of the day you have no choice but to play the piper.

For 130th birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar: The Saviour Of Poor



Baba Saheb Ambedkar was not the leader only but he was the soul of the lower castes and of the wounded so-

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ciety. Whose thinking was to cover entire country, entire populace and the entire history. He was the Pioneer of the constitution and his aim was to take care of the aspirations of every Indians irrespective of caste religion, region, culture and language. He had an all encompassing outlook. His sole aim was to eradicate cast system from the society. Born in the untouchable community he bore the brunt of the prejudices and excess of the upper castes who lost no opportunity to wound his soul. Without untouchable getting their due rights the entire exercise of winning political freedom would have been useless. In fact, the independence could have aggravated their misery as the political power have been transferred to the very classes which were responsible for "Dalit" oppression and all their woes. The salvation of Hindu society and the redemption of the country lay only

through the upliftment and welfare of the long suffering Dalit classes. By fighting for Dalit rights Dr Ambedkar was serving the larger interests of the Hindu society. It is said that the 'charity begins at home'. The upper cast people can't digest the fact of a Dalit leader cornering glory and achieving great heights. But the "truth prevails". His life shows the sadism and depravity that rules our society. What he suffered due to birth in an untouchable family makes every sane head hang in shame for being part of the same society. It is my request to all of my young reader and future generation must read the life story of Dr. Ambedkar to understand the weakness of our society, the very reason of our downfall and failure. Sometimes the panic incidents of his life read like horror stories. It is very inspiring and profitable to learn how he fought against heavy odds, braved all hardships, endured all humiliations and survived all mental and physical tortures to become a great learned man respected the world over. Without money on his pocket and in hungry stomach he started to write theories on economics. In the time of preparing constitution of India, he forget the unkind-words used by the jealous people and forgive them.

Parents play the role of role models for children

Parents play an important role in the development of children. It is the parents' responsibility to make them obedient. Being obedient to children does not mean that we have to outline all their activities but to give them an understanding of independent thinking that reflects their discipline. Obedience is not a restriction but a symbol of wisdom. If the child insists on everything, refuses to obey or demands something that the parents are unable to fulfill, then the parents should sensibly calm these desires. This will make the child wise and obedient.

1. Healthy Living: When we eat properly and exercise regularly, not only does it improve our own lives, but it sets the example for our children as well. Childhood obesity can lead to depression and disease. This is not to say a parent needs to go overboard, but every reputable expert will tell you that moderation is the key in diet as well as exercise. Keep yourself inside the healthy range for where you are in life.
2. Self-Improvement: Apply whatever work you choose here, but you certainly can teach old dogs new tricks. Self-improvement should always be on our minds. Try new experiences and broaden your horizons. This teaches our children to never stop growing. There's always something new to learn in this life. Try to learn something new every day.
3. Serving/Volunteering: Make it a regular habit to get out in your community with your family and volunteer your time and talents. This is one of the best ways to build family unity, teamwork skills, and most of all, generous and serving hearts. Teach your kids to meet the needs of others.
4. Open Up Your Life: Do not hide who you are as a person to your children. Share your past experiences when it is appropriate: mistakes and victories. Show them that vulnerability is a virtue that comes from a position of strength. Take your children to work with you and let them see your daily life. Status doesn't mean a thing, but your attitude and your demeanor mean the world.
5. Self-Control: Releasing our emotions, whatever they may be, is healthy and reduces stress. How we go about doing that in front of our children, however, has major

consequences. As difficult as it can be, it is essential to practice self-control as much as possible in front of our children. Bite your tongue and control that temper. If need be, take it out in the gym or go for a long run.

6. Right Relationships: We have many important relationships and not all of them are going to be pleasant. Maybe there are issues with your parents, stepparents, brothers, sisters, or ex-wife. Forgive and give grace. Seek to be right in your relationships over being right. Make it as hard as possible for anyone to say anything bad about you. Be an initiator and always take personal responsibility first.

7. Respect and Listening: If you want to teach your kids how to be confident, it starts with showing them respect for who they are and listening to their own unique thoughts. This is a tough aspect of leadership, but the best leaders listen carefully and talk far less.

Open your mind and your

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school, MHR, Malout
Punjab

ears to what your children are telling you. They will, in turn, learn to do the same later in life.

8. Positive Attitude: There is plenty of negativity to be found in society today. Do not add to the daily chorus your child experiences. Instead, display a positive and reassuring attitude and optimism.

9. Goal Setting: Setting goals is important to give us a benchmark of where we are going and the progress we are making. Implementing and achieving those goals are of equal importance. When our kids see us moving along exactly according to plan, it shows them the importance of organization and self-discipline in their daily life. Help them come up with their own set of goals and praise them when the goals are met.

10. Walk the Talk: The single most important aspect of being your children's role model is to always say what you mean and mean what you say. Walk the talk. Back up your words with visible and concrete action and be a man of integrity and value.

Ghadei College, Containment zone Declared by Dist Administration

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 10: Malkangiri Ghadei Residential College has been declared a Containment zone area. The move comes after a college student, Carona, was positively identified. All the students in the college are being tested. The administration has said the college will be completely sealed if a large number of positives come out. The district administration then sealed off all boundaries from Malkangiri to Chhattisgarh. Buses between Malkangiri and



Sukuma in Chhattisgarh, Jagdalpur and Raipur were closed. The Malkangiri district administration has directed that no bus from Chhattisgarh to Malkangiri will be allowed from today to April 30. Even today, all returnees from Chhattisgarh to Malkangiri will be required to stay in home

quarantine for seven days. In addition, no one from Malkangiri district can go to Chhattisgarh for any reason. Cutbacks have been intensified in the

district with night computers. The Malkangiri district administration has taken the decision as the new trend of corona in the neighboring state of Chhattisgarh is on the rise. At the Sukuma Malkangiri border, people are being allowed to enter the district for medical check-ups. In addition, all pedestrians in the district are required to wear masks. Shops, markets, hotels, restaurants and religious institutions have been instructed to maintain social distance and use sanitizers.

Punjab National Bank, Balasore circle donated Auto purified Water cooler

(A.O. Bureau) Balasore, Apr 10: On the eve of Chaitra Parva, Punjab National Bank, Balasore circle donated Auto purified Water cooler inside the temple pre-

mises of Maa TARINI at Ghatagaon for the devotees. The water cooler is inaugurated by Smt Madhumita Das, 1st lady of Balasore PNB in presence of CH

Umakanta Das, Executive of Temple trust, president temple trust and other PNB Parivar members. This programme is under PNB's CSR initiative Programmes



A cyclist was seriously injured in the crash

(A.O. Bureau) Rengali, Apr 10: A cyclist was seriously injured when an unidentified pick-up truck collided head-on with a vehicle near Barikpalli under Rengali police station in Rengali police station on Sapne Rengali road in Sambalpur district. At 9.30pm on Friday, an unidentified pickup truck speeding from Rengali to Sapne collided head-on with a

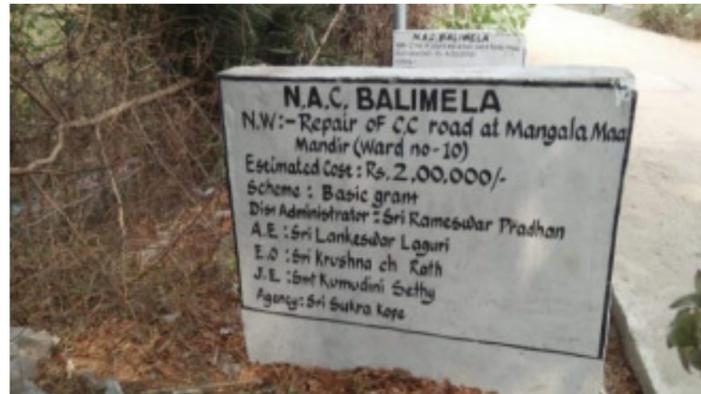


pickup truck near Rangali on the way from Barendapalli on 35 bicycles. Prashant suffered a serious head injury and was bleeding profusely. Local eye-

witnesses rushed to the scene, but were unable to locate the vehicle. After first aid at Rengali Primary Care Center, L&T He was rushed to Burla Hospital by ambulance.

CC Road construction is of low quality in Balimela NAC

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 10: Malkangiri, A Concrete road in Ward 10 of Balimela advertised area under Korukonda block of Malkangiri district. It's been less than five months since the road was built, but the chips and metals have been dug out of the road. With the use of cement from companies approved by the state government, it is impossible for such a situation to arise if the concrete work is carried out according to estimates. As many as 15/20 contractors took part in the tender, with the usual tendency to fill the tender at



a lower rate of 14.99% and pay the cost to other competitors if the tender is canceled. Not so much. Since the work of the NAC has to please the elected representatives. The NAC officer's PC is dif-

ferent. Mrs Kumudini, a junior engineer, of NAC denied the allegations in a statement issued Friday stating "Similar, baseless allegations concerning the company have been made more than once. So the question is, in

whose interest is the road work really going? In the interest of the contractor or the shopkeeper. Who will be responsible for millions of Rupees in losses in 5 months? Contractor or junior engineer. Isn't this

a blazing example of the incompetence of junior engineers in terms of road construction? How many times can the tax collected in one financial year be paid towards such construction and maintenance? When will the general public benefit? With such unanswered questions, those responsible for the cheating of government grants coming in for the benefit of the slum dwellers will face the slum dwellers' movement in the coming days unless proper investigation is carried out against those responsible. "No one can stop it," warned the "Joint Forum of Balimela Slum Residents".

Police Officer's generosity for poor orphan girl



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 10: There is no barrier to humanitarian assistance to others, the latest example of which is the Kudumulugumma Fund official. Gauri Pangi, who lives in hilly areas like Raipur village under Nakamamudi Gram

panchayat, has been running an orphan family for the roots of her father and mother since she was a child, and some Kudumulugumma human rights activists have enrolled her in degree colleges. Today, Girish Chandra Maharana, a local po-

lice officer, handed over a mobile handset to the student and made a reliable promise to the student for all kinds of cooperation for her higher studies. After receiving the mobile phone, Gauri cheered and wished everyone well.

Sundergarh district's "High School Transformation" program - 5 secretaries reviewed through video conferencing

All government high schools in the tea district will take on a new look "The goal is to complete the first phase of the tea by October 2" Tea teachers, students and members of the steering committee of 40 schools joined the tea video conference "Sundergarh, April 10, 2021: All government high schools in Sundergarh district are going to be completely redesigned. To this end, the transformation program has been undertaken under five campaigns of the state government. Sixty of the high schools to be converted in the first phase have been reviewed. On Saturday, 5th Secretary V Karthikeyan reviewed the issue through video conferencing from the Pandian Public Service Building. "The district-level "Vision Document" for high school transformation was unveiled on the occasion, with guidelines on how to implement it with the

program's main goal. "Senior officials, including District Magistrate Nikhil Pawan Kalyan, were present at the Oswan Video Conference Hall in the premises of the Sundergarh District Magistrate's Office. The district magistrate informed about the implementation of

state. "It simply came to our notice then. Improving the quality of teaching by school teachers. "It simply came to our notice then. This is the future of the talented students who are in our public schools," said V Karthikeyan Pandian during the review. He encouraged ordinary

schools. The event, which was held through video conferencing in all 14 blocks of the district, was attended by video educators, block education officers, principals and teachers of various schools, students and members of the school management committee, Panchayati

plete the first phase of the transformation by October 2. As a result, the textile environment of government schools has improved significantly, with an emphasis on shaping the future careers of students," said Nikhil Pawan Kalyan, district commissioner. "Bhairab Singh Patel, Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Rasai Laguri, CEO, Sundergarh DMF, Pramod Kumar Sadangi, District Education Officer, among others, were present on the occasion. "Through this transformation program, the emphasis is on strengthening the infrastructure of schools and how educational institutions can become more attractive to students. Priority is being given to smart classrooms, e-libraries, science labs, playgrounds, drinking water and clean toilets. Similarly, the program aims to make the program a success based on group partnership.



the program in Sundergarh. He thanked the government for the transformation of the high school and sought the cooperation of all for its successful implementation. "The Chief Minister's plan is to redesign all government schools in the

people as well to take part in solving this great task: "One of the things you and other people can do is keep up the pressure ... there are going to be some difficult decisions for government". "During the review, five secretaries spoke directly to all

Raj representatives. "All 373 government high schools in Sundergarh district have been covered under the five-pronged campaign. The meeting discussed in detail the transformation of the high schools to be built in the first phase. "We aim to com-

IGRKA Holds Karate Belt Award Ceremony In Paradip

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Apr 10: International Gosoku Ryu Karate Association (IGRKA), Odisha, organised a belt awarding ceremony at Ambedkar park in Paradip on Friday afternoon. In the occasion, more than hundreds karateka performed Karate Martial arts demonstrations and received

their certificates and colour belts. The ceremony was attended by Bethany Convent school Irene, sister Magdali, Paradip Ladies Club senior member Preeti Aarti Parija, journalist Sasanka Shekhar Acharya, sports trainer Nakul Behera as guests. Students from various schools in Paradip at-

tended the event and received belts and certificates. The event was moderated by Advocate Sanjay Kumar Mishra, secretary of the Association and IGRKA state general secretary and coach Sanjay Saha handed over the belts to the karateka. The event was carried out following by COVID-19 protocols.



The owner of a chicken shop in Ganesh Nagar under Rengali Thana was stabbed

The owner of a chicken shop at Ganesh Nagar Chowk under Rengali police station in Sambalpur district was reportedly stabbed. "According

to sources, Rajat Sahu, 47, ran a chicken shop at Ganesh Nagar Chowk "Ranjit was at the chicken shop on Saturday when a young man suddenly



came and stabbed him. "Rajat was rushed to Burla Hospital in critical condition as he was bleeding profusely. "Rengali police rushed to the spot and are investigating.

Ranbir, Riddhima pose with Rishi Kapoor's pic in Neetu's Siblings Day post

New Delhi, Apr 10: Neetu Kapoor marked Siblings Day with a picture of her children, Ranbir Kapoor and Riddhima Kapoor Sahni. The Kapoor siblings were seated beside a framed picture of late Rishi Kapoor. Neetu Kapoor marked Siblings Day with a picture featuring her two children, Ranbir Kapoor and Riddhima Kapoor Sahni. Siblings Day is celebrated on April 10. The veteran actor took to her Instagram Stories and shared a photo of the siblings posing with a framed photo of their father, late actor Rishi Kapoor. The star kids were seen dressed in an all-black outfits. Sharing



the picture, Neetu said, "Brothers and sisters are best gift from your parents (heart emoji) respect and love each other always #worldsinlingsday." Neetu Kapoor shares a picture of Ranbir Kapoor and Riddhima

Kapoor Sahni sitting beside a framed photo of Rishi Kapoor. Neetu Kapoor shares a picture of Ranbir Kapoor and Riddhima Kapoor Sahni sitting beside a framed photo of Rishi Kapoor. Earlier in the day, Neetu also looked back at the

time when her granddaughter, Samara, visited her and Rishi in New York, where the actor was receiving treatment for cancer. In the video, Samara spoke about the importance of staying fit. Sharing the video, Neetu said, "Had made this

video when my lil patootie came visiting her nana in NYC!!! #samsstories #learningyoung #makesmehappy." Before that, Neetu revisited one of the Kapoor family's Holi parties and shared a picture featuring Rishi and Amitabh Bachchan having a ball together. "Feel blessed to experience the times when HOLI was enjoyed and celebrated with colours of true love and happiness," she said, sharing the picture. Neetu is also preparing for her acting comeback. The actor is currently working on Jug Jugg Jeeyo, co-starring Varun Dhawan, Kiara Advani and Anil Kapoor.

Reeshma Nanaiah to essay female lead in Nanda Kishore's next

Mumbai, Apr 10: Even as she awaits the release of her much-talked-about debut Ek Love Ya, Reeshma Nanaiah has bagged her third project. She has been signed on for Nanda Kishore's upcoming directorial and will see her paired opposite Shreyas Manju for the first time. Reeshma, who had participated in a fashion contest was spotted for her talent. Having wanted to an actor since childhood, the role in Prem's directorial was a dream come true. The film is currently in the post-production stage. The actor's second film, Maarga starring Chetan, a bilingual made in Kannada and Telugu, is

yet to go on floors. Meanwhile, she is all set to start shooting for her next, for which the Pogaru director has come up with a mass entertainer for Padde Huli hero. The project,

the pre-production process, and in all likelihood, they plan to commence with the muhurat this month. On the technical front, the makers have finalised editor K M Prakash and



presented by K Manju, is bankrolled by Gujjal Purushotham under Gujjal Talkies banner. The film is currently in

cinematographer Shekhar Chandru, and are in the process of signing on the music director.

Sara Ali Khan and Ibrahim kiss the summer sweat goodbye with ski in the snow

New Delhi, Apr 10: Actor Sara Ali Khan and her brother, Ibrahim Ali Khan, are spending the weekend in the snow-capped mountains. The Bollywood star took to Instagram and revealed that the Khan siblings were beating the heat with ski through the snow. In a couple of pictures shared on Saturday, the two siblings were seen dressed in warm clothes while posing on a snowmobile. While Sara sat on the snowmobile, Ibrahim stood beside her with his face turned towards the ground. She wrote, "The chosen frozen." A few weeks ago, Sara shared

pictures from her visit to a beach. She was seen wearing a summer ensemble and posed by the sea shore. She captioned the pictures, "Hakuna Matata-it means no worries." Sara was last seen in Coolie No. 1, opposite Varun Dhawan. The movie, which was streamed on Amazon Prime, was not well-received by the critics. On the big screen, Sara was last seen in Love Aaj Kal, in February 2020. She was paired opposite Kartik Aaryan in the film. The actor has wrapped her upcoming movie Atrangi Re. She stars opposite Akshay

Kumar and Dhanush in the Aanand L Rai film. Sharing behind-the-scenes pictures from the sets, she said, "Thank you so much @aanandrai sir for giving me this role, this film and this opportunity. But more than that thank you for your unconditional love, unwavering support, the best India darshan, delicious khana, early morning sunrise drives to location, sufi ginger water evenings, and the most memorable year with the best team." The film was originally to release on Valentine's Day in 2021 but has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



'Kode Muruga' movie review: A middling film on filmmaking



New Delhi, Apr 10: The classic 'ugly duckling' tale wrapped in an outer covering of comedy, the movie still manages to convince the audience to watch it. Here's why. The vision of an aspiring director, the process of seeing his brainchild through, and the struggles that he has to endure are the pillars that make up Kode Muruga, the first outing of Subramanya Prasada. The classic 'ugly duckling' tale wrapped in an outer covering of comedy, the movie still manages to convince the audience

to watch it. Here's why. Kode Muruga narrates the tale of Subramanya Prasada, a director in/of the film begins his struggle in cinema-like everyone by hunting for a producer. After running for a while, his friend helps him find an investor. Going by the history of the portrayal of producers in films, none blindly accepts the director's vision and here too, there is a condition. He asks the director to make his brother Muruga the face of the film. The director finds himself in a quandary as Muruga is not

your stereotypical hero. He has a personality that doesn't translate well on screen and the lack of tall and handsome stature makes him a misfit for a smart hero. Prasada however, enticed by the opportunity, takes up the challenge and brings Muruga on board. Over the next hour, we see the producer give up due to the shortcomings mid-way, but, the director endures it all for his filmmaking journey. Will he be able to deliver a hit at the box office? Kode Muruga highlights a few disturbing scenarios that seem

familiar to anyone in the industry. The plight of the director's life, the behind the scenes manoeuvring and the convincing role of Muruga, makes for interesting viewing. Subramanya Prasada perhaps wants to give us a glimpse into what went into making this movie and leave us with a few questions. However, there is liberal humour that also has the audience laughing and the entertainment factor is certainly strong in the first half. But in the second half, the movie turns a bit preachy and might

not work for audiences expecting more laughter. Muni Krishna, who plays Muruga, is a perfect choice for the role and shines throughout, after his small roles on television. He gives credibility to the saying 'do not judge a book by its cover' and delivers great comic timing, expressions and dialogue delivery. His sidekick is played by Kuri Pratap and supporting him are actors Pallavi Gowda, Dattana, Rockline Sudhakar, and Kaddipudi Chandru. But Subramanya Prasada is both the strength and weakness of Kode Muruga. In an attempt to showcase his struggles on screen, he takes on all responsibility of the film, including story, screenplay, dialogues and lyrics. In the end, we come out thinking Prasada looks tired and exhausted and ready for the cold climax that Kode Muruga delivers. The film is definitely different from the regular releases in Sandalwood and it manages to entertain you in parts.

Kangana seeks divine blessings at Coimbatore's Adishakti ashram as 'Thalaiivi' release gets postponed

New Delhi, Apr 10: The 'Panga' actor hopped on to her Twitter handle and shared serene pictures from her spiritual retreat for fans. Soaked in divinity, Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut on Saturday visited Coimbatore's famous Adishakti ashram to seek blessings from Lord Shiva. The 'Panga' actor hopped on to her Twitter handle and shared serene pictures from her spiritual retreat for fans. During her visit to the famous temple, the four-time national award-winning actor posed in front of the majestic Lord Shiva's statue, to the pictures

where she is seen meditating in front of the shiva lingam, the actor proved that she is spiritually inclined and believes in the power of worshipping. The 34-year-old wrote, "Some pictures from our ashram @ishafoundation Most important is to disconnect from everything worldly and connect with our inner being the higher self Shiva himself even if it is for few days.... Om Namah Shivaya." On a related note, this is not the first time that Kangana has visited the divine yoga centre. In 2018 she visited the centre during shooting for one of the biggest projects of her career- 'Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi'. Adiyogi is located at the



Isha Yoga Center. Its height, 112 ft, symbolizes the 112 possibilities to attain moksha (liberation) that are mentioned in yogic culture, and also the 112 chakras in the human system. The Indian Ministry of Tourism has in-

cluded the statue in its official Incredible India campaign. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri in 2017. Meanwhile, on the work front, Kangana

Ranaut's much-awaited project 'Thalaiivi' which was slated to get a theatrical release on April 23, this year got postponed due to the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in India. The film is a biopic on the life of Tamil Nadu's most celebrated and loved actress-turned-politician Jayalalithaa. Helmed by A. L. Vijay, 'Thalaiivi' is an upcoming Indian multilingual biographical film that will be released in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu. Apart from this she also has 'Tejas', 'Dhaakad', and 'Manikarnika Returns: The Legend Of Didda' in the pipeline. Kangana has also signed up to play the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in an upcoming political drama.

Time to lend helping hand again: Sonu on Covid resurgence

Mumbai, Apr 10: Actor Sonu Sood, who was in Chandigarh on Saturday to bring awareness about the importance of getting the jab, said that every individual needs to come together to fight Covid-19. The actor was in City Beautiful as part of a vaccination awareness drive that had kicked off in Attari. The actor, who is the brand ambassador of 'Sanjeevani: Ashot of life', an initiative launched in Amritsar on World Health Day (April 7) to encourage people to get vaccinated and raise awareness, took the vaccine during the programme's launch. Following this, he spent some time with his family in Moga, and is now headed to Hyderabad for the shoot of his next project. "As the second wave of Covid-19 is speaking, we have to start initiatives to help migrants, especially in terms of jobs, healthcare and education for their kids," he said. The actor said that it's crucial to pro-

vide them skill development training. "This way, even if they want to stay in their villages for

We have to travel to other cities (safer locations) to shoot. No movie is releasing in theatres, so



their safety, they can earn a living," he added. "I've already given jobs to around two lakh people through our 'Pravasi Rojgar' and 'Good Worker' initiatives. I plan to generate 80,000 more jobs in the next three months on priority," he said. On Covid impact on Bollywood, he said, "Shoots and releases have been stalled.

there's monetary loss. It's important for all actors to join forces to bring the industry out of these tough times." "Every individual should lend a supporting hand to others and help them. We can do so by providing medical aid, creating awareness and encouraging people to get vaccinated," he concluded.

Kiren Rijiju inaugurates Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for rowing in Srinagar



Srinagar, Apr 10: This is one of the two KISCEs from Jammu and Kashmir, with the Maulana Azad Stadium for fencing in Jammu being the other. Sports minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday inaugurated the Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) for rowing at the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council Water Sports Academy here. At present, the KISCE will focus on rowing and will be provided a first-time grant of Rs 145.16 lakh and an annual recurring grant of Rs 96.17 lakh. This is one of the two KISCEs from Jammu and Kashmir, with the Maulana Azad Stadium for fencing in Jammu being the other. A consolidated amount of Rs 5.08

crore has been approved for the two centres. Rijiju had earlier announced that the Sports Ministry would open a state-of-the-art water sports facility here. All procedures are now in place and the money has been allocated. "It's a pleasure to come at the Dal Lake to change the lives of the young sportspersons here. There is a lot of potential and we from the Sports Ministry and J&K Council are doing our best to help the youngsters here," Rijiju said. "Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a lot of plans in mind for Jammu & Kashmir. This will be a great opportunity for our future champions," the Minister added. Rijiju also announced a host of

new competitions in the Valley including a Khelo India women's football league. "From this year onwards, we will start a Khelo India Women's football league here and all kinds of support will be given by the Sports Ministry. In October-November, we will organize a marathon competition as well in Pahalgam," Rijiju added. Currently, there are 24 KISCEs across 23 states and union territories and each of them focuses on Olympics sports. Rijiju was joined by Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Advisor to LG of J&K Farooq Khan and Alok Kumar, Secretary, Youth Services, J&K for the ceremony at the Nehru Park in Dal Lake.

IPL 2021: Kolkata Knight Riders to open campaign against consistent Sunrisers Hyderabad on Today

Chennai, Apr 10: Former champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to strike a perfect balance under the astute leadership of Eoin Morgan when they open their IPL campaign against a consistent Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Sunday. One of the best in business in the white-ball format, Morgan took charge of an ordinary-looking KKR under Dinesh Karthik midway into the last season held in the UAE. Running against time, Morgan-led side finished on same points with SRH and RCB but the two teams advanced on better run-rate as KKR missed the play-offs for the second time in succession. In his first stint as full time captain, all eyes would be on the ODI World Cup-winning English skipper who will look to transform the misfiring army of cricketers and bring back the glorious days of two-time IPL champions. In Shubman Gill, they have a fantastic young top-order batsman who can easily shift gears, while the likes of Rahul Tripathi, Nitish Rana and veteran Karthik, who's free from the captaincy burden, can form the core of their Indian batting. Then there is the skipper Morgan who will look to bat through the overs while hoping that 2019 MVP Andre Russell gets back his explosive touch after a

quiet season. Russell had the worst season by his standards averaging 13 in nine innings without a single match-winning performance as the over-dependency on the Jamaican cost KKR dear last season. Another West Indian who flopped big time in the UAE was Sunil Narine. Whether it was his suspect bowling action or

struck it rich in absence of Narine last year but his fitness remains a concern. One of the more consistent sides of IPL, Sunrisers Hyderabad lost before the final hurdle, going down to runners-up Delhi Capitals in the Qualifier 2 last year. SRH will be bolstered by the return of senior India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar

form Jonny Bairstow. They also have Kane Williamson and Manish Pandey, forming a solid top four. Wriddhiman Saha also opened for SRH last year as the wicketkeeper-batsman and will look to prove a point after being sidelined because of Rishabh Pant's heroics in the national team.

Yadav, Shivam Mavi, Lockie Ferguson, Pat Cummins, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Sandeep Warrier, Prasad Krishna, Rahul Tripathi, Varun Chakravarthy, Shakib Al Hasan, Sheldon Jackson, Vaibhav Arora, Harbhajan Singh, Karun Nair, Ben Cutting, Venkatesh Iyer and Pawan Negi.



his failing against the short ball, Narine, who was instrumental in their twin triumphs in 2012 and 2014, looked a pale shadow of his past. It's time that they think beyond the Trinidadian and try out Shakib Al Hasan, their buy in this year's auction. On the slow Chepauk strip, all eyes would be on the new 'Knight' and 40-year-old Harbhajan Singh, who will aim to make maximum impact in what could be his last IPL. They also have a mystery spinner in Varun Chakravarthy who

who played just four games in last year's IPL in the UAE due to a hip injury. Fresh from his fine form during the white-ball leg of the England series at home, Bhuvneshwar will spearhead their attack with yorker specialist T Natarajan by his side. Add Afghan star spinner Rashid Khan to the bowling lineup and the 'Orange Army' looks pretty balanced in their attack. But the real strength of SRH will be their destructive top-order with the duo of David Warner and in-

Buit remains to be seen who will play the role of the finisher for the SRH as they seem to lack muscle power teams badly need in the last five overs. KKR have a slight edge head-to-head as the Purple Brigade lead 12-7 against the Orange Army and last year they won both their matches against them. Squads - KKR: Eoin Morgan (c), Dinesh Karthik, Shubman Gill, Nitish Rana, Tim Seifert, Rinku Singh, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Kuldeep

SRH: David Warner (C), Kane Williamson, Virat Singh, Manish Pandey, Priyam Garg, Wriddhiman Saha, Jonny Bairstow, Jason Roy, Sreevats Goswami, Vijay Shankar, Mohammad Nabi, Kedar Jadhav, J Suchit, Jason Holder, Abhishek Sharma, Abdul Samad, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Rashid Khan, T Natarajan, Sandeep Sharma, Khaleel Ahmed, Siddharth Kaul, Basil Thampi, Shahbaz Nadeem and Mujeeb ur Rahman.

Stuart Dallas double stuns Manchester City as ten men Leeds win at Etihad Stadium

Manchester, Apr 10: A dramatic last-gasp winner from Stuart Dallas earned 10-man Leeds United a shock 2-1 victory against runaway Premier League leaders Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday. A much-changed City side struggled to get going in the first half, with Leeds taking a surprise lead in the 42nd minute, full-back Dallas drilling the ball in off the post with the visitors' first shot at goal. Leeds' joy was short-lived, however, as a VAR in-



tervention saw their captain Liam Cooper sent off just before the break for a dangerous

looking challenge on Gabriel Jesus. The depleted visitors then defended en masse, with

City struggling to break through, but Ferran Torres broke their resistance in the 76th, level-

ling the score with a fine finish. The drama was not over however. As City threw everything at Leeds in search of a winner, the visitors broke at pace, with Dallas racing through to grab a sensational win for Marcelo Bielsa's side in the 91st minute. The result means City's six-game winning streak in all competitions has ended as they remain 14 points clear of second-placed Manchester United having played two more games, while Leeds move up to ninth.

'Guru vs Chela': Ravi Shastri all geared up for Dhoni-Pant clash as CSK take on Delhi Capitals

Mumbai, Apr 10: Newly-appointed Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant in his first game as captain will face former India skipper MS Dhoni and Shastri is excited for the 'Master versus Disciple' show in the IPL match. Team India head coach Ravi Shastri is excited to witness the clash between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Delhi Capitals in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) on Saturday. Newly-appointed Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant in his first game as captain will face former India skipper MS Dhoni and Shastri is excited for the

looking forward to," Pant said in a statement. Pant added that the Delhi Capitals squad, for the IPL 2021, has a great mix of experience and youth. "I have been talking to the senior players like Shikhar Dhawan, Ravichandran Ashwin and Ajinkya Rahane about the fields we can set and other strategic decisions for the team. I have been talking to Ricky and our bowling coach James Hopes as well. There's a good mix of seniors and juniors in our squad and I think with the help of Ricky, we can do something different this year," the skipper said. On the



'Master versus Disciple' show in the IPL match. "Guru vs Chela. Bahot Mazza ayega aaj. Stump Mic suniyega zaroor #DhoniReturns #Pant #IPL2021," Shastri tweeted. Pant is also looking forward to leading the team for the first time and the wicket-keeper batsman said it will be "extra special to walk out for the toss with Dhoni". "It will be extra special to walk out for the toss with MS Dhoni tomorrow. This will be the first time that I will be leading an IPL team and the first match is against Mahi bhai. I have learned a lot from him, and I have gained a lot of experience from him. Hopefully, I can use this experience against him, and we can win this match. That's what I am

other hand, despite witnessing a dismal run in the last season, CSK will still enter the 2021 edition of the IPL as one of the favourites, given the franchise's track record on Indian soil. Not to forget the experience the side has at its disposal. The team will step into the new season with several changes as Shane Watson retired from all forms of cricket following last year's IPL while CSK opted not to retain Harbhajan Singh. Despite the absence of these two, CSK still has surfeit experience in the squad. Also, the Dhoni-led team will see the return of Suresh Raina, who had missed the last edition of the tournament. Raina's return will bolster the team's batting line-up.

Anshu, Sonam workout on airport terminal, battle travel fatigue and pain to qualify for Tokyo Olympics

Mumbai, Apr 10: For a few hours on Friday, the Tashkent airport terminal turned into a warm-up hall for Anshu Malik and Sonam Malik. During a nine-hour layover before continuing their journey to Almaty, Kazakhstan, the Indian wrestlers changed into their sweat-suits - wore a couple of layers, in fact - and started jogging around the waiting hall. They sweated buckets, starved themselves for almost 18 hours, reached their destination at midnight, underwent COVID-19 tests and slept only for a couple of

hours. On Saturday, they woke up tired from the travel, competed - in Sonam's case, through pain - in the Asian Olympic Qualifiers and sealed their spot for the Olympic Games, to be held in July-August. For the national champions, the road to Tokyo was any-

thing but smooth. "When they left Delhi on Friday morning, both of them weighed roughly a kilogram above their weight," Sonam's father Raj says, referring to the weight

normal for wrestlers to weigh a kilo or so over their class limit. Usually, they drop the excess weight before the weigh-in on the day of their bouts. In Sonam and Anshu's case, however, that would have been cutting it too fine. The Wrestling Federation of India had booked their flights to Almaty that would reach the destination just hours before their opening bouts on Saturday. That would have left them with very little time to cut the excess weight, and even if they would've somehow managed that,

the task would have left them drained. "They wore layers of warm clothes and started running at the Tashkent airport. They did not eat anything until after their bout to make sure they were within their weight limit," Anshu's coach Jagdish Sheoran says. Raj adds: "It helped that both were together. They are like sisters, they understand each other that well." Foes to friends Anshu and Sonam are inseparable. Now, before they became friends, though, they were foes on the mat.



pic Games, to be held in July-August. For the national champions, the road to Tokyo was any-

categories they compete in - 18-year-old Sonam wrestles in the 62kg class, Anshu, 19, in 57kg. It is

India fastest nation to administer 100 million doses of COVID vaccine: Health Ministry

(A.O. Bureau)
New Delhi, Apr 10: With the total number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossing 10 crore, the Union Health Ministry on Saturday said that India is the fastest nation to administer 100 million doses in 85 days. The US took 89 days to administer 10 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine, while China took 102 days to cross the same number, it said. In terms of the number of daily doses administered globally, India continues to



remain at the top with an average of 38,93,288 doses administered per day, the ministry said. The US had administered 92.09 million doses in 85 days, while

China and the UK administered 61.42 million doses and 21.32 million doses, respectively, in 85 days, it said. Eight states -- Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat,

Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala -- account for 60.62 per cent of the total doses given so far in the country, accord-

ing to the ministry. The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated and vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started from February 2. The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for those over 60 years of age and for people aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions. India launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1.

Army chief Gen Naravane interacts with officers of Bangladesh Army

(A.O. Bureau)
Dhaka, Apr 10: The year 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh, the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan and the birth centenary of 'Bangabandhu' Mujibur Rahman. Indian Army chief Gen MM Naravane on Saturday interacted with the officers of Bangladesh's Army and witnessed an operational demonstration by the troops. He also planted a tree in Ramu Cantonment in Cox's Bazar to commemorate the everlasting friendship between the two Armies. Gen Naravane, who is here on a five-day official tour, visited the 10 Infantry Division of the Bangladesh Army. "General MM Naravane #COAS visited 10 Infantry Divi-

sion & interacted with the Officers of #BangladeshArmy. The #COAS also witnessed an operational demonstration by the troops of the formation," the In-

teracted with the Officers of his Bangladeshi counterpart Gen Aziz Ahmed, comes less than two weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi



dian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) tweeted. Ramu cantonment is the headquarter of the 10th Infantry Division of the Bangladesh Army. Gen Naravane on Friday paid tribute to Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by visiting the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in Dhaka. The visit of Naravane,

travelled to the neighbouring country and met the top leadership here to strengthen the strategic ties. The year 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh, the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan and the birth centenary of 'Bangabandhu' Mujibur Rahman.

'Did not violate model code, IPC': West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee to EC on her remarks on CAPF

(A.O. Bureau)
New Delhi, Apr 10: Defending her remarks on central armed police forces, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is learnt to have told the Election Commission on Saturday that she has the highest regard for CAPF but there have been serious allegations against them of intimidating and influencing the electorate to cast their vote for a particular political party. Responding to a notice issued by the poll panel on Thursday, the Trinamool Congress chief denied the contents of the EC communication which sought an explanation over her "prima facie completely false, provocative and intemperate statements" against the central armed police forces deputed on election duty in the state. Banerjee also urged the poll watchdog to rescind its notice, contending she has not violated the model code or the various sections of the Indian Penal Code. She claimed that

a girl was allegedly molested by an unidentified CRPF personnel in the early hours of April 6 at Ramnagar, under Tarakeswar police station and the matter was reported to the police which lodged an FIR. She claimed that the TMC had complained with the state chief electoral officer. But till date, no tangible action has been taken nor an advisory or instruction issued by Election Commission to the central forces in this regard. "I have the highest regard for the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and commend and laud their contributions to the safety and security of the country," she said in her reply. But during the first three phases of polls in West Bengal, there have been serious allegations of CAPF re-

sorting to intimidation of voters by exerting force, influencing the electorate to cast their votes for a particular political party, Banerjee is learnt to have alleged her reply. She claimed that her party has also

group will restrain them and another group will go to cast their votes. Don't waste your vote. If you engage yourself only in restraining them, they will be happy that you did not cast your vote. This is their plan. It is the plan of the BJP," she added. "And your plan will be that you will not be scared if they try to intimidate you coming to your village on the one hand, on the other you just talk to them. Talking to them will tantamount to restraining them. You don't have to gherao them literally," according to the portion of her speech cited in her reply. She said that in her speech she had only called upon the voters, specifically women voters, "to protest democratically by gherao if and when somebody (including CAPF) cre-

ated any obstruction in their right to vote". She said "gherao" is one of the democratic ways of registering public protest and there is no reason why gherao should be considered illegal. Banerjee said the term "gherao" has been a part of the political lexicon of West Bengal since late 1960. She said it has been used to connote peaceful "satyagraha" against authorities and she referred to "gherao" in her speech by way of verbal engagement and not a literal gherao. The TMC chief again targeted the Centre and the CAPF on Saturday after four people were killed in firing by CISF personnel allegedly after coming under attack from locals who "attempted to snatch their rifles" in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district during the fourth phase of polls. Banerjee said her government will initiate a CID probe into the incident and questioned the central forces' version of firing in self-defence.



Ruling BJP handed defeat in Tripura tribal council polls

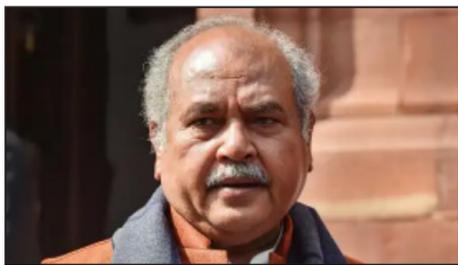
(A.O. Bureau)
Guwahati, Apr 10: The BJP on Saturday suffered a shock defeat at the hands of The Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) elections. The newly-floated TIPRA, an umbrella body of tribal parties, swept the polls, winning 18 of the 28 seats. The combine of BJP and Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), which rules the state, won nine seats while the other seat went to an independent candidate. Left Front and Congress drew a blank. The polling, held on Tuesday, recorded a voters' turn-



out of 85%. The TIPRA, headed by Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman who had earlier served as the Pradesh Congress chief, was floated a few months ago. The state's oldest tribal political party Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura (INPT) is a TIPRA component. It

was earlier a Congress ally. The TTAADC was constituted in 1985 under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution for the socio-economic development of the state's tribals. The council's jurisdiction is spread over two-thirds of Tripura's 10,491 sq km area and home to 12.16 lakh people, 90% of which are tribals.

Farmers must follow Covid-19 protocol, defer protests: Narendra Tomar



(A.O. Bureau)
New Delhi, Apr 10: The agriculture minister also assured that the Centre is ready for further rounds of talks to discuss the three laws with the protesting farmers. Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Saturday asked agitating farmers to defer their protests against the three contentious farm laws citing the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic in the country and resume discussions with the government. "I had

urged union leaders many times to tell children and older people to go back home, in view of Covid-19. Now the second wave has begun, farmers and their unions should follow Covid-19 protocol. They should postpone the protest and have discussions with us," news agency ANI quoted Tomar as saying. The agriculture minister also assured that the Centre is ready for further rounds of talks to discuss the three laws with the protesting farmers.

"Many farmers unions, economists are supporting the agriculture bills but some farmers are protesting against them. The government held 11 rounds of talks with protesting farmer unions, we are ready for more talks," he added. The standoff over the laws has continued to date even after the 11 rounds of talks between the government and the farmers' leaders. During the eleventh round of talks on January 22, the Centre had proposed to stall the farm laws for a period of 12 to 18 months, but the farmers' unions maintained their stance and rejected the proposal. Instead, they demanded a complete repeal of the laws and a legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP).

Bihar police officer beaten to death during raid in West Bengal

(A.O. Bureau)
Kishanganja, Apr 10: The incident happened in Pantapada village in the Goalpokhar police station area of the district after midnight when SHO Ashwini Kumar was leading a raid in connection with a motorcycle theft case. A police officer from Bihar was allegedly beaten to death by a mob during a raid in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district in the early hours of Saturday, officials said. The incident happened in Pantapada village in the Goalpokhar police station area of the district after midnight when Ashwini Kumar, the Station House Officer of Kishanganj police station in Bihar, was leading a raid in connection with a motorcycle theft case, they said. They said that Kumar was in the village with a police team



to apprehend the accused in the case that was registered in the Kishanganj police station. "However, he was surrounded by a mob and allegedly thrashed," officials said. Later, they said that a team of police personnel from the Panjipara outpost rescued him and took him to the Islampur Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. The West Bengal Police

has arrested three persons in connection with the incident. Officials said that they have been identified as Firoze Alam, Abuzar Alam and Sahinur Khatoun. Uttar Dinajpur in West Bengal and Kishanganj in Bihar share a border. The body of the police officer was taken to the Kishanganj police lines during the day, following a post-mortem in Islampur. However,

Kumar's family refused to take the body after he was accorded gun salute at the police lines, alleging a conspiracy. They questioned the role of other police personnel in the team when Kumar was being thrashed by the mob. The family also sought to know that why the West Bengal Police was not given any prior information about the raid. The fiasco over

the body went on for an hour, following which Kishanganj District Magistrate Aditya Prakash and Inspector-General of Purnea Range Suresh Kumar Chowdhury along with other top officials held a meeting with Kumar's family, assuring them of an SIT probe into the incident, police said. They then took the body to Kumar's native place in Janki Nagar in Purnea. West Bengal DGP P Nirajnanayan spoke to Bihar DGP SK Singhal and assured him full cooperation on the matter, official sources said. In a statement, the Bihar Police said that it is looking into providing a job to Kumar's kin. Officials said that Kumar joined the Bihar Police in 1994 and was transferred to Kishanganj a year ago.