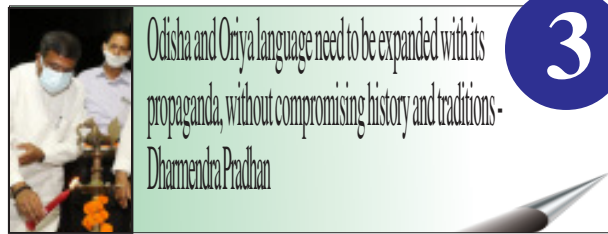


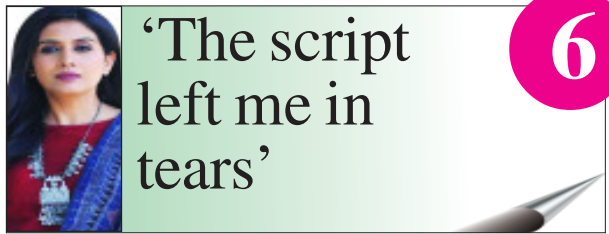
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## Odisha CM Flags Off 47 Ambulances With Life Support Equipment

Bhubaneswar, Apr 14: On the auspicious occasion of Maha Bishuba Sankranti and Odia New Year, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today dedicated 47 new Advanced Life Support Ambulances to the people of Odisha on virtual mode. Dedicated the new ambulances, the Chief Minister expressed hope that these ambulances will meet the increasing demand for transportation of patients with advanced life support system. Wishing the people on the occasion of Odia New Year and Maha Bishuba Sankranti, the Chief Minister has expressed confidence that with the cooperation of people, we can beat the second wave as we have done last year during the second wave. Out of these



47 ALS ambulances, 28 will be managed under 108 emergency ambulance service and 19 will be deployed at the Medical colleges and hospitals to facilitate emergency patient transportation at their level. It may mentioned here that in the wake of second wave of COVID-19, the Chief Minister had directed for provision of more

advanced life support ambulances to further boost the reach and scale of the emergency patient transportation. Accordingly, the State Government had made provision for 47 new ALS ambulances. These ambulances have been funded from various sources including MPLAD, CSR, DMF and OMBADC. The State is running Emer-

gency Medical Ambulance Service since March 5, 2013. The current fleet comprises of 596 vehicles, out of which 540 have Basic Life Support system and 56 have Advanced Life Support system. With the addition these new ambulances, the total number of Advance Life Support ambulances comes to 103. These are running under

108 ambulance services covering all 30 districts to provide quality emergency care transport free of cost. Additionally, a fleet of 500 Janani Express ambulances under Referral Transport Ambulance Service have been made operational in the state since July 14, 2014 to provide free referral transport services to all pregnant women and sick infants. Till now, over 62 lakh people have benefited from both 108 and Janani Express ambulance services in the State. Besides, to provide transportation to sick and injured in the riverine areas of 4 districts namely Kendrapara, Kalahandi, Koraput and Malkangiri, the government has also sanctioned Six Boat Ambulances.

## Congress' Pipili candidate succumbs to COVID-19 in Odisha, bypoll may be postponed

Bhubaneswar, Apr 14: Three days ahead of the by-election to Pipili Assembly constituency, Congress candidate Ajit Mangaraj passed away while undergoing treatment for COVID-19 in a private hospital of the city here on Wednesday. The untimely death of Mangaraj, 53, was confirmed by Apollo Hospital where he was admitted in critical condition on April 9 after testing positive. Mangaraj was re-nominated for the by-poll by the Congress despite forfeiting his deposit in the 2019 election. With the demise of the Congress candidate, the Pipili by-election is likely to be countermanded or adjourned. The Election Commission will take a final call on the by-poll after receiving a report from the returning officer about the death of the Congress candidate. The Chief Electoral Officer SK Lohani said, the Election Commission would be intimated about the matter. It will take a call, he said. As per Section 52 of the Representation of People Act,



1951, "If a candidate set up by a recognised political party, dies as a contesting candidate and a report of his death is received before the commencement of the poll, the returning officer shall, upon being satisfied about the fact of the death of the candidate, by order, announce an adjournment of the poll to a date to be notified later and report the fact to the Election Commission." After receiving report from the returning officer, the Election Commission will call upon the recognised political party, whose candidate has died, to nominate another candidate for the by-poll within seven days of issue of notice and the provisions of other sections (from 30 to 37) will also apply to

other nominations. The returning officer will again prepare and publish a fresh list of contesting candidates so as to include the name of the candidates who have been validly nominated. The death of Mangaraj was consoled by Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, president of Pradesh Congress Committee Niranjan Patnaik and several leaders of all political parties. Union Ministers Pradhan and Pratap Sarangi, AICC secretary G Rudra Raju, several MLAs and leaders of Congress and many well wishers of Mangaraj visited the hospital and paid their last respects.

## Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra Reviewed Coronavirus Situation In Rourkela And Sambalpur

Bhubaneswar, Apr 14: Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra visited Sambalpur and Rourkela to review the situation. He landed in Jamadarpalli by special helicopter this morning and reached Burla. Bhimsar came and first visited Covid Hospital after reviewing it. "This is a very important decision. A total of 525 beds will be set up in the two hospitals. Another Covid Hospital will open in Burla. The 120-bed Covid Hospital is currently oper-



ating. It increased by 105 beds to 225. Of these, 50 will be ICUs and 165 will be general hospitals. The second Covid Hospital will open in Bhimsar's medicine building in 10

days. The new Covid hospital will have 50 ICUs and 250 general wards. A total of 525 beds will be operated at the two Covid hospitals. It has also been decided to open two

hospitals in Jharsuguda and Bargarh districts. Similarly, the situation is being monitored as the Chhattisgarh infection is on the rise, the chief minister said. The meeting was attended

by Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra, Chief Secretary Pradeep Mohapatra, DMIT CBK Mohanty, Sambalpur District Magistrate Shubham Saxena, Jharsuguda District Magistrate Saroj Samal, Bargarh District Magistrate Jyoti Ranjan Pradhan, Uttaranchal IG Jayashree Dora was the chief guest. After Sambalpur, the team toured Rourkela. The Chief Secretary has reviewed the situation at the Hi-Tech Medical College and Hospital.

## Pipili By-Poll Postponed As Poll Candidate Dies

Bhubaneswar, Apr 14: The Pipili by-election, which was scheduled to be held on April 17, has been postponed, said official sources at the Chief Electoral Office, Odisha. Following the death of Ajit Mangaraj, the Congress candidate for the by-election at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar due to Covid-19 today afternoon, fresh dates for the by-poll to Pipili Assembly seat will be notified later. Over phone Sushil Lohani, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Odisha, said a report has been sought from the Puri district returning officer and further action will be taken thereafter. The report will be then sent to the Election Commission of India (ECI). Lohani



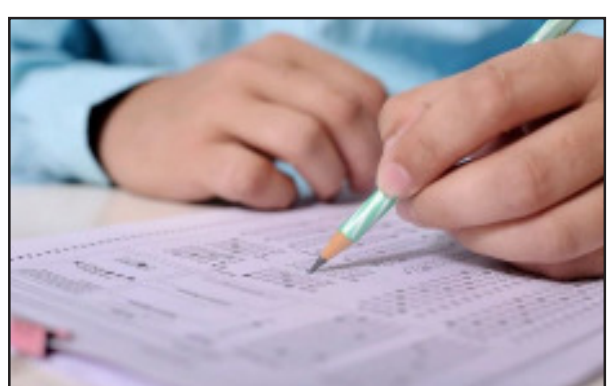
further informed a fresh notification for the by-poll will be issued soon. Campaigning for the by-poll was scheduled to end tomorrow, but as soon as the news of Mangaraj's death broke out, a poll of gloom descended in the area. As many as 10 candidates were in the by-poll battle for the Pipili Assembly constituency. Rudra Pratap Maharathy of

BJD and Ashrit Pattanayak of BJP had also filed their nominations. Mangaraj had unsuccessfully contested on a Congress ticket from Pipili Assembly seat during 2019 general election. Worth mentioning, on October 4 last year, the sitting Pipili MLA Pradeep Maharathy passed away necessitating for a by-poll to the Assembly seat.

## CBSE Class-10 Exams Cancelled

New Delhi, Apr 14: In a major decision, the Central Government today cancelled the CBSE Class-10 examinations in view of the COVID-19 situation. The examinations were scheduled to be held from May 4 to June 14. The results will be prepared on the basis of an objective

criterion to be developed by the board. Any candidate who is not satisfied with the marks allocated to him/her on this basis will be given an opportunity to sit in an exam as and when the conditions are conducive to hold the exams, said Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union Minister for Edu-



cation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today

chaired a high-level meeting in this regard.

The CBSE Class-12 examinations have been postponed and will be held later. The situation will be reviewed on June 1 by the board and details will be shared subsequently. A notice of at least 15 days will be given before the start of the Class-12 examinations.

## More Students From OUAT, RD Women's University Test COVID-19 Positive

Bhubaneswar: With the Coronavirus spreading its wings fast in second wave of the pandemic, more number of students and employees from the Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT) and Rama Devi Women's University have tested positive for



COVID-19 here. On Tuesday, one female

student of Rama Devi Women's University

had tested positive for the deadly virus. A day after, three more students have been infected with the virus. Earlier, a lecturer of the varsity had tested COVID-19 positive. Similarly, four more including two students of OUAT have contracted the infection. Also, one

employee and one professor of the premier agricultural institute have been found with COVID-19 positive. Following detection of the cases, the varsities have been sanitized as part of precautionary measures to prevent further spread of the infections.



# Corona Vaccine Should Be Given To The Journalists: Kejriwal PM negligent, callous in tackling COVID-19, must follow 'raj dharma': Congress



New Delhi, Apr 14: In Delhi, coronavirus infection is on the rise. So the Kejriwal government has accelerated vaccination in the state. In this regard, the state government has appealed to the central government to allow the immunization of journalists to be given priority. This is what Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted.

"Most journalists who report in distress should be treated as frontline workers, and their immunizations should be given priority," he tweeted. Earlier in the day, Kejriwal had called for an end to nighttime curfews for journalists. Instead of an e-pass, he showed his ID card and said he could travel during the night curfew. The state

government has imposed a night curfew in the state on April 4 and has ordered it to continue till April 30. A curfew has been imposed from 10 pm to 5 am. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said there were now more than 450,000 people in the capital. In addition, people under the age of 45 are more likely to be infected.

New Delhi, Apr 14: With COVID-19 infections spreading rapidly in the country, the Congress on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being negligent, careless and callous in tackling the virus and jeopardising the lives of Indians, and asked him to follow "raj dharma". Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the Modi government has been completely careless and cruel when it comes to ensuring life-saving drugs, providing oxygen and vaccines to Indians, and has proved incompetent in controlling the spread of the virus. India reported a maximum of around 1.85 lakh



cases and 1,027 deaths due to COVID-19 on Wednesday and now has the second highest number of infections after the United States. Surjewala said while there is an acute shortage of vaccines across the country, the government is busy abusing state governments raising the issue with baseless and senseless allegations.

He also demanded that the government agree to the requests of students by postponing or cancelling the CBSE board exams and not risk their lives by making them sit for the exams physically when infections are spreading fast. "The prime minister is negligent, careless, cruel and callous in tackling COVID-19. The Modi govern-

ment has jeopardised the lives of Indians by its negligent conduct," he said at a press conference. "The government has been completely careless and cruel when it comes to ensuring life-saving drugs, oxygen and availability of beds, ramping up health infrastructure and ramping up vaccine production. It has proved incompetent in

handling COVID-19," he told reporters. Surjewala asked how can the government export vaccine when it is in acute shortage in the country and when there is no vaccine for Indians. He said when Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi gave the suggestion to grant emergency approval to foreign vaccines, the government agreed but union ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Smriti Irani attacked them with baseless and senseless allegations. "This is a national emergency happening and we know that the prime minister is busy campaigning, but the prime minister must follow raj dharma. There is no 'you versus us' debate. It is 'we versus corona'," he said.

## Gauhati High Court upholds bail order of peasant activist Akhil Gogoi by special NIA court

Guwahati, Apr 14: The Gauhati High Court has upheld the bail order of peasant activist Akhil Gogoi by a special NIA Court in relation to his alleged role in violent protests against the Citizenship



(Amendment) Act in Assam in 2019. Dismissing an appeal by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), a High Court bench comprising Justices Suman Shyam and Mir Alfaz Ali said any act aimed

at creating civil disturbance will not come within the purview of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 unless committed with the requisite intention. "Upon going through the impugned judgement and order dated 01.10.2020 in the light of materials placed before us, we are of the considered opinion that the views expressed by the learned Special Court, NIA leading to granting of bail to the respondent is a possible view in the facts and circumstances of the case.

## India will raise its climate ambitions but not under pressure: Prakash Javadekar

New Delhi, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday said India will raise its climate ambitions but not under pressure. He said India will also continue to ask developed countries for finance and support and about their climate actions. Javadekar made the remarks during a speech after a meeting with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian at the French Embassy. Javadekar said India



is the only G-20 country to walk the talk on the Paris climate agreement and "we have done more than we promised". Many countries have forgotten their pre-2020 commitments

and they are now talking of 2050, he said. "Many countries are now saying don't use coal but the alternative has to be much cheaper than coal, only then people will do away

with coal," he said. He said India is suffering because of the actions of others. "The US, Europe and China emitted (greenhouse gas) and therefore, the world is suffering," he said, adding historical responsibility is a major thing in climate debate. "We must also take into consideration climate justice to poor nations. They have the right to develop. Developed countries should finance what they committed," he said.

## UP CM Yogi Adityanath Tested Positive For Coronavirus

Lucknow, Apr 14: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath (CM Yogi Adityanath) has also been found Corona Positive after Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav. The Chief Minister is currently in home isolation and has appealed to the people in contact with him to get an investigation done. The Chief Minister gave this information by tweeting from his official Twitter handle. Earlier, the report of Yogi government minister Ashutosh Tandon has also come



positive. The chief minister tweeted and wrote, "After the initial signs of corona appear, I have a Covid test and my report is positive. I am in self-isolation and fully following the consultation of the doctors. Apart from this, many senior IAS and IPS officers of the state have also been found positive.

## As Covid super spreader threat looms large, crowd falls by one-third on occasion of third Shahi Snan



Dehradun, Apr 14: Similar to last Shahi Snan on April 12, no Covid appropriate behaviour was adhered to as thousands gathered on Ganga ghats to take holy dip in the river. With over 13.51 lakh pilgrims taking holy bathe in river Ganga on the occasion of third Shahi Snan (Royal Bath) on Wednesday, the numbers were cut down to almost one-third of what congregated on April 12 in the second royal bath. However, Covid safety norms

yet again went for toss in the mega religious event. On April 12, over 35 lakh pilgrims devotees gathered in Haridwar for bathing in the river Ganga. Coveted as biggest and most auspicious of the Shahi Snans, it commenced around 5 am and concluded at 6 pm with estimated gatherings of more than 30 lakh people in Haridwar Mahakumbh 2021. Sanjay Gunjyal, inspector general, Kumbh said, "All arrangements are in

place to ensure smooth course of events without any hassle. We are making sure that no gathering, jam or stampedes occur in the mela area and around it." Fears of the mega event becoming a super spreader are being realized now, said experts. Anoop Nautiyal from Social Development for Communities which has been analysing Covid data since March 2020 said, "The data shows that Haridwar remains one of the worst af-

fected districts. Millions have visited the city across the country and still are. There is no doubt now that unfortunately, the event has contributed to the pandemic." Haridwar remains one of the worst affected districts by the pandemic. Similar to last Shahi Snan on April 12, no Covid appropriate behaviour was adhered to as thousands gathered on Ganga ghats to take holy dip in the river. According to estimates, by 7 am in the morning over 7

lakh people have taken a dip in ghats on Ganges in the mela area. Meanwhile, a statement of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat is going viral in which he says Covid does not affect much in open spaces comparing Markaz gathering of last year to ongoing Mahakumbh. "You cannot compare Markaz gatherings with Mahakumbh. The Markaz happened in a confined space while the Kumbh is being organized in open space," the CM can be heard saying in a video. Uttarakhand witnessed all time high cases in one day on Wednesday with 1,953 new cases of COVID-19. Out of these, maximum cases were reported in with 796 cases followed by Haridwar (525) and Nainital with total 205 new Covid cases. With 13 deaths on Wednesday the recovery rate fell to 87.16% and sample positivity of 3.59%.

## Ambani security scare case: NIA probing 'fake encounter' angle

Mumbai, Apr 14: Investigators suspect that suspended cop Sachin Waze had planned a "fake encounter" of two persons to project their link with the explosives-laden SUV found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence, sources said on Wednesday. This way, Waze, an "encounter specialist", apparently wanted to claim to have solved the case, but it did not work out, they said. During a search of Waze's house in neighbouring Thane, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is conducting a probe into

the case, had recovered the passport of a man, whose identity has not been revealed. The investigators suspect Waze had planned to kill the passport holder and one more person in a "fake encounter", the sources said. The "fake encounter" was initially planned in the Maruti Eeco vehicle, which was stolen from Maharashtra's Aurangabad city in November last year, they said. The probe agency suspects that by eliminating two persons, Waze had planned to claim to have solved the case of

the explosives-laden SUV and earn praise, but the plan did not work out, the sources said. The NIA earlier claimed Waze was planning to do "something big". Accordingly, the agency is working on the "fake encounter" theory, the sources said. The explosives-laden SUV was found parked outside the south Mumbai residence of Ambani on February 25. Businessman Mansukh Hiran, who was in possession of the SUV, was found dead in a creek in Thane on March 5. The NIA arrested Waze on March 13.





# People entering Odisha without negative RT-PCR report, vaccination certificate to go under self-quarantine

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 14: In an effort to maintain the crowd amid the surge of the COVID-19 pandemic, the East Coast Railway and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation have tightened up the surveillance at the railway station. The people coming to the state without a negative RT-PCR report or vaccination certificate are being asked to go under self-quarantine. Elaborating the arrangements made at the Bhubaneswar Railway Station, the station director, Chittaranjan Nayak told ANI, "We are collecting details of those coming from out of the state and do not



have negative RT-PCR report, we ask them to self-quarantine. Those who have not taken both the doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are

being registered." "We have set up six counters in a larger area to avoid overcrowding of passengers," he added. "Those who have taken

both the doses of COVID-19 vaccine can also travel, by following the pandemic protocols like wearing face masks and social distancing,"

the station master further said. The Odisha government on Monday started strictly implementing its decision of not allowing any people to enter the state without a COVID-19 negative report or the final vaccination certificate. The government has made it mandatory for all passengers entering the state by railways to carry negative RT PCR (Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) report that is not older than 72 hours. Odisha's COVID-19 tally surged to 3,55,353 on Tuesday as 2,267 more people tested positive for the infection. The number of total active cases mounted to 12,244.

# Director of firm held for Rs 7.31 crore fraud

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 14: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch on Tuesday arrested the director of Shreya Infrastructure Services Private limited Seema Nayak from Aska for allegedly cheating customers to the tune of Rs 7.31 crore. One Debadutta Rautray had lodged a complaint with the agency alleging that the managing director of Shreya Infrastructure Himanshu Sekhar Nayak in connivance with the managing director of Real Value Developers and Builders Private limited Rama Chandra Patra had committed the fraud. Induced by Himanshu and his wife Seema, around 100 people had paid Rs 9.50 lakh each

to book studio apartments in the Shreya Infrastructure Services' project Shreekheta Kalinga Kutira at Sipasrabali in Puri district in the year 2014-15. The accused had promised



to hand over the apartments within three years but they neither executed the deal nor refunded the money. Real Value's Rama Chandra had provided the land to Shreya Infrastructure and executed the general power of attorney (GPA) in its favour but after receiving

the money from the buyers, the accused deliberately cancelled the GPA. EOW officers said the accused have swindled Rs 7.31 crore which was collected by them from at least 71 buyers and the amount was diverted to personal bank accounts of Seema. A case was registered in this connection in December, 2018. Earlier, Himanshu, another director of the company Gati Krushna Dash, and Real Value's MDRama Chandra were arrested.

# SOA Sponsored Critical Edition Of 'Saroladas Mahabharatha' Released

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, April 14: A critical edition of two 'parvas' of the 'Saroladas Mahabharatha', authored by the 15th century poet Sarala Das, and brought out by the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University,

10th century though it is generally believed that he lived in the 15th century," he said. A three member editorial team comprising scholars Prof. Gouranga Charan Dash, Prof. Pradipta Kumar Panda and Dr. Bhagyalipi Malla edited the critical edition.

edited material would enable the reader to prepare his own epic, Prof. Dash said. Mr. Sethi said the state government was keen to promote ancient Odia literature and an Odia University was being planned in the state in addition to the existing



were released at a function here on Wednesday. The publication, containing the 'musoli' and 'swargarohan' parvas written by the poet widely referred to as 'adi kavi', were released by eminent scholar, writer and linguist Dr. Debi Prasanna Pattanayak at the program organised in the university. Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik, in a video message, hailed SOA's endeavour saying Sarala Das's epic provided a vivid picture of life at that time. "It is an excellent attempt," he said while congratulating the university. Mr. Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary to the government in the revenue and disaster management, Odia language, literature and culture departments, unveiled the digital edition of the work on the occasion. The epic contained 18 'parvas' the critical editions of which the university planned to publish subsequently. Hailing SOA's endeavour, Dr. Pattanayak said it was a difficult task "but a lot more is needed to be done to bring Sarala Das' stupendous work into limelight." He, however, said research should be undertaken to clear the air about the place of Sarala Das's place of birth and the time to which he belonged. "There is a question mark on whether the poet belonged to the 9th-

SOA Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Mahapatra presided over the function which was also addressed by scholar and writer Dr. Asit Mohanty and former Vice-Chancellor of Biju Patnaik University of Technology and writer Prof. Omkarnath Mohanty. Prof. Gouranga Charan Dash, a member of the editorial team, said Sarala Das was generally accepted as a 15th century poet who also authored the 'Bichitra Ramayana' and 'Chandi Purana' which were on palm leave manuscripts. Though the 'Mahabharatha' was published by four publishing houses between 1898 and 1927 and one more edition was brought out by the state government edited by eminent Odia scholar late Artaballabh Mohanty in the early 1960s, researchers spoke of the need for a critical edition, he said. he editors had used more than twenty 19th century manuscripts available from different regions of Odisha which were collected from the Odisha State Museum, National Museum and Sambalpur University. The new edition was prepared after deep analysis of the available material and the words used were 500 to 600 years old. The digital edition of the publication containing the manuscripts used and the

Culture University. "A poet of Sarala Das' stature needs to be introduced globally and the government would make efforts for the same," he said. Most of the speakers congratulated SOA for taking up the difficult task and thanked the university's founder Prof. Manojranjan Nayak for extending support to such a venture. Dr. Asit Mohanty, who discussed the new publication, congratulated SOA for the 'courageous attempt' while describing the edition as necessary. He also referred to articles written by eminent Odia author and researcher late Gopinath Moanty saying "we need to know much more about the poet." Prof. Omkarnath Mohanty also referred to late Mohanty's works saying he had written nine articles on Sarala Das between 1956 and 1958. The author had also translated 100 pages of the epic into English which was in manuscript form, Prof. Mohanty said. The program was organised by the SOA Centre for Preservation, Propagation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (PPRACHIN). PPRACHIN's head Dr. Gayatribala Panda introduced the guests while Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, SOA's Dean (Students' Welfare) moderated the program.

# NABARD's Rs 22,709 crore aid to rev up state economy

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 14: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has extended financial support Rs 22,709 crore to the State government in 2020-21 financial year. It had made a projection of Rs 90,395.69 crore credit requirement for the State in the last fiscal. The national bank has disbursed Rs 1,700 crore under Special Liquidity Facility (SLF) to cooperative banks and micro finance institutions (MFIs) with a view to ensure unhindered flow of credit to farmers to carry out agricultural operations smoothly. It provided a



refinance support of Rs 12,193 crore to meet the short-term credit requirement of farmers, said a NABARD release highlighting its performance for the State. The State received a financial assistance of Rs 3,234.25 crore under rural infrastructure development fund (RIDF) for construction of 2,510 community-based lift irrigation projects under Biju

Krushak Vikas Yojana (BKVY), 11 mega lift schemes, 74 rural bridges, 7 mega piped water supply projects, 8 flood protection and one system improvement projects. These projects will create irrigation potential for 97,256 hectare (ha) in the State while the drinking water projects are expected to provide safe drinking water to 25.46 lakh rural

population across 3.50 lakh households in 1,335 villages. The bank also reimbursed RIDF assistance of Rs 2,732.75 crore to the State for expenditure incurred towards various projects. Some of the major infrastructure projects include Indravati Lift Canal Irrigation Project in Kalahandi, 5 lakh LPD OMFED automated milk processing unit, drinking water projects in Nuapada, Bhadrak, Bargarh, Nabarangpur, Dhenkanal and Jajpur. Further, NABARD has disbursed Rs 5,597.5 crore for supporting paddy procurement operations in the State. In order to give a fillip to economic activities

and enhance livelihood opportunities, 144 watershed projects have been undertaken with financial assistance of Rs 74.92 crore from Nabard covering area of 1.12 lakh hectare and 41,000 households in 24 districts. Currently, 70 watershed projects are under implementation and 5 new projects were sanctioned with financial assistance of Rs 6.27 crore under watershed development and climate proofing project. The national bank also extended financial assistance of Rs 190.61 crore under WADI project covering area of 41,000 acre and 48,000 tribal families in 21 districts of the State.

# Odisha and Oriya language need to be expanded with its propaganda, without compromising history and traditions - Dharmendra Pradhan



Bhubaneswar, Apr 14: Bhubaneswar, April 15 - At present, it is not only formal but also love affair "Efforts must be made to promote such cultural festivals." Orissa

and Oriya have to be expanded by spreading its history and traditions without compromising. "Everyone should work hard to make Odisha a modern state," said

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. "Addressing the "Namami Mandakini - New Year Festival" held in Bhubaneswar on the occasion of the holy

- ❖ Oriyas are always hoping for a big exchange, not a narrow one
- ❖ To revive the glorious history of Odisha in the intellectual vision of the ancestors. "Required"

Utkaliya New Year and Mahabishub Sankranti, Mr. Pradhan said that the New Year and the Oriya New Year celebrations of the people of different countries of the world and different states of India and our Oriya people are inseparable. "It simply came to our notice then. "Our Oriyas always rely on great exchanges, not on narrowness. "Our Oriya brothers and sisters should remember their past and remember that

in the past, self-confidence was the only thing that was possible. "The future of those who have a bright future must be bright. "In the Oriya New Year, every Oriya needs self-esteem and self-realization. Union Minister Shri Pradhan said that the glorious history of Odisha needs to be revived and propagated in the intellectual vision of the ancestors while recognizing the roots while respecting the history and culture.

# Emotional tribute to Ambedkar on the occasion of his birth anniversary by the Civil Unity Council

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 14: The National Unity Council and the Indian Buddhist Congress have paid their last respects to Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his birthday. "A procession led by former Union

Minister Bhajman Behera marched from the premises of the local Buddhist temple to the statue of Dr. Ambedkar at AG Chowk. There was a wreath-laying ceremony. People who love Ambedkar say that for a diverse coun-



try like India, Dr. Ambedkar has given a

strong constitution that has made every Indian

safe and dignified. He is also the savior of the oppressed. Because of this, the social, political and economic situation of the Dalits has increased. The Dalits will take the lead in the country if they continue to follow his ideals.



## EDITORIAL

## Double mutant strikes

More genomic testing on the virus must be done; the new strains are pushing India to the brink. A few weeks ago, in a press release the Government announced that a wholly new strain — which it dubbed the “double mutant” — had emerged in India. This was so called because not one major mutation but two mutations to the spike protein that allows the COVID-19 virus to bind to cells had been found. Few further details have emerged since then but epidemiologists believe that this variation could potentially be much more infectious, just like the strains from Brazil, South Africa and the UK have proved to be. And in the first two weeks of April, it is almost certain; albeit until enough genomic testing of the strains infecting Indians is conducted, one cannot positively state this; that the new strains, possibly the “double mutant” strain itself is behind the exponential rise in Coronavirus cases across the country. In fact, India now has the dubious distinction of being the second worst-hit nation in the world as the climbing numbers have relegated Brazil to the third place in the global Corona rankings. “The Attack of the Double Mutant” seems like an apt name for a 1950s campy Hollywood movie but, make no mistake, it appears to be very real right now. And one cannot rest on the fact that these new mutations of the virus that first emerged in Wuhan, China, are less deadly than the original. The fact is that a lower fatality rate is negated when absolute numbers are extremely high, like they are right now. As a result, not only are the cases hitting highs like never before, so are the fatalities. What should be extremely concerning to the health authorities and the Governments at both the Centre and the States is that the vaccines being administered to millions of Indians every week have not yet been thoroughly tested for their efficacy against the new strains, particularly the “double mutant”. We still are unsure whether Covishield or Covaxin, or even the recently approved Sputnik V or other vaccines approved for usage elsewhere in the world, such as the mRNA-based Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, will be effective against the new strain, either in reducing its virulence or the seriousness of the disease. Despite stories emerging of crematoriums running at capacity and their equipment failing or melting, life appears to continue apace in India. In fact, the celebrations at Haridwar for the Kumbh Mela are a sign that many Indians would rather put their faith in divine intervention rather than the Government. And with the Government leaders campaigning full-time in West Bengal and elsewhere, who can blame only the religious devotees? India is witnessing a record number of new cases daily, but is yet to exceed the 1,290 daily deaths recorded on September 15, 2020. However, at the current pace, that might only be a matter of time before we see that happening. Particularly, once the Kumbh Mela gets over and the devotees head back home, spreading the pernicious virus across the length and breadth of India.

## Show some poise

The Cooch Behar tragedy underscores the need for all stakeholders to exercise restraint in words and actions. It is the Election Commission’s (EC) responsibility to conduct “free and fair” elections; however, its role often comes under the scanner of the parties in the poll fray; it is accused of being biased, undemocratic and selective in cracking down on the violators of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). Not only this, the “impartiality” of the apex poll body is questioned every now and then, right from the first stage of setting up the voting dates. The Opposition accuses it of “dancing to the tune” of the regime at the Centre and “managing” the election dates that best suit the ruling party. Even after the results, the losing parties and candidates cry foul that the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were rigged. Most of these charges against the credibility of an independent, constitutional body are unfounded and only part of the politics of subterfuge. Unfortunately, however, such manoeuvres have become the hallmark of elections these days. The happenings in West Bengal, where the EC has slapped a 24-hour campaign ban on Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee for “instigating the voters” and making “highly insinuating and provocative remarks”, are no exception. The poll panel’s order drew sharp reactions not only from the TMC but also from the Congress and the CPM — all these parties are in the Opposition at the Centre — with Mamata sitting on a dharna at the Gandhi Murti in Kolkata. It appears that Didi is playing all her cards — from wheelchair politics to dharna politics — to prevent the BJP from wresting power from the TMC in its bastion. Citing similar reasons, the EC has banned the BJP’s Rahul Sinha from campaigning for 48 hours for his remark that the Central forces should have shot more people in Sitalkuchi. It also issued notices to Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh for his controversial remarks. There should be a detailed inquiry into what instigated a mob to threateningly advance towards the CISF personnel on poll duty in Cooch Behar that subsequently led to four civilian deaths. Earlier, Mamata had asked the State’s people to gherao the Central forces. While the EC is working to the best of its ability, the politicians must also stop instigating people or making comments that potentially could disturb law and order in the politically-sensitive State. No matter who wins or loses the battle for Bengal, democracy must not be made to bleed.

## Nepal staring at political disquiet



## Rishi Gupta

can support the Nepali Congress and the Maoists to form a Government or ally with Oli to give further lease to his premiership. An expected outcome: The 2018 merger of the two mainstream rivals had generated optimism among the Nepalese people that the new leadership was showing political maturity. However, it was only a matter of political survival for Oli and Prachanda as the former had planned to weaken the Opposition by bringing archrival Prachanda on board. Prachanda was facing serious corruption cases and the charges of en masse killing during the decade-long Maoist movement. Prachanda has gone on record to claim alleged 5,000 killings during the movement. Since Oli was the strongest ally, Prachanda could avoid trials at the UN and the International Court of Justice. Therefore, the merger was a self-serving decision by the duo against the widespread belief that they had shown political maturity in the interest of their people.

Hence, the fallout was inevitable. Blaming and seeking: With the eventual fall, Oli is seeking to mend ties with New Delhi. To reach out to India, he has appeared on a number of Indian news channels to cry foul against former Prime Minister Prachanda, blaming him for dividing the party. The same Oli created his political stronghold through his anti-India manoeuvring and bashing of the Indian media for being unfair towards the “victim” country. Oli’s public relations office and foreign policy advisory group had come fully geared to criticise India on the border dispute. These offices are now attempting all the tricks to reach out to New Delhi. Also, despite a projected bonhomie with China, Oli is pushing for the supplies of the COVID-19 vaccines from India. However, testing the trust will be the core of India’s new relations with Nepal. On the other hand, Oli’s biased approach towards China had come at the cost of substantial

economic losses. Also, he signed the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance with Beijing, endangering the lives and rights of 20,000 Tibetan refugees in Nepal. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an obsession with the current regime despite Sri Lanka’s exposé of the Chinese wrongdoings. While Oli may call it a balancing act between India and China, his actions speak otherwise. The alleged soft funding from China to Oli’s political adventures in Nepal through the Madan Bhandari Foundation needs no explanation to assert his bonhomie with the dragon. Uncertain future: While the politicians do not wish for Nepal to plunge back into insurgency, Oli’s authoritarian attitude has cost Nepal dearly. Politically, democracy is a casualty considering Oli’s dream of a one-party rule in Nepal, with no political opponents outside and within the UML. On the foreign policy front, Nepal, with its vast hydropower potential, can use India’s expertise in generating power. A mutually beneficial plan could have paved the way for Nepal’s economic growth. However, far from new agreements, Nepal seems to have no plan to revitalise treaties like the Mahakali, signed in 1996 with India, which can generate cooperation between them. Meanwhile, false promises under the BRI and dreams of a trans-Himalayan railway with China have garnered Oli enough political capital. Oli’s aspirations, accompanied by hollow economic and development strategies, will lead Nepal towards an uncertain future which is being watched carefully by the people of Nepal and international actors, including India.

## India’s role in Myanmar crisis



## Ravinder Pal Singh

people of Myanmar. The coup’s consequences have since played out via public protests and random shootings by troops who have been given a free hand to terrorise and coerce the population to surrender their basic rights. The seeds of the Tatmadaw gaining political clout in Myanmar stem from the first military coup in 1962. Following socio-political changes over the years, the Generals chose to allow elections under the 2008 Constitution. It had nearly 35 provisions that allowed the military to hold primacy in political decision-making at the Central and provincial Government levels. As large swathes of Myanmar’s territory were inhabited by around 18 major ethnic communities, with approximately 35 per cent of the population, the majority Bamar population inhabited the central fertile basins of the Irrawaddy and Salween rivers. The minorities since the 1960s raised their own Ethnic

Armed Organisations (EAOs) for self-protection, which gave the Tatmadaw the rationale to hold the centre stage of national integrity. The 2008 Constitution gave it political powers by holding 25 per cent of the seats in both national and regional/State Parliaments by the nominees of the Army chief, Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing. In time, the Tatmadaw came to represent private business interests of the Generals and Colonels, not of the Myanmar people. Moving to the events that unfolded rather quickly after the coup, the elected legislators on the military’s target fled the country. A group of legislators went underground and organised itself as the CRPH, or the Committee Representing Pyidaungsi Hluttaw (Parliament). The military, to control the civilian protests, has generally followed the strategy of closing down mobile phone communications and the internet, declaration of Emer-

gency and martial law to arrest protesters without trial, and shock and awe by random killings of protesters. Of late, a change has been noticed in its strategy. It has started bombings ethnic villages to provoke reactions from the main EAOs. This would aim to justify the military’s intervention as the protector of the majority Barmars. What are the options for civil society in Myanmar, with its elected leaders and the EAOs being attacked by the Tatmadaw? Its main argument to retain military control is that the EAOs want to splinter Myanmar into ethno-territorial identities. Interviewed by the Al Jazeera on March 27, NLD legislator Sarsa (now in hiding) sought global help in providing alternative strategies to put Myanmar back on the path of lasting democratic peace and stability. UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews, however, was unable to offer any alternative solution. A similar expression of helplessness and outrage has been made by the UN Secretary, the US President, the EU and the Asean countries. The international community needs to treat the ongoing violence in Myanmar not as a conflict resolution issue fit for negotiations, but as a problem of the flawed Constitution. This flaw is a deliberate design by the Myanmar Generals to permanently snatch their people’s sovereign rights at the point of their weapons. So, what should and could India do as a neighbour, as a democracy and as a member of the UN Security Council? Even if the Government has taken a politique approach, the people of India and the free press has to step up to restore democratic peace and humanitarian relief to the troubled refugees fleeing Myanmar.



## Tulsikshetra Charitable Trust's first birth anniversary their members distribution "PANA



(A.O. Bureau) Kendrapara, Apr 14: In Tulsikshetra Charitable Trust's first birth anniversary their members distribution "PANA# among the people, who went on road & made Corona awareness program. The Tulsikshetra Charitable Trust, a leading non-governmental organization in Kendrapara, is cel-

ebating the first birth anniversary among the Odisha family. At the event, all members of the trust stopped the people passed road, distribute of water & PANA on Oratghat in Mahakalapada, explaining how to be careful in this CORONA situation and distributed masks. Trust members Akshay Patra, Bichitra

Behera, Bapi Gochayat, Biswajit Das, Sadananda Das, Chintu Das, Shubham Das, Aniruddha Das, Balaram Barik, Sridhar Sahu and other members were present on the occasion. The program provided drinking water to the thirsty people on the streets and water to those who needed it. Despite the first annual celebrations, this coronary plague has been kept in the spotlight this year, with the advice of the organization's management committee and members keeping in mind that the day has not been celebrated with much fanfare.

## Lockdown Imposed In Panchayat After Two COVID Deaths



(A.O. Bureau) Sundargarh, Apr 14: Amid upsurge in COVID-19 cases across Odisha, lockdown will be imposed in B a d a g a o n panchayat of

Sundargarh district for 3 days as two persons of the area succumbed to the disease in two days. As per the decision taken by the Badagaon S a r p a n c h ,

lockdown will be imposed in the panchayat from April 15 to 17. All shops, except those selling essential commodities, will remain closed during the period. This apart, weekly market in the area scheduled on April 15 and 18 will be closed. Worth mentioning, the panchayat has reported more than 50 COVID-19 cases within a week, besides two deaths.

## VIMSAR To Get Second COVID Hospital In 10 Days

(A.O. Bureau) Burla, Apr 14: In view of steep single-day spike in COVID-19 cases in western Odisha districts, the State Government has decided to set up a second dedicated COVID hospital at the Veer Surendra Sai Institute Of Medical Sciences And Research (VIMSAR) here in Sambalpur. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra



Mohapatra informed this after reviewing the COVID situation in Sambalpur district today. At present, the VIMSAR has one

COVID Hospital with 20 ICU beds. In view of current situation, the Government has decided to add another 30 beds to it. More

## During the cutting, the forest department raided two bikes and confiscated sawdust

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 15: A meeting organized by the forest department at the VSS Committee of the Pagurukonda Forest beat area while discussed with the villagers on forest protection and awareness, while some villagers complained that some forest mafias and unscrupulous people from neighboring villages were cutting down timber from the VSS forest. Forest Guard Tapas Bala, Siddharth Kumar

Raut's associates based on the villagers' allegations P NGO Team Leader Srinivasa Patra, DO Subrata Swain and some villagers jointly carried out the attack. After crossing 4km on a remote and hilly road, at the scene, about three carpenters were cutting down a huge tree with the help of saws and axes, and when they saw the forest department staff, they ran into the forest. After failing to chase down the



forest department staff, they confiscated two of the carpenters' bikes and saws,, and shovels, and

filed a case with the Kalimela Range Office. the villagers quite happy on this raid and

assured to assist further Forest staff and will inform if any deforestation activities occurs.

## College In Odisha's Hotspot District Shut After Detection Of COVID Cases

(A.O. Bureau) Nuapada, Apr 14: The National College in Nuapada district was shut after two COVID-19 cases were detected at the educational institution. As per a notice issued by the Principal of National College, Nuapada, two employees — one

19 following which it was decided to close the college for three days with effect from April 15 to 17. The college was shut as part of precautionary measures to prevent further spread of deadly virus on the campus. Nuapada, one of the hotspot districts in second



teaching staff and one non-teaching staff members of the college — have tested positive for COVID-

wave of pandemic, registered 104 single-day COVID cases in the last 24 hours.

## The body of a young man who had been missing for three days was found hanging

(A.O. Bureau) Niali, Apr 14): Jagannath Apatt, 31, a missing youth from Tolla G o p i n a t h p u r Beherasahi in Jallapur panchayat under Niali police station, has been missing for the past three days while his body was found hanging from a forest near the village on Wednesday. "Her body was found hanging from a tree, and her legs were found in two clays, according to family members. According to the complaint, the deceased Jagannath, a driver, had been missing for the past three days. "His body was spotted by family members in a small acacia forest near Colstore near the village on Wednesday morning. Family members rushed to the spot and reported the body to

### ● Roadblocks have been set up to demand justice for the killings

Jagannath's Niali police station. "Niali police arrived at the spot and found the body, but it was not from the Balipatna police station. Cuttack Sadar SDPO Subhas Chandra Panda reached the spot and informed the Balipatna police. Balipatna police arrived at the scene but did not seize the body, saying it was not their area. It was later revealed that it was the Balipatna police station area when both sides measured the RI. "Banks was arrested for another murder deaths Prosecutor family justice, redress pretense school was blocked in Table debar people from elsewhere. "The block-

ade was later lifted after police promised. A scientific team and search dogs arrived at the scene to investigate. A complaint was later lodged with the NN Balipatna police on the basis of which a case of manslaughter was registered in 101/21 and two persons were interrogated and the body was sent for autopsy by the Balipatna police. Balipatna IIC Radhakant Sahu said the truth of the death would be revealed from the amputation report. "The incident has become a hot topic in the local area. It is alleged that the ambassador provided the information to Hussein.

## Gajapati admin seals borders to debar Covid positive patients



(A.O. Bureau) Gajapati, Apr 14: Gajapati district administration has sealed all its entry points linked to the bordering states in order to debar the entry of Covid positive people from the neighbouring states. Es-

pecially, people coming from Moharastra, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh are restricted at the borders. RT-PCR negative report and documents on administering the second dose of Covid-19

vaccines have been made mandatory for entry into the district. Otherwise, the outsiders would be put into a 7-day isolation. On the other hand, the trespassers would be strictly prosecuted, said a district official.

## Minor girl raped in Rourkela; accused held

(A.O. Bureau) Rourkela, Apr 14: In a shocking incident, a 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a youth of the locality in Rourkela city. The accused has been idnetified as Koran



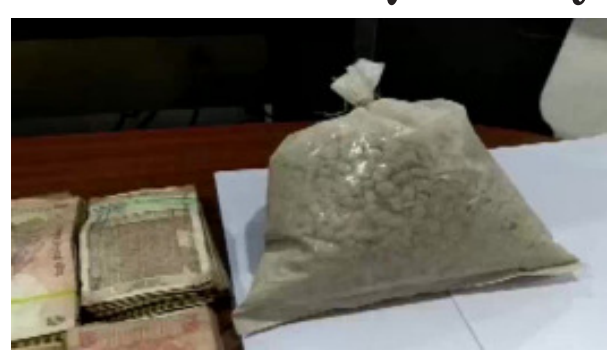
Lakra. According to reports, the minor girl had gone to a nearby shop to buy biscuits when the accused lured her to an isolated place and then raped her. However, the girl managed to escape

from the spot and narrated her ordeal before family members. Later, the victim's family filed a written complaint at the local police station, basing on which the police arrested Lakra.

## Brown Sugar worth Rs 40 lakh seized in Mayurbhanjh, one arrested

(A.O. Bureau) Baripada, Apr 13: The Town police has seized brown sugar weighing 417 grams worth Rs 40 lakh and arrested one person in this connection today. The accused has been identified as Govind Pal, son of

Baidyanath Pal of the area. Acting on a tip-off, a team of police officials raided Gobind's house and found 417 grams of brown sugar from his possession. They seized the contraband and arrested the accused subsequently.



"We suspect that an inter-state racket is involvement in the smuggling of the contraband and further investigation is underway to nab the other members of the racket," said Birendra Kumar Senapati, IIC Town police station.



## 'The script left me in tears'

Mumbai, Apr 14: Sonali Kulkarni, who is all set to host SET's Crime Patrol Satark: Justice Reloaded, tells MUSBA HASHMI what made her come on board the project and her experience. What does Justice Reloaded have on offer? This is a chapter where we are reopening cold cases. It is quite a spine-chilling experience to go through cases that were so challenging and intriguing that they remained unsolved. How the closure finally came about is something that we will be showcasing. What made you

cial. Taking up this season of Crime Patrol is like taking the baton forward from Anup and I hope that I make him proud. The opportunity came through Raksh Sarang, and I'm so happy that he thought of me as an anchor.

What difference do you aim to make?

It is too early for me to say that I will bring some change, but for now, I can say, I will bring some change visually as a female anchor. I will take

some time to even touch the excellence that the team has achieved with Anup. I don't even dream to beat that, but I would love to take inspiration from Anup's seasons and to, at least, create some awareness amongst people by connecting with them the way he had.

There have been many crime-based shows on TV, but only a few managed to leave a mark. Crime Patrol is one of them. Why?

The show always tries to tell people to be responsible citizens, and they always fight against blind faith. I have been one of the strongest activists of Mumbai. And

Nirmulan Samiti. I have worked for around 16 years with Dr Narendra Dabulkar, who has tried to appeal to people that have faith in God and religion, but do not let anyone exploit you emotionally, mentally, economically, physically and sexually. And let no child get abused because we have blind faith. Crime Patrol is like a torchlight, which is trying to make us aware and that can be one of the reasons behind its success.

Does it, in any way, bother you to host a crime show?

I am overwhelmed while shooting crime patrol. The stories are so intense and while reading the script at times I got tears in my eyes. What we see on news channels or social media platforms is just a glimpse, while in the real world there are a lot more crimes happening which we are not even aware of. The stories are so painful that I wish they were fiction and not reality. When I am back home from the shoot it takes time for me to compose. Not to mention that my respect for the police and judiciary is only growing day by day.

## The genius is on show

New Delhi, Apr 14: Imagine an artist par excellence who was an expert in Nature, mechanics, anatomy, physics, architecture and weaponry, to name a few, not to mention an even better designer for machines like the bicycle, helicopter, submarine and military tanks much before they were even concepts! A series on such a clothed genius can be nothing but enervating and Leonardo in that context is a thriller, tugger and a puller all rolled into one, well, canvas — a stunning canvas of an artist's life which was full of colours that his brush stroked with eternal brilliance. Illegitimate, unschooled, rebellious and yet one of the foremost Renaissance artists, Leonardo's life and times were interesting and so is his story, art and nefarious activities which put him under scrutiny and persecution back in the 15th century. The series on him, simply called, Leonardo captures



those times with finesse and keeps up the viewer's longing to continue watching the eight episodes without a break. Sepia shades and smoky environs depicting an underground band of activists and their lives is no mean achievement, but Leonardo is simply tasteful and engaging. The series takes you through the life of an impossible artist by showing you the stories behind his paintings, his continuous search for perfection and his turbulent relationship with his art as

much as his life. Aidan Turner as Leonardo Da Vinci is a natural copy of the real man and he lives his moments with authenticity and elan all through the drama that is well put together by director for six episodes Daneil Percival and rest by Alexis Cahill. The drama, however, is as close to authenticity as it is to replicating Tuscany, Italy, of those syrupy times when existence was being questioned as were norms. In fact, it looks so real that it could be mistaken for a documentary.

come on board the project? I am an ardent fan of Anup Soni. We are friends. I had worked with him when I was yet to become a professional actor. I was in college and we had done Badalte Rishte, the only

TV show that I have done. I have watched Anup's work since then, and what he does al-

ways generates curiosity. So, Crime Patrol and Anup have a strong association for me, and the

kind of trust and compassion that he has evoked in people's heart, is something spe-

## BP pills may cause skin cancers in elderly



New Delhi, Apr 14: Common medications used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure) may adversely raise the risk of skin cancers in people aged 66 and above, claims a new study. Long-term intake of antihypertensive medications called thiazide diuretics, including hydrochlorothiazide, are linked with higher rates of non-melanoma and melanoma -- the two major types of skin cancers, globalnews.ca reported. The findings have been published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ). However, other common blood pressure drugs such as angio-

tensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor blockers, calcium channel blockers and beta-blockers, did not raise this risk, the study showed. Hydrochlorothiazide is known to make the skin more sensitive to ultraviolet radiation and sunlight, meaning patients can get sunburned more easily, according to Health Canada. "The theory is that by making our skin cells more sensitive to the damage caused by ultraviolet radiation from the sun or a tanning bed, that medication might increase skin cancer risk," Aaron Drucker, study co-author and dermatologist at the

Women's College Hospital, in Canada was quoted as saying to globalnews.ca. The study included 3,02,634 patients in Ontario who were prescribed an antihypertensive medication between 1998 and 2017. Patients with higher risk of skin cancer must consider other treatment alternatives, the researchers suggested, adding patients taking thiazide diuretics must periodically monitor for skin cancer. While most skin cancers do not lead to death and can be treated with a simple surgery, an advanced squamous cell skin cancer or melanoma may put a patient's life at risk, Drucker said.

## Top 5 web series of 2021: Bombay Begums, WandaVision and more

New Delhi, Apr 14: The year 2021 opened on a note of hope that was soon subsumed by the rising graph of what has come to be known as the second wave of the dreaded coronavirus. As Maharashtra again goes into a curfew to 'break the chain', self-isolation at home has again become imperative for many of us. In a repeat of 2020, it is the web content which will help pass the time and maybe give us a few moments of break from the worry that has become a part of our lives along with masks and hand sanitisers.

1. WandaVision (Disney+ Hotstar): WandaVision was keenly awaited by the fans of the Marvel Cinematic Universe and the Disney+ show did not disappoint. The initial episodes kept the viewers guessing but as the drama unfolded, it gave way to other Marvel properties that drew the fans in. WandaVision experimented with the

Marvel formula in the first three episodes but as the story moved ahead, we saw many of the Marvel tropes coming back, which were welcomed by viewers anyway since the global audience hasn't experienced the Marvel magic since the 2019 film Spider-Man: Far from Home.

2. Bombay Begums (Netflix): This Netflix series by Alankrita Shrivastava told the story of various women, of different ages, sexual orientations, professions, as they navigate their way through life. The nuanced storytelling of the series was a significant character study as it presented some layered female characters and tied together their story in a magnificent way. The series starred Pooja Bhatt, Shahana Goswami, Amruta Subhash, Plabita Borthakur, among others.

3. Lupin (Netflix): The first part of this French Netflix series dropped in

January 2021 and turned out to be a surprise hit all over the world. The series follows professional thief Assane Diop who wants to exact revenge for the death of his father. Diop finds inspiration in gentleman thief Arsène

SonyLIV was a breath of fresh air for the Indian webspace. The story of a typical middle-class family in North India continued to be relatable with its deep-rooted characters. The regular problems of a regular Indian household clicked

already generated a lot of interest among the fans of Marvel Cinematic Universe. The scale of action in this series is pretty much at par with any Marvel movie that we have seen on the big screen and the opening episode gave enough



Lupin as he plans a heist at the Louvre. The vengeance, the morality, the thrilling drama, made Lupin a binge-worthy five-episode series. The second part of the show is scheduled to release later this year.

4. Gullak Season 2 (SonyLIV): This heartwarming series by

with the audience as the series took a simplehearted approach that made us come back for more.

5. The Falcon and the Winter Soldier (Disney+ Hotstar): The second Marvel series from Disney+ takes forward the story of Captain America's shield and has

proof of the same. The further episodes introduce a new story, but it is extremely essential for the viewer to be fully versed in Marvel-lingo to get the maximum out of this experience. If you are wondering why Twitter is announcing 'Not my Cap', this series is the answer.

## Mirzapur creator Puneet Krishna boards two shows for Netflix

Mumbai, Apr 14: Writer-director Puneet Krishna, who is known for his popular crime drama Mirzapur, is collaborating with Netflix to create two series, a dark comedy and a drama. The shows are likely to get into production later this year to early next year. Talking about his

association with the streamer, Krishna said, "My association with Netflix is in-line with my vision for myself as a storyteller and for the evolution of my body of work as I have imagined it to be." Krishna said the streamer had built a vibrant storytelling culture for writers. "I ad-



mire their focussed sense of innovation which offers creative talent like

me limitless possibilities to grow and evolve. I continue to be grateful to

the audience who have loved my past work and I hope I can continue entertaining them as I start this new chapter," he added. When reached out for a comment, Monika Shergill, VP, Content, Netflix India called Krishna one of the country's finest storytellers.



## India Open: Carolina Marin and Kento Momota top entries for closed-door tournament

New Delhi, Apr 14: Rio Olympics champion Carolina Marin and World No. 1 Kento Momota spearhead the list of top international entries at the much-anticipated India Open 2021 which will be conducted behind closed doors at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi from May 11-16. The tournament, which is also an Olympic qualifier event, has attracted 228 (114 men and 114 women) entries from 33 different national associations including China. The prestigious annual tournament, classified as BWF World Tour Super 500 event, is one of the last few qualification events for the 2020 To-

retary and General Secretary of BAI Ajay Singhania said. "We understand spectators have been an integral part of our growth story but this year despite it being an Olympic qualifier and an array of star shuttlers in action, we have to take the decision of conducting the tournament in a bio bubble. We hope fans and media will understand the challenges and support us. We will be using all our digital handles to broadcast and interact with fans and bring the players and fans much closer," Singhania added. Three-time world champion Marin will lead the women's singles category along with other Top-10 shuttlers Akane



kyo Olympic Games and will witness some exciting action. However, due to the rapidly rising covid cases in the country, the tournament will be contested in a biosecure bubble without spectators and media while implementing strict COVID-19 safety protocols. All the players and officials coming from South Africa, Brazil, Middle East and European countries including the UK will be serving a 7-day quarantine period and have to report in the capital city on May 3 while players and officials from the rest of the world can arrive on May 6 and undergo a 4-day quarantine period. Delhi Government will conduct RT-PCR test on arrival on May 3 and 6 as well as on May 9 and 14. Badminton Association of India (BAI) will provide one additional meal of choice for all participants, officials, and support staff members during the quarantine period. "We are really happy to finally be able to resume badminton action and host such top shuttlers from across the world. But with the recent spike in cases, we have to be more cautious. Players' safety has always been of prime importance and our top priority and this tournament will be no different. We will be implementing and following strict COVID-19 protocols and guidelines as shared by the Government of India and the Delhi Government," Organising Sec-

Yamaguchi, 2019 World Champion PV Sindhu, Korea's An Se-Young, and Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong, alongside former World No. 1 Saina Nehwal of India. India boasts of the largest contingent with 48 players (27 women and 21 men) while Malaysia has fielded the second largest squad with 26 shuttlers which includes 10 women and 16 men. 10 shuttlers (4 women and 6 men) from China are also part of the participants' list. In the men's singles section, the Top-10 players in the fray include two-time world champion Momota, defending champion Viktor Axelsen, Anders Antonsen, and reigning All England Open champion Zii Jia Lee. Former world No. 1 Srikanth Kidambi will lead the charge for the hosts along with B Sai Praneeth, HS Prannoy, and Parupalli Kashyap. India's men's doubles challenge will be spearheaded by World No. 10 pairing of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy while Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will aim for valuable Olympic qualification points in women's doubles. Ponnappa will also partner Satwik in the mixed doubles category which sees Japanese pair of Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino leading the list of six Top-10 combinations in the fray. The last date for withdrawal of entry is April 19 while the draw will be announced on April 20.

## ICC rankings: Babar Azam ends Virat Kohli's reign at top of ODI batting chart

Dubai, Apr 14: Pakistan captain Babar Azam has ended Virat Kohli's long reign at the top of the ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings, becoming only the fourth batsman from his country to attain the number one position in the latest update released on Wednesday. The 26-year-old's player of the match effort of an 82-ball 94 in the last match of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League series against South Africa in Centurion has helped him gain 13 rating points to reach 865 points and he now leads the Indian captain by eight points. Babar, a star of the ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cups in 2010 and 2012 and who has been playing ODIs since 2015, had started the series against South Africa at 837 rating points but moved up to 858 (ahead of Kohli) after his score of 103 in the first match. He dropped to 852 by the

time of the last weekly rankings update with a score of 32 in the second ODI. By ending Kohli's 1,258 day-supremacy, Babar has emulated compatriots Zaheer Abbas (1983-84), Javed Miandad (1988-89), and Mohammad Yousuf (2003) as the number one ODI batsman. In Tests, Babar has attained a best of fifth position and is currently ranked sixth while in T20Is he is third but has been number one in the past. Left-handed opener Fakhar Zaman is another Pakistan batsman to move up the ODI batting charts, gaining five slots to reach a career-best seventh position after his knock of 101 while left-arm fast bowler Shaheen Afridi gained four places to a career-best 11th place and left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz moved up 29 places to 96th, have progressed thanks to their three-wicket hauls in the



match. For South Africa, all-rounder Andile Phehlukwayo has gained 11 slots to reach 83rd position after notching a half-century while captain Temba Bavuma has progressed from 88th to 86th place. In the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings, Mohammad Rizwan's unbeaten 74 in the first match of their series

against South Africa has helped him jump 24 places to 23rd position while Nawaz (up 36 places to 28), Hasan Ali (up 22 places to 62nd) and Usman Qadir (up 24 places to 68th) have moved up in the bowlers' list. The T20I rankings update, carried out after the first two matches of the ongoing four-match series, also

saw South Africa captain Heinrich Klaasen move up 38 places to 53rd position after scores of 56 and 36 not out while Aiden Markram has re-entered the rankings in 65th position after his two half-centuries. Beuran Hendricks has progressed 44 places to 46th after a three-wicket haul in the first match.

## Chahar credits Rohit's captaincy mantra for epic turnaround against KKR

Chennai, Apr 14: Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar said he had the belief that "only a spinner can be a game changer" but it was skipper Rohit Sharma's confidence that brought the best out of him as he spun Mumbai Indians to a 10-run win against Kolkata Knight Riders here. Chasing a target of 153, KKR produced a 72-run opening stand in 8.5 overs and needed another 72 from the last 10 overs but the 21-year-old Chahar pulled off quite a coup, taking four wickets en route to his game-changing 4 for 27 in the IPL match on Tuesday night. "... He (Rohit) told me 'bowl with confidence... You're bowling well, sometimes even I'm not able to understand (your variations in the



nets). They (KKR batters) would also feel the same way. Just keep your focus, bowl in good length and try to get spin," Chahar said in the virtual press-conference. "I knew if there was someone who could be the gamechanger in

such a match, it was the spinners. I always had the confidence." Chahar, who has played three T20Is for India, said he didn't feel much pressure as he is used to bowling to the likes of Hardik Pandya and Kieron Pollard at the nets.

"I'm used to bowling to the top Indian players in the nets, and when you do that, the pressure is less in a match scenario like this. So there was nothing much going in my mind," he said. "This is my fourth year with MI, I've been

bowling to the likes of Pollard, Hardik, considered among the world's best hitters. So I don't feel much pressure." After Chahar dismissed KKR top-scorer Nitish Rana for his fourth wicket, Krunal Pandya removed Shakib-Al-Hasan. "We both played well. He (Krunal) also had a good spell, restricting the run flow. We got some help from the wicket," he said. With the small target, KKR were still in the chase despite the collapse but Chahar said they never gave up. "It was a close match. We always had the belief that (Jasprit) Bumrah and (Trent) Boult would turn the match in the death overs," he signed off. Mumbai Indians will next play Sunrisers Hyderabad in Chennai.

## Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju expecting double digit medal haul in Tokyo Olympics

New Delhi, Apr 14: Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju is expecting an unprecedented double digit medal haul from the Indian athletes in the upcoming Tokyo Olympics. On Wednesday, Rijiju said the government has provided all possible support to the country's athletes in preparation for the Olympics, and it is now their job to make the Games a "memorable" one for India. "We want to make this Olympics very, very memorable and it is the athletes who would ensure that the Tokyo Olympics becomes one of the most cherished Olympics for India. "From ministry's end we have tried to pro-

vide everything required for Olympic-bound athletes and athletes who are participating in qualifying events. Our priority was to fulfil all needs of our athletes," the minister said. He was speaking during a virtual webinar organised to mark the 100 days countdown to the Tokyo Games, which is scheduled to begin on July 23. "We ensured that there is no shortcomings or shortages of any sort for athletes representing India in Tokyo Olympics. But we will have to set a record in Tokyo Olympics. India must cross double digit. "We are doing everything for you, you just bring home double



digit medal haul. We will give everything you want but there shouldn't be any lacking in efforts from your side," he said in his message to the sportspersons who will represent India in the quadrennial extravaganza. Rijiju asked the athletes who have already quali-

fied for the Games, to remain cautious in view of the surging coronavirus cases in the country and across the world. "100 days countdown and from here we have to make sure that everyday is important now. From now onwards everything has to be as per your plan

and as per the programme set by the coaches. "There are many challenges ahead. If a player in a team tests COVID positive it may affect the entire team. So we have to be extremely careful in this situation. We need to strictly follow the protocols of Sports Authority of India and National Sports Federations," he said. The sports minister reiterated that India needs to play a bigger role in the Olympic movement and the only way it can do so is by making its presence felt in the medals tally. "We should make the Olympic movement more rigorous in India.



New Delhi, Apr 14: India were off to a perfect start at the youth world boxing championships in Kielce, Poland with Poonam (57kg) and Vinka (60kg) advancing to the pre-quarterfinals after notching up contrasting opening-round wins. While Poonam out-punched Colombia's Valeria Mendoza 5-0, Vinka edged past Russia's Daria Panteleeva 3-2 to make the last-16 stage on Tuesday. Next up for Poonam is Hungary's Beata Varga. Vinka, on the other

hand, will square off against Kazakhstan's Zhuldyz Shayakhmetova. India have fielded a 20-member contingent -- 10 men and as many women -- for the marquee age group event. The women's side also features 2019 Asian Youth champion Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg), Sanamacha Chanu (75kg), Alfiya Pathan (+81kg) and three-time Khelo India gold medalist Arundhati Choudhary (69kg) along with Gitika (48kg), Arshi Khanam (54kg), Nisha (64kg) and Khushi (81kg). The men's challenge is being spearheaded by Asian Youth Championship silver-medallist Ankit Narwal (64kg) and Asian junior champion Chongtham Bishwamitra (49kg). Other male boxers in the squad are Vikas (52), Sachin (56kg), Akash Gorkha (60kg), Sumit (69kg), Manish (75kg), Vinit (81 kg), Vishal Gupta (91kg) and Jugnoo (+91kg).



## India is a trusted partner; limited cooperation with Pakistan: Russia

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, Apr 14: Describing India as a "trusted partner", Russia on Wednesday said there were no divergences or misunderstandings between the two countries and that it has "limited cooperation" with Pakistan based on "independent" relations. Deputy Chief of the Russian mission Roman Babushkin also welcomed the recent commitment by India and Pakistan to follow the 2003 ceasefire on the Line of Control and said these are "very important steps" for regional stability. At a joint media briefing with Babushkin, Russian ambassador Nikolay Kudashev criticised the Indo-Pacific strategy by the western countries describing it as "dangerous" and an effort to revive the cold war mentality. Babushkin said India must be part of the process of shaping regional consensus on Af-

ghanistan and that New Delhi and Moscow have similar approaches for the Afghan peace process. Asked about reports of bad optics during Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov's recent visit to India as he travelled to Islamabad from Delhi, Babushkin said Russia has independent ties with Pakistan and that it does not "target any relations against anyone". "We believe that there is absolutely no reason to see that there are divergences or any misunderstandings between us. It is not the case in Russia-India ties," he said. Kudashev said India is a trusted partner of Russia and ties between the two countries were "equal, solid, comprehensive, coherent and forward-looking". He also mentioned that the visit by Lavrov to India on April 6 contributed a lot to the ties. "It was a very important and remarkable event, which



contributed a lot to the special and privileged strategic partnership between our two friendly nations. Our ties remain equal, solid, comprehensive, coherent and forward-looking despite any global turbulence," he said. The ambassador said the visit was aimed at preparations for the India-Russia summit which is expected to take place in the second half of the year. Babushkin said Russia has independent relations with India, Paki-

stan and other countries and the relations are based on their own merits. "We are all members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and develop cooperation in various fields including regional security, fight against terrorism and to deal with other threats," he said. "Russia has limited cooperation with Pakistan as compared to India. However, the fight against terrorism is our common agenda. So we also help Pakistan in providing anti-terrorism

equipment and holding dedicated exercise," he added. After visiting India, Lavrov on Tuesday travelled to Islamabad where he said Russia was ready to supply special military equipment to Pakistan to boost its counter-terror capabilities. Babushkin said Russia respects the Simla agreement of 1972 and Lahore declaration of 1999 and that it has no intention to interfere in issues between the two sides. The ambassador said Russia was very satisfied with the detailed discussion on a wide range of bilateral and international matters between India and Russia during Lavrov's visit. "It confirmed the proximity of our approaches and exceptional level of mutual understanding and trust as well as goodwill to maintain our traditional open-minded and forward-looking dialogue," he said.

## Vedanta Jharsuguda wraps 50th National Safety Month with a virtual ceremony

(A.O. Bureau) Jharsuguda, Apr 14: Vedanta Jharsuguda, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added products, conducted a virtual ceremony to wrap up 50th National Safety Month in the presence of Mr. Swaroop Jena, Deputy Director of Factories & Boilers, Odisha, Mr. Manoj Mishra, Assistant Director of Factories and Boilers, Odisha and its

Boilers, Odisha, said, "I appreciate Vedanta for being the frontbencher in terms of safety compliances and culture. I am sure that the company will continue to ensure zero unsafe act and condition at its shopfloors promising a safe and healthy environment for every stakeholder by constantly upgrading its safety practices." Vedanta is extensively working towards creat-

been meticulously trained to act efficiently and effectively during emergencies. The company's robust Safety MIP (Management in Place) allows it to deploy personnel with the required safety skillset, knowledge and attitude at the right place within the safety structure, making safety a shared responsibility. Additionally, it also has Safety Scorecards for leader-



leadership. During the ceremony, the company also promoted behaviour-based safety at the workplace by facilitating its employees and business partners for ensuring safety in its operations. Vedanta observed the 50th National Safety Month from 4th March to 3rd April 2021. As part of the observance, awareness campaigns, competitions, quizzes, interactive sessions and various activities like safety slogan writing, safety rallies, etc. were conducted for employees and business partners in line with this year's National Safety Day theme 'Learn from disaster and prepare for a safer future'. Speaking about the company's safety-first culture, Mr. CN Singh, CEO - Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda, said, "Vedanta's operations are governed by robust safety standards and rigorous processes. Our business imperatives are founded on the premise of 'Zero Harm, Zero Waste & Zero Discharge'. Endeavours by our world-class operations towards ensuring best-in-class safety performance are reinforced through the adoption of global best practices while nurturing a 'Culture of Care' for all our stakeholders." Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Swaroop Jena, Deputy Director of Factories &

ing a safe workplace by constantly bolstering and enhancing its Safety Management System for which it has also won several accolades including CII's 16th Safety Award, Greentech Safety Award, Kalinga Safety Excellence award, etc. over the years. Some of the best safety practices and notable initiatives by the company are- Last month the company launched an e-Learning CHES [Consolidated Health, Environment, Safety and Sustainability (HSE&S)] module for the leadership, covering the different aspects of the HSE&S functions. Takeaways from this module will be further imparted to other employees and business partners and practised in Vedanta's day to day operations. Vedanta has institutionalized Visible Felt Leadership programme where the leadership teams regularly visit shopfloors and interact with employees keeping a close check of their safety. With its Safety Booster Program, the company aims to overcome safety gaps arising out of cultural and behaviour issues and instil a culture of safety through coaching, counselling, monitoring and feedback on safety behaviour. Vedanta has formed an all-women fire-fighting team 'Agnivahini' who have

ship & business partners that link performance with safety at the site. At regular intervals, Vedanta conducts Safety Stand Down, a programme wherein leadership teams engage with employees and business partners on various facets of health, safety and environment, to build a holistic safety-first culture. Recently, in line with its continuous attempts to spread safety awareness beyond its operations, Vedanta has rolled out a new initiative where they share public safety messages with the Jharsuguda community through commonly used social media platforms. Vedanta is India's largest producer of the green metal, aluminium, operating a world-class 1.6 MTPA aluminium smelter and 3615 MW thermal power generation facility in Jharsuguda, Odisha. With their best practices in safety and sustainability, and social interventions in the community, the company is working towards a greener future in both environmental, and social domains - sustainable livelihood, women empowerment, quality education, health, water and sanitation, bio-investment and community infrastructure reaching out to a total of 72 villages in Jharsuguda and nearby areas, benefiting nearly 80,000 people in a year.

## CUO Observes 130th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

(A.O. Bureau) Koraput, Apr 14: The Central University of Odisha observed 130th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, an Indian jurist, educationist, statesman, philosopher, social reformer, anthropologist, historian and economist and the principal architect of the Constitution of India, at its campus on 14 April 2021 and paid floral tributes to him. Prof. I. Ramabrahmam, Vice-Chancellor addressed the University community on this occasion and highlighted the great contribution of

lines forequity and inclusive development. He advocated autonomy of the University so that education can reach the marginalized sections of the society as recently it has been reflected in National Education Policy 2020. The Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Kshiti Bhusan Das highlighted the contribution of Ambedkar to modern Indian education, nation building process and social changes. Prof. Akshay Rout, Former Director General, Election Commission of India, Former Di-

governance to the common citizen of India and enforced the rights of marginalized sections of the society by authoring the Indian constitution. Prof. P. Durgaprasad highlighted the contribution of Dr. Ambedkar who gave life to the concept and practice of rights, civic responsibilities, individual and community participation, social inclusion and idea of Panchayati Raj. He said "Dr. Ambedkar gave voice to marginalized sections in Indian society. Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean, School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natu-



Ambedkar to our nation. He said "Dr. Ambedkar was instrumental in designing and delivering important socio economic frameworks including the Constitution of India, Finance Commission, Reserve Bank of India and guide-

rector General in Swachh Bharat Mission and presently Visiting professor of Journalism and Mass Communication, CUO, described Ambedkar as most distinguished personality of the World, who in a one stroke, gave the power of

ral Resources appreciated the major contribution of Babasaheb in the making of modern India. He said "No person can Ambedkar. We should propagate his thoughts in the society, which is the best tribute to Babasaheb Ambedkar".

## Inauguration of the Water Force by Aditya Aluminium Pure drinking water supply with 25 tanks



(A.O. Bureau) Rengali, Apr 14: Aditya Aluminium has inaugurated the Water Tank (Tanker Water Service) to supply safe drinking water with 25 tanks at Rengali Block Tileimal Sports Ground. In many parts of the country, severe water shortages have caused severe water shortages, leaving many people without access to safe drinking wa-

ter. Dr. Vivekananda Mishra, Human Resources Chief, Aditya Aluminium, Satya Prakash Das, Employment Relations Department, Bhavani Mohapatra, Human Resource Manager, Sheshdev Pradhan, Bomalei Sarpanch, Shweta Upadhyay, Department of Environmental Development were the chief guests at the event.

## PPT observed Ambedkar Jayanti

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Apr 14: Paradip Port Trust (PPT) celebrated the Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar strictly following COVID-19 guidelines on 14th April 2021. The PPT fraternity led by Shri

A.K. Bose, Dy. Chairman, PPT including HODs, Senior officers, employees and representatives of Paradip Port Trust SC & ST Employees Welfare Association, offered floral tributes at the statue of Dr Ambedkar in the morning.

## Mobile Medical Unit ensuring timely and quality healthcare to the residents of Joda

(A.O. Bureau) Joda, April 14, 2021: In the tribal hamlets of Joda healthcare services still remain inaccessible. At Tata Steel Foundation (TSF), the health team has ensured that the deficit of medical treatment among rural communities is capped through the incessant call to duty by its ecosystem of Mobile

Medical Unit (MMU). The primary health centre services provided by the government are static by its nature of operations. The local people in the villages of Jajang, Jalahari, Palsa, Khondbond, Guruda, Jalahari, Joribahal and Balda are mostly dependent on the MMUs for medical consultations.

The services include free diagnosis and checkup, treatment, counselling, health, education and awareness to villagers and students. Patient details are registered and clinical parameters are captured, and medical consultation is subsequently provided. Besides, the team also ensures that the referral



cases get treatment at the nearest Tata Steel hospital within the shortest time

possible. Experts say that the major categories of disease patterns include

upper respiratory tract infections, common cold, fever and body ache besides and Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), followed by skin and paediatric issues. "There have been instances where the patient had no idea about the problem that they were facing. Many were also reluctant to take help

from the doctors but we did a number of counselling sessions to make them understand the need for medication," said Dr Anmol Tigga who has been a part of the MMU project since 2014. The MMU services are also provided in parts of the Joda municipality. In the last four years, the services reached more than

63000 people in the municipality area. The recent COVID-19 pandemic had significantly added to the healthcare woes with governments calling for lockdowns across the country. While it was difficult to provide the MMU services, medical consultations were provided online by doctors.