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## Odisha Govt postpones all board exams after Covid-19 surge



Bhubaneswar, Apr 15: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik made the announcement after reviewing the coronavirus situation in Odisha, where active cases have surpassed the 14,000-mark. The Odisha government on Thursday postponed all board examinations including the Class 10 and 12 tests in the wake of spiraling COVID-19 cases in the state. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik made the announcement after reviewing the

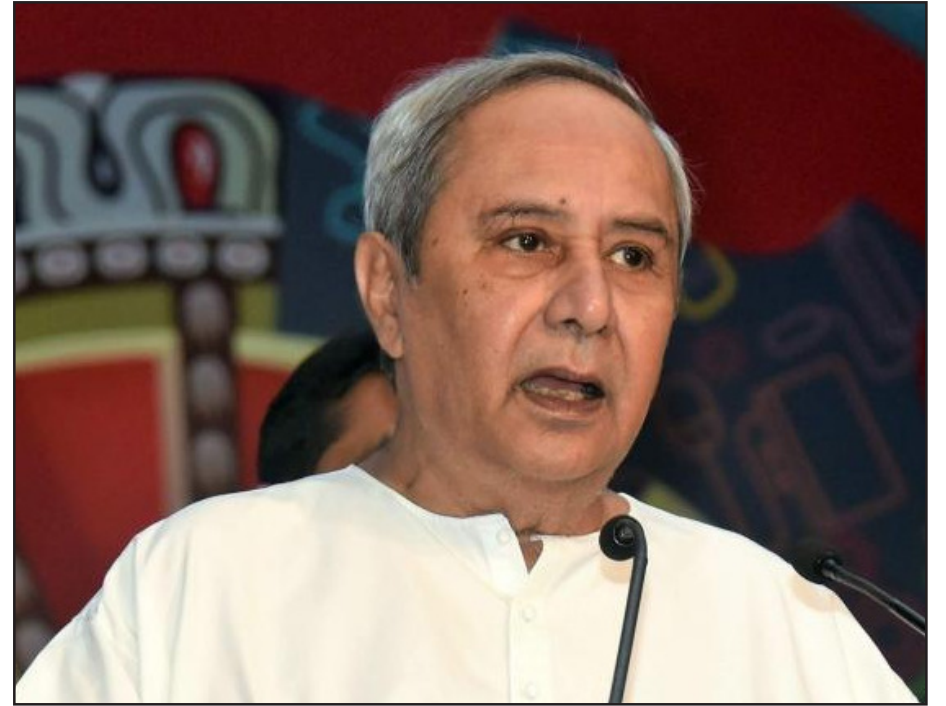
coronavirus situation in Odisha, where active cases have surpassed the 14,000-mark. The Odisha Board of Secondary Education (BSE) conducts the annual matriculation examination and the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) is in charge of the Class 12 examination, both of which have been postponed. The tests for Class 10 were scheduled to start from May 3 and the Plus-II examinations from May

18. Patnaik said the state government will take a decision on conducting the examinations after reviewing the pandemic situation in the first week of June. "The students will be given adequate time before the examinations," he said in a statement. The students of Class 9 and 11 will be promoted to the subsequent standard without appearing for any test, the CM added. Patnaik also issued instructions to stop physical classes for students of Standard 10 and 12 from Monday in all government, government-aided and private schools affiliated to the Odisha State Secondary Education Board and Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan. All English medium schools and their hostels in the state will also be closed from Monday, he said.

## Amid Covid spike, Odisha defers Class X and XII board exams

Bhubaneswar, Apr 15: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday announced the postponement of all class X and Class XII board examinations in the state in view of the worsening Covid-19 situation. Announcing the postponement of the examinations, the Chief Minister said that the decision has been taken keeping in view the safety of the students. He further announced that all schools and hostels in the state will remain closed from April 19 till further order. While the matriculation examination conducted by the Board of Education was scheduled to begin from May 3,

the plus two examinations were set to start from May 18. The Chief Minister said that a decision on conducting the examinations will be taken after improvement in the Covid-19 situation. The state government and Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) will review the situation in the first week of June and take a decision on re-scheduling the Plus Two examination, he said and added that a similar process will be followed in the case of holding of the class X (matriculation) examination by the Board of Secondary Education. Besides, the Chief Minister also an-



nounced that students of Class IX and XI, who have taken admission in the 2020-21 academic session, will be promoted to the next class without appearing in the annual ex-

amination. The order of the state government will be applicable to all government, government-aided, and private schools affiliated to the Board of Secondary Education

(BSE) and the Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan. The announcement came a day after the CBSE decided to cancel the Class X board exams and postpone that for Class XII.

## Covid Second Wave: Night Curfew In Odisha From Today

Bhubaneswar: Amid the surge in coronavirus cases, the Odisha government today tightened Covid restrictions and announced to impose night curfew in urban areas across the State starting tomorrow. In 10 bordering districts, namely Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Balangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Koraput and Malkangiri, the State government changed timings of night curfew in urban areas and as per the decision the night curfew will be from 6 PM to 5AM from tomorrow. However, the night curfew timings for rural areas in these 10 districts will remain unchanged from 10 PM to 5 AM, informed Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra here in a presser. Also, night curfew will come into force in urban areas of 20 more districts including Bhubaneswar and Cuttack from 9 PM to 5 AM from tomorrow. In another major decision,



the government decided to impose weekend shutdown in urban areas of the 10 bordering districts from coming April 17. "We hope these measures will be help check the spread of the virus," the Chief Secretary added. **WHAT'S ALLOWED:** • During the night curfew essential services such as electricity, health, LPG services, and food delivery personnel will be exempted from restrictions. No separate permit will be issued. The ID cards provided by their organizations will be enough for these personnel to make movement during the restrictions. • There

will be no restrictions on movement of goods laden vehicles during the night curfew. **WHAT'S NOT ALLOWED:** • The State government postponed the board exams scheduled to be held in May this year. Decision on these exams will be taken later. • Classes of higher educational institutions and schools will be suspended from April 19. • Coaching institutes also cannot take offline classes. The Chief Secretary added separate guideline will be issued by the government for medical colleges, paramedical colleges and technology

institutes. The government allowed maximum 50 attendees during marriage and 20 persons in funeral. Covid protocol must be followed these functions, he added. There is a complete ban on political procession and religious congregations. The Chief Secretary stated only rituals at the religious places will be allowed. Collectors have been directed to decide to ensure covid protocols as per the situation. Vegetable and fish market places will be segregated and the mask wearing will be enforced. If any violation happens, strict action will be taken against the violators. Restaurants and bars will run their business with 50% capacity of customers. Street vendors must ensure Covid protocol will be ensured, the Chief Secretary added. In another significant move, the government decided to suspend inter-state movements of buses from April 19. However, buses services

in the State will be allowed provided with no standing of passengers. Auto-rickshaw and taxis will be allowed to ply with only maximum two passengers other than the driver. The cinema halls and theatres will be allowed to run their business with maximum 50% capacity. Maximum 200 persons will be allowed at entertainment parks and meenabazzar. Similarly, Jatra, opera, open air theater will be allowed with maximum 1,000 persons and a six-feet social distance mandatory for the audiences. The Chief Secretary added government offices will run with 50% capacity whereas private offices, banks and financial institutions will function with reduced manpower. Covid protocol must be followed and mask wearing is a must, he stated. The Chief Secretary further stated the government will take steps to increase bed capacity and ICU beds in view of the Covid situation.

## No Exams: All Pass For Class 9, 11 Students In Odisha This Year

Bhubaneswar, Apr 15: Huge relief for students as well as their parents amidst second wave of the COVID-19 as the State Government decided to declare the students of Class 9 and 11 'All Pass' this year. A release from Chief Minister's Office (CMO) today announced that the students of Class 9 and Class 11 in the academic session 2020-21 will be promoted to

Class 10 and Class 12 respectively without appearing in any examination. In view of rapid spread of COVID-19 infections in the State, the Government today announced to postpone the Class 10 and 12 board examinations scheduled this year. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has directed to suspend all the classes of 10th and 12th with effect from April 19.

## Covid resurgence: BJB, OUAT students demanding online exams



Bhubaneswar, Apr 15: The students of Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar (BJB) Autonomous College and Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT) today staged a protest demanding online examinations. The students of BJB College said that the Covid-

19 positive cases are on rise in the city and they are scared of visiting the campus. The students from UG and PG programme raising slogan against college management. They kept on sitting at main gate of the college for two hours protested with placard. Similarly, the OUAT

students staged protest demanding online examinations. The protesting students carried placards reading: "Online Classes, Online Exams". The protesting students said that when varsity authorities can take online classes why can't they take online exams.

## Fugitive Gangster Sk Hyder Nabbed In Telangana

Bhubaneswar: Fugitive gangster Sk Hyder was nabbed by the Commissionerate Police with the help of the Telangana Police today evening. Twin City Commissioner of Police Saumendra Priyadarshi informed Hyder was arrested from a place near

Sangareddy district in Telangana. He further stated following Hyder's escape from SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack on April 10, the Commissionerate Police had been keeping him under surveillance. "When the Cuttack Po-

lice became sure about Hyder's movements, two special teams of police were sent to Telangana state. While driving a motorcycle in a place near Sangareddy district, Hyder was captured by the Cuttack Police with the help of Medak Po-



lice and Hyderabad Police Commissionerate," informed Priyadarshi. The gangster will be brought to Odisha tomorrow and produced in the court. Asked how Hyder managed to escape from SCB Hospital and cross the State border, Priyadarshi said

details will be known after questioning of the gangster and subsequent investigation. "The Hyderabad City Commissioner's task force have caught the fugitive and absconding notorious criminal Shaikh Hyder aged 60 years. He is a murder

accused of Rashmi Mohapatra. He had abducted a marble trader and demanded Rs 2 crore. Later had escaped from Orissa police custody. He was absconding from a week from Bhubaneswar," said CPof Hyderabad, Anjani Kumar.



## India to process Covid vaccine import license in 3 working days post approval



New Delhi, Apr 14: An application can be made by a foreign manufacturer through its Indian subsidiary. It can also be filed through an authorised agent in India in case a company does not have an Indian subsidiary. India's drug controller will process import licenses and registration certificate applications of foreign-made Covid-19 vaccines in three working days after granting the emergency-use approval, according to the Union health ministry's regulatory pathways announced on Thursday. The government on Tuesday said Covid-19 vaccines cleared for use in the US, the UK, the European Union, and Japan will get fast-track approval in India. The move is expected to potentially boost India's pandemic response when it has recorded the world's biggest surge in infections. "Applications for restricted use in emergency situation for such vaccines may be accompanied by bridging trial protocol, application for

import registration certificate and application for import license. Central Drugs Standards Organisation (CDSCO) will process applications for registration certificate (registration of overseas manufacturing site and product) and import license, within 3 working days from the date of approval of restricted use in emergency situation," said Union health ministry in a statement. An application can be made by a foreign manufacturer through its Indian subsidiary. It can also be filed through an authorised agent in India in case a company does not have an Indian subsidiary. "The drugs controller general of India (DCGI) will issue permission for restricted use in emergency situation with, inter-alia, the following conditions: vaccine shall be used as per the guidelines prescribed under National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme. First 100 beneficiaries of such vaccines shall be assessed for 7 days for safety outcomes before

it is rolled out for further Vaccination program. Applicant shall initiate conduct of post approval bridging clinical trials within 30 days of such approval," the Centre's guidelines said. Foreign-made Covid-19 vaccines were also Tuesday granted exemption from conducting local bridging studies prior to seeking emergency use authorisation provided they have approval from any of the major regulators globally or the World Health Organisation (WHO). Companies have been given the flexibility to perform the bridging studies parallel to administering of the shots to the general population. The Centre has said each vaccine batch will be released by the Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), Kasauli, before it can be used as per the guidelines prescribed under the National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme. After receiving approval from the CDL, an applicant will use the Covid-19 vaccine only on 100

beneficiaries initially and submit the safety data to the CDSCO. The company concerned will be allowed to use the vaccine only after the safety data of 100 beneficiaries submitted by it is reviewed by the subject experts in CDSCO and found to be satisfactory. The regulator will approve the protocol for the bridging trial in consultation with its subject expert panel within seven days of the receipt of the proposal. The government hopes that this decision will facilitate quicker access to foreign vaccines by India and encourage imports including that of bulk drug material, optimal utilization of domestic fill and finish capacity etc, which will, in turn, provide a flip to vaccine manufacturing capacity and total vaccine availability within the country. Dr V K Paul, member (health), Niti Aayog, said there is no compromise on the quality of data. "It has to be robust. India is known to approve quality drugs and vaccines globally, and export in large volumes, and there is no question of diluting that. The regulatory mechanism has been modified to save time in special situations like this pandemic," he said. Companies will conduct the bridging trial within the timelines specified under the approved protocol and submit the data. After the receipt of the bridging trial results, the controller will review the permission granted for restricted use in an emergency situ-

ation. The accelerated approval will apply to doses authorised by the US Food and Drug Administration, UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, European Medicines Agency, Pharmaceuticals, and Medical Devices Agency Japan, or by the World Health Organization. There are vaccines by three companies that are approved by regulators identified by the government and are yet to be authorised in India: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and J&J. A fourth vaccine, made by Novavax, has made progress in clinical trials and sought approval from several of these regulators. Among these, two companies already have tied up with Indian companies for production — Novavax and J&J. Novavax has licensed Serum Institute of India to produce a billion doses and the Pune-based company is also carrying out bridging trials in the country. Similarly, Hyderabad's Biological E has a deal to produce 600 million doses of the J&J vaccine and was recently poised to begin bridging studies. he Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines were among the first to be approved anywhere in the world last year. Both have an efficacy rate of over 95% and use mRNA technology, which has emerged as a breakthrough platform for coronavirus vaccines. India is the world's biggest maker of vaccines.

## Umar Khalid granted bail in connection with Northeast Delhi riots case

New Delhi, Apr 15: The court noted that Khalid cannot be made to incarcerate in jail for infinity merely on account of the fact that other persons who were part

FIR. The court noted that Khalid cannot be made to incarcerate in jail for infinity merely on account of the fact that other persons who were part of the riotous mob



of the riotous mob have to be identified and arrested in the matter, reported Live Law, citing the court's observation. A Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student leader Umar Khalid in connection with one of the northeast Delhi Riots cases concerning Khajuri Khas

have to be identified and arrested in the matter, reported Live Law, citing the court's observation. The former JNU student leader was arrested in October last year in the case of violence in Khajuri Khas area. Suspended AAP Councillor Tahir Hussain is also an accused in the case. He was also arrested in

September, 2020, under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in another case related to a conspiracy in the riots. Communal violence had broken out in northeast Delhi on February 24 last year leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured. More than 750 cases were registered in the northeast Delhi violence, in which at least 53 people were killed and several others injured. So far, over 250 charge sheets have been filed in the riots-related cases in which 1,153 accused have been charge-sheeted. Khalid had moved an application last month seeking directions towards safeguarding his security during his physical production in the court for the remand proceedings.

## Over 1,700 test positive for Covid-19 in Kumbh Mela over five-day period

Rishikesh, Apr 15: Over 1,700 people have tested positive for Covid-19 in the Haridwar Kumbh Mela area from April 10 to 14 confirming fears that one of the world's largest religious gatherings may contribute further to the rapid rise in coronavirus cases. Medical workers conducted 2,36,751 tests over the five-day period in the mela site. Out of these, 1,701 came out positive for coronavirus. The numbers include both RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen Test reports of devotees and seers of different akharas (ascetic groups) over the five-day period in the entire mela site extending from Haridwar to Devprayag, Haridwar's Chief

Medical Officer Shambhu Kumar Jha said on Thursday. More RT-PCR test reports are awaited and the trend shows that the number of infected persons in the Kumbh Mela site is likely to climb to 2,000, he said. The Kumbh Mela area is spread over 670 hectares covering parts of Haridwar, Tehri and Dehradun districts, including Rishikesh. A majority of the 48.51 lakh people who took part in the last two 'royal baths' (shahi snan) held on the occasion of Somwati Amavasya on April 12 and Mesh Sankranti on April 14 were seen openly violating Covid norms like wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing.

## India will not be pushed, stood firm against China, says CDS Rawat

New Delhi, Apr 15: India has stood firm against China, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat said on Thursday, adding that it will not get pushed. "India has stood firm on the northern borders, and we have proven that we will not get pushed. In whatever

adversary" which is why, "they feel just by doing a little bit of shove and push, they will be able to compel nations to give in to their demands". "They have tried to ensure that they can change the status quo by the use of disruptive technology, without using force. As of

and that is what we are trying to gather support from the other international nations". He said globally the situation is changing and "geopolitics coupled with the geoeconomics is indeed seeking to reshape the rules that govern the world order". There are some nations, he said, that follow the international order while others depend on their own law, "they make their own rules and regulations, try and change the status quo". "These kinds of things do lead to conflict situation, and that is what we are witnessing on our northern borders," he said. Changes in geopolitics are "shaped by a nation-first approach" as "today nations feel that we need to authoritatively pressurise other nations if they can, and that is what is leading to a changing security situation" Rawat stated. He said soon adversaries "may get embroiled into conflict, with one of the other nations even being unaware, that they are actually in conflict".

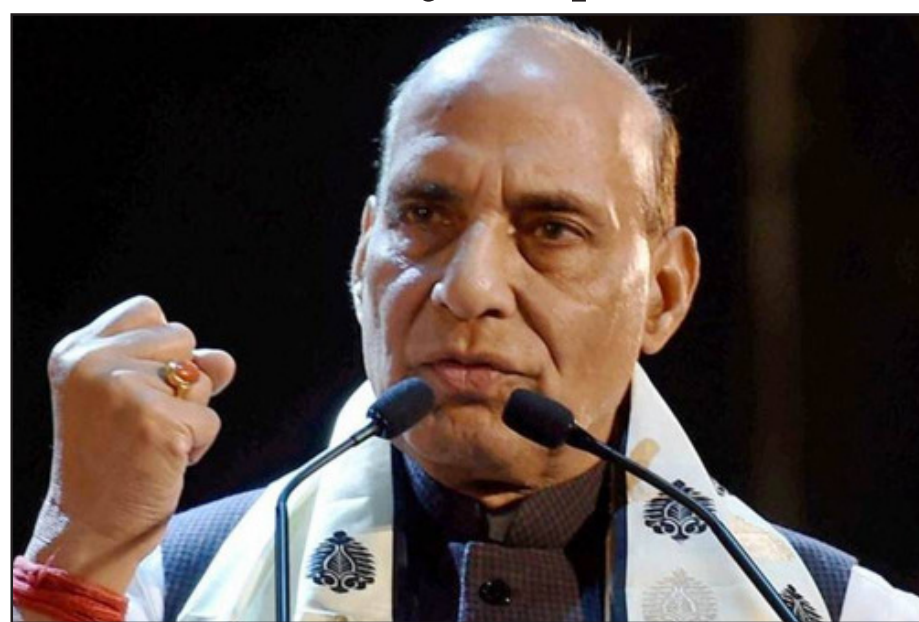


we have been able to achieve in standing firm, in preventing a change of status quo, we have been able to gather world support," CDS Rawat while speaking at the Raisina Dialogue series. Rawat said that China feels that "they have arrived, they have a superior armed force, because of the tech advances that they have". China, he said, has been "able to create disruptive technologies which can paralyse systems of the

now they have not used force. They thought that India as a nation will succumb to the pressures that they are putting on us, because of the tech advances that they have," Rawat said. But the "international community" has come to India's support to say, he said, "that yes there is an international rules-based order, which every nation must follow". That, Rawat said, "is what we have been able to achieve,

## Rajnath Singh to IAF: Make long term plans to counter future threats

New Delhi, Apr 15: Appreciating the role played by the Indian Air Force (IAF) during the standoff with China in eastern Ladakh last year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Thursday urged the IAF leadership to draw plans to counter future threats. Addressing the opening day of the two-day biannual IAF Commanders' Conference, Singh congratulated the Air Force for ensuring a "timely and befitting response to the sudden developments in Eastern Ladakh" and advised the commanders to "draw up long term plans and strategies for capability enhancement to counter future threats". "He appreciated the critical focus of IAF towards reorienting for the future," the Air Force said in a statement. Referring to changing international geopolitics, Singh observed the perceptible shift of



focus from Trans-Atlantic to Trans-Pacific has become more obvious in the recent past. "Changing dimensions of war would now include advanced technologies, asymmetric capabilities and info-dominance, and it was very important that the IAF's preparations for the future must include these aspects," he said. Singh asked the commanders to "take stock and implement all directions" given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi dur-

ing his address to the Combined Commanders' Conference of the three forces in early March. He also stressed the need to continue to work proactively towards the integration process currently underway, implementation of the joint logistics plan and enhance synergy in areas of joint planning and operations. Singh reiterated the government's focus on self-reliance, and added that the Air Force's order of the Light Combat Air-

craft Tejas would result in a "substantial boost to the domestic defence industry" and will be a "game changer from the indigenisation perspective". Encouraging the Air Force leadership to continue their efforts for achieving even greater results in the field of indigenous defence production and aircraft maintenance, Singh said that national security and economic development are complementary aspects of national policy. The Air Force's support

for the indigenous industry would result in the development of MSMEs in this field which will simultaneously serve the cause of self-reliance and socio-economic development of the country, he added. He also appreciated the Air Force's role in assisting other government bodies with respect to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the conference, the IAF said the status of strengthening current combat capabilities and the action plan for making IAF a future-ready combat force would be examined, adding that the issues pertaining to systems, reforms and restructuring for ensuring more efficient processes across all domains and optimised operational training will also be discussed. Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat was also present on the first day, along with other senior officials of the Defence Ministry.



## Khordha Excise Squad Conduct Raid and Arrest Four Accused Persons



(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, Apr 15: Khordha Excise Squad Conduct Raid in the village of Kankada Hada, Gudum, Parichhal, Gopinathpur, Mangalpur and four numbers of Excise Case have been booked with seizures of 25 litres of illicit distillation Liquor and 9.8 litres

of country made liquor. In this connection four persons were arrested vide-PR.NO-1,2,3 and 4/21-22 of Khordha Excise station. The four Accused Persons are Ananta Nayak, Village -Mangalpur, Puspangali Routray, Vil-

lage -Gopinathpur, Pankaj Pradhan, Village -Gudum and Dhiren Chualsingh, Village -Ramsinghprasad. Further the raid was conducted illicit distillation points and seized 120 litres of illicit liquor, 2500 litres of Gur wash and distillation apparatus's. All the seized articles were destroyed at the spots.

## Odisha Govt Appoints 21 Seniors IAS Officers As COVID Observers



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 15: In the wake of COVID-19 worsening situation in the state, Odisha

Government today appointed 21 senior IAS officers as COVID Observers of various districts. The Gen-

eral Administration and Public Grievance Department today issued an official order in this regard. Among the officials, Anu Garg and N Thirumala Naik will serve as COVID Observers of the capital city. Besides, Nikunja Bihari Dhal has been appointed for hotspot districts like Jharsuguda and Sundargarh.

## Philanthropic Activities During Celebrations Of Odia New Year

Arrangement Of Clothes, Food Items And Other Daily Use Materials To The Orphans, Handicapped, Homeless And Financially Backward Students For Distribution

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 15: The leading socio-cultural organisation of the state Niladrivihar Youth & Cultural Association (NYCA) working on the field of Cultural, Social Service and people oriented activities for last 28 years has observed the Odia New Year and Maha Bishuv Sankranti in a different way. The Association has tried to extend its helping hand to the orphans, handicapped, homeless and financial backward students staying in different shelter places helplessly during the ongoing corona pandemic continued for last one year. As it is not possible to reach out the

students due to the corona restriction a special event was organised under the chairmanship of its President Dr. Prakash Chandra Panigrahi where the clothes, food items and other daily use materials for distribution among the students were handed over to the Kanchan foundation, a leading organisation working in field. Present in the occasion the president of the foundation Shri Tapas Ranjan Mallick and the Advisor Shri Subhojit Panda accepted the items gladly and conveyed their heartfelt thanks to the association for this noble gesture and urged to work together



in this field in the future. The secretary of the association Biswajit Pattnaik (Silu) gave a brief note about the long journey of the association with applaud to the Kanchan Foundation for this gesture.

Among others Member Prakash Chandra Sahoo, Bishnu Dash, Kumar Barik, Gadadhar Prasad Rath were present and extended their helping hands in the programme. At the last

Cultural Secretary of the association urged to carry on this activities in the future and offered the vote of thanks. The people from all sector praised the association for this philanthropic gesture of the association.

## The Samajwadi Party has met the family of the deceased Pandav Behera in the wake of the Papilio election violence

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 15: A widow of Pandit Behera, a widowed wife of Pandit Behera, a college student's son Rakesh and a daughter-in-law, who was critically injured by BJP workers in Pipili election violence and died after being treated for three days at Balkati and Medical College No. 4, met the Samajwadi Party. Led by party state president Sudarshan Pradhan and women leader Rita Patnaik held talks with residents of Depur village in the main Jenapur panchayat. BJP workers donated Rs 5,000 to the Dapur Sahib in Dapur through the Pandavas to manipulate



the Dalit vote. But the Pandavas returned the Rs 5,000 as the people of Dalit Sahib decided to vote for the BJP. BJP activists Pejua Sadangi, Ami Sadangi and Naran Sadangi, who were involved in the money laundering scam, beat Pandava severely on the 11th at 11 a.m. on the 11th and severely injured him in the ankle. Pandava fell to the ground and kicked him in the abdomen. As a result, his

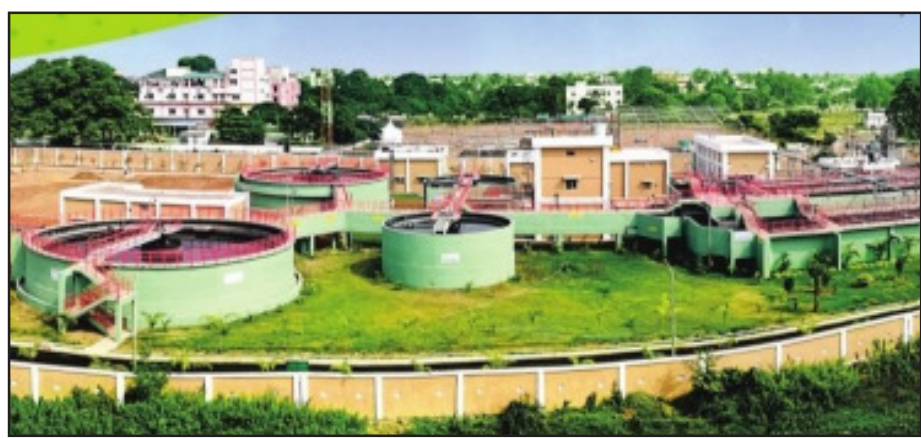
head was cracked and vomited. The family did not leave the three Pandavas, even as Nehru did. As a result, he was seriously injured and returned home from the Kuna Vaina shop in the village of Munimath near Pandava with injections to relieve some of the pain and pain. But on the 12th, his condition worsened. He was immediately rushed to a private hospital in Balkati by his in-laws.

However, his condition worsened, and he was rushed to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead at the scene. He was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. Ravi Behera, state president of the Samajwadi Party, alleged that Pandav's death was not only tragic, but also a naked example of the BJP's plunder, which promised to give itself a transparent and anti-corruption regime. The Samajwadi Party is urging the oppressed, backward and minority brothers and sisters of the Pipili constituency to come together in the coming days to address the issue of the BJP's dream of killing democracy and seizing power

in the name of 'playing no beast at home'. In addition, the BJP has demanded the immediate arrest of all the accused responsible for Pandav's death, compensation of Rs 20 lakh to the deceased Pandav family and the matriculation of the future of first-year science student son Rakesh and daughter Mana. In addition, the inquiry committee has demanded a judicial inquiry into efforts to influence voters by distributing money in elections. In the coming days, the Samajwadi Party will meet the Chief Electoral Officer of Odisha, the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Governor and demand firm action in this regard, the party said.

## Two Workers Engaged In Sewerage Work Die Of Asphyxiation In Cuttack

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Apr 15: In a tragic incident, two died of asphyxiation while another is undergoing treatment in critical condition after being trapped in a sewage tank in CDA-10 area here today. The deceased have been identified as P Shankar of Cuttack city and Bishnu Nayak of Badamba area. The three were engaged in sewerage work when the mishap took place at around 11 AM to-



day. Reportedly, one of the workers first got trapped around 15-foot-deep inside the sewage tank, following which his co-worker

went inside to rescue him. When both of them did not return till long, the third worker moved inside to find them. When no one

came out, locals called up a firefighting team. The fire personnel rescued the three and sent all of them to SCB Medical College and

Hospital here. However, two of them died while undergoing treatment while condition of another identified as T Shiva is critical. Taking cognizance of the incident, Housing and Urban Development Department directed Cuttack Tehsildar and CMC Deputy Enforcement Officer for a joint probe into the incident. Earlier last month, two workers engaged in the maintenance of sewage tanks in Bhubaneswar died of asphyxiation.

## OJEE 2021 Tentative Dates Announced

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 15: The Board of Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE) today announced a tentative schedule for the online entrance examination this year. In the notice, the OJEE Chairman informed that the entrance will be conducted between June 17 and 24 for admission to BPharm, MBA, MCA, MTech, MTech (part time), MArch, MPlan, MPharm, Integrated

MBA and lateral entry to BTech and BPharm courses in both Government and private college and universities of the state. Interested candidates are advised to fill up respective application forms online through the official website - www.ojee.nic.in. The last date for filing up the application forms is May 15. They can download admit cards on June 1. The aspirants can also visit

www.ojee.nic.in and www.odishajee.com to get all detailed information regarding the exam like- eligibility criteria, reservation, exam pattern and syllabus. Candidates outside the state are not eligible for admission in Government colleges, but they are eligible for admission in private colleges as per the Odisha Government rule. The exact dates of the entrance exam will be notified later, said OJEE Chairman.



## Special Home For Transgender Beggars To Be Set Up In Odisha Capital

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 15: The SSEPD Department of the Odisha government on Thursday gave its approval for rehabilitation of Transgender and creation of beggar home for them. The beggar home will have 50 bed capacities and RFP for the same will be floated soon to select the ser-

vice providing agency, told Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary. This is another milestone set by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation under its inclusive development strategy following the approval of three special homes for women and children, physical and mentally challenged and elderly beggars in

the city. While selection of agencies for these three 100 bedded homes are over, this is another development of the ULB said Deputy Commissioner Kamala Kanta Behera. Beggar-free initiative is in process and many times the city authority along with Commissionerate Police and civil society organisations have res-

cued beggars from different places of the city. Beggary on road side has been prohibited and Ram Mandir site is beggar free now. Transgender is the special category; many of this gender are found practicing beggary. This TG rehabilitation home is a preliminary step by BMC. It is pertinent to mention that on April

15, 2014 the Supreme Court had given a historic judgement of declaring transgender as third gender in India. BMC has already taken steps to include transgender community in different activities like holding tax collection, managing parking lot which are the indicators of development initiatives.



# EDITORIAL

## Double whammy

Our insouciance is responsible for the alarming rise in pollution and Corona cases in the Capital. Both the pandemic and the pollution have made life miserable for the residents of Delhi. It's a double whammy this year — unlike last year when Delhiites had some relief during the Coronavirus-induced lockdown as the level of pollutants fell drastically, thanks to the restriction on vehicular movement and the ban on industrial activity. However, this relief was short-lived since the Capital's air quality started to deteriorate with the lifting of curbs. As the COVID-19 cases surge towards another peak, Delhi is witnessing the worst air quality since 2018. As the country is fighting the pandemic with indigenous vaccines (now with the imported ones, too), masks, social distancing and the "Test-Track-Treat" methodology, it must also think of cutting down on pollution. We must remember that one's immunity plays a vital role in fighting the virus and pollution certainly doesn't help it. Hence, lowering the pollution level will only aid our fight against the contagion. The Particulate Matter (PM) is the biggest contributor to Delhi's pollution and the main factors behind the increase in its concentration include vehicular emissions, biomass and garbage burning and industrial smoke effluents. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a meeting with the Chief Ministers stressed that there is no need for another lockdown as the country now has enough infrastructure to control the infection. But unfortunately the Governments have failed to control the pollution in Delhi — which is ranked the world's most polluted Capital and 10th most polluted city across the globe in the World Air Quality Report 2020 by a Swiss air technology company, IQAir — and the only solution in sight to control the PM levels in the Capital is another lockdown. But it's not right to blame only the Governments as the citizens also are no less responsible for this pathetic situation. Actions like carpooling, switching off the ignition at stop signals, using public transport, use of electric vehicles, and so on, are far from being our habit. Similarly, simple things like wearing masks properly, maintaining social distance, sanitising hands regularly and strictly adhering to the COVID-appropriate behaviour are not followed, which helps the infection spread. Until we mend our ways, we are doomed to lose both battles, against the pandemic and the pollution.

## Going all out

The Govt's decision to procure COVID jabs from abroad should be welcomed for a variety of reasons. The Indian Government's "vaccine mañtri" may have earned it laurels among the nations that received the approximately 6.45 crore COVID shots, but it has left it clutching at straws and getting the flak in its own backyard. With the Coronavirus cases rising exponentially across India and with more deaths being recorded due to its new strains, the Centre is facing criticism that in its enthusiasm to earn global brownie points it put its own citizens at risk by distributing the shots to other nations instead of ensuring that all its citizens were inoculated first. As the second wave of infections tears across the country, there are calls for opening up the inoculation process for everyone as the new strain is not sparing children and the youth this time around. Hence, faced with a shortage of the COVID jabs the Centre first gave the nod for the use of Russia-made Sputnik Vaccine for emergency use and moves are now afoot to enlarge the COVID-19 vaccine basket by giving approval to the shots manufactured in the US, the UK and Japan. The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) has recommended that shots being manufactured abroad as well as those which have already received approval for "restricted use by the USFDA, EMA, UK MHRA, PMDA Japan may be granted emergency use approval in India". It is understood that the "vaccines, which are listed in the World Health Organisation's emergency use listing, may also be granted emergency use approval in India". The decision has come at the right time as it would encourage imports of bulk drug material and help in optimal utilisation of domestic fill-and-finish capacity which will, in turn, provide a fillip to our vaccine manufacturing capacity and total jab availability for domestic use. The Centre, trying its best to calm the citizens, has assured them that there is no vaccine shortage and over 1.67 crore doses are still available. While there is some strength in the argument that the Government should have catered to its citizens first, the fact remains that the healthcare authorities and the public, too, is to a certain extent responsible for the state we are in today. First of all, given the fact that vaccines are direly needed at this time, how do we explain the criminal average wastage of 6.5 per cent in India? Plus, if people had listened to the Government, got inoculated in massive numbers and observed the Corona protocols diligently, there would not have been such a surge in cases. When the number of infections dipped after the first wave, had we shunned vaccine hesitancy, things would have moved with assembly-line precision and a large part of the population would have had the shots by now. However, it's not too late and the Centre is doing its bit to provide succour to its citizens. We need to calm down, behave like responsible citizens and help the Government in its endeavour in any way we can. After all, this is a situation that none of us had ever faced before.

# Elections in the time of COVID



## Priyadarshi Dutta

number of attendees does not exceed the limit prescribed by the State Disaster Management Authority for public gatherings. However, the swelling crowds at the rallies/road shows seem to throw these protocols out of the window. While elections in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry and Assam were over by April 6, those in the State of West Bengal will continue till April 29. There, only four of the eight phases have been completed until now. The elections are already scarred by violence, and the media is fully fixated on it. By contrast, the large-scale flouting of the pandemic norms has not engaged the media's attention sufficiently. Prime Minister Narendra Modi repeatedly exhorts people to wear masks and maintain physical distancing norms in public. He is emphatic that nobody should be lax about the COVID-19 protocols. These are indeed meant for the people's own safety, and tens of millions of ordinary Indians like me follow his advice in letter and

spirit. However, does he follow his own advice at the mammoth rallies that he has been addressing frequently in West Bengal? The crowd strength at his rallies is so oppressive that there is hardly any place to stand. There was palpable fear of a stampede at his rally in Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground on March 7. As the camera zooms in on different segments in the crowds at the Prime Minister's numerous rallies, it is easy to spot that masks are a rarity. Does Modi demand that those not wearing masks or flouting the social distancing norms should leave immediately? Far from it, the Prime Minister seems to be oblivious of the subject as he vigorously launches a broadside on Mamata Banerjee's "misrule". The official candidates of his party — who otherwise pretend to follow Modi religiously — throw their masks (read caution, please) to the wind while going to file their nomination papers or campaigning. None of the political parties

seem to behave responsibly against the threat of COVID-19. Their delinquency is punishable under Sections 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides legal action under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code as specified in Order No 40-3/2020-DMI (A) of November 25, 2020, by the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, there are hardly any publicised incidents of punishment on this account until now. With respect to the Coronavirus, no political party can evade moral responsibility. They should have by themselves appointed nodal office-bearers for ensuring COVID-appropriate arrangements. If elected to govern, they themselves will have to deal with the pandemic upsurge. It is shameful that their behaviour should be COVID-inappropriate in public while seeking votes. The battle against the virus cannot be wholly dependent on vaccinations. Experience has shown that even those vaccinated can contract COVID-19. The second wave of the pandemic has gripped India even as half the phases in the West Bengal election remain. It devolves upon all political parties to come together and take recognisable measures so that the poll campaign does not aggravate the situation. It might involve curtailing big rallies/road shows featuring star campaigners. One is reminded how ahead of the Fourth General Elections in 1967, the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal showed the way for developing a Code of Conduct through all-party meetings. The ECI officially adopted it in 1968. Such all-party meetings on the COVID-19 situation are the need of the hour.

# Better communication: what India needs to tackle Covid second wave

## Anand Krishnan

There was never any doubt that India will face a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. What was not known was when, and how big it would be. Now we know that the second wave is here. It is "faster and higher" — all that we hoped it would not be. The possibility that this is a surveillance bias, as we are now counting people with the disease better due to ramped-up testing facilities as compared to the early stage of the first wave cannot be entirely discounted. Even adjusting for that fact, this wave appears to be bigger than the first one. So, what explains it? The size of any epidemic is a function of three things — the size of the pool of the susceptible population, the pattern of contact between the members of the population (frequency, mix, closeness and duration) and probability of spread during that contact (infectiousness of the agent). Let us have a look at each of these in the current context. The newer variants of the virus have the potential to change the infectiousness both ways, and there is some early indication that the infectiousness has increased in the second wave. But this is unlikely to be an important reason for the large second wave. However, this is an area where constant vigilance is required. As many people have already been infected in the first wave, the pool of susceptibles should be smaller. Serosurveys also support this as they found that about 25 per cent of people had already been infected nationally. However, this is an average and hides significant variations by state, age and place of residence. Populations with

lower seroprevalence become the potential pool for the second wave. For example, while the first wave in Mumbai was driven by slum dwellers, this time around, it could be the residents of apartments. Given India's large population base, the actual number of people are sufficiently large to enable multiple waves till we achieve a more even spread of protected people. The persistence of protectiveness of antibodies of those already infected and their cross-protectiveness to newer strains is not well established, though the lack of it is unlikely to be a major contributor to the second wave. It should also be emphasised that vaccination would reduce the pool of susceptibles. However, the current level of vaccination coverage is not sufficient to make a significant difference to this wave, given the fact that we are already riding it. It is a good strategy to prevent the next wave, if we can achieve substantial coverage with it. We also know that it prevents severe disease, and hence reduces the death toll. With the removal of most restrictions, the probability of contact between individuals has risen sharply. We can all see crowded marketplaces, malls and restaurants; public transport is functional. When I visited a park last month, I was surprised that it was fully crowded with hundreds of families and elders, with little use of masks and no social distancing being followed. While a return to normality is needed, and with it some increase in cases is inevitable, what can and should be

avoided are super-spreader events like a crowded park, the Kumbh mela, election rallies, etc. While the government may justify them on social, economic, religious and political grounds, it makes little sense to the public when crowding in public places is allowed, but curbs are imposed on individual freedom with curfews or weekend lockdowns. On top of this, there is a renewed emphasis on penalising individuals for their behavior, including not wearing a mask in their own car. The message to the public is that the onus of controlling this pandemic is now on individuals and not the government. This is not prudent. Even if the opening of society was to be done for various reasons, the public should have been prepared for such a change. It is inappropriate to blame individual community members, when there is no effective communication which explains the rationale behind the decisions taken. A much stronger community engagement with a robust communication strategy and lesser emphasis on "criminalising" inappropriate behaviour is required. There is already anecdotal evidence of intentional disregard to the government directives. Let us not wait for it to worsen. A nuanced communication campaign is the need of the hour and is conspicuous by its complete absence. It is just not enough to keep reiterating the same message. Press briefings by health ministry officials or ministers or messages by the Prime Minister or chief ministers seem to be the core of the current communi-

cation campaign. Any communication expert would tell you that this only leads to fatigue. What is urgently needed is a robust evidence-based communication campaign. Rather than being driven by politicians, this must be designed and executed by communication professionals in tandem with public health professionals. Such a campaign would involve proactive serial assessment of the community perceptions and concerns, testing and refining messages through an evolving campaign, using multiple media channels based on their audience size and type to reinforce the key messages. Such serial surveys also help provide a policy feedback loop for the government to revise their strategy. Communication should not only cover issues related to COVID-appropriate behaviour, but also address issues related to vaccination, such as its need, concerns related to adverse effects and effectiveness. India has no shortage of creative people and we are capable of designing effective media campaigns. Such a campaign supported by a strategy based on tested and sound public health principles will work. A district-specific strategy of "test, trace, treat" along with containment measures (isolation and quarantine) is still the best way to deal with the situation. To implement them with the same rigour as before, we would need to strengthen and incentivise the beleaguered health staff. We also need to put a stop to political bickering; it erodes public trust and confidence. While strategic mistakes during the first wave can be accepted and condoned, we cannot afford an encore.



# Aradi Akhandalamani Temple Closed For Devotees



(A.O. Bureau) Bhadrak, Apr 15: The district administration has stopped public viewing of Baba Akhandalamani. The move comes after one servitor tested positive for COVID-19... Devotees will not be able to enter the temple from 12 noon to 6 pm today, said Bhadrak sub-dis-

trict commissioner Pitambar Samal. Onlyservitor can enter and worship according to the rituals of the temple. Opposition groups called for a boycott of the assembly in protest of the decision. The sub-district commissioner said the temple service would be sani-

# Utkalmani Yubak Sangha Is Celebrated The 130th Dr. Ambedkar's Jubilee

(A.O. Bureau) Kendrapara, Apr 15: On Behalf Of The Leading Voluntary Organizations In The Panchayat In The Priesthood At A Function Organized There Dr. In Ambedkar's Photo By Laying A



Pattamundai Block, The 130th Dr. BR Ambedkar's Jubilee Has Been Celebrated. National Youth Volunteer And President Of The Utkalmani Yubak Sangha Gouttam Behera , at Deuli Of Bada Mohanpur Gram Wreath To Pay Tribute With Remembered & Secretary Baishnab Behera Discussing Ambedkar's Biography, Baba Saheb Bhim Rao, The Founder Of The Indian Constitution And The Founder Of Social Justice, Said That Dr. Ambedkar Ratna Babasaheb's Life Was Devoted To The Upliftment And Empowerment Of The Poor, The Downtrodden, And The Economically Backward Classes. Shrabhan Behera Thanked Everyone And All The Volunteers Were Present.

# SAIL's Super Specialty Hospital At Rourkela To Act As Covid Care Hospital

(A.O. Bureau) Rourkela, Apr 15: Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and guided by the leadership of Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, the Steel Authority of India Limited's Super Specialty Hospital at Rourkela is approved to be used as Covid Care Hospital. Minister of Steel and PNG, Dharmendra Pradhan had instructed to use SAIL Super Specialty Hospital at Rourkela as COVID-19 care hospital in wake of rising cases in the region. SAIL has always stood in readiness and has actively contributed in the nation's fight against COVID-19. The local district authority had also sent a request for utilising the ICU facilities of the Super Specialty Hospital for treatment of Covid-19 patients. The 60-bedded ICU facility of SAIL-RSP will be used for COVID-19 care. This hospital will further augment the treatment facilities for Covid patients in the state. A COVID-19 testing facility was also set up at the SAIL-Rourkela Steel Plant's Ispat General Hospital which has been functioning since then and contributing to the Odisha's fight against the pandemic.

# Kutia Kondhs shun backwardness, agree to avail government benefits

(A.O. Bureau) Bhawanipatna, Apr 15: This apart, two tube-wells and 16 community latrines have been constructed while electricity supply will be provided to the houses soon. Segregated from the mainstream society for years together, the tribals of Dialbaheli village in Lanjigarh block of Kalahandi district have finally agreed to shun their life of backwardness and avail the benefits of government's welfare measures. The efforts of district administration to integrate the tribes, residing in hilly mountainous terrains of the district, into the mainstream have paid off as the indigenous population of these three blocks recently expressed their willingness to shift to the foothills with their presiding deity Dharni Mata (Mother Earth). In the past, several attempts were made to convince the tribals to leave the mountains and settle at the foothills but it could not materialise due to



their reservations over abandoning their presiding deity. As many as 16 families of the Kutia Kondh, a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG), reside on the hilltop hamlet of Barguda in Dialbaheli under Kankutru panchayat. The tribals depend on forest resources and shifting cultivation for livelihood. The hamlet is located above 400 feet on the hill and is surrounded by forests. Due to lack of roads, the households are deprived of safe drinking water, healthcare, electricity, education and other government benefits. Block development officer (BDO) of Lanjigarh Jitendra Mishra said the administration held several rounds of discussions following which the tribals agreed to settle down at the foothills after installing their Dharni deity at the new place. Now 16 PMAY houses of ₹1.30 lakh each are on the verge of completion. Besides, 95 mandays employment with ₹380 as wages under MGNREGS for each house has been provided. This apart, two tube-wells and 16 community latrines have been constructed while electricity supply will be provided to the houses soon. The administration has also constructed a 300 metre road from the new location to the main route near Dialbaheli. Two check dams on the nearby nullah have been readied for villagers and their livestock, the BDO informed. In 2016-17, as many as 16 houses were sanctioned under PMAY for residents of

# POP of AA01/2021 Passing Out From Ins Chilka

(A.O. Bureau) Chilika, Apr 15: 419 Artificer Apprentices of the Indian Navy graduated from INS Chilka, the premier sailors training establishment of the Indian Navy on 15 April 21. The Passing out Parade, reviewed by Brigadier Sumeet Mathur, Commandant AD Centre, Gopalpur, marked the culmination of nine weeks of ab-initio training that commenced on 19 Feb 2021 amidst COVID-19 overhang. The trainees were put through the various rigours of the training including parade training, swimming, sports and physically enduring exercises. Vikram, Vikash Kumar and Vikas Artificer Apprentices of Indian Navy were adjudged the best trainees in their batch. All successful trainees will now proceed to professional training schools for the next phase of their training.



# Covid vaccination drive slows down as cases rise



(A.O. Bureau) Bolangir, Apr 15: Covid vaccination drive has been badly hit in Bolangir district due to shortage of doses. Out of 56 centres across the district, only five are functioning currently. As many as 1,15,000 people have been vaccinated during the immunisation drive which was launched in Balangir on January 16. CDMO Bhima Sahu said sufficient doses of vaccine reached the district on Wednesday and the drive has been resumed. Meanwhile, the district administration has decided to reactivate the Covid care centre at Polytechnic College at Larkipali in view of the spike in positive cases. The district reported 93 new Covid cases and one death on Wednesday. Similarly, 104 fresh Covid cases were detected in Nabarangpur on Wednesday, taking the tally to 554 in the district.

# National Fire Service Week commences at CISF Fire Wing, PPT

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Apr 15: National Fire Service Week with the theme "Maintenance of fire safety equipment is key to mitigate fire hazards" kicked off this morning at the Main Fire Station premises of Gate No. 4 in PPT. The programme was commenced by paying

# Jan Shatabdi Express Catches Fire In Odisha's Balasore



homage to the firemen who sacrificed their lives in the Victoria Dock Yard explosion occurred years back in 1944, by Shri A.K. Bose, Dy. Chairman, PPT. Addressing the gathering, he called for sincerity in the part of CISF Fire Wing to prevent any untoward fire incident. For this fire fighting equipments should be properly maintained, so that minor fire doesn't snowball into any major incident. Capt. A.K. Mohaptra, Dy. Conservator, PPT and Ex Commandant of PPT CISF Unit, Shri Madhabananda Biswal also shared their valuable experiences in dealing fire scenario. Shri Dhyan Singh, Dy. Commandant, CISF Unit, PPT compeered the programmed and read out about various promotional events the CISF Fire Wing, PPT will undertake in coming week to create awareness about fire hazards in the locality.

# Jan Shatabdi Express Catches Fire In Odisha's Balasore

(A.O. Bureau) Balasore, Apr 15: Bhubaneswar-Howrah Jan Shatabdi Express today caught fire near Markona railway station in Odisha's Balasore district. As per reports, the fire broke out in D-6 bogie of the train, thereby leaving the passengers panic stricken. They informed the Government Rail-





# Jacqueline gives glimpse of her closet, drops pic after cupping therapy session



New Delhi, Apr 15: Actor Jacqueline Fernandez on Thursday shared a glimpse of her dressing room closet as she posted a picture of herself. In the mirror selfie, she is seen wearing nude makeup and a laced white bra as she flaunts a heart-shaped purple mark on her shoulder, after her cupping therapy session. Behind her, her closet is seen with her clothes and bags. Some cupping marks can also be seen on her side lower back. Captioning the post, she wrote, "I'm h o o k e d ! ! @physio\_bhavika99parekh" followed by emojis. Reacting to the picture, celebrity trainer Dheepesh Bhatt wrote, "Almost thought for a second you got a tattoo!" Many of her fans dropped hearts in the comments section. The actor is also a fitness

enthusiast as can be seen on her Instagram feed as she posts a lot of photos from her yoga sessions. Recently, her close friend Shaan Muttathil took to an Instagram story and showed how easily the actor nailed a headstand and patted her cat at the same time. Jacqueline has a lot of projects lined up. She was last seen in Mrs Serial Killer, the 2020 Netflix release. The actor will be next seen in Bhoot Police and Attack. The 35-year-old is also a part of Cirkus, a Rohit Shetty film, which stars Ranveer Singh in the lead role. She will also be seen in Bachchan Pandey

# Kichcha Sudeep's 3D film Vikrant Rona to release in cinemas on Aug 19



New Delhi, Apr 15: Actor Kichcha Sudeep's upcoming Kannada action-thriller Vikrant Rona has been confirmed to release in cinemas on August 19, it was announced on Thursday. Sudeep took to Twitter to make the announcement. The film has been shot on a massive scale and it'll release in the 3D format. Sudeep said he's excited about the release. "After enjoying the process of preparations and its making, it's now time for a new excitement. We the team of #VikrantRona are all excited and happy to mark August 19th 2021 as its theatrical release," read his tweet. In

February, the teaser and title logo of Vikrant Rona were unveiled at the Burj Khalifa in a grand manner. The event was organised to celebrate Sudeep completing 25 years as an actor. Directed by Anup Bhandari, the film was earlier titled Phantom and was recently changed to Vikrant Rona. Tipped to be an action-thriller,

Sudeep plays a character called Vikrant Rona in the movie. Vikrant Rona was the first mainstream Kannada film to resume shooting from July last year amid the coronavirus pandemic. In a recent report by Cinema Express, producer Manjunath Gowda opened up on going back to sets amid the pandemic.

# Nazriya Fahadh has a blast grooving to the hit Tamil number Vaathi Coming



Mumbai, Apr 15: Nazriya Nazim Fahadh has shared a video in which she is seen grooving to Tamil number Vaathi Coming with Aleena Alphonse, wife of filmmaker Alphonse Putharen. Actor Nazriya Nazim Fahadh is having a blast dancing to the hit Tamil number Vaathi Coming in her latest Instagram post. Nazriya is seen matching steps with a friend to the song which is from the film Master, starring Vijay. She captioned her post: "Cuz Vaathi is trending. Why not." In the video, she's seen dancing with Aleena Alphonse, wife of

filmmaker Alphonse Putharen. Both Nazriya and Aleena are good friends. Nazriya, who got married to actor Fahadh Faasil in 2014, was away from the arc lights for four years. She made a comeback with Anjali Menon's 2018 Malayalam drama Kooda and was recently seen in Malayalam thriller Trance, alongside her husband. Best known for her work in films such as Neram, Bangalore Days and Raja Rani, Nazriya turned producer with 2018 Malayalam action-thriller Varathan. She went on to produce films

such as Kumbalangi Nights and CU Soon. It was recently announced that Nazriya will be seen in upcoming Telugu film Ante Sundharaniki, which will mark her debut. The film will be directed by Vivek Athreya and will be produced by Mythri Movie Makers. Nazriya recently posted that she's thrilled to be making her Telugu debut with this project. She took to Instagram and wrote: "So this one will be my first Telugu film guys. Super excited for this one with this amazing team! Circle this date and tune in. Happy Diwali (sic)."

# Parth Samthaan on Mai Hero Boll Raha Hu: It got difficult to quit smoking after the shoot

Mumbai, Apr 15: Parth Samthaan was excited when his mother and close friends could not recognise him in the trailer of his new show, Mai Hero Boll Raha Hu. For the The ALTBalaji show, set to premiere from April 20, feature Parth play a gangster Nawab set to win the world. "It's a completely masala commercial project, with a lot of action, romance and even song and dance. I think it's going to be the perfect combination of glamour and gun," he shared in an exclusive chat. Parth further revealed that it all started with a call from Ekta Kapoor, offering him the project. The brief was to depart from his lover boy image. "She was very clear that it is a complete breakout from the image that I have had on television. Nawab is a stylised criminal, an anti-hero, who feels he owns the world. When she showed so much faith in me, it made me more excited. Also, Ekta ma'am told me that it would be different for my fans. And that apart from my female following, this show will help me gain a fanbase among young guys. Rightly so, all my cousins have been going gaga over the show from the time the trailer dropped." When asked if he is ready for his show to be compared with similar projects from the producer —



Once Upon a Time in Mumbai or the Shootout franchise, Parth held his ground. "I am not a person who actually thinks of the future. I believe my only job is to go and perform, and make sure the audience likes it. Everyone said the same thing when I took up Kasauti but Anurag worked for me. At the moment, I am really happy for myself as I gear up for the launch of the show. It has really helped me grow as an actor." As much as the show helped him evolve as an actor, essaying the role had one ill-effect. The actor had to take up smoking for the part, and given the show took long to wrap up, it got difficult for him to quit the habit later. "I understood why people get addicted to it. Thanks to my friends, I have finally managed to kick smoking," he shared. The actor also added that get-

ting the look right also helped him get into the skin of the character. "I grew my hair long, which I have never done in my life, and it gave me an instant change. Also, the costume always works for an actor. We have very loud, floral print outfits, with a little Spanish touch. While based in Mumbai, the series is a little fictionalised and styled," he added. As readers would remember, Parth Samthaan quit television at the peak of his career to move to Bollywood. While he did bag a couple of projects, and even started shooting for one, the film never saw the light of the day. While the phase was difficult for him, Parth believes in moving on rather than worrying about the past. "It was a different journey altogether. I won't say I am always happy and positive, as that would be a lie. We are all humans

and we do have other emotions. It was a different sort of a turmoil to see things not falling into place, even after trying so hard. However, I realised that some things are not in our hands. There are around 200-300 people involved and you are just a part of it. One has to move on and work towards better goals." Several television actors opened up about facing discrimination in Bollywood. Although Parth admits never facing any such thing, he has been privy to his other friends being rejected for their work in television. "No one told me anything on my face, now I don't know if they did have something like this in their mind," he laughed to share. The actor is happy with the kind of work he's being offered in the digital medium. He opines the space enables an actor to change their image. "One can attempt a raw and

real character unlike television. Also, actors of all ages, who were sitting at home waiting for a good TV show or film now have an alternative. Also, people are now hooked to their phones and the medium is only offering better content with time." Parth Samthaan's personal life has been rife with controversies. With so many years in the industry, the actor seems to be immune. "Over the years I have become internally strong and don't let the negativity affect me. I firmly believe that ignorance is bliss, and thus I simply shut it off. I have always believed in being and doing good, and the people who care for me, love me for who I am. I cannot let some random 10 comments affect me, when I have 100 supporting me, right?" he added with a smile. Starting April 20, Mai Hero Boll Raha Hu will stream on ALTBalaji and ZEE5.

# Feelings of personal growth: Study counts on hidden side effect of Covid

New Delhi, Apr 15: In a survey on US military veterans, a full 43.3 per cent of more than three times the number of those reporting COVID-related PTSD symptoms and five times the number of those who had contemplated suicide — said that they have experienced positive psychological benefits during the pandemic. The same survey, published in JAMA Network Open, revealed another, startling finding that these veterans reported greater apprecia-

tion of life, closer interpersonal relationships, and an increased sense of personal strength. The U.S. military veteran population is known to have abnormally high rates of suicide, so health officials have been concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic might elevate the risk of psychiatric disorders, particularly among those suffering from post-traumatic stress

and related disorders. The recent national study of more than 3,000 veterans participating in the National



Health and Resilience in Veterans Study did find that 12.8 per cent reported post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms related to COVID-19 and 8 per cent said they had contemplated suicide during the pandemic. "Yes, there have certainly been many negative mental health consequences of the pandemic, but we are also seeing that a considerable proportion of people may experience positive psychological changes," said Robert Pietrzak, director of the

Translational Psychiatric Epidemiology Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD, associate professor of psychiatry and public health at Yale, and lead author of the paper. "This suggests that the experience of stress and trauma related to the pandemic can lead to positive personal growth." Over the past decade, Pietrzak and

Steven Southwick, the Glenn H. Greenberg Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at Yale and senior author of the new paper, have been studying veterans who experience what is known as "post-traumatic growth" following a traumatic experience. Scientists have long been fascinated with the concept of resilience — how people who endure trauma find a way to bounce back.



## Rajasthan Royals Won The Toss And Decided To Bowl First



Mumbai, Apr 15: Rajasthan Royals won the toss and decided to bowl first. The Mumbai pitch is once again said to be good for batting. A score of 200 runs can be made. Also, it can also be chased. Today Kagiso Rabada can play in the Delhi Capitals team, while the Rajasthan team, who will give an opportunity in place of Ben Stokes, it is a matter to be seen. Liam Livingstone or David Miller? The Mumbai pitch is about to be scored, the captain will like to field first after winning the toss. The amaz-

ing thing is that both Rajasthan and Delhi are seen in batting form. At the same time, Rishabh Pant, who is captaining the Delhi team for the first time, has played a total of 69 matches in the IPL and has scored 2094 runs with the help of one century, 12 half-centuries. His strike rate is also. Talking about Sanju Samson's IPL career, he has played 108 matches in this T20 league so far and has scored a total of 2703 runs at an average of 28.75. He has three centuries and 13 half-centuries in the IPL.

## Kohli reprimanded for showing frustration after dismissal



Chennai, Apr 15: Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli has been reprimanded for breaching the IPL's Code of Conduct after he was seen kicking a chair in frustration following his dismissal in the game against Sunrisers Hyderabad here. Kohli was not at his fluent best in the game on Wednesday and ended up with 33 off 29 balls. His team won the game by six runs. "Kohli admitted to the Level 1 offence 2.2 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. For Level

1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," said the IPL in a statement. Vengalil Narayan Kutty was the match referee in the game while Nitin Menon and Ulhas Gandhe were the on-field umpires. Kohli had top edged a short ball off Jason Holder to be caught in the deep by Vijay Shankar. Following his dismissal, TV replays picked up footage of Kohli kicking a chair in the dugout in frustration.

## India face an uphill task against Latvia in Billie Jean King Cup play-offs

New Delhi, Apr 15: The Indian players have an onerous task at hand to compete against higher-ranked Latvians, including 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko, when they strive to clear the World Group Play-offs hurdle at the Billie Jean King Cup, here from Friday. By her own admission, Ankita Raina plays her best tennis at this event, formerly known as Fed Cup, and India would again expect her to punch above her weight when she takes on Ostapenko in the tie-opening match of the Play-offs where India are competing for the first time. Though odds are against them, what may go in favour of the Indians is that the tie will be played



on indoor hard court as the Latvians surprisingly did not choose clay courts, more suited to their players, and the absence of crowd support for the hosts. Ankita (ranked 174) and Karman Kaur Thandi (ranked 621), who takes on host number one player Anastasija Sevastova (ranked 47), both said they are ready for a good fight. Ankita

played against Sevastova way back in 2015 at home in Ahmedabad, losing an ITF final to her. Their journeys have been contrasting since then with Sevastova getting into top-50 with a crushing backhand. She even beat Serena Williams when Latvia played against US in 2020 Fed Cup Qualifiers. "We mostly play on hard courts, so I am ready and excited for

## Do or die: Atletico Madrid must beat Eibar to keep lead over Real, Barcelona

Barcelona, Apr 15: On the schedule, a home match against Eibar is easy to overlook. But Atletico Madrid's meeting with the league's worst team has become a must-win match in its flagging title bid. A run of poor results over the past two months has whittled Atletico's once double-digit advantage down to the slimmest of margins. After two straight games without a victory, Real Madrid is now only one point behind and Barcelona is two points behind with eight games left. Atletico's problem is in attack. Last weekend, the team was held to a 1-1 draw at Real Betis in a game it started without both Luis Suárez and Marcos Llorente, who were suspended. It also lost playmaker João Felix during the match after he hurt his ankle. Yannick Carrasco got Atletico's goal early in the match, but forward Ángel Correa failed to convert two opportuni-

ties that would have snatched a late winner. Correa will likely lead the attack on Sunday against Eibar with Suárez, who was hurt in practice last week, and Felix both unavailable. Llorente, who can also play any midfield position as well as wing back, will likely help Correa up front after he completed his one-game suspension for accumulation of yellow cards. Llorente has scored 10 times in all competitions this season, second only to Suárez and his 19 goals. Eibar looks like the ideal rival for Atletico to get a desperately needed victory. Eibar has for several seasons been a tough, middling team thanks to the pressure defense preached by coach Jose Mendilibar, who insists on recovering the ball in the opposing half to help generate easy goals. But the Basque Country club has struggled to score this season. Eibar's tally of 22 goals is a compe-



tion low, tied with Getafe. Also promising for Atletico, Eibar may be without its best weapon in attack. Bryan Gil, a forward on loan from Sevilla who recently debuted for Spain, is doubtful because of a muscle issue. Eibar is four points from safety after going winless in 13 straight games. "It will be the top team versus the team in last place, so it is normal that Atletico is seen as the favorite, but it

wouldn't be the first time we take points or even a win from a game like this," Eibar defender Paulo Oliveira said. If Atletico slips again, Madrid can move to the top of the standings with a win at Getafe, also on Sunday. The defending champions are soaring after bettering both Barcelona and Liverpool over the past week. Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 last weekend to overtake its rival in the league

standings. On Wednesday, the team advanced to the Champions League semifinals after drawing 0-0 at Anfield following a 3-1 win at home. Madrid now has a favorable schedule in the league before it faces Chelsea for a spot in Champions League final. After Getafe, it plays at Cádiz and hosts Betis. Getafe, in 15th place, has only one win in its last 12 league games.

## IPL 2021: With Axar Patel out, Shams Mulani becomes first COVID-19 back-up

Mumbai, Apr 15: Delhi Capitals on Thursday roped in young Mumbai left-arm spinner Shams Mulani as IPL's first short term COVID-19 replacement as he was brought in for Axar Patel, who is yet to recover from the dreaded virus and is still in a medical care facility. DC also has substituted injured captain Shreyas Iyer with Karnataka off-spinner Aniruddha Joshi. However, the media release issued by the IPL doesn't have any details about paceman Anrich Nortje's RT-PCR result, which is believed to be positive. "Delhi Capitals have brought in Shams Mulani as a short-term COVID-19 replacement for Axar Patel for their IPL-2021

campaign," the release stated. "Axar had tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus during his mandatory quarantine ahead of the season and was subsequently taken to BCCI's medical facility for isolation and treatment," it further stated. Axar tested positive for COVID-19 on April 3 and was transferred to BCCI's designated medical facility after it was learnt that he showed mild symptoms. It's already 12 days since then and it is understood that the India international will not be available for match duty any time soon which led to Mulani being inducted. Mulani is a left-handed lower middle-order batsman and a slow left-arm orthodox bowler. The 24-

year-old has an economy rate of 6.92 in 25 T20 games and a highest score of 73. He will not be permitted to represent another IPL franchise this season once he leaves the Delhi Capitals. Under IPL's Player Regulations 6.1 (c), franchises are allowed to sign a short-term replacement player until the original squad member is permitted to re-enter the team's bio-secure environment. "Hence, Mulani will only be a part of the Delhi Capitals side until Axar recovers and is allowed to join the team." Meanwhile, Delhi Capitals have also signed Anirudha Joshi as a replacement for the injured Shreyas Iyer for the remainder of the IPL. Iyer was ruled out



of the tournament after sustaining a shoulder dislocation during the recent India-England ODI series. Joshi, a middle-order batsman

and an off-spinner, joins his third IPL team, having been a part of the Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals in the past.

## Asian Wrestling Championship: Sarita Mor in final; Seema Bisla, Pooja fight for bronze



New Delhi, Apr 15: Reigning title holder Sarita Mor made an impressive comeback after a narrow opening-round defeat to storm into the 59kg final while Seema Bisla (50kg) and Pooja (76kg) will fight for bronze medals after losing their respective semifinals at the Asian Championship on Thursday. Sarita, who won gold

in the 2020 conchampionship in New Delhi, lost her opening bout to Mongolia's Shooovdor Baatarjav by 4-5 margin but came back strongly in the next round against Kazakhstan's Diana Kayumova, winning by technical superiority in the first period. The lanky Kazkah had good reach but Sarita was agile

and aggressive. After earning a passivity point, Sarita unleashed a flurry of moves, starting with a take-down and followed that up with a gut-wrench and a couple of expose moves. Against Kyrgyzstan's Nuraida Anarkulova in the semi-final, Sarita was again aggressive from the beginning and finished the bout in a jiffy with quick expose moves after getting hold of her opponent. She now has a chance to take revenge from Shooovdor, who also reached the summit clash. In the 50kg competition, Seema had a terrible start as she lost her opening bout by fall against Kazakhstan's Valentina Ivanovna but made a strong comeback in the next round against Mongolian Anudari Nandintsetseg.



# Fire Service week observed at NTPC Talcher Kaniha



(A.O. Bureau) Talcher, Apr 15: Fire Service Week is being observed at NTPC Kaniha from April 14-20, 2021. The inaugural function was organized at Fire Station in a befitting manner on April 14, 2021 with this year's theme being, "Maintenance of Fire Safety Equipment is Key to Mitigate Fire Hazards". Shri Sudip Nag, Chief General Manager (CGM), NTPC Kaniha was the chief guest of the function. On the occasion, floral tributes were laid for the martyr's by Shri Sudp Nag, Shri Shivam Srivastava GM (O&M), Senior Officers of management and Asst. Commandant (Fire). During the opening ceremony, two minutes of silence was observed in memory of the brave firefighters who sacrificed their lives during firefighting and a pledge was read out by A/C Fire Shri PK Deeskshit. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sudip Nag highlighted the importance of fire safety in a power station and praised the officers for their contribution towards Fire Safety. Along with that, banners on fire safety and fire precaution were released by the CGM which will be displayed at various strategic locations of the plant and township area for wide publicity. Saplings were also planted by everyone present. The entire function was done observing all COVID19 precautionary measures.

# Ambedkar Jayanti celebrated at NTPC Talcher Kaniha

(A.O. Bureau) Talcher, Apr 15: The 130th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R Ambedkar was celebrated at Talcher Kaniha on April 14, 2021. Shri Sudip Nag, Chief General Manager, Talcher Kaniha, Shri Shivam Srivastava, GM (O&M), Shri. Rajnish Rastogi, GM (HR) and present NTPC employees and members of Unions, Association and Welfare bodies gave floral tribute to the Father of Indian Constitution. Shri Sudip Nag, in his address, while paying homage to Baba



Saheb, said that he fulfilled the objective of achieving higher goal even in difficult circumstances and we all should take inspiration from his life. To celebrate the day, bicycles were

# SC asks CBI to conduct further probe into role of erring cops in ex-ISRO scientist Nambi Narayan espionage case

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday ordered that the report of a high-level committee on the role of erring police officials in 1994 espionage case relating to ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan be given to the CBI and directed the agency to conduct further investigation on the issue. The apex court said the CBI may treat the panel's findings as part of preliminary investigation and asked the agency to submit its report to the court within three months. A bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar said the report of the three-member panel, headed by former top court judge Justice (retd) D K Jain, be kept in a sealed cover and it should not be published. The top court rejected the submission of former DGP Siby Mathews, who was then heading the SIT probe team, that he was not heard by the committee while Narayanan was heard. The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Krishna Murari, said the committee was not to adjudicate the matter but it had to go through circumstantial evidence and form a prima facie view on the acts of omission and commission of erring officials. The apex court was hearing the Centre's plea seeking consideration of the report filed



by the committee regarding the role of erring police officials in espionage case relating to Narayanan, who had been acquitted and was eventually awarded Rs 50 lakh compensation by the top court. On April 5, the Centre had moved the top court seeking urgent hearing and consideration of the panel's report terming it as a "national issue". The apex court had appointed the panel on September 14, 2018 while directing the Kerala government to cough up Rs 50 lakh compensation for compelling Narayanan to undergo "immense humiliation". It had ordered setting up of the committee to take appropriate steps

# Aditya Aluminum launches "JALA BAHINI" to provide clean drinking water in Rengali Block

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar : Aditya Aluminium, a unit of Hindalco Industries, Aditya Birla Group's metal flagship company, launched the JALA BAHINI scheme on 14 April, to provide clean drinking water at the door-step of 3,000 households across 52 villages in the 6 GPs of Rengali block, during peak summer season. This initiative would provide 5000 liters of Drinking water on a daily basis to the villagers. This Jala Bahini initiative was flagged-off on 14 April 2021, at Bomaloi GP playground in Tileimal village, in the presence of Mr. Seshadev Pradhan, Sarpanch Bomaloi, Dr. Vivekanand Mishra - HR Head, Mr. Satyaprasad Das, DGM-HR, Mr. Bhavani Mahapatra DGM- HR, Mrs. Sweta Upadhyay - Head CSR & RR, and local leaders. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Vivekananda Mishra, HR Head, Aditya Aluminium, said, "Water crisis is severe during the summer season with villagers having to walk several kilometers in



the scorching heat in search of clean water. This water scarcity is expected to make the fight against Covid-19 even more challenging. Hence, Hindalco's Aditya Aluminium unit has deployed 25 tankers, each with a capacity of 5,000 litres, to cater to this critical need of the community. This water tanker service will continue for 75 days or till the onset of the monsoon, whichever is earlier. On a daily basis, 60 trips of tankers will reach the door-steps of 52 villages/hamlets

benefiting more than 3,000 households" The company has engaged 25 vendors and its CSR team is monitoring the service through surprise visits, what's app group with Vendors, SHG women as SPOCs and Sarpanch. COVID-19 precautions will be taken while providing the service. Out of this initiative, the people would be getting immensely benefited as in the backdrop of resurgence of Covid 19 where people are confined to their home, we would be providing drinking water at their doorsteps, Dr Mishra adds.

# Sexual exploitation and motherhood benefit the complaint charges the administration of police laxity

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 13 : A female worker of a children's care center run by a voluntary organization in Patlip village under Kendrapara district's Marshaghai police station has been accused of sexually abusing her for a long time. "Odisha's leading daily newspapers have reported this. There have also been allegations of negligence on the part of local police in filing and executing complaints or first-hand information lodged with police." However, the State Commission for the Protection of the Rights of the Child has been informed that action will be taken as soon as possible. "According to the report, a

young woman working as a child care nurse at a project run by a voluntary organization called the Lutheran Women's Committee has been sexually abused by the brother of the woman's president. The issue's end has the recaptured Doomsday in the control of the KGB and its allies. "The committee's internal grievance committee has informed the president (president) for action after an investigation and filed a complaint with the police. "Following the information and instructions of the State Child Commission, the police and the administration have taken some action. "But its slowness and work so far suggests that the

main allegation is that the allegations are so serious that they need immediate police action, rather than the subsequent factual allegations that the police are showing urgency and leading the police. "Helpless in the midst of sexual exploitation and illegal pregnancies ation name of the person to arrest him. Still Thai and Odisha to start the process today what entomologists also publicly hesitancy that is not pointing. "According to sources, the police are still avoiding or delaying the proceedings, even after making statements to the victim's judge. "However, the progress of the proceedings and the pace of justice for the victims are expected to be publicized after the submission of the investigation report of the district administration and the police administration as per the earlier directives of the State Child Commission. "Some lawyers and social workers in the judiciary believe that it would have been better for the police to have taken immediate action on the original and first allegations and to investigate further allegations. "Because, according to the original and the first complaint, a helpless woman who is a lowly employee, who has been sexually abused, has given birth to an unborn child, has no birth certificate, all these issues must be very serious for the person, for

# Bombay HC asks state, temples to find solution on flood delivery for Ayambil Oli

(A.O. Bureau) Mumbai, Apr 15: The Bombay High Court on Thursday asked the state to respond to a plea seeking delivery of "pious food" from Jain temples for Ayambil Oli Tap, a nine-day fasting festival observed by the community, beginning on April 19. Stating that the community's request was "reasonable", the court asked the petitioner to find a "workable solution". It suggested that the community volunteers can deliver the food rather than having devotees thronging the temples amid new Covid-19 restrictions in

place. A vacation bench of Justice Suresh C Gupte and Abhay Ahuja was hearing the plea filed by Shree Trust Atman Kamal Labdhisurishwarji Jain Gyanmandir Trust and Sheth Motisha Religious and Charitable Trust. Advocate Prafulla Shah said the Trusts are not seeking permission for opening of dining halls at the temples. Additional Government Pleader Jyoti Chavan said the state would not permit take away of the food as the congregation should be avoided. Justice Gupte said: "There should be no congregation. We can find a workable solution since your community consists of many good people who can consider and communicate." AGP Chavan said this should not be considered as a bias by the state for one community as question of entry to temples does not arise in the present case. She referred to a decision of another HC bench wherein it refused permission to Jumma Masjid of Bombay Trust that had sought 50 devotees be allowed at the mosque to offer prayers during the Ramazan month. The bench said it will consider the plea next on Friday.

OFFICE OF THE REGULATED MARKET COMMITTEE

SARGIPALI, SUNDARGARH

INVITATION OF BIDS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT

TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 219, DATED 13.04.2021

BID IDENTIFICATION NO. 01/2020-21

The office of the R.M.C. Sargipali, Sundargarh invites percentage rate bids in single cover system on online mode from eligible contractors for execution of the different works under RMC Sargipali. The details of which are available at e-procurement portal [www.tenderorissa.gov.in](http://www.tenderorissa.gov.in) from 19.04.2021. The interested tenderers are advised to visit the above website for submission of e-tender.

Tenders will be closed at 5.00 PM on 28.04.2021.

Sd/- Collector, Sundargarh-cum-Chairman  
R.M.C. Sargipali, Sundargarh

# Ensure FIRs are filed against violators of Covid-19 norms: Karnataka HC directs top cop

(A.O. Bureau) Bengaluru, Apr 15: The Karnataka High Court Thursday directed the Director-General and Inspector General of Police (Praveen Sood) to ensure that the police register first information reports (FIRs) against violators of Covid-19 norms. The HC also maintained that such violations are cognisable and non-bailable in nature, according to the Karnataka Epidemic Diseases (KED) Act, 2020. Further, a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Suraj Govindaraj directed the top cop to set up a team, including senior police officers, to educate the police on effective enforcement of laws to prevent the spread of the coronavirus infection. Such teams should also monitor the registration of FIRs and investigation in cases of violations, including failing to wear masks, not maintaining social distancing, and congregating in large numbers in violation of the norms. The Bench,

while hearing a PIL petition filed by Bengaluru-based Letzkit Foundation, also noted that the police were hesitant in registering FIRs for such violations, thereby taking the law lightly, perhaps, by way of collecting fines. "We hasten to add that none should be spared for the violations," the Bench said. Referring

to instances when FIRs were registered against prominent celebrities, political and religious leaders, the HC urged such high-profile citizens to lead by example. It is all the more necessary for the police to take strict action when this class of the society violates norms, the Bench noted.