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Odisha seeks more vaccine doses as over 50 percent of session sites run out of stock



Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: Odisha Government once again urged the Union Health Ministry to supply adequate quantities of vaccine as the state has been facing an acute shortage for the last over a week. While there is nil stock of Covishield vaccine in the State, Regional and District stores and only 1,74,004 doses of Covishield and 2,49,196 doses of Covaxin are available in cold chain points in the state, the balance stock of Covishield will last for one day only. The vaccination has been badly affected on Friday as only 700 sites of 1476 are open for inoculation of age-appropriate people in 29 districts. It is no vaccination day for Koraput district due to the non-availability of vaccines. Health officials said Odisha required more doses of Covishield as the vaccine has been approved

for the entire state while Covaxin has been allowed for Bhubaneswar only. Citing extremely low and intermittent supply of Covid vaccines to the state, Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das has requested Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan to allot 25 lakh doses of Covishield in a single lot for the next 10 days. Of the 50,79,650 doses of vaccines, including 45,42,870 doses of Covishield and 5,36,780 doses of Covaxin received so far, the state has administered 48,10,780 doses. The Health Minister said even as the state is prepared to undertake three lakh vaccinations daily, it is not possible due to scanty supply. "Odisha is being allocated two to three lakh vaccine doses in a gap of two days. Since it takes about three days to transfer vaccine from the state

vaccine store to cold chain points in the far off districts, there is stock out situation in several districts due to such intermittent supply," Das pointed out. The state is expected to get around 3 lakh doses of Covishield by 3 pm. Director of Family Welfare Dr Bijay Panigrahi said the inoculation drive will be grossly affected for the next couple of days as it will take at least a day to dispatch the vaccine to the districts. On Thursday, vaccination was conducted at 1050 centres as 426 sites were shut down due to the non-availability of vaccines. As many as 1,54,330 beneficiaries were administered vaccines. The vaccination had come to a complete halt in 11 districts on Tuesday and 10 districts on Wednesday as all session sites in these districts were shut in the absence of Covishield.

Covid-19: PM Modi takes stock of medical oxygen supply in country, calls for increase in production

New Delhi, Apr 16: As India continues to witness a surge in Covid-19 cases, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday reviewed the current situation of medical-grade oxygen supply in the country. "Inputs from ministries like Health, DPIIT, Steel, Road Transport, etc were also shared with the prime minister. He also stressed that it is important to ensure synergy across ministries and state governments," a press release issued from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. Modi also took a detailed review of the current situation of oxygen supply and its projected use for the next 15 days across 12

high burden states – Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. With Covid cases hitting a new peak, the demand for medical oxygen has increased as it is a critical component in the treatment of Covid-affected patients. On Thursday, Centre had asked states to make rational use of medical oxygen and ensure there is no wastage while stressing that there is sufficient stock of oxygen in the country. According to PMO, the Prime Minister was also briefed about the production capacity in the



country to meet the rising demand. "Prime Minister suggested to increase oxygen production as per capacity of each plant. It was discussed that surplus stocks of oxygen supply in steel plants are being offered from medical use," the release added. Modi also urged officials

to ensure seamless and free movement of oxygen tankers throughout the country. The Centre has exempted all interstate movement of oxygen tankers from registration of permits in a bid to ensure easier movement. Officers also briefed the PM about the efforts being made to

import medical-grade oxygen. India added a record 2,17,353 new coronavirus infections in a day taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 1,42,91,917, while active cases surpassed the 15-lakh mark, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

Covid vaccination to remain suspended during weekend shutdown in 10 districts

Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: The State government has decided to suspend Covid vaccination during weekend shutdown in urban areas of 10 districts. Earlier on Thursday, the government has decided to impose weekend shutdown in urban areas of 10 districts bordering Chhattisgarh

from April 17. The 10 districts are Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Balangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Koraput and Malkangiri. However, the vaccination will continue uninterrupted in other areas of the districts following the guideline.



Odisha CM Receives 2nd Dose Of COVID Vaccine



Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today took his second dose of

COVID-19 vaccine. Patnaik was administered COVAXIN at the State Assembly Dis-

pensary here. He had received the first dose of the vaccine on March 1.

Orissa High Court dissatisfied over food security in state

Cuttack, Apr 16: The Orissa High Court has expressed dissatisfaction over the State government's claim that it has already covered 80 per cent (pc) of population under the targeted public distribution system (PDS). The division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Jus-



tice BP Routray said, "It is not sufficient to state that the government has already cov-

ered 80 pc of the population under the PDS. There cannot be any persons belonging

to vulnerable categories in Odisha who are left out of either the NFSA or the State Food Security Scheme (SFSS). A constant endeavour must be made to increase the coverage with every passing month." The direction came while hearing social activist Prafulla Samantara's

PIL seeking special intervention by way of food security measures and foodgrains to non-ration card holders in view of Covid-19 pandemic. Arguing his case, advocate Ishwar Mohanty said a large number of people are still left out from the ambit of either the NFSA or SFSS.

Odisha Engineering Colleges To Be Closed From April 19; Exams To Be Held Online



Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: All technical institutions including ITIs/Polytechnics/Engineering and Professional Colleges/Technical Universities in Odisha will be closed from April 19 until further orders in view of the COVID-19 situation. The classes and examinations for all courses shall be conducted online. The authorities of the institutions

shall take all appropriate measures for conducting classes through online mode to complete the syllabus in time. All hostels/residential accommodations of technical educational institutions shall remain closed w.e.f 19.04.2021. Students shall be motivated not to stay in the hostel in the interest of their personal health. However,

scholars, researchers and students who desire to stay in hostel for research/project works or other academic activities may be permitted for the same upon giving undertaking and subject to approval by appropriate authorities of the concerned institutions. Further, the concerned institutions shall function with 50 percent strength of employees with effect from 19.04.2021 until further orders. The concerned authorities shall make necessary arrangements for the same. Teachers shall conduct online classes from their concerned institutions as well as from their home depending on the roster arrangement.

ICSE Classes 10, 12 Exams Postponed Amid COVID Surge

New Delhi, Apr 16: In the light of the nationwide surge in Covid 19 cases, the CISCE has decided to defer the ICSE (Class X) and ISC (Class XII) board examinations scheduled to be held from May 4, 2021. The Covid situation will be closely monitored and the deferment of the ICSE & ISC 2021 examinations will be reviewed and a final de-



cision on the conduct of the board examinations will be taken by

the 1st week of June 2021. While the ISC (Class XII) examina-

tion will be conducted at a later date, the candidates for the ICSE

(Class X) examination will be given the following options: i. to write the offline examination, along with the Class XII candidates OR ii. not to write the offline examination. In view of the ICSE (Class X) candidates opting for the second option, the CISCE will develop a fair and an unbiased criterion while preparing the results of such candidates.

Petition Filed In Supreme Court Regarding Coronavirus Vaccination Age Limit

New Delhi, Apr 16: A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court regarding the age of the beneficiaries involved in the Vaccination Program in the country. The Public Interest Litigation filed on Friday has demanded that all people above 18 years of age be vaccinated in the country. Coronavirus cases are increasing continuously in the

country. In such a situation, there has been a demand for reducing age in the case of vaccination for a long time. Currently, the third phase of vaccination is going on in the country. In this, people above 45 years of age are being vaccinated. Advocate Rashmi Singh has filed a petition in the Supreme Court on Friday. It has been said in the



petition that in order to control the coronavirus, it is necessary to apply vaccines to all the young and working class. According to the petition, the vaccine already takes 6 to 8 weeks in both doses. In such a situation, by the time the vaccine reaches the age of 18 years or more, Covid-19 can spread rapidly and the situation can get worse. The in-

clusion of the age group of 18-45 in the petition has been said to be arbitrary. It has been said that refusing people in the age group of 18-45 years for a vaccine is arbitrary, 'discriminatory and unreasonable'. The petition also states that denial is a violation of the entitlements of life and health. Also, the plea of experts has also been given in this petition.

Senior Congress Leader Digvijay Singh And Randeep Surjewala Tested Coronavirus Positive



New Delhi, Apr 16: The number of Coronavirus cases is increasing rapidly in our country. Many politicians have been infected by

the deadly virus. According to reports, Senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh and Randeep Surjewala tested Coronavirus positive. Sujeewala tweeted, "I have tested +ve for COVID19 today morning. Anyone who has come in contact with me in the last 5 days, please self-isolate & take necessary precautions Digvijay is quarantined at his residence in Delhi, according to his statement on Twitter.

Haryana well-equipped to fight Covid, again appeals to farmers to call off protest: CM Khattar

Chandigarh, Apr 16: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday again urged farmers to call off their protest

and workers to stay put at their workplaces and assured them of support while stating that the government was well-

tracting coronavirus... Even today, 17-18 people at a bus station tested positive. There is always a possibility that people will get Covid-19 if they stay together day and night," said Khattar. The CM said while there can always be a disagreement over issues for which farmers are protesting, there is no disagreement on the issue of coronavirus. "Jaan hai to Jahaan hai... Everybody should return to their homes, get themselves tested for Covid-19, and if they test positive, get themselves treated."



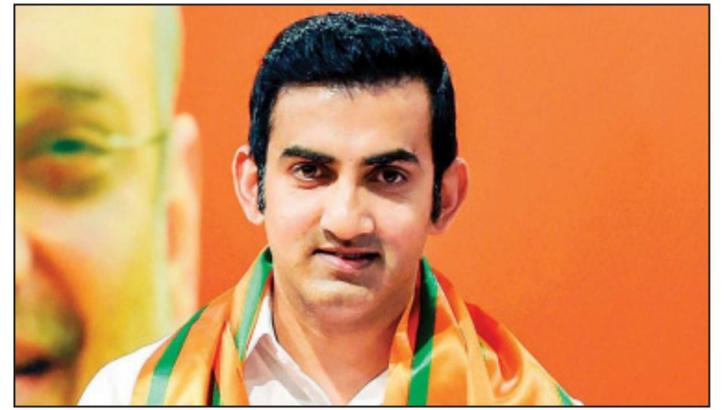
on Delhi borders over the new farm laws and return home in view of the second Covid-19 wave. He also appealed to labourers

equipped to tackle the pandemic. "Farmers are protesting at several places. It is their democratic right. But there is a fear of con-

Gautam Gambhir Took A Dig At MS Dhoni

New Delhi, Apr 16: Former India opener Gautam Gambhir believes that Mahendra Singh Dhoni should change his batting order and come up to bat. He also said that Dhoni needs to score more for his team Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in IPL. Gambhir said that people should lead in the game and Dhoni also needs to change the batting order. Gambhir, 39, told in a special conversation on the Star Sports show Cricket Live that why Dhoni needs to change his order in batting to

score more. He said, 'Dhoni should bat in the upper order, that matters because ultimately people lead from the front. We have been saying in advance that a leader needs to lead from the front. Gambhir, who has played 58 Tests, 147 ODIs, and 37 T20 Internationals in his career, further said, 'When you are batting at No. 7, you cannot be a leader. Yes, there are problems in their bowling line up as well. Also, that MS Dhoni is not what he used to be four or five years ago, where



he used to come and ask the bowlers to move forward. I think they need to bat at number four-five. There is nothing in the lower order.

Gambhir has captained the two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. He is counted among the best openers in the world.

He was also a member of the 2011 World Cup winning team which India did under the captaincy of Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Amid second Covid wave, here's a list of states that have flagged vaccine shortage

New Delhi, Apr 16: As states run out of vaccine stocks in the face of surging Covid-19 cases, Adar Poonawalla, the CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, Friday appealed to US President Joe Biden to lift the embargo on export of raw materials needed to manufacture vaccines out of the United States so that vaccine production can be fast-tracked. Tagging Biden on Twitter, Poonawalla wrote, "Respected @POTUS, if we are to truly unite in beating this virus, on behalf of the vaccine industry outside the U.S., I humbly request you to lift the embargo of raw material exports out of the U.S. so that vaccine production can ramp up. Your administration has the details." As the second wave of Covid-19 grips India with record number of fresh cases being detected everyday, several states have raised the issue of vaccine shortage with the Centre. Vaccination, one of the major means to contain the rapid spread of the disease at this phase, have slowed down in a number of states due to lack of supply.



step in curbing the COVID-19 spread in the state." He hoped that if a delegation from the state including its opposition leaders meets the Centre's representatives, the state can get the required doses of vaccines. "I think if a delegation from the state, including members from the opposition, visits New Delhi and takes up the issue with the Centre, we will get more vaccines to save lives. We will work it out," PTI quoted him as saying. Last week, Maharashtra had raised alarm bells, with senior health officials saying they may be forced to halt vaccination for four to five days next week if the new stock does not come. The state then asked for a minimum 40 lakh doses to meet the daily target of 4.5 lakh vaccinations, with plans to go up to at least 6 lakh doses per day. After this, the Centre had increased the state's allocation of doses to 17.43 lakh from 7.43 lakh as promised before.

M a h a r a s h t r a : Maharashtra, the state worst hit by Covid-19, wants to vaccinate six to 7 lakh people on a daily basis, for which it needs 40 to 45 lakh vaccine vials every week, the state health minister Rajesh Tope said Thursday. Stating that a large-scale vaccination will help bring down the number of Covid-19 cases, he said, "If we manage to vaccinate so many people on a daily basis, it would be a major

Odisha: On Thursday, Odisha government demanded at least 25 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine in a single lot from the Centre to speed up the ongoing immunisation programme, a minister

said. Health and Family Welfare Minister N K Das, in a letter to the central government, said the state is prepared to vaccinate 3 lakh people daily, but about 2-3 lakh vaccine shots are being allocated to it at a time. Das had earlier written to the Union Health Ministry twice, requesting the authorities to expedite the vaccine supply. "I again request you to urgently supply at least 10 days of stock of Covishield (25 lakh doses) in a single lot as an emergency measure to enable us to plan sessions and undertake the vaccination programme effectively," Das said in his latest communication. Das also said the state has received 50,79,650 doses of COVID-19 vaccines till April 14. Due to the 'intermittent' supply of vaccines, the immunisation programme "cannot be conducted as planned", he said.

Rajasthan: After Rajasthan achieved its highest figures in terms of daily Covid-19 vaccine doses administered last week, the state is currently faced with a severe shortage of vaccines which has resulted in a sharp decline in its daily vaccination data. According to senior officials of the

health department, while the state has the capacity to inoculate over 5 lakh people daily, it is falling far behind its target in absence of adequate supply of vaccines from the Centre. Earlier, due to its massive inoculation drive, Rajasthan had become the second state in the country after Maharashtra to administer 1 crore doses of vaccine to its population. "We have run out of vaccination supplies. At present we have the capacity to carry on around 7 lakh inoculations per day but because of no supplies, we aren't able to administer the doses. I have written to the Union Health Minister, requesting him to send us more vaccine doses. We want the Centre to send us around 30 lakh doses so that we can increase the daily inoculation rate," state Health Minister Raghunath Sharma told The Indian Express on Wednesday. As per data from the Health Department, on Tuesday, the total vaccine doses administered were 1.48 lakh, much lower than just a week back, when 5.81 lakh doses were administered on April 7.

adding that many are now waiting for their second dose of the vaccine. Amritsar's District Immunization Officer (DIO), Arvind Manchanda, said: "There is shortage of Covaxin. We have not received supply for second dose of Covaxin. Around 12,000 had got first dose of Covaxin in the district, which was mostly supplied to private hospitals. Some hospitals may have preserved half of their stock for second dose. But we are not sure about how many people are waiting for second dose. This situation exists across the state in all districts. Amritsar is not alone. We may get supply in a day or two." Asked how many people are waiting for second dose due to shortage of Covaxin vaccine in state, Covid nodal officer for Punjab, Rajesh Bhaskar, said, "Don't have this data ready at the moment."

West Bengal: With West Bengal recording a massive surge in Covid-19 cases amid an eight-phase Assembly election, several hospitals have notified that they had run out of vaccines. The state on Monday received four lakh doses, days after writing to the Centre about the shortage in several hospitals. Sources in the health department said that while on an average, four lakh to five lakh people should get vaccinated daily, about two lakh people were getting their shots at present. On Monday, 2.32 lakh people were vaccinated while only 53,922 received their shots the day before.

UK govt approves extradition of Nirav Modi to India

New Delhi, Apr 16: The UK government Friday approved the extradition of fugitive jeweller Nirav Modi — wanted in the Rs 13,500 crore Punjab National Bank loan fraud case by CBI and the Enforcement Directorate — to India. Unless overturned by the High Court in the country, Modi should be brought back to India soon, sources said. "The government has approved it. It is now up to the court," a CBI officer told the Indian Express. On February 25, a UK court had ordered Modi's extradition following which it was sent to the Secretary of State for approval. The court's decision, however, was liable to be challenged after the Secretary of the State had given his approval. Modi had 14 days to challenge this order in the High Court. The UK court had delivered the verdict holding that the evidence against Modi was prima facie sufficient to order his extradition to India to face the charges.

Court is a significant achievement in the context of CBI's efforts to curb corruption and is a reminder that fugitives, who have eluded the process of law after commission of large value frauds, cannot consider themselves above the process merely because they have changed jurisdictions," CBI had said in a statement then. The 49-year-old jeweller had appeared via video link from Wandsworth Prison in south-west London as District Judge Samuel Goozee handed down his judgment at Westminster Magistrate's Court in London. Modi has been lodged here since his arrest on an extradition warrant in March 2019 at a central London bank branch, where he was trying to set up a new account. The defence argument that trial had been prejudiced since top politicians from the ruling party had made comments about Nirav Modi and his culpability was rejected by the court. Modi, along with his uncle Mehl



The court had also upheld the assurances of the Government of India and rejected the submissions of defence regarding human rights violations, fair trial and prison conditions. Declaring it was satisfied with all conditions necessary for Modi's extradition, the court had said, "Therefore, in accordance with S.87(3) EA 2003 I am sending this case to the Secretary of State for a decision as to whether Nirav Modi is to be extradited." The court had said Modi would have the right to appeal to the High Court against its decision to send the case to the Secretary of State. However, this appeal would not be heard until the Secretary of State had made a decision, it had said. "The appeal can be on a point of law or fact or both," the court had said. "Today's judgement of Westminster Magistrates'

Choksi, had been booked by investigative agencies CBI and ED in January 2018 for what is now known as the PNB scam. Diamond traders Modi and Choksi had together defrauded the Punjab National Bank of Rs 13,500 crore through fraudulent letters of undertaking. Both fled the country before an FIR was registered by the CBI against them in 2018. In July, 2018, India sent a request to the UK to extradite Modi based on ED and CBI chargesheets. On February 11, 2020, India issued a further extradition request for two additional offences which Modi faces as part of the CBI case. These offences relate to allegations that Modi has interfered with the CBI investigation by causing the disappearance of evidence and intimidating witnesses.

Khordha Municipality Renovating the Existing TLC Cremation Ground

(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, Apr 16: Khordha Municipality is planning to undertake major refurbishing works of the Cremation Ground of TLC Khordha. This proposed renovation of the Cremation Ground is expected to be materialised at an expected expenditure of Rs. 1 Crores. The renovation will include installation of more benches for the peoples visiting the Cremation Ground with the deceased. The parking area will also



be increased to offer enough parking spaces. More shed's will be added for conducting prayers as well as performing last rites. To-

day meeting was organized in the office of the Sub-Collector Khordha. Sub-collector Ashok Kumar Behuria Preside over the meet-

ing. Executive Officer Khordha Municipality Sweta Padma D. Satpathy present the details project report of the development work

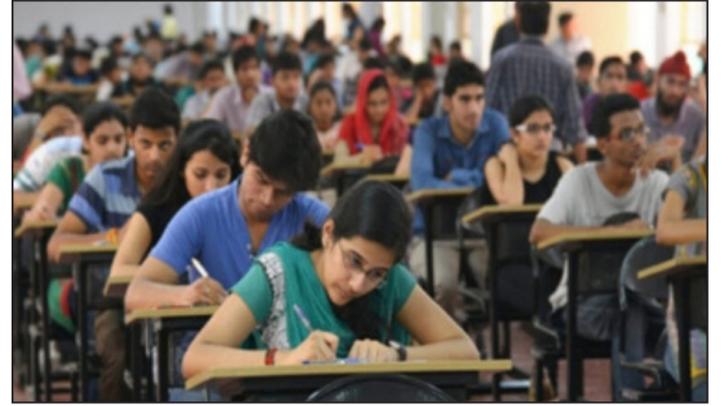
of TLC Cremation Ground Khordha. The Representatives of different organization of Khordha, District BAR Association President Ajit Pattnaik, Senior Advocate Shakti Shankar Mishra, President New Thinking Forum Narendra Prusty, Jayanta Ray, Subhranshu Ranjan Samantaray, Ex-Councilor Anil Ram, Bibhu Prasad Sahoo, Debendra Behera, Jugal Agrawal, Girish Pattnaik and others are remain present and participate the discussion.

All College, University Exams Suspended In Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: In the wake of COVID-19 resurgence, Odisha Gov-

ernment Saswat Mishra asked them to suspend all examinations and physical classes from April 19.

The Head of the HEI shall decide the rotational roster duty arrangement in such a manner that the office



Chief Secretary sets target for enhancing tax revenue by 15% during FY 2021-22



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: Beating economic wreck created by the unprecedented pandemic of Covid-19, the revenue generation of Odisha has grown by more than 20% in the financial year (FY) 2020-21 over the last fiscal year of 2019-20. The total revenue generation in 2020-21 has crossed of Rs 56, 363 cr in absolute figures. This was known from a high level meeting held on digital mode under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra in Lokseba Bhawan today where in Principal Secretary Finance Ashok Kumar Meena placed the revenue performances of different departments for discussion. While complementing the revenue earning departments for good performance, Chief Secretary Mahapatra fixed the target of Rs.40,000 Cr from own tax revenue for the year 2021-22 which is around 15% more than

the revenue generated in the FY 2020-21. Similarly, Mahapatra set the revenue target of Rs.21, 500 cr from non-tax sources for the year 2021-22. It may be pertinent here to mention that the budget estimate from non-tax and own-tax sources was fixed at Rs.20, 000 cr and Rs. 37,500 cr respectively for the current FY. Mahapatra said, "There is need for more revenue generation to keep up the higher growth trajectories in the areas of social service, capital investment and higher outlay for programme expenditure. Principal Secretary Meena appraised that following the 5-T principles in financial management, around 95% of the State's revenue collection has been brought into electronic fold. At present around 95% of the State's own revenue is being collected electronically. The Chief Secretary directed to achieve hundred percent electronic receipts of the taxes during the current FY.

OPCC President Niranjana Patnaik admitted to hospital for routine check-up

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjana Patnaik has been admitted to Medanta Hospital for a routine check-up. "There have been reports regarding my health. I want to assure everyone that I am fine and have admitted myself for a routine check up. Thank you all for your wishes," Patnaik said on Twitter.

No Entry Into Puri Srimandir For Devotees From Outside Odisha Without COVID -Ve Report

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Apr 16: Besides restricting general darshan at Srimandir for two days a week, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) today decided that devotees coming from outside Odisha will have to mandatorily show RT-PCR negative report for entry into the shrine. Devotees visiting the temple from outside Odisha will have to produce RT-PCR negative report (not old than seven days) or certificate of two doses of vaccination before entering the temple. This



was decided at the Chhatisa Nijog meeting held virtually today under the chairmanship of SJTA Chief Krishan Kumar. The meeting that discussed on revised SOP also decided that

devotees will no more be allowed into Bhitara Katha for darshan of the deities. Besides, three teams consisting of police personnel and officials of the district and temple administrations

will be formed to strictly enforce the COVID-19 guidelines, including wearing of mask and use of sanitizer inside the temple. The shrine will remain shut for devotees on every Saturday and

Sunday with effect from April 24. The entire temple, barricades as well as Bada Danda will be sanitized on these two days to break the chain of the virus' transmission.

Don't indulge in panic buying: BMC Commissioner to Bhubaneswar residents

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary on Friday urged citizens of Bhubaneswar not to indulge in panic buying and stockpiling of essential items as there will no scarcity of resources and essential commodities in the markets. The Commissioner has appealed to the citizens after it was noticed that people thronged to various markets in the city last night soon after the State Government announced night curfew and weekend shutdown in urban centres in 10 districts bordering Chhattisgarh due



to a spike in the Covid-19 cases. "I request you all not to hoard and go for panic buying. I assure that there will be no short of essential items such as milk, edibles, medicines etc. in the city. Therefore, citizens of Bhubaneswar should not indulge in panic buying of these

items and overcrowding at marketplaces," appealed Chaudhary in a video message. Seeking cooperation of the public to contain the spread of the COVID-19, the BMC Commissioner has further said people can go for online shopping and prefer home delivery

of items instead of going to markets for daily shopping to avoid the crowd. "We will ensure that there is no dearth of supply of essentials. And, please do not believe any rumours and hoax messages on social media and personal messaging platforms regarding complete

shutdown or market closure." Meanwhile, the Commissioner has asked people to strictly follow COVID-appropriate behaviour such as wearing of face mask, maintaining hand hygiene and social distancing to break the chain of infections. It has been observed that the spike in the city is largely due to laxity in the observance of COVID-appropriate behaviour by people especially in crowded places, especially market areas. Notably, the night curfew will be imposed in Bhubaneswar between 9 PM and 5 AM from tomorrow as per the state Government order.

Police To Take Gangster Hyder On 7-Day Remand

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Apr 16: The Mangalabag police will take gangster Sk Hyder on remand for seven days from tomorrow as the JMFC Court here today granted permission for the same. The gangster, who had escaped from police custody while undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College & Hospital here on April 10, was yesterday nabbed by the Commissionerate Police from Sangareddy district in Telangana. Hyder was today brought back to Odisha and produced before the court. He was later sent to the Choudwar Circle Jail here.



Sports hostels across Odisha to be closed from April 19

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: In the wake of rising Covid-19 cases across the State, Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha, will close its Sports Hostels across Odisha from April 19 till

the time the situation improves to reopen them. Sports hostels In-charge have been entrusted to intimate parents, especially of lower-age boarders to take their wards from the hostels. In case of any difficulty in the travel

of boarders, they will also facilitate their safe return home. During the period of closure, Sports Hostel In-Charge will be present at their respective hostels and utilise this period to curate and conduct sports specific



workshops and coach development programmes. Speaking on this, Minister for Sports & Youth Services, Odisha, Tusharkanti Behera, said, "The health of all our sports hostel boarders is paramount and we

will ensure they are home safe and soon. Sports hostel In-Charge will be in constant touch with their respective boarders and assist in their development through virtual modules and also keep enforcing the need for adherence to Covid 19

guidelines, even when they are away from the hostels. Once the situation eases, they will be intimated much in advance and we will facilitate their return to the sports hostels, their home away from home."

EDITORIAL

Matters of faith

Can devotion alone, in the absence of precautions, protect one from deadly contagions like COVID-19? Even as lakhs of devotees throng the Kumbh Mela venue every day in Haridwar, with practically non-existent observation of the COVID-appropriate behaviour including face masks and social distancing, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat kicked up another controversy by saying that the Coronavirus won't infect the pilgrims. The corollary to his logic: The devotees are "our own people" (read Indians) spread over a "vast open area" and "Ma Ganga's blessings will ensure the devotees' well-being". His reasoning flies in the face of all expert warnings and empirical evidence — the authorities detected 1,701 COVID-19 cases between April 10 and 14 at the congregation. Rawat's pearls of wisdom sprang forth when some sceptics dared to compare the largest human gathering in India to the Jamaat at the Nizamuddin Markaz, which was tainted in April last year as the "hotspot" and "epicentre" of the COVID-19 cases in Delhi and across India. He said the Kumbh was different because the Tablighi event was organised in a small enclosure, with several overseas attendees and when the Markaz was held, neither was there much awareness about Corona nor were any guidelines. Coming from a Chief Minister who had tested positive for the viral infection on March 22 before winning the battle against it in early April, it seems that some people, and unsurprisingly the politicians, have so thick a skin that they don't learn any lessons from even personal experiences. India is currently being battered by a rapidly spreading second wave of the pernicious virus and here we are, throwing all sense and caution to the winds amid a sea of humans. One shudders to think of what may happen at the Kumbh if the virus spreads like wildfire and when these lakhs of asymptomatic devotees head back to their homes all across India and unknowingly become the delivery agents of the contagion. Experts have already warned that such a large gathering in the midst of a raging pandemic can prove to be catastrophic and severely impede India's fight against the deadly disease that has claimed millions of lives globally. Yes, Mr Chief Minister, the matters of faith can't and shouldn't be ignored but can these be subservient to the right to life and the joys of good health? That really is the question.

Walk the talk

Only lip service won't do, the netas must follow COVID-appropriate behaviour at all times. The pandemic has upended all the notions of life, as we knew it, from personal hygiene to societal behaviour to health to economy, but the one bulwark it has failed to burst through is the way our politicians think and act. There should be no double standards in dealing with the raging contagion but unfortunately this duality is a trait quintessential to our politicians. Though the Government is fastidiously dealing with the rising COVID-19 cases, it has literally turned a blind eye to the situation in the States currently undergoing polls, where the COVID-appropriate behaviour is a disregarded casualty. During their public rallies, road shows and campaigns, almost all political leaders and their minions overlook measures like wearing masks, maintaining social distance and other protocols. For these power-hungry politicians, the vote of any individual is more important than his/her life — hence, they have scant concerns if the COVID protocols stand in the way of their votes. Despite repeated warnings by the Election Commission, the ground condition hasn't ameliorated. But there are good examples to be had from most of the politicians abroad who — discounting the likes of ousted US President Donald Trump and Brazil's strongman President Jair Bolsonaro — aren't dyed in the same wool. For instance, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson earlier this year put off his India visit, where he was to be the chief guest at this year's Republic Day parade, because the number of COVID-19 infections in his home country shot up exponentially and he chose to stay with his constituents to alleviate their fears. Now, again, Johnson has decided to curtail his India trip later this month because of the virus situation in England. Johnson said the rapid drop in the COVID-19 deaths in the UK was because of the three-month lockdown and not so much because of the vaccination. We don't know whether he has any empirical evidence to back his claim, but the fact remains that the condition in his country has steadily improved while India has consistently been climbing the chart of the worst-hit countries, lagging behind only the US at the number two position, for now. Our leaders, therefore, should be ashamed of facing the electorate, for whatever it is worth, rather than milling with them to garner votes. God forbid, but if they do contract the virus — as has become the lot of a host of them — they immediately quarantine themselves in the best of medical institutes and access the best of medical care, of course at the cost of the taxpayers' money. But what about the fate of the poor masses that they leave behind, afflicted? It is for several similar reasons that after almost winning the war against COVID, we are again pinned down on the mat; thanks partly to our insouciance and largely to our political leaders. All the festivals, including the celebration of democracy, can be cherished in the real sense only when the nation's people remain healthy and enjoy their basic right to life.

Socio-economic divides in 2021

As a nation, we must tear down all the obstacles that impede the participation of women in the economy, even those of the mind. Along expected lines, the post-COVID economic data point to a widening of three pre-existing divides: The gender divide, increasing asymmetries between the incomes of the rich and the poor, and an increasing rural-urban digital divide. As each of these inequalities are subjects that need targeted policy interventions, the focus in this post is on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Report 2021, wherein India has slipped to the 112th ranking among 153 countries. India, home to 0.65 billion women, has widened its gender gap from 66.8 per cent a year ago to 62.5 per cent this year. The decline is seen on multiple sub-index parameters, like the labour force participation falling from 24.8 per cent to 22.3 per cent; the share of women in senior managerial positions being as low as 14.6 per cent; estimated earnings being one-fifth of men; the political empowerment index has regressed by 13 per cent wherein ministerial berths for women have declined from 23.1 per cent in 2019 to 9.1 per cent. Gender equality is a basic human right enshrined in our Constitution and its achievement has multiplier socio-economic benefits. India is committed to the timelines of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations which place gender parity at the heart of bringing a gender perspective to all development initiatives. However, the COVID-triggered economic stress will defer the timelines for achieving the SDGs by 2030. The post-pandemic



Bindu Dalmia

policy initiatives require increased gender-specific budgeting and recovery strategies: The Modi Government's flagship schemes that positively impacted women during the first term are an outcome of closely aligning with the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) norms of the 'UN Women'. The GRB is a globally-followed "best practice" among nations which allocates fiscal expenditure with specific gender perspectives. Though the Magna Carta of Women (1999) required that the Governments allocate at least five per cent of the GDP to address gender issues, the amount allocated towards women's welfare has stagnated in recent years. The Union Government releases the 'Gender Budgeting Statement' consisting of two parts. The first part reflects women-specific schemes in which 100 per cent allocation is only for women. The second part reflects pro-women schemes in which 30 per cent of the allocation is for women. In the recent years, while some schemes have achieved transversal benefits like

the Jan Dhan Yojana, DBT and MNREGA, specific gender-targeted schemes have made significant improvements in the socio-economic living conditions of women. However, the funds allocated for the GRB are limited to less than five per cent of the public expenditure, and shrink to about one per cent of the GDP, making it necessary to significantly increase these budgetary outlays. The NITI Aayog estimates that India will have to increase its gender-specific spend by an additional 6.2 per cent to comply with the SDG targets. Upskilling women to adapt to the changing nature of jobs: The job market has undergone a tectonic shift since COVID, so the nine-to-five model is no longer the future. Deloitte's research shows that economic contraction is nudging companies towards hiring experienced freelancers. Data point to the fact that this gig work model has found a growing traction, with 78 lakh women who had earlier dropped off from work have sought to revive their careers as the WFH concept has

opened the floodgates for those who hold professional degrees combined with robust work experience. Therefore, while automation will displace many jobs, it will also create 90 million flexi-jobs in the next 10 years, according to the Boston Consulting Group. Second, as self-employment and micro-entrepreneurship is expected to grow at an annual rate of 17 per cent and projected to reach \$455 billion by 2023, State and cooperative banks must readjust their models to disburse loans at lower rates for priority sector lending to women because the data show that women have stronger saving habits and lower non-performing loans than men. As most women lack collateral and credit history to access formal lending, we need innovative ways to build credit history. How much has gender inequality stunted India's economic progress? The lack of equal ownership of land, access to formal credit, the unfamiliarity of women with the latest technologies, high educational dropout rates as well as inequitable household and unpaid workload distribution have impeded Indian women's economic prosperity. Gender inequality has, therefore, translated into enormous notional capital losses for India. The economic impact of achieving optimum levels of gender equality in India is estimated to be \$700 billion of the added GDP by 2025. The IMF estimates that equal participation of women in the workforce will increase India's GDP by 27 per cent. There is clear evidence: "When women do better, economies do better. That means we must tear down all obstacles that impede the participation of women in the economy, even the subconscious obstacles of the mind."

Minority report: Polarisation in the Bengal polls could have repercussions for the state's politics

Christophe Jaffrelot, Kalaiyarsan A

The ongoing elections acquire significance not only because they may define the state and the country's future, but the limits of the BJP and its Hindutva juggernaut could also be tested. The ongoing assembly elections in West Bengal acquire significance not only because they may define the state and the country's future, but the limits of the BJP and its Hindutva juggernaut could also be tested. Ironically, Muslims, constituting 27 per cent of the state's population, could have a big role in deciding this fate. Muslim votes matter in 125 assembly constituencies where they are more than 20 per cent and in not less than 59 constituencies where they constitute more than 40 per cent. Fifteen years ago, the Sachar committee exposed the abysmal condition of Bengali Muslims. Their representation in public employment was just 2.1 per cent, against their population of 27 per cent — the lowest ratio in the country. Our own analysis ("The myth of appeasement", IE April 20, 2018) showed that since the Sachar committee submitted its report, Muslims have been losing out to other marginalised communities like Dalits and Hindu OBCs in terms of income, jobs and education. However, in West Bengal, while Muslims remain marginalised vis-à-vis other communities, including Dalits, they have indeed gained in public employment — so much so that Muslims getting regular jobs has generated anxiety among the bhadralok. According to the NSSO-Employment-Unemployment Survey (EUS) 2005, 2012 and PLFS (Periodic Labour Force Survey) 2018,

Muslim representation in government and public sector employment has jumped from 6.7 per cent in 2006 to 9 per cent in 2012 and 17 per cent in 2018. The increase came at the expense of Hindu upper castes, whose share dropped from 63 per cent in 2006 to 53 per cent in 2012 and 47 per cent in 2018. The share of Dalits remained constant at 20 per cent while that of Adivasis increased from 3.5 per cent in 2005 to 6.9 per cent in 2018. These figures are in sync with the percentage of Muslims in regular salaried jobs, which increased from 10 per cent in 2012 to 16 per cent in 2018. They are also in sync with the increased representation of Muslims in teaching positions, an influential occupational group in Bengal politics. As per the All-India Survey of Higher Education, Muslims accounted for 3.12 per cent of college teachers in 2012-13 and 7.8 per cent in 2018-19. Muslim teachers constituted just 4 per cent in all universities of West Bengal in 2012-13, but this proportion almost doubled to 7 per cent in 2018-19. Most Muslims in West Bengal are "lower"-caste converts. They are, therefore, entitled to post-Mandal reservations. Following the Sachar committee, the Left-led governments added a few Muslim communities in the OBC list. Mamata Banerjee not only increased the OBC reservation from 10 to 17 per cent but added as many as 99 Muslim communities in the OBC list. Besides the increased visibility of Muslims in public offices, the TMC regime has

also opened social space for Muslims. Their increased visibility is significant, given the state's history — as Atul Kohli puts it, whether "radical, conservative or reformist, modern Bengali politics has been dominated by an upper caste, well-off, educated minority". As a result, Muslims rallied behind the TMC and got something in return. Kolkata got its first Muslim mayor in independent India in 2018. In state assemblies, their representation increased from 14.3 per cent in 2001 to 20 per cent in 2011 and 2016. The TMC fielded as many as 53 Muslim candidates — 18 per cent — in 2016. The party's vote share among Muslims in the Lok Sabha elections increased from 40 per cent in 2014 to 70 per cent in 2019. But all this could have boomeranged on the TMC. Cowing down to BJP's vitriolic attack of Muslim appeasement, Banerjee has not only cut down the number of Muslim candidates by one-third but has granted allowances and housing to Brahmin priests — a symbolic gesture. At the same time, the BJP has exploited the anxiety of the bhadralok and has made religious polarisation a central poll issue. The party is fighting the election on two planks: One, to restore "Sonar Bangla" to its Hindu past and two, preventing "West Bengal from becoming West Bangladesh", a reference to Muslim refugees. The BJP never misses an opportunity to accuse the TMC government as tees pratishat ki sarkar (a government of the 30 per cent), referring to the Muslim population. The Samyukta

Morcha — a coalition of the Left Front, the Congress, and the Indian Secular Front (ISF) — could damage the TMC's prospects by splitting Muslim votes. The coalition has fielded maximum Muslim candidates — 66 of 294. In fact, in about 60 Muslim-dominated constituencies, where Muslims constitute more than 40 per cent, there is a triangular contest between the TMC, Morcha and BJP. In some constituencies in South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Hooghly, which were Left bastions and the regions where Muslim cleric Abbas Siddiqui enjoys wider support, the battle is between the Left and TMC. The TMC won 11 of the 14 parliamentary seats from this region in 2019. The coalition has resisted the entry of Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) in the state. It has also renewed confidence among the Left supporters who voted for the BJP in the last election in desperation. The jump in BJP's vote share from 10.2 per cent in the 2016 assembly elections to 41 per cent in 2019 parliamentary election was correlated with the decline in the Left's vote share — from 27 per cent to 7.5 per cent. The Left believes that its supporters, including Muslims, will come back to its fold, if they are given security from the violence of TMC. Despite its virulent communal campaign driven by its growing popularity among Dalit refugees, it is not going to be easy for the BJP either. The fact that it inducted TMC leaders who the BJP had been accusing of corruption charges, hasn't gone down well with its own party members.

Cold Drinking Water is inaugurated by the Young Youth Club



Rengali, Apr 16: Cold drinking water has been inaugurated at the market complex of Shiva Mandir, Lapanga Bus Stand,

Rengali Block, Sambalpur District. The inaugural function was inaugurated by Lunga Sarpanch Prashant Guru under

the supervision of Pintu Behera, President of the Young Youth Club, at the market complex in Lopanga on Friday.

Three minor girls rescued from human traffickers



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 16: Motu police rescued three minor girls on

Thursday, while they were being trafficked for Andhra Pradesh. The girls have been

identified as the native of Sorishamal village under Malkangiri block limit. Police rescued the girls at Motu Check post from a bus that was leaving for Andhra Pradesh, after a tip off from an informant. A broker lured them to employ at a paper mill in Andhra Pradesh assuring more wages. Child Welfare Committee handed them over to their parents after counselling.

Night curfew at Urban and Rural of MalKangiri

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 16: the second phase of the Karona epidemic intensifies, all the cities in the district are on the night today as per the instructions of the state government and the decision of the district magistrate. As per the decision of the district magistrate, all urban and rural shop markets in Malkangiri district will be open nightly from 6 pm to 5 am the next day.

This time emergency service institutions, government employees, police, doctors, Ambulance, medicine shops, and this ban has been identified for other shops. From today, all fast food shops in the district will be closed and all shops, markets and business establishments of the district municipality and NAC will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays all week. In addition, all

government and private educational institutions and hostels have been closed since 19:04: 2021 No coaching can be done through coaching through offline. Only Virtual or Online coaching services can be provided. With a maximum of 50 people at the wedding and 20 people in the process of death ceremony, all can organize with the compliance of the Covid guidelines.



Two Areas In Odisha's Rourkela Declared Micro Containment Zones



(A.O. Bureau) Rourkela, Apr 16: Following detection of several COVID-19 positive cases, the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) today declared two areas in Sector 1 and Sector 20 as micro

containment zones. The areas are: H-Block quarter number 313 to 340 and quarter number 353 to 380 of Sector-1 and B-Block quarter number 123 to 130 and quarter number 133 to 140. Measures will be taken

for active contract tracing and to contain spreading of the deadly virus, said RMC Commissioner Dibyajyoti Parida. Here're the guidelines: All vehicular movements, both public transport and personal

movement, will be stopped. All the inhabitants within the containment zone will be strictly asked to remain indoors. All the shopping establishments will remain closed with immediate effect. Supply of essen-

tials and medical requirements will be ensured through various teams formed by Town Services Department, Rourkela Steel Plant, SAIL-Rourkela. All Govt and Private institutions within the boundary of the containment zone will be closed forthwith. Essential Services will be ensured through Town Service administration of RSP-SAIL. The containment order will remain in force till further orders, said the RMC. It is pertinent to mention here that Sundargarh district today reported 523 positive cases, second highest in the state after Khordha (534).

3 Women Dead As Mound Of Limestone Caves In

(A.O. Bureau) Koraput, Apr 16: In a tragic incident, three women died and another suffered grievous injuries after a huge mound of limestone caved in while they were digging a portion of it at Podaguda under Pottangi block in the district today. However, identities of the deceased have not been ascertained. Report-



edly, the four women were collecting the limestone by digging the mound for their household purpose when the mishap took place. On receiving information, police and district officials reached the spot for an inquiry. Meanwhile, the injured has been rushed to Pottangi Community Health Centre (CHC) for treatment.

Odisha Imposes Section 144 In This Urban Area Amid COVID Spike

(A.O. Bureau) Nuapada, Apr 16: With the Nuapada district transformed into one of the hotspots in Odisha following steep rise in COVID-19 cases day by day, the district administration imposed Section 144 in Khariar NAC to restrict unnecessary movement of public. In view of sharp increase in COVID positive cases, Nuapada Sub-Collector Taranisen Naik issued an order under 144 (1) of CrPc pro-

hibiting congregation and movement of public in Khariar NAC for six days with effect from 6.00 AM of April 17 to 6.00 AM of April 22. During the period, all the shops will remain closed and public movements will be strictly restricted in the areas under Khariar NAC. Here's what will be

the SRC, Odisha. In violation of restrictions, the offenders will be punished as per the provision under IPC, Disaster Management Act and under sections 2,3,4 of the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 framed under the Odisha COVID-19 Regulations 2020 for prevention and containment of Coronavirus disease SARS-COVID-2. It is pertinent to mention that the night curfew is already in force in Nuapada district



allowed during the period of restrictions: Medical stores, LPG gas, petrol pumps and other emergency services. No restrictions on movement of vehicles including ambulance, medical vehicles and other government vehicles engaged for public service. Marriage and funeral rituals will be observed adhering to instruction issued by

since April 4. Yesterday, the State Government has revised the timing of the night curfew to strictly restrict the movement of vehicular traffic and public during night hours. Besides, the weekend shutdown has been announced in urban areas of 10 districts including Nuapada with effect from April 17 till further orders.

restricted during the

Woman Sarpanch disqualified for not knowing to read and write Odia in Bhadrak

(A.O. Bureau) Bhadrak, Apr 16: A woman Sarpanch of Daisinga gram panchayat was disqualified from her post by the district court for providing not knowing to read and write odia language in Bhadrak district today. The accused has been identified as Parvati Majhi, who contested the Panchayat election in 2017. During the election, the man who lost to Parvati as the closest rival, Bagan Singh accused her of not knowing to read and write Odia language following which she becomes ineligible for contesting the election un-



der Article 11 of Gram Panchayat Act. Keeping aside the accusations, Parvati was allowed to contest the election in which she emerged vic-

torious. Further, Bagan Singh filed a petition in Munsif court of Bhadrak in this regard where the Civil Judge (Junior Division) passed a judgment in support of Parvati declaring her eligible for being Sarpanch in 2018. Aggrieved by the decision, the petitioner later challenged the judgment passed by the Civil Judge (Junior Division) in the District Judge court. After examining all the qualifications certificates the District Judge dismissed the judgment passed by Civil Judge and disqualified Parvati from her post. "Parvati Majhi was allowed to contest the election without fulfilling the eligibility criteria as she does not know how to read and write Odia due to which Bagan Singh

filed a petition in Munsif court where the judgment was passed in favour of Parvati Majhi without proper verification. However, having resentment over the decision, the petitioner challenged the judgment of the Civil Judge in the District Court where the court defied the previous judgment and disqualified Parvati Majhi from her post," said advocate Sanatan Dixit. The judge ordered the Election Officer to take the required steps to fill up the vacant Sarpanch post of the Gram Panchayat in accordance with law at the earliest, he added.

Missing young woman found dead in well

(A.O. Bureau) Nischintakoili, Apr 16: A 21-year-old woman, who had gone missing, was found dead inside a well at Rahanua under Mahanga police limits in Cuttack district today. The deceased has been identified as

Jyotipriya Nayak of the same village. According to the sources, Jyotipriya was missing since Thursday. Her family members searched for her at various places in the locality, but in vain. Following which her



family had lodged a missing complaint with the police. Though the reason behind the death was yet to be ascertained, it is being suspected that the girl was murdered and the body was thrown into the well.

Vicky Kaushal tests negative for Covid-19, thanks fans for their wishes

New Delhi, Apr 16: Vicky Kaushal thanked his fans for their wishes. Earlier this month, the actor had shared the news that he had tested positive for the virus. Actor Vicky Kaushal on Friday shared with his fans that he has tested negative for Covid 19. Taking to Instagram, he posted a smiling picture of himself and captioned, "negative" followed by a hug emoji.



On Instagram Stories, he shared a note against a grey background, "Tested negative today. Thank You for your lovely wishes and messages. My prayers for all who are recovering. Stay safe!" The Uri actor on April 5 asserted that he has tested positive for Covid 19, adding that he would quarantine at home. He wrote, "In spite of all care and precautions, unfortunately, I have

tested positive for COVID-19. Following all essential protocols, I am under home quarantine, taking medication as prescribed by my doctor. I request all those who came in contact with me to immediately get tested. Take care and stay safe." Vicky's post on Friday comes after a little over 10 days after contracting the coronavirus. The 32-year-old actor had

Rohit Saraf, among others. Earlier, Amitabh Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Malaika Arora, Arjun Kapoor, and several others also got infected. The actor has several movies in the pipeline, including Sam Bahadur, a film based on the life of India's first Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, Sardar Udham Singh biopic and The Immortal

been shooting for Dharma Productions' Mr Lele in Mumbai. The film stars actor Bhumi Pednekar who also tested positive for the virus too. Subsequently, the film's shooting was halted. In the last couple of weeks, a number of actors had contracted the virus. Named into Akshay Kumar, Alia Bhatt, Katrina Kaif, Ranbir Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Govinda, and

Ashwathama. Vicky had earlier shared a sneak peek of his archery training for the movie The Immortal Ashwathama. The Raazi actor hopped on to Instagram to share a picture in which he is seen practising the skill of archery with a bow and arrow. His film Takht with Karan Johar has been put on the back burner. It was to take off in February last year.

Jasmin Bhasin says her relationship with Aly is still new, ships the name Jasly

New Delhi, Apr 16: Jasmin Bhasin and Aly Goni have been a fan-favourite couple ever since they were seen together on reality show Bigg Boss 14. Bigg Boss 14 contestant Jasmin Bhasin has said she needs to wait and watch how her equation with Bigg Boss 14 co-contestant and boyfriend Aly Goni turns out. She also said it is only recently that "something like love" started brewing between them. Jasmin and Aly are often spotted together during outings. They also feature in each other's social media posts. Asked to come up with a title for a music video on her and Aly's love story, Jasmin told Bollywood Hungama, "Yaar abhi



to naya naya kuch shuru hua hai love jaisa. Abhi to dekhna hai kaisi jaati hai. Fir hi to title soch paungi na (Something like love only started recently, we need to see how it goes. Only then will I

be able to think about a title)." However, she endorsed the name Jasly, after it was suggested to her. Jasmin and Aly were seen together on Bigg Boss 14. At first, they insisted they are just

good friends, but soon fell for each other. Both confessed their feelings for each other while on the show. In fact, Aly cried so much upon Jasmin's eviction from the show that Salman Khan had tears in his

eyes. Post Bigg Boss 14, the couple has appeared together in a music video. They have been travelling together to various destinations for each other's work related trips as well.

Arjun Kanungo plans to wait for 2022 for his grand wedding with on his marriage plans with Carla Dennis

New Delhi, Apr 16: The ongoing pandemic has wreaked havoc on Arjun Kanungo and Carla Dennis' plans of a big grand wedding, leaving them wondering about a possible date. The singer says they are trying to figure out a date in early 2022, so that everyone can join them in the celebration. In November 2020, the singer made his engagement news with long-time girlfriend and model Dennis official. "I've wanted to ask her for so long. Couldn't wait any longer, so I did," he wrote on Instagram

alongside a photo. At that time, he was looking at a wedding date in 2021, but with the Covid-19 crisis touching new highs in India, and he reveals they have pushed the plans. "We are still figuring it out. We definitely want to have a big wedding. I don't know when that's going to happen," Kanungo tells us, adding, "But we are planning in early 2022. Because we still don't know when the pandemic will end. It is still going on. Abhi toh chalta hai hogaya hai... and that is why the cases are on a rise at the moment". The



singer is looking at a date next year, keeping in the health of everyone in mind, and "so that everyone will be able to travel. It will be better at that time". Meanwhile, on the work front, Kanungo, known for songs such as Aaya Na Tu, Baaki Baatein Peene Baad and

Waada Hai, will also be making his debut as an actor this year with Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai. He is also busy working on his music. "I have recently gone completely independent, and I am figuring out what to do. I'm done writing my album right now. I

also have some film songs, which I have sung, but due to the pandemic everything has kind of slowed down a bit," admits the 30-year-old, who further points that the pandemic has put film music on a back seat now. "Everybody is listening to non film music, to the music which people are making in their bedrooms and kind of over the internet. Now, it has become a big category. Like when I started five years ago, it was very difficult to pitch a non film track, in fact, to radio also.

Here's how good dental health helps prevent heart infection from mouth bacteria

New Delhi, Apr 16: Good oral health is more important than the use of antibiotics in dental procedures for some heart patients to prevent a heart infection caused by bacteria around the teeth. Maintenance of good oral health is more important than the use of antibiotics in dental procedures for some heart patients to prevent a heart infection caused by bacteria around the teeth, according to a new American Heart Association (AHA) scientific statement published in the association's flagship journal, Circulation. Infective endocarditis (IE), also called bacterial endocarditis, is a heart infection caused by bacteria that enter the bloodstream and settle in the heart lining, a heart valve or a blood vessel. It is uncommon, but people with heart valve disease or previous valve surgery, congenital heart disease or recurrent infective endocarditis have a greater risk of complications if they develop IE. Intravenous drug use also increases the risk for IE. Viridans group streptococcal infective endocarditis (VGS IE) is caused by bacteria that collect in plaque on the tooth surface and cause inflammation and swelling of the gums. There's been concern that certain dental procedures may increase

the risk of developing VGS IE in vulnerable patients. The new guidance affirms previous recommendations that only four categories of heart patients should be prescribed antibiotics prior to certain dental procedures to prevent VGS IE due to their higher risk for complications from the infection: 1. those with prosthetic heart valves or prosthetic material used for valve repair; 2. those who have had a previous case of infective endocarditis; 3. adults and children with congenital heart disease; or 4. people who have undergone a heart transplant. "Scientific data since the 2007 AHA guidelines support the view that limited use of preventive antibiotics for dental procedures hasn't increased cases of endocarditis and is an important step at combating antibiotic overuse in the population," said Walter R. Wilson, M.D., chair of the statement writing group and a consultant for the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. It has been over a decade since recommendations for preventing infective endocarditis were updated amid concerns of antibiotic resistance due to overprescribing. The American Heart Association's 2007



guidelines, which presented the biggest shift in recommendations from the Association on the prevention of infective endocarditis in more than 50 years, more tightly defined which patients should receive preventive antibiotics before certain dental procedures to the four high-risk categories. This change resulted in about 90% fewer patients requiring antibiotics. The scientific statement writing group reviewed data on VGS IE since the 2007 guidelines to determine if the guidelines had been accepted and followed, whether cases of and mortality due to VGS IE have increased or decreased, and if the guidance might need to be adjusted. The writing committee reports their extensive review of related research found: 1. There was a good general awareness of the changes in the 2007

guidelines, however, adherence to the guidelines was variable. There was about a 20% overall reduction in prescribing preventive antibiotics among high-risk patients, a 64% decrease among moderate-risk patients, and a 52% decrease in those patients at low- or unknown-risk. 2. In a survey of 5,500 dentists in the U.S., 70% reported prescribing preventive antibiotics to patients even though the guidelines no longer recommend it, and this was most often for patients with mitral valve prolapse and five other cardiac conditions. The dentists reported that about 60% of the time the antibiotic regimen was recommended by the patient's physician, and 1/3 of the time was according to patient preference. 3. Since the stricter 2007 antibiotic guidelines, there is no convincing evidence

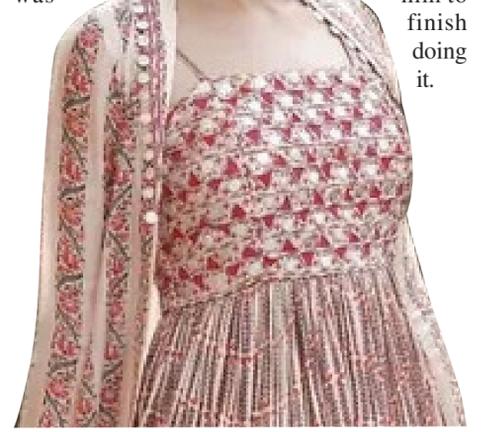
of an increase in cases of VGS IE or increased mortality due to VGS IE. 4. The writing group supports the 2007 recommendation that only the highest risk groups of patients receive antibiotics prior to certain dental procedures to help prevent VGS IE. 5. In the presence of poor oral hygiene and gingival disease, VGS IE is far more likely to develop from bacteria attributable to routine daily activities such as toothbrushing than from a dental procedure. 6. Maintenance of good oral hygiene and regular access to dental care is considered as important in preventing VGS IE as taking antibiotics before certain dental procedures. 7. It is important to connect patients with services to facilitate access to dental care and assistance with insurance for dental coverage, especially in those patients at high risk for VGS IE. 8. It is still appropriate to follow the recommendation to use preventive antibiotics with high-risk patients undergoing dental procedures that involve manipulation of the gum tissue or infected areas of the teeth, or perforation of the membrane lining the mouth.

Mira Rajput shares her latest mantra: 'Hear no evil'

Mumbai, Apr 16: Mira Rajput gives fans a sneak peek of how she spends her afternoons. In her photo on Friday, she is seen wearing nude makeup and floral stud earrings. Mira Rajput gave fans a glimpse of her Friday afternoon and also shared her new mantra. Taking to Instagram she posted a selfie with the caption, "Hear no evil." In the photo, she is seen wearing nude makeup and floral stud earrings. Mira often gives fans a sneak peek of how she spends her afternoons. On Wednesday, she tried on quirky handmade jewellery. In her Instagram Stories, she was seen wearing bracelet, rings and a neckpiece. She captioned her stories "afternoon in the girls club" and "quite a masterpiece". She had also shared a post in which she was seen trying to make gulkand, a sweet preserve of rose petals, along with her daughter. On Monday, she

had shared her pictures wearing a black top and blue jeans. Perched on a makeup chair, Mira was seen frowning in the first picture and giving a wide smile in the second photo. She asked her fans about their Monday mood. Mira and her husband, Shahid Kapoor, got married in 2015 and have two children -- daughter Misha and son Zain. In the recent past, she had shared a video of how her son had ruined her makeup supplies. She captioned, "Hey guys! So today when I was

getting ready for my live, and could not find my makeup sponge. Guess where I found it? Inside an empty, inflatable swimming pool! Looking like this." She showed the sponge, which looked dirty and was also torn. Recently, she shared a picture with Shahid but they were wearing masks and helmets. Shahid, who is known to be an avid biker, was seen helping his wife wear her helmet in a correct way. She was seen patiently waiting for him to finish doing it.



Nortje out of quarantine after false COVID-19 scare

Mumbai, Apr 16: Delhi Capitals pacer Anrich Nortje on Friday came out of his hard quarantine that was extended by a couple of days following a false COVID-19 positive report. The Proteas speedster, a star performer for DC in the last edition, had tested positive for COVID-19 while in quarantine. But was re-tested and came out negative in three RT-PCR results. "Our pace superstar is now out of quarantine. After a false positive result for COVID-19, Anrich Nortje tested negative thrice, and is now part of our team bubble. We can't wait to see him in action," DC tweeted from its official handle. "It's nice to be out of the room and see everyone at breakfast. Excited to get to training today," Nortje said in a video posted by the franchise. "It will be nice to go back to the stadium and it's nice that the IPL is happening in India. It's exciting to get back on the field." Nortje's case



is the second such instance of false COVID-19 positive report in the ongoing IPL. Kolkata Knight Riders' opener Nitish Rana had endured a similar turn of events. Nortje and Kagiso Rabada had arrived in Mumbai on April

6 and started their quarantine with a negative report. However, just as they were supposed to enter the team bubble from their hard quarantine, Nortje's first report came out a positive, which eventually turned out to be a false alarm.

Not completing Ashwin's quota of overs probably a mistake: Ponting

Mumbai, Apr 16: Not giving off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin his full quota of overs was "probably a mistake", Delhi Capitals coach Ricky Ponting conceded after his side went down by three wickets in the IPL clash against Rajasthan Royals here. Ashwin conceded just 14 runs and no boundaries in his three overs after being brought in following the powerplay on Thursday night when DC were defending a modest 148. With two left-handers -- David Miller (62) and Rahul Tewatia (19) -- in the middle, new skipper Rishabh Pant introduced Marcus Stoinis in the attack instead of continuing with Ashwin in the 13th over. The Australian conceded 15 runs which included three fours, taking RR from 58/5 to 73/5 to effectively shift the momentum. "That's certainly something that we will talk about when I get a chance to sit down with the team. He had bowled beautifully.

Three overs, none for 14. Hadn't even conceded a boundary," Ponting said in the virtual press conference. "He had a disappointing game in game one, but he has worked really hard in the last few days to make sure he adjusted and got things right in this game. "I thought he bowled beautifully tonight. Probably a mistake on our behalf, and something we will be talking about later on." The Royals needed 58 from the last five overs. Morris smashed four sixes in the last two overs during his quick-fire 18-ball 36 to take the team home with two balls to spare. "We probably gave him (Morris) a few too many easy balls, a few too many slot balls if you like," Ponting said. "The length wasn't quite where it needed to be. If you look at the replay of the game, if you bowled a reasonable yorker, he didn't score off them. "If it was back of a length, sort of, above stump high, he



didn't get hold of them either, especially with pace on the ball. We talked about how to bowl to him, but the execution probably wasn't there." Ponting said dew was a factor in the second innings as bowlers found it difficult to grip the ball. "The other thing you have got to factor in is just how wet and how dewy the ball was in the second innings of the game," Ponting said. "It wasn't easy for the bowlers to grip. You could see it at the end there. There were a few full tosses that fast

bowlers bowled with the ball slipping out of their hand a little bit. "That's part and parcel of IPL cricket. We knew coming here that there will be a little bit of dew in the second half of the game. And we didn't adapt, and we didn't execute as well as we could have tonight." The former Australian skipper said errors in the last four overs cost them the match. "Till around the 13th-over mark in our bowling innings, the second innings of the game, everything was going ac-

ording to plan. We made a few errors coming in the last four or five overs of the game. "When you are a little bit off against any team in the IPL, just bowl a couple of bad balls or just a couple of those here and there, it is quite often the difference in the outcome. We didn't get things right at the back end tonight." Ponting was impressed with pacer Avesh Khan's performance in the last two games. "He has been ultra impressive. Physically he has lost a bit of weight. He is bowling faster, his action is better, his line and length, variations have been excellent," he said. The 24-year-old has provided early breakthroughs, claiming five wickets so far in the two games. "He has grabbed his opportunities with both hands. Spending time with the Indian team ahead of the IPL has helped him. He is has been a real find for us." Delhi Capitals will next play against Punjab Kings on Sunday in Mumbai.

Million Dollar winner

Mumbai, Apr 16: David Miller's combative 43-ball 62 and Chris Morris' timely onslaught (36 not out) powered Rajasthan Royals to a dramatic three-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in their IPL match, here on Thursday. Opting to bowl, RR pacer Jaydev Unadkat took three wickets for 15 runs to restrict the Capitals to 147 for eight. Miller then anchored the Royals' chase but it was Morris whose blitzkrieg took Royals home with two balls to spare. It is Royals' first win of the season. The Royals were 17 for 3 in the fourth over and 52 for 5 at the halfway mark. They needed 58 from the last five overs and 12 from the final over. Morris ended the run chase with a six off Tom Curran. Royals' run chase was, however, in tatters as soon as it started. Chris Woakes removed openers Manan Vohra (9) and Jos Buttler (1) in a space of three balls in the third over. In the next over, Kagiso Rabada dismissed the dangerous Royals captain Sanju Samson -- the only centurion so far this season -- with Shikhar Dhawan taking the catch at the slip. Shivam Dube (2) perished while



playing an unnecessary uppish shot at a length ball off Avesh Khan with Dhawan taking his 78th catch of the IPL. The same pair worked in tandem two overs later with Dhawan taking his third catch of the day after Riyan Parag (2) had miscued an Avesh Khan delivery. The Royals were 52 for 5 at the halfway mark and by then the asking rate has gone up to nearly 10 an over. But, Miller and Rahul Tewatia (19) kept the Royals in the hunt with a 48-run stand for the sixth wicket before Rabada came back to give the much-needed breakthrough for the Capitals. Earlier, a brilliant three-wicket burst from pacer Jaydev Unadkat helped RR restrict DC to 147 for eight. Unadkat (3/15 off 4 overs) dismissed Prithvi Shaw, Shikhar

Dhawan and Ajinkya Rahane to trigger DC's top-order collapse from which they never recovered fully. Captain Rishabh Pant's blistering 32-ball 51, studded with nine fours, was not enough as DC could only post a modest total after being put in to bat. DC made a disastrous start as they were two wickets down for 16 runs in the fourth over with Unadkat dismissing the opening duo of Shaw (2) and Dhawan (9) cheaply. Shaw was the first to go in the second over, caught at backward point before Dhawan perished while attempting a ramp shot with RR captain and wicketkeeper Sanju Samson taking a stunning diving catch to his right. Ajinkya Rahane's (8) underwhelming IPL form continued as he

offered an easy caught and bowled chance to Unadkat with a slow ball that clocked just 110km per hour. DC were 36 for 3 at the end of power-play but the slump continued as Marcus Stonis (0), foxed by a Mustafizur Rahman (2/29) delivery, checked his shot at the last minute to offer a running catch to Jos Buttler. The run rate started increasing once captain Pant came to the crease but still DC were 57 for 4 at the halfway mark. Once he had a full measure of the pitch, Pant opened up and hit four boundaries, three of which were consecutive, to take 20 runs from the 11th over bowled by Rahul Tewatia. Pant, in excellent form this year, reached to his fifty off 30 balls in the 12th over, with a four off

Mustafizur but he was run out the next over with bowler Riyan Parag's throw crashing onto the stumps. Delhi were 88 for 5 then. After Pant's exit, Tom Curran gave some respectability to the DC innings with a 16-ball 21. to give the much-needed breakthrough for the Capitals. Earlier, a brilliant three-wicket burst from pacer Jaydev Unadkat helped RR restrict DC to 147 for eight. Unadkat (3/15 off 4 overs) dismissed Prithvi Shaw, Shikhar Dhawan and Ajinkya Rahane to trigger DC's top-order collapse from which they never recovered fully. Captain Rishabh Pant's blistering 32-ball 51, studded with nine fours, was not enough as DC could only post a modest total after being put in to bat. DC made a disastrous start as they were two wickets down for 16 runs in the fourth over with Unadkat dismissing the opening duo of Shaw (2) and Dhawan (9) cheaply. Shaw was the first to go in the second over, caught at backward point before Dhawan perished while attempting a ramp shot with RR captain and wicketkeeper Sanju Samson taking a stunning diving catch to his right.

Bowlers take centrestage in Kings face-off



Mumbai, Apr 16: Chennai Super Kings would look for inspiration from skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and a much-improved bowling effort when they take on a power-packed Punjab Kings at Wankhede Stadium on Friday. The two sides experienced contrasting fortunes in their respective tournament opener. While CSK lost by seven wickets against Delhi Capitals, Punjab Kings eked out a four-run win over Rajasthan Royals in a high-scoring thriller. With the dew playing a crucial role at Wankhede, the side winning the toss would want to bowl first. In their first match here, despite failures from the opening duo of Rituraj Gaikwad and Faf du Plessis besides skipper Dhoni, CSK managed to put up a decent total on the board. But the Chennai outfit's bowling unit looked completely out of sorts and clueless against Shikhar Dhawan and Prithvi Shaw, who were ominous from the word go and stitched a 138-run stand to take the game away from CSK. The likes of Deepak Chahar, Sam Curran, Shardul Thakur, Jadeja and Moeen Ali all went for big runs and looked rusty. And come Friday, the onus would be on master tactician Dhoni to inspire his teammates

to lift their performance and give Punjab Kings, on the other hand, had a narrow escape against RR the other despite posting a mammoth 221 for 6 on the board. Opening the batting, KL Rahul played a captain's knock of 91 off just 50 balls. He was ably supported by big-hitting Chris Gayle (40 off 28) and Deepak Hooda (64 off 28). For Punjab Kings and Rahul, batting is not at all area of concern as they showed with their performance in the opener, but just like CSK, the bowling unit remains a major worry despite spending big money at the auction. And Rahul definitely won't be a happy man with the performances of his bowlers against Rajasthan Royals. Young Arshdeep Singh (3/35) eventually emerged as Punjab's saviour. Needing 13 runs off the last over, the left-arm pacer gave away just eight runs to pull off a fine win for his team. Besides Arshdeep, veteran Mohammad Shami (2/33) too had a decent outing with the ball but the performance of Australian pace duo of Jhye Richardson (1/55) and Riley Meredith (1/49) should be a concern for Punjab, having shelled out `22 crore for their services.

BCCI Central Contracts: Virat, Rohit, Bumrah remain in top bracket; Pandya promoted to grade A

New Delhi, Apr 16: The star trio of India captain Virat Kohli, his white-ball deputy Rohit Sharma and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah retained their top bracket BCCI con-

tracts, worth Rs 7 crore each, even as some fast-rising youngsters were also rewarded by the Board on Thursday. A total of 28 cricketers were awarded central contracts in four cat-

egories. All-rounder Hardik Pandya is one of the notable promotions to Grade A, which is worth Rs 5 crore, while rookies Shubman Gill and Mohammed Siraj have got their maiden

central contracts worth Rs 1 crore in Grade C. Among the demotions, pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has dropped to Grade B, which is worth Rs 3 crore, while Kedar Jadhav has been

dropped for good. The list of BCCI's annual contracts: GRADE A+ (Rs 7 crore): Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah. GRADE A (Rs 5 crore): R Ashwin, Ravindra

Jadeja, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya. GRADE B

(Rs 3 crore): Wriddhiman Saha, Umesh Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Shardul Thakur, Mayank Agarwal. GRADE C (Rs 1 crore): Kuldeep

Yadav, Navdeep Saini, Deepak Chahar, Shubman Gill, Hanuma Vihari, Axar Patel, Shreyas Iyer, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Siraj.

GMR launches 'AeroCity' at Hyderabad Airport

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: Infrastructure major, GMR Group has launched GMR AeroCity Hyderabad as part of its vision to provide world-class infrastructure in India. GMR AeroCity Hyderabad is unfolding a landmark urban form that is competitive, attractive, and sustainable. Being developed as an urban landscape with an International airport at its core, it brings speed, agility and connectivity as unique business propositions. GMR AeroCity Hyderabad offers a gateway airport with growing air connectivity, passenger traffic and best in class logistics hub with smart technologies in place. Spread across 1500 acres, GMR AeroCity Hyderabad is envisaged to be an integrated mixed-use development, which includes key ports and establishments, viz. Business Park, Retail Park, Aerospace and Industrial Park, Logistics Park, Hospitality etc. It also provides complete living and working experience, with support infrastructure including schools, healthcare, rental accommodation, leisure & entertainment. Identifying the gap in quality leisure, retail, fun and entertainment avenues, GMR Group is conceptualising a Lifestyle destination retail project "GMR Interchange" to enable LIVE/WORK/PLAY at the GMR AeroCity Hyderabad campus. Various entertainment avenues under proposal include a Cinema and a Family Entertainment Centre to be part of the Interchange project. A Hospitality district is also being planned to cater to the multitude of demand coming from various users of AeroCity. GMR Business Park housed in GMR AeroCity Hyderabad offers varied office real-estate solutions like ready to move-in Grade-A offices and Built-to-Suit Campuses. It offers best in class infrastructural support for the prospective and existing businesses viz. redundancies

built in Telecom, Power & IT infrastructure for 24/7 operations; dedicated power link-up with the state grid for reliable power supply, round the clock three-tier security system comprising of RAXA, State police and CISF, express connectivity with the city; pollution free and well-planned ecosystem. Spanning around 1 Million sq.ft of leasable area, spread over four Towers (being developed in phases, with Tower 1 fully occupied and Tower 2 ready for occupancy), GMR AeroCity Hyderabad has been seamlessly designed for the future business corridor. The Business Park is an ideal choice for DR, BCP sites, Grade A offices, Network Planning offices, Sales Office, R&D etc. The facilities such as food court/gymnasium/retail bank branch/proposed health centre and an airport public plaza will ensure that employees have all social amenities with in their office campus making it a highly enriching work environment for the employees. "Hyderabad AeroCity is creating a paradigm shift in the way of doing business in India. It offers connected, smart and sustainable workspaces with optimum leasing depths to maximize workspace design efficiency. Being part of Airport ecosystem, which has won many accolades over the years from national & international bodies for its service and infrastructure superiority and consistency, Hyderabad AeroCity also provides unparalleled ease of doing business to its trusted partners, who love to focus on their core business, leaving behind issues of infra, facilities, security etc. Decentralised developments like the Hyderabad AeroCity is a perfect example of a thoroughly master planned development to efficiently handle the teething issues and enable the city users to experience a safe & rewarding Work & Living environment," said Mr Aman Kapoor, CEO, GMR Airport Land Development (ALD).

NALCO gets mining lease for Utkal-E coal block



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna CPSE, and leading producer of alumina and aluminium in the country has been granted the mining lease of Utkal-E coal block. The lease has been granted by the Department of Steel & Mines, Government of Odisha, through a notification issued on April 12. As per the notification, the mining lease of Utkal-E coal block is over an area of 523.73 Ha in villages

Nandichhod, Gopinathpur Jungle, Kundajhari Jungle, Kosala & Korada under Chendipada Tahasil of Angul District. The initial capacity of Utkal-E coal block is 2 million tonnes per year with a total mineable reserve of approx. 70 million tonnes. Worth mentioning that NALCO has already executed the mining lease for the Utkal D Coal block in March 2021. With the grant of Utkal D & E coal blocks, the total mineable coal reserve of the Company will be

175 million tonnes, which will be pivotal in meeting the coal requirement of its Captive Power Plant at Angul, Odisha. On behalf of NALCO collective, Shri Sridhar Patra, CMD of the Company has thanked the State & Central Governments for sanctioning the mining lease and said that the NALCO team is very optimistic on starting the mining operation from Utkal-D coal block in this financial year. "With the grant of the mining lease of Utkal E coal block, the planned expansion activities of the Company will get a boost and will contribute significantly to the bottom line of



Shri Sridhar Patra, CMD NALCO

NALCO", he said. It may be noted that initially NALCO will be able to produce 4 million tonnes coal per year from the operation of Utkal-D & E coal blocks. The lease for Utkal-D & E Coal block has been granted to NALCO for a period of 30 years.

Tata Steel Mining Limited plans to double its Ferro Chrome capacity



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: Tata Steel Mining Limited (TSML), formerly known as TS Alloys Limited and a 100 per cent subsidiary of Tata Steel Limited, is firming up plans for aggressive growth in its Ferro Chrome manufacturing capacity in

India from 450,000 tonnes per annum at present to 900,000 tonnes per annum in the near future. TSML had acquired three Chromite mines in the 2020 mineral auctions, namely Sukinda Chromite Mine, Saruabil Chromite Mine and Kamarda

Chromite Mine, for which leases were granted for 50 years. The mines have now been operational with an annual capacity of over 1.5 million tonnes making the Company the largest player in Chrome ore mining in India. The idea behind the initiative is to use

the Chromite Ore optimally to make Ferro Chrome to serve its growing base of Indian and global customers, who are in the business of manufacturing stainless steel. D B Sundara Ramam, Vice President Raw Materials, Tata Steel, and Chairperson, Tata Steel Mining Limited, said: "We will take the organic as well as the

inorganic route to augment our Ferro Chrome manufacturing capacity in India, leveraging the strength of the good quality of Chrome Ore availability. This will make TSML the top Ferro Chrome player in India and among the top-five globally. It makes sense to focus on value addition and convert the chrome ore to ferro chrome."

Two More Special Trains Through ECoR Jurisdiction



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 16: Special Trains Towards Mysore & Vasco-da-gama From Howrah - Ministry of Railways has decided to run two more Special Trains between towards Mysore and Vasco-da-Gama from Howrah through

East Coast Railway jurisdiction as per the following. Howrah - Vasco - Da - Gama - Howrah Special: 08407 Howrah - Vasco - da - Gama - Howrah Special from Howrah will leave at 2330hrs on every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

& Saturdays between 17th to 29th April, 2021 and will arrive at Vasco-da-Gama at 1545hrs on next 2nd Days. In the return direction, 08408 Vasco-da-Gama - Howrah Special from Vasco-da-Gama will leave at 0650hrs on every Sun-

day, Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays between 20th April to 2nd May, 2021 and will arrive at Howrah at 2325hrs on the following days. This train will provide stoppage at Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Brahmapur, Palasa, Srikakulam Road, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and Duvvada in East Coast Railway and important nominated Stations between Howrah & Vasco-da-Gama from both the directions. Howrah - Mysore - Howrah Special: 08117 Howrah - Mysore - Howrah Special from Howrah will leave at

1615hrs on every Friday between 23rd to 30th April, 2021 and will arrive at Mysore at 0350hrs on next 2nd Days. In the return direction, 08118 Mysore - Howrah Special from Mysore will leave at 2345hrs on every Sunday between 25th April to 2nd May, 2021 and will arrive at Howrah at 1055hrs on the next second days. This train will provide stoppage at Bhadrak, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Brahmapur, Palasa, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam in East Coast Railway jurisdiction and important nominated Stations between Howrah & Mysore from both the directions.

Rs 110 crore ROPAX Jetty Project to come up on river Dhamara

(A.O. Bureau) Dhamara, Apr 16: Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) has accorded administrative approval for sanction of Rs 50.30 crore for developing all-weather ROPAX (Roll-on/Roll-off Passenger) Jetty and allied infrastructure connecting Kaninali in Bhadrak district & Talachua in Kendrapada district, Odisha under the Sagarmala initiative. The Government of Odisha will fund another 50% cost of the project. The total capital cost of the project is Rs 110.60 crore which includes construction of RO-PAX Jetty at Kaninali and Talachua, utility infrastructures such as parking area development, navigational aids and dredging. This project will reduce travel time for passengers from 6 hours by road to 1 hour by waterway. The development of the existing ghat with all-weather ROPAX jetties is being carried out with intent of accommodating boats, launches and other vessels as well as to ply vessel having capacity to carry 10 light motor vehicles, 20 Motorbikes along with 60 passengers at a time, simultaneously ensuring

safety of all passengers and vehicles. The project will facilitate indirect employment opportunities to locals around Dhamra river and reduce road distance of ~200km from Talachua to Dhamra. Kaninali in Bhadrak district and Talachua in Kendrapada district, are located on the northern and southern banks of River Dhamra respectively. The people of Talachua and nearby villages largely depend upon Dhamra port for their livelihood, which is approximately 4 kms from Kaninali Ghat. Since there is no connectivity through roads, the local population depends upon passenger ferries at ghats of Kaninali and Talachua to cross the river (a stretch of 7 Km). Currently, Number of passenger vehicles move through private boats without safety and passengers face difficulty in embarking and disembarking from launches on an everyday basis. This project will enhance the safety of passengers and vehicles with state-of-the-art utility infrastructure. The connectivity will increase the commercial and business activities and uplift the socio-economic status of the surrounding region.

Project SAKSHAM is Women Empowerment initiative of Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga

(A.O. Bureau) Lapanga, Apr 16: Project SAKSHAM is Women Empowerment initiative of Aditya Aluminium under its Corporate Social Responsibility. The project started in 2019 with approx. 72 SHGs supported and adopted by Aditya Aluminium. In FY 2020-21, the total SHGs under them umbrella of Project SAKSHAM has increased to 100 numbers with 1080 women SHG members in the ambit. As the project name is self-explanatory, Aditya

company aims at creating alternate livelihood opportunity of these 1080 women by inculcating confidence that they can become entrepreneurs. Presently the women are involved in non-farm activity like mushroom cultivation, turmeric processing, phenyl making, Ujala making, Handwash Making, detergent, Namkeen Making, broom making etc. In the year FY 2021-22 we have plans to introduce Poultry, Piggery, Dairy, Duck Rearing as com-



mercial activity that will increase household income by 10% per annum. Today 300 Ducklings have been purchased by 12 SHG women members of

Orampada SHG group for income generation activity under Project Saksham. It was a proud moment. They bought it from their savings to invest in business. It is

paradigm shift in the mindset of the womenfolk and real step towards breaking dependency syndrome. Aditya facilitated backward forward linkage for the ac-

tivity along with training and capacity building. The SHG women have placed order for 150 more duckling as it is a lucrative business with low investment and high

return. 1 duck gives approx.. INR 1500/- return per annum by selling duck egg. There is huge demand of duck egg in the market as presently market is short by 2000 eggs per day. The women plan to supply 1000 eggs from Orampada by the end of the year and develop a hatchery to reduce dependency of ducklings for self and other SHG members. Shri Sesadev Padhan Sarpanch Bomoloi was present on the occasion of duckling distribution and

appreciated Aditya Aluminium Effort towards making the women SAKSHAM by promoting income generation activity. Mrs. Sweta Upadhyay Head CSR & RR and CSR team were happy to start the initiative but got delayed due to COVID.. Trainer cum Supplier Mr. Birendra Pradhan from Sambalpur has been very supportive in the. Veterinary department will hand hold in vaccination, Capacity building and monitoring.