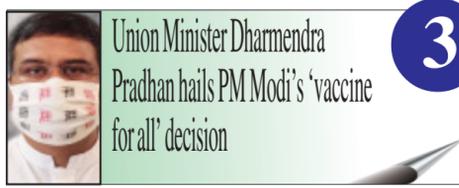




Former PM Manmohan Singh tests positive for Covid-19, admitted to Delhi AIIMS

2



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan hails PM Modi's 'vaccine for all' decision

3



Kangana Ranaut talks of parents' love story on their wedding anniversary

6



India Open badminton in Delhi postponed due to relentless COVID-19 second wave

7

BJD Will Not Hold Any Rally In Pipili: CM Naveen Patnaik Weekend Shutdown Imposed In Urban Areas Of Odisha



Bhubaneswar, Apr 19: In the wake of rising coronavirus cases in Odisha, Odisha CM and BJD

supremo Naveen Patnaik have announced to not hold any rally for Pipili bypolls. He

tweeted, "Every life is precious and I always consider people of #Odisha as my family members. In this ex-

tremely serious #COVID19 situation amidst a surge in cases in the country, Biju Janata Dal

Odisha has decided not to hold any public rallies or campaign meetings in the Pipili bypoll. BJD as a responsible party will not like to put the lives of people in danger. We contest elections to serve people. If the campaign has the potential to endanger lives, I would earnestly appeal to political parties & the Election Commission of India to reconsider both the duration & method of campaigning. India is a mature democracy and together we can come out with a solution. Democracy is by the people, for the people, and of the people. Jai Hind.

Bhubaneswar, Apr 19: The Odisha government announced to impose weekend shutdown in all urban areas of the State to contain the spread of deadly coronavirus. Special Relief Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena said during the weekend shutdown all activities shall be closed except the following: • All medical establishments including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, including medicine stores, movement of Ambulance and all medical personnel. • District and Municipal Administration/police/Fire Services • Central & State Government officials on emergency duty • Telecom services • Petrol pumps • LPG distribution, home delivery of cooking gas and associated facilities, associated • personnel and vehicular movement • Print and Electronic Media identified by Commissionerate/ District police • Water Supply, sanitation and sewerage workers • Electricity supply and distribution • Movement of goods and goods carriers, whether loaded or unloaded • Industrial establishments, factories and construction activities • Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Veterinary Services and

allied activities, including procurement at Mandis • Service sector industries, including IT/ITeS, Hotel & Hospitality units. Operation of hotels and hospitality units, including their associated offices, movement of staff and associated personnel • Movement of rail and air transport • Road transport on highways, road movement of transiting vehicles • Movement of Public Transport, private vehicles and taxis (including cabs by aggregators like Ola, Uber, etc.) to and from airports, railway station and bus terminals/stands/ltops, for facilitating movement of passengers by air, rail and road • Marriages and Funerals, with permission of local authority • ATMs and critical financial institutions like RBI, clearing Houses • Operations of Airports, Railway Stations, Bus Terminals and their associated offices, movement of associated personnel and activities • Home Delivery of food, groceries, vegetables and essential items by restaurants and aggregators such as Zomato, Swiggy, etc. • Dhabas along National and State Highways/ Major roads for takeaway only • Milk booths and related activities • Food & Gro-

cery stores such as Reliance Fresh, Big Bazaar, Chilika Fresh and others for home delivery only • Newspaper hawkers between 5.00 am to 8.00 am only. The SRC further stated no pass would be required for movement of above category of persons. Valid travel documents/ authorisations such as airline/ railway/ bus ticket or boarding passes, with any identity proof shall be adequate for the purpose. The identity cards issued by appropriate authorities of the establishments shall serve as pass for effecting movement of employees of establishments under permitted activities. He added patients and their attendants/ persons requiring emergency need for movement shall be allowed to move with minimal proof of their emergencies. The official said night curfew will continue to be imposed in Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Balangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Koraput and Malkangiri districts from 6 PM to 5 AM every day. The restrictions have been imposed from 6 PM of April 17. Also, night curfew will continue to be in force in all urban areas of other districts of the state, from 9 PM to 5 AM every day.

COVID-19: Odisha records highest single-day spike with 4445 fresh cases, four deaths

Bhubaneswar, Apr 19: The daily caseload surpassed the highest single-day spike of 4356 cases recorded on September 25 during the first wave of the pandemic. With a far more infectious coronavirus strain sweeping the country, Odisha reported 4445 new cases, a jump by over 20% in a day, besides four deaths in the last 24 hours. The daily caseload surpassed the highest single-day spike of 4356 cases recorded on September 25 during the first wave of the pandemic. The test positivity rate also soared to 12.28% with the testing of around 36,175 samples. While two districts have registered more than 509 cases and six districts over 200 cases each, five districts have recorded above 100 cases each. Seven districts are now Covid hotspots with more than 1000 active cases. Districts border-



People stand in a long queue for tests at Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar

ing Chhattisgarh continued to dominate the tally with Sundargarh contributing 722 cases, Nuapada (437), Kalahandi (273), Sambalpur (241), Jharsuguda (231), Bargarh (178), Balangir (168) and Nabarangpur (127). Ten border districts logged 2407 cases accounting for 54% of the new infections. The surge is continuing amid the restrictions like night curfew and weekend shutdown in these districts. Apart from the border districts, the twin cities Bhubaneswar and

Cuttack and pilgrim town Puri have been witnessing significant rise in infections. As many as 587 cases were detected in Khurda (including Bhubaneswar), 251 in Cuttack, 219 in Puri, 123 in Balasore and 100 in Mayurbhanj. Four persons, including two from Sundargarh and one each from Jharsuguda and Keonjhar succumbed to the disease pushing the cumulative death toll to 1948. Two among them in their 40s died without having any

comorbidities. Of the total 3,72,703 confirmed cases, 3,46,134 patients have recovered so far. The active cases stand at 24,568. A railway employee was found hanging in his official quarters in Rayagada a day after he had tested positive for Covid-19. He was in home isolation following the advice of doctors. He is suspected to have taken the extreme step after losing his mental balance. Further investigations are on. Officials said 50 persons associated with the Jagannath

temple at Puri including 22 servitors and their family members, nine staff of the temple administration staff and 19 shoe keepers, tested positive for the virus. Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition and senior BJP legislator Pradipta Kumar Naik has also tested positive for Covid-19 days after electioneering for the Pipili bypolls. He has appealed to people who have come in contact with him in the last five days to get themselves tested, isolated and take necessary precautions. The Odisha government on Monday imposed stricter restrictions on congregations by capping the number of participants in events like weddings at 50 while only 20 are allowed for funeral related gatherings. All hostels of schools and colleges will remain closed and inter-state bus services suspended until further orders.



Weather Alert: These Odisha Dists Likely To Experience Thunderstorm Today

Bhubaneswar, Apr 19: The Regional Meteorological Centre today issued thunderstorm warning for as many as 16 districts of Odisha. "Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Gajapati, Ganjam,

Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Angul, Rayagada, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and dry weather very likely to prevail over the rest districts of Odisha, it forecasted. No large change in Maximum temperature (day temperature) during next 4-5 days over the districts of Odisha, it added.

Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Angul, Rayagada, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and dry weather very likely to prevail over the rest districts of Odisha, it forecasted. No large change in Maximum temperature (day temperature) during next 4-5 days over the districts of Odisha, it added.

Covid-19 vaccine for all above 18 from May 1

New Delhi, Apr 19: Vaccination will be opened to all above 18 years from May 1. This was announced by the Centre today after PM Narendra Modi's review on Covid-19 situation in the country. All adults will be vaccinated and states can buy vaccines directly from makers, the Centre said. The Government of India has announced that vaccine manufacturers would supply 50% of their monthly doses to



Government of India and the remaining 50% doses

to States Governments and in the open market.

Modi today interacted with doctors across the

country via video conferencing on the Covid-19 issue and vaccination progress. Modi appreciated the doctors, medical and para-medical staff for their invaluable service towards the country during the coronavirus pandemic. The PM said that vaccination is the biggest weapon in the fight against coronavirus. He urged the doctors to encourage more and more patients to get vaccinated.

British PM Cancelled India Visit

New Delhi, Apr 19: In view of the explosive situation of Corona, the British PM has canceled his India tour on Boris Johnson. Boris Johnson was scheduled to visit India on 25 April. Britain's opposition Labor Party had questioned PM Johnson, why can't he have an online meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss bilateral relations? Please tell that Boris



Johnson has canceled his trip for the second time in a row. Earlier on January 26 too, he could not come as the chief guest because of

Corona. According to the information, Steve Reid of the Labor Party had said, 'The UK government is telling people not to travel if it is not necessary and I do not understand why PM Boris Johnson does not discuss the zoom meeting with the Indian government. can do. In this era, many of us do it here. I think the PM and those who are in public life should set an example.'

Congress fuelled vaccine hesitancy, played with lives of countrymen: Harsh Vardhan responds to Manmohan

New Delhi, April 19: A day after former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on fighting Covid-19, Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan on Monday asked Dr. Singh to urge Congress party members to follow his advice and show "gratitude" for the work done in fighting the virus. On Sunday, Singh wrote to PM Modi saying that the country is "facing an unpre-

your view." Some of the suggestions made by the former prime minister, Vardhan wrote, were already implemented by the Centre. "The point about allowing import of vaccines has already been approved by credible foreign authorities. You made this suggestion on April 18 and a decision about this was already taken a week before on April 11," the letter read. Vardhan also hit out at Congress party members



edented emergency" and asked the Centre to make public details of the orders placed by the Government for Covid vaccine doses and indicate the strategy for them to be distributed in a transparent manner. In a detailed reply to Singh's letter, Vardhan wrote, "It is saddening, Dr Singh, that while you very well understand, the importance of vaccination as an important method of fighting Covid battle, people in responsible positions in your party as well as in the state government formed by your party do not seem to share

for what he said was their "lack of gratitude" over India's vaccine journey. "It is shocking that senior members of the Congress party are yet to utter a single word of gratitude towards our scientist community and vaccine manufacturers for innovating under trying circumstances and empowering the world with vaccines." Instead of showing a sense of pride, Vardhan went on to say, the Congress has taken "extraordinary interest in spreading falsehood regarding the efficacy of these vaccines. Therefore, Vardhan alleged, Congress "fuelled vaccine hesitancy" and "played with the lives of countrymen." "The irresponsible pronouncements made by some of your leaders have resulted in a below national average vaccination coverage of senior citizens and even frontline workers in some Congress-ruled states,"

Only 37 % Frontline Workers Took Coronavirus 2nd Dose

New Delhi, Apr 19: So far, only 37 percent of health and front-line workers have received two doses of the vaccine amidst the growing infection of the Coronavirus. The government had set a target of 3 crore at the time of starting the vaccination campaign. Apart from this, only 91 lakh front line personnel have received the

first dose of vaccine. Let us know that on January 16 this year, PM Modi had given the green signal to the vaccination campaign. According to the English newspaper Times of India, only 2.36 crore health and front line personnel had registered to take the vaccine. If seen, so far 47 percent of registered health and front line



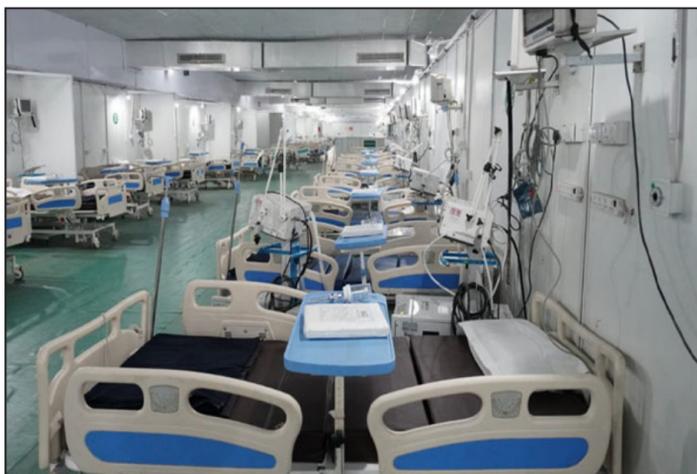
personnel are getting their first dose of vaccine. That is, this number is still half. It is being said that people's interest is also responsible for this slow pace. People were initially hesitant to take the vaccine. Later, all doubts related to the vaccine were cleared by the government and doctors. Despite this, many people were afraid of taking the vaccine.

DRDO Hospital To Have Uninterrupted Oxygen Supply Amid Covid-19

Lucknow, Apr 19: A makeshift hospital being set up by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in Lucknow is likely to have their own oxygen supply with the help of a technology that is used in the light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas fighter jets. This is the first time that the self-sustainable oxygen generation

shift hospital is being set up at Avadh Shilpgram. The hospitals that are likely to get ready by next week would have nearly 250-300 beds each and would be run by the doctors, nurses and support staff of Armed Forces Medical Services. According to sources, DRDO has developed a medical oxygen plant as a spin-off

be used to activate oxygen plants at Covid hospitals." The technology, which has been developed by DRDO's Defence Electromedical and Bio-Engineering Laboratory (DEBEL), breaks down molecular components of the atmospheric air to provide continuous oxygen to the pilot within the aircraft for long duration and in high altitude



technology for fighter pilots would be used in makeshift hospitals in Uttar Pradesh. Union Defence Minister and Lucknow MP, Rajnath Singh, had sent a team of DRDO officials to the state capital last week to start the process for setting up of hospitals at Haj House and Golden Blossoms resort. The make-

technology of the 'Onboard oxygen generation system' (OBOGS) of the LCA Tejas. A senior official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said: "This technology can provide medical grade oxygen round-the-clock at a high flow rate catering to at least 50 ventilator ICU beds. This technology will

flights. Once set up, the technology would help in continuous supply of oxygen to critical Covid patients, refilling of oxygen cylinders and eradicating logistical problems related to cylinder transportation from one point to another, thereby reducing the increasing burden on the demand for oxygen in Covid hospitals.

6-Day Lockdown In New Delhi: Kejriwal

New Delhi, Apr 19: In the wake of the unabated resurgence of new Covid-19 cases in the national capital, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday declared a six-day lockdown starting from 10 p.m. tonight till 6 a.m. on April 26. He made the announcement during a televised address in which he said the fourth wave of the pandemic in Delhi has brought healthcare services to the brink of collapse. "In order to prevent a total collapse,



LG Anil Baijal and I took this decision. And in this duration, essential services will be allowed and more beds

will also be set up," the Chief Minister added. As the city logged around 23,000 coronavirus cases in the

last 24 hours, Kejriwal and Baijal held a meeting earlier in the day to discuss the overall situation. "I won't say our

health system has collapsed but it is at an alarming stage due to the resurgence," Kejriwal further said, adding the overall situation in the city was critical. On Sunday, he had stated that less than 100 ICU beds were available in Delhi and there was a shortage of Oxygen too in Delhi's hospitals. Sisodia and Jain visited several government hospitals till late at night on Sunday. Delhi on Sunday reported over 25,000 new cases.

Former PM Manmohan Singh tests positive for Covid-19, admitted to Delhi AIIMS

New Delhi, Apr 19: Dr Manmohan Singh was admitted to AIIMS in May last year as well after he complained of chest pain. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has tested positive for Covid-19 and admitted to the trauma center of All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in Delhi on Monday. Singh was admitted to AIIMS in May last year as well after he complained of chest pain. In 2009, the veteran Congress leader was operated for a redo bypass cardiac surgery by cardiovascular thoracic surgeon and vice-chairman of the Asian

Heart Institute, Dr Ramakant Panda. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wished the former PM a "speedy recovery". "Dear Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji, Wishing you a speedy recovery. India needs your guidance and advice in this difficult time," he tweeted. Senior leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor said, "Sorry to hear this. Wishing Dr ManMohan Singh a speedy & complete recovery. He has become the conscience-keeper of the nation in these challenging times. We all need him to be well."

Allahabad HC pulls up UP govt over Covid surge, orders lockdown in five cities

Lucknow, Apr 19: "Those in the helm of affairs of governance are to be blamed for the present chaotic health problems," the HC said as it imposed the restrictions aimed at containing the spread of the coronavirus in the state. With the Covid-19 curve showing no signs of easing in Uttar Pradesh, the Allahabad High court on Monday ordered a lockdown in five cities till April 26 and castigated the state

Uttar Pradesh, the High Court ordered the lockdown in Prayagraj, Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur and Gorakhpur. "Those in the helm of affairs of governance are to be blamed for the present chaotic health problems," the HC said as it imposed the restrictions aimed at containing the spread of the coronavirus in the state. The Court observed that though putting lockdown to public activities was a matter,

we have not imposed a lockdown it does not mean that we do not believe in it. We are still of the view that if we want to break the chain a lockdown for a duration of at least two weeks is a must." "It is a shame that while the Government knew of the magnitude of the second wave it never planned things in advance," said the two-judge bench. The court also directed the state to "consider imposition of

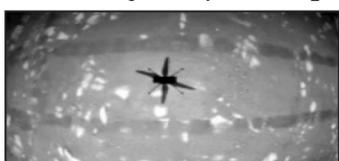


government for the "present chaotic health problems", Live Law reported. Noting that the surge in cases under the second wave of the infections has virtually paralysed all the medical infrastructure of

purely in the nature of policy decision by the concerned government, the court had to step in since UP government had not yet chalked out any concrete plan to tackle the situation. In its order, the court said, "If

a complete lockdown in the entire state for at least a period of two weeks". "This would not only break the chain of the spread of the virus but would also give respite to health workers," it opined.

NASA Ingenuity Helicopter Successful Flight On Mars



New Delhi, Apr 19: The agency has had a major success on Monday as part of an ongoing campaign by the US space agency NASA (Mars) to search for life and water on Mars. NASA has informed

that the Mars Helicopter, which was sent to Mars through Perseverance Rover on its behalf, has made its first successful flight there. This is the first time a helicopter has been flown on any other planet. NASA has also released its video. The flight of NASA's Ingenuity helicopter to Mars was also broadcast by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. It can be seen in the video that the Ingenuity helicopter kept flying on Mars for a few seconds.



Trinity undergoes purification after blood spills inside Srimandir

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Apr 19: In an unprecedented incident, Lord Jagannath and his siblings had to undergo the ritualistic purification through Maha Snana (bath) on Sunday as a fight between two police personnel led to blood spilling on the temple floor. Soon after offering of 'Madhyahna dhupa' (lunch) at around 1.20 pm, a scuffle broke out between two Jagannath temple police (JTP) personnel identified as Gangadhar Pradhan and Manoj Panigrahi. In a fit of rage, Gangadhar allegedly hit Manoj with a wooden stump. Manoj sustained bleeding injury on his head. As blood spilled on the floor at Beheran Dwar



(door) near 'Bhitar Kath', servitors had to perform the 'Maha Snana' ritual. As per the temple tradition, if blood stains are found in the 'Garbha Gruha', 'Bhitar Kath' or 'Bahar Kath', the purification is observed and the interior of the shrine cleansed in a ritual called 'Sodha'. Sources said Manoj was rushed to the district headquarters hospital and is being treated for head injury. Till filing of the report, no complaint was lodged by either of the

JTP personnel with Simhadwar police. Only the servitors were present in the temple discharging their duty when the incident took place as the shrine is closed for devotees on Saturdays and Sundays due to the prevailing Covid situation. JTP is the security wing of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA). There are over 100 JTP personnel along with regular police deployed by the State government in the temple. Taking a serious note of the incident, chief administrator of SJTA Dr Krishan Kumar has asked the temple officials to investigate the matter and file a report fixing responsibility by Monday.

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Aug 19: Ekamra Cultural Publishing House has canceled the Lingaraj Bhajan Mandap at the Lingaraj Bhajan Mandap for four days. The event, organized in collaboration with the Odisha Cultural Department, the Eastern Zone Cultural Center (EZCC) and various non-governmental organizations on the occasion of Srilingaraja's Rukuna Rath Yatra, is attended by 500 artists from outside the state. president and (MLA) Suresh Kumar Rautaray,



Sanat Mishra, General secretary of the organizations, told a news conference today that the Covid cut-off program had been suspended due to the refusal to attend any institutions this year. This will be done in a grand ceremony after the corona is removed next year. This year, however, Section 16 will be suspended on the road, so no devotees will come. Lingaraj Sahoo, the institute's coordinator, urged the media to be vigilant and watch the rath yatra in various media outlets.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan hails PM Modi's 'vaccine for all' decision



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 19: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision

to open vaccination of all above 18 years from May 1. Besides, the Centre today announced that vaccine manufacturers would supply 50% of their monthly doses to Govern-

ment of India and the remaining 50% doses to States Governments and in the open market. "Welcome PM @narendramodiji's decisive step to accelerate the #Largest Vaccination Drive. #Vaccination4All above the age of 18 from May 1 will further strengthen our preparedness against #Covid19 & go a long way in ensuring safety & well-being of everyone in these difficult times," Pradhan tweeted.

Drive against hoarding of Covid supplies

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 19: The State level committee on preventing hoarding and black marketing of essential Covid-19 supplies has decided to launch a joint enforcement drive to check such malpractices. At a meeting chaired by YK Jethwa, ADG of Crime Branch and chairman of the committee, here on Sunday, a strategy was chalked out to intensify enforcement activities throughout the State to



prevent any hoarding of essential supplies including Covid-19 treatment drugs. "Joint flying squads, surveil-

lance teams and surprise checking teams comprising enforcement wing of the Drugs Controller, police and

Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch will be part of the drive," said a senior official. The committee

is keeping a close watch on the entire network including manufacturers, stockists, delivery agents and the hospitals. The panel also urged the citizens to come forward and report if they notice any hoarding of the essential Covid supplies. On Friday, the State government had constituted the three-member committee to strictly monitor the market and take preventive action against possible hoarding.

Traffic Advisory Issued For Rukuna Ratha Jatra In Odisha Capital Tomorrow

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 19: In view of the Ashokastami car festival (Rukuna Ratha Jatra) of Lord Lingaraj to be held here tomorrow, the Commissionerate Police today issued a traffic advisory to ensure better convenience and in the larger interest of public safety. No vehicle will be allowed on Rath road from Mausii Maa Chhak.



They will be diverted either towards Museum Chhak or Vivekananda Marg. No vehicle will be

allowed on Rath road from Barik Sahi lane, Maharana Sahi lane, Gosagareswar Chhak, Sital Sasthi lane, Tinimundia Chhak, Marchandi lane, Muna medical lane and Punama gate lane or any other lane/ by-lane emerging at Rath road. Vehicles from Rath Khala will not be allowed on Rath Road, instead they will be diverted from

Rath Khala towards Bata Mahadev Temple. "This order is passed in the large interest of public safety and violation of the instant order is an offence punishable under section 96 of Odisha Urban Police Act 2003 and is compoundable by an officer with a minimum fine of Rs 500 which may extend upto Rs1000 per offence," the advisory read.

Sri Lingaraja Mahaprabhu is going to lose Rs 23 crore, let the government take action

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 19: There are many attractions in Ekamra. Hundreds of people visit the temple every day, apart from the Sri Lingaraj temple. Now various developments have taken place around the temple. Which is attracting tourists. So tourists don't have the facility to stay overnight. As a result, many tourists were seen sleeping on the side of the road at night in the Lingaraj Market area. The tourist, who hails from Kolkata and Maharashtra, says he slept on the side of the road as there was no place to sleep at night. The passenger housing area in the area, which

is under the control of Gautam Nagar Mouza, is in the possession of a private plot of land. This plot no 3335/5732, khata no- 1331/415, with a capacity of 70 decimals. Plot no 3335/5824, khata no- 1331/806, with a capacity of 57 decimals. Plot no 3335/8525, khata no- 1331/807, with a capacity of 129 decimals. Plot no 3335/5826, khata no- 1331/808, with a capacity of 141 decimals. Plot no 3335/5827, khata no- 1331/809, with a capacity of 39 decimals. Plot no 3335/5885, khata no- 1331/415, with a capacity of 13 decimals. Plot no 3335/5882, khata no- 2151/287,

with a capacity of 40 decimals. Plot no 3335/5985, khata no- 1907/09, with a capacity of 25 decimals. Efforts have been made to compensate the BMC for crores of rupees under the Ekamra Development Plan in lieu of this land. Which, of course, made the video an overnight sensation. As the original owner of the land is Lingaraj, the Ekamra jana jagarana mancha has demanded a high-level investigation into the cost of passenger accommodation here. Sri Lingaraja Mahaprabhu is going to lose Rs 23 crore, let the government take action. Claims have been made to the district attorney.

Centre accepts Naveen Patnaik's suggestion on Covid vaccine

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 19: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on April 17 had written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggesting that Covid vaccines be made available outside the government supply chain in the open market so that

citizens who can afford them can buy the COVID vaccines on their own. Patnaik had further stated that this would reduce the burden of the government and allow it to focus on the vulnerable sections of society. After two days, the Government of India today has fi-

nally agreed to the suggestion by Patnaik. The Government of India has now announced that vaccine manufacturers would supply 50% of their monthly doses to Government of India and the remaining 50% doses to States Governments and in the open market.

This is what Odish Chief Minister had suggested in his letter two days back to the Prime Minister. The Chief Minister with his visionary and statesmanship could foresee a very important and critical solution to the problem and due to his suggestion and solution, the

Centre finally accepting it would help the people of India. This is the reason why Patnaik is hailed across the nation as the best Chief Minister who does not think about elections and politics, but about service to humanity and commitment to the people of India.

Know restrictions imposed for religious, social, cultural programs

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 19: Marriage, funeral/last rites related gatherings shall be allowed, subject to the following conditions: The numbers of persons allowed in a marriage function shall not be more than 50 (for the entire event) including hosts, guests, priests and catering and other support staff. Similarly, in case of funerals and

last rites the ceiling on numbers of persons including host and family members, guests, priests and other support staff shall be twenty (20). Under no circumstances, the number of participants shall exceed the ceiling for the entire event. No marriage procession shall be allowed. In case of violations of this condition, the vehicles and equipment and accessories

used in the procession shall be seized and criminal action taken against the host/owner of the band/ baja/ light/ sound service provider. Local authorities may, in addition to filing of criminal action under Epidemic Diseases Act, 1861, DM Act, 2006 and Indian Penal Code, suspend licenses up to one (1) month, and impose penalties under relevant laws/ rules/



regulations. The list of participants should be submitted to the local authorities at least 24 hours before the event. This said list shall be conspicuously displayed at

prominent locations of the venue which can be easily read by public from a distance of ten (10) feet. If persons other than those declared before the local

authorities and as such displayed are found present in the venue, it shall be considered as violations of the conditions of permission. Action as deemed proper under relevant sections of E.D Act, D.M Act and IPC shall be initiated against the owner of the venue as well as the host. Further Local Authorities may impose penalty on the host and owner of the

venue apart from taking such other action as sealing, seizure and levy of penalty under prevailing rules/ guidelines/ orders of the Local authorities. Wearing of masks correctly, maintaining social distancing of at least six (6) feet between participants and provision of thermal scanning & use of hand wash or sanitizer shall be mandatory. The owner of the venue as well

as the host of the function shall be criminally liable for any violation and non-adherence of guidelines/ Covid-19 protocols. The host of the marriage/ funeral function as well as the Venue owner shall make necessary arrangement for checking at the entry point and ensure wearing of mask by the guests/ others during the entire duration of their participation.

EDITORIAL

A step forward

The UK Govt's nod to Nirav Modi's extradition is happy news, but don't just pop the bubbly yet. In what is being considered a major victory for India's External Affairs Ministry and the legal team, the UK Government has finally cleared the extradition of scam accused billionaire Nirav Modi. The UK Home Secretary, Priti Patel, signed the order on April 15 after the Westminster court allowed the extradition plea in February and sent the decision to Patel for ratification. Giving the Indian Government and the Central agencies great cause to celebrate, the UK Magistrate found Modi guilty on all charges levelled by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate, who have been investigating the Rs 14,000 crore scam involving the Punjab National Bank. This latest move by the UK Government comes on the heels of another bad boy billionaire Vijay Mallya's extradition to India being given the green light by a UK court last year. The maverick tycoon is on bail in the UK and is facing charges of cheating and defrauding Indian banks involving his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines. However, the mandarins need not pat themselves on the back too soon: Modi still has two chances to appeal to the UK's higher courts and to apply for political asylum. In all likelihood, he will do that as he has been opposing his extradition every inch of the way. He might take a page out of Mallya's book and use his battery of lawyers to ensure that he stays out of the clutches of the Indian law enforcement agencies as long as possible. Because despite the UK court's order last year, Mallya is as far from coming back home as the current pandemic is from leaving it. The liquor baron's latest move has been applying for "another route" before Patel in a last-ditch effort to delay his extradition. It is a crying shame that India has a poor record of bringing its major economic offenders to book once they flee the country. India has a long list of such white collar criminals who have defrauded our banks of the taxpayers' hard-earned money and are now leading lavish lives abroad. But the list of such crooks that it has been able to bring back to face punishment is woefully short. It is a travesty of justice when a poor man who stole something out of a desperate need for survival has to languish in overcrowded and filthy jails for years as an undertrial while major scamsters who emptied our care-less banks of billions continue to dally with the law.

Fighting blindfolded

It's not easy to fight an enemy of whom we know little and, that too, not with surety. Call it awareness or the fear of being penalised, but we have been following (or, trying to follow) the Government's directives — wear face masks, sanitise hands frequently and maintain physical distance — like obedient children to a teacher. But what if the teacher himself/himself is clueless about how to solve a problem? The COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, is one such question that has puzzled our scientific community as no other in the recent history. Even though the Governments and peoples across the world had started coming to terms with the pandemic when it first struck, the pesky virus has again pounced upon humanity with greater ferocity — mutant strains that are more virulent than the parent. Now, according to a new assessment carried in the medical journal *Lancet*, scientists have found that the virus is transmitted predominantly through air, with little or no evidence that it spreads via large droplets which fall quickly through air and contaminate surfaces. The findings reveal that the silent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from people who are not coughing or sneezing accounts for at least 40 per cent of all transmissions. The question that jumps to mind is whether our overemphasis on sanitisation and washing of hands is of any help, really? Well, if the study is to be believed, washing hands and cleaning surfaces should be given less emphasis than airborne measures — ventilation, air filtration and wearing masks indoors, too. The pandemic has changed everything and now outdoors is not about breathing freely in the open. Rather, most people now heave a sigh of relief when they return home as it is the only place where they can remove their masks without any fear. But it seems that this small relief will also go away soon and people will have to wear masks even indoors so as to mitigate the airborne transmission. Further, a study by the IIT, Bhubaneswar, shows that aerosol droplets leak through the gap between the face and the mask and hence physical distancing is still pertinent. The study strongly recommends not using a surgical mask during normal conversations as the leakage of droplets is noticeable in such cases. An N-95 mask completely impedes the leakage of the droplets in the forward direction, it says. Last year, the Centre had written to all States and Union Territories against the use of N-95 masks with valved respirators, saying these do not prevent the virus from spreading out and are "detrimental" to the measures adopted. Whether there was any scientific finding or empirical evidence behind this warning, only the Government knows. Even as millions have died and more have been infected, we are still beating around the bush as the virus is nothing short of a mystery. We, as well as the Governments and the scientific community, are struggling hard to pin down the virus and the pandemic.

End of an era for an aviation marvel

The largest civilian transport aircraft ever built, the Airbus A380 has ended its production run. Why did this giant plane not succeed? On March 19, 2021, an Airbus A380 emerged from the final assembly line in Toulouse, France. Like 250 similar aircraft before it, it took to the air comfortably, its gigantic wings lifting 350 tonnes of weight off the ground. The Airbus A380 may not be the prettiest flying machine ever made, but just like champion weightlifters, this aircraft does it effortlessly. In fact, fully loaded and fuelled up, the Airbus A380 can lift a massive 575 tonnes and fly for 14-15 hours, as it regularly does in service with the Dubai-based Emirates between the Arab Emirates and west coast cities in the US. But this flight was special not because it was travelling a short distance to the northern German city of Hamburg to be painted and kitted out, but because it was the last Airbus A380 to leave the Toulouse factory. Twenty-one years since the Airbus A3XX project was launched and after 255 aircraft were built, not including the one that was built for ground-testing only, the manufacturing story of the world's largest passenger aircraft came to an end. Thanks to the plane forming the backbone of Emirates, which ordered almost half the production run, and to which this final aircraft will also eventually go, the Airbus A380 is likely to remain in service for at least 10-15 more years. However, some of the earliest built A380s for first operator Singapore Airlines and one of Emirates' oldest aircraft are already being scrapped. Ironically, both Air France and Lufthansa, the flag carriers of France and Germany, the nations that build most of the plane, have with-



Hiranmay Karlekar

drawn from service 10 and 14 aircraft, respectively; some of the German carrier's planes being just six years old. Of course, this is more due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is likely that the A380 might not return to service with many airlines, for example Thai Airways — which is in a financial pickle thanks to tourism dropping off a cliff — is mulling selling some of its fleet of six A380s. Other airlines that operate its small fleets, like Australia's Qantas and British Airways, have given a vote of confidence to the aircraft and plan to bring it back into service once demand picks up. Airbus had in 2000 predicted the need for over 1,000 new "Very Large Aircraft". This market survey was the basis for the European company spending billions of euros developing the aircraft along with both direct and indirect subsidies by European Governments, including the UK, where the massive plane's wings are manufactured. It is estimated that over the lifetime of the aircraft, developmental costs crossed 14 billion euros, or \$16.75 billion. Rival American manufacturer Boeing was more pragmatic, hav-

ing once considered a full twin-deck aircraft like the A380 that could have been based on the 747 or developing a design study called the MD-12 from McDonnell Douglas, a rival firm that it had acquired. Boeing's survey around the same time predicted the demand for just 320 such aircraft and while the American firm did a quick update on the venerable 747, calling it the 747-8 with an updated wing, modern engines and a longer fuselage, this passenger version of the aircraft did not even top 50 sales, although Lufthansa is keeping the 747-8 around while retiring the A380. But with Airbus cancelling the A380's freighter version, Boeing dominated this segment with the 747-8 version. While demand has tapered off, it is a twist of fate that the Boeing 747 production line will actually continue till 2022, 53 years after the "Queen of the Skies" had her first flight. Besides, several other issues doomed the A380 as a commercially viable project. For one, there was a monumental software cock-up where different versions of software used at different production

facilities led to huge complications in wiring. With over 350 km of wiring cable on the A380, the inability to connect on different segments led to workers hand-wiring the first few aircraft, starting a cascading series of delays in the first flight and production. The aircraft's first flight took place in 2005 and the first delivery in late 2007 to Singapore Airlines, just before the 2008 meltdown dealt a body blow to world travel. However, the 2010s were a golden era for international travel. While Emirates most notably took the A380 to new heights, even fitting a shower cubicle in the First Class, most other airlines took a pass on the giant jet. As Boeing had predicted, it was the "middle market" aircraft, planes seating 250-350 passengers, that drove the market. These aircraft were smaller, had only two engines and with incredible ranges they managed to create a host of new routes that bypassed traditional hubs such as Heathrow, Frankfurt and Paris. Direct flights between India and the US finally became possible, thanks to the Boeing 777 and 787. Even Airbus joined in the revolution with the Airbus A350, despite backing the A380 for years. Cities like Dubai are a natural hub and the A380 will not go out of service anytime soon. At some major airports like Heathrow, which have limited slots, the A380 will continue to make sense. But as designed it belonged to a different era, an era when large jets between major airports were the norm. Maybe in the future, a very large aircraft will again be needed to cope with rising passenger numbers and the need to balance travel with environmental concerns. It is a great piece of engineering and an aviation feat that we should marvel at, but it was not a plane of its time.

The second wave questions that need urgent answers

Kaushik Das Gupta

This time, last year, India was under a lockdown announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a televised address during which he issued several messages of caution. He talked about the need for extreme vigilance and underlined the salience of physical distancing and use of masks — points he would reiterate several times later in the year. A less remembered part of the PM's speech was a note of comparison with countries more prosperous and resourceful than India. Even these countries are struggling to control the novel coronavirus, he said. The country pushed back the virus through a combination of measures that restricted people's movement — their socially and economically crippling effects are now well-documented — the skill of its medical professionals who took on the virus under conditions that demanded unprecedented mental and physical resolve, and a panoply of arrangements to augment the health infrastructure. Medical protocols evolved and policymakers made innovative interventions at times — the Delhi government's home-care initiative for less serious patients that took the burden away from hospitals and quarantine facilities was one such initiative. A notable feature of the fight was also the use of makeshift facilities — stadiums, hotels, banquet halls were turned into COVID-care centres. Healthcare facilities are strained again, a year later, with the virus striking back with a vengeance. Several state governments, including those in Maharashtra and Delhi, are back to mobilising "temporary" reinforcements. The panic that has set in the past few weeks occasions a recall of the well-known criticisms and

warnings — admissions too — about India's health infrastructure deficit. There is little doubt that the crown-shaped virus has become multiple times more infectious compared to last year. But scientists had always cautioned about the microbe's arbitrary ways. With governments scrambling for medical facilities, oxygen cylinders, ventilators and critical drugs such as Remdesivir, the question that must be asked is: Was the unpredictability factor sufficiently appreciated, when we decided — rightly so — to live with an adversary that is known to make its way insidiously, with most hosts not even showing symptoms? A virus hijacks its receptor's cells to make copies of itself. But reproductions are not always perfect. Many of these mutations have little effect on the tiny entity's capacity to infect humans. Some of these errors even make the virus more benign. But some changes make it more adept at jumping from one host to the other. In September last year, as India's first wave was peaking, scientists in the UK warned of a mutant 50 times more transmissible — implying that the microbe could cause many more deaths if left uncontrolled. By the end of the year, more than 4,000 people in different parts of Europe had been infected by this mutant. Early this year, evidence began to surface of the more prolific versions of the virus sneaking into India. In January, double mutants, now known as B.1.617, were found in samples collected in Maharashtra, a few weeks before India's worst-affected state began to report reversals of the gains made last year. But there was no conclusive evidence

that these specimens were typical of the recent surge in the state. And the jury is still out, about three months later, even as the Pune-based National Institute of Virology has found B.1.617 in 60 per cent of the specimens collected from Maharashtra. The specimen size is too small to show that B.1.617 is now the predominant coloniser. Meanwhile, there is evidence of this fast-spreading mutant in samples from Delhi, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh as well. Scientists say that constant analysis of the virus's genetic information, combined with epidemiological data, is crucial to providing real-time knowledge about the pathogen's vagaries. Interestingly, both the UK and India were alert to this imperative in the early days of the pandemic. India's enthusiasm, however, seems to have flagged — less than 1 per cent of COVID-positive specimens are subjected to genomic sequencing — while the UK was able to use this tracking method to alert the world about the changes in the virus's biology. Globally, though, the deployment of this technology has been patchy. But as a *Lancet* editorial in February pointed out, "the fact that Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, and Sierra Leone have a higher rate of genome sequencing than France, Italy, or the USA, suggests that wealth is not the only determinant of capacity". India, too, it seems, has not made optimum use of its facilities. The Delhi-based Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology is reportedly analysing less than 30 per cent of the samples it is equipped to study. Last week, Home

Minister Amit Shah belatedly admitted the possible role of mutants in the surge. "Scientists are studying it," he said. The health ministry, however, remains obstinate about the country's inoculation strategy, framed when the pandemic was receding. That time it had rightly talked of prioritising frontline workers, senior citizens and those with comorbidities. With the virus taking on menacing proportions, the government tweaked the priority criteria to include all people above the age of 45. It has also granted emergency use approval to vaccines that have received the nod of the US, UK, Japan and the WHO. But the primary challenge of India's inoculation project was always going to be the pace at which it shields a substantial section of its population to reduce the severity of COVID — this challenge has intensified with the second wave. Last month, US President Joe Biden pledged to amass enough vaccine stocks to inoculate every American by the end of May. In India, in contrast, states have begun to complain of vaccine shortage. Though the Centre vehemently denies such claims, the CEO of the country's leading vaccine manufacturing company first asking for Rs 3,000-crore to ramp up production capacity and then pleading with Biden to end the embargo on raw materials needed to produce the shot aggravates the miasma, and invites questions: Is the government postponing the use of the Rs 35,000-crore allocated for vaccine development in the current Budget? Has it been shy in using its good offices with the US to intercede on behalf of the country's vaccine manufacturing companies?

Mobile phone, pen drive seized during surprise raid on sub-jail



(A.O. Bureau) Jeypore, Apr 19: A police team led by Koraput SP Varun Guntupalli conducted a surprise raid at Jeypore sub-jail on Sunday and seized many incriminating materials from the prison cells. A police team led by Koraput SP Varun Guntupalli conducted a surprise raid at Jeypore sub-jail

steel rods, tobacco packets and Rs 18,000 cash. Sources said the raid, first ever in a decade, was conducted after police received specific information about the inmates engaging in objectionable activities including use of mobile phones and organising feasts on jail premises. During the wee hours, the police team raided eight male and one female wards in presence of Jeypore Sub-Collector Hema Kanta Say, sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) AA Behera and Borrigumma SDPO Harekrushna Majhi. The Jeypore sub-jail houses over 400 under-trial prisoners (UTP), most of whom are allegedly involved in ganja smuggling cases in Koraput district. Besides, the jail also houses some inter-State gangsters from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana. SP Guntupalli informed that local police would conduct an inquiry on how the seized materials were sneaked into the prison.

Mangalore man held for buying gold from conman

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, Apr 19: Sambalpur Police arrested one Nithin Kumar B (39) from Mangalore in Karnataka for purchasing gold ornament from a Bangalore-based MBA graduate who duped a jewellery shop owner of the district by posing as Income Tax officer. Nithin was brought to Sambalpur on Saturday. Nithin's involvement in the crime came to light after prime accused Vishal RN (26), an MBA graduate from Doddaballapur in Bangalore Rural, was



arrested on April 11 following a fraud complaint by a jewellery shop owner of Sambalpur. During interrogation, Nithin revealed that he bought gold ornaments from Vishal. Four chains, three bracelets, and a ring weighing 131.98 gram were seized from him. On March 30, Vishal purchased a gold bracelet and ring from a jewellery shop in Sambalpur by

identifying himself as Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax. He asked the shop owner to furnish his bank details and phone number to send the amount to his account through NEFT. After getting the details, Vishal showed a fake bank debit message of Rs 1,47,750 following which the shop owner handed over the jewellery. However, the jeweller later came to know of the fraud and lodged a complaint. Vishal was nabbed in Bhubaneswar and brought to Sambalpur. SPB Gangadhar said the accused committed similar offences in Berhampur, Puri, Jharsuguda, Visakhapatnam, Hooghly (West Bengal), Chikmagalur (Karnataka) besides Vapi in Gujarat.

Bhawanipatna: Doorstep survey reveals 100 cases

Bhawanipatna, Apr 19: As many as 100 new Covid cases were detected during the door-to-door survey conducted in Kalandi's Bhawanipatna on Sunday. As many as 100 new Covid cases

place adequate measures to stem the infection spread. As the 94-bed Covid hospital in the district is overcrowded with critical patients, infected persons are being sent to 120-bed Covid care cen-

ders. They assured that there won't be shortage of oxygen supply. Besides, the administration is keeping a strict vigil at Kesinga railway station and the borders while returnees are being thoroughly



were detected during the door-to-door survey conducted in Kalandi's Bhawanipatna on Sunday. In the last 24 hours, 198 fresh cases have been detected in the district. The survey in Bhawanipatna covered 9,696 households on the day. It will continue on Monday. Following the detection of new cases, the administration has put in

tre (CCC) at Government Agriculture College. More CCCs at Musiguda, Parla and Junagarh with a capacity of 80-100 beds are ready and will be operational within next 48 hours. Collector Harshad Parag Gavali along with chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Pratap Behera visited the oxygen filling centre and took stock of availability of cylin-

screened. In the last three days, 522 migrant workers have returned to the district and are in home quarantine under the supervision of medical officers. Notably, the State government had posted 10 post-graduate medical students to manage the Covid Hospital and other facilities on April 16. However, only three of them have joined duty so far.

School Books set on fire by Teacher at MV 58

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 19: No books to read to children: Books yet not received so less than two days after the news broke, another amazing picture came to light from that school. Instead of sorting out the books that had been lying dormant for months, the school's incharge headmaster ignored them and set them on fire near the school. Hun-

dreds of textbooks at the school were disrespected and set on fire near the school. Most of the books were burnt to ashes, but many were found burning at the scene. The burning of textbooks, which are said to be the main means of acquiring children's knowledge, is common. An unfortunate incident was reported in the Padia block of Malkangiri district, which closed schools and closed schools for students. In addition, the condition of the schools has



deteriorated as teachers have been away from school. The most recent example of this

is the picture of a primary school in MV 58 village under Padia block Bapunpalli panchayat. The situation at the school was deplorable as the children's textbooks were torn to shreds. The incident was reported in various newspapers last Thursday. The burning of the so-called study school books as garbage raised a number of questions in the minds of the general public, but locals said they were surprised by the mentality of a teacher's reading book. Asked by the teacher, he confessed to burning old books, books, and old papers that had been lying around for years. In such a situation, there is a general demand for the firm action of the Department of Education to deal with the heinous incidents of burning textbooks with ashes.

is the picture of a primary school in MV 58 village under Padia block Bapunpalli panchayat. The situation at the school was deplorable as the children's textbooks were torn to shreds. The incident was reported in various newspapers last Thursday. The burning of the so-called study school books as garbage raised a number of questions in the minds of the general public, but locals said they were surprised by the mentality of a teacher's reading book. Asked by the teacher, he confessed to burning old books, books, and old papers that had been lying around for years. In such a situation, there is a general demand for the firm action of the Department of Education to deal with the heinous incidents of burning textbooks with ashes.

Trees felled to widen road, locals protest

(A.O. Bureau) Kendrapara, Apr 19: Local residents had planted trees on both sides of the 13-km road in the past. Narahari Patra of Kandia village said the road was a stretch of greenery that provided shade and fresh air to locals. Resentment is brewing among locals after the Roads and Buildings department cut down many matured palm, neem, date-palm, banyan and other trees reportedly for renovating the Rajkanika-Kandia road. Local residents had planted trees on both sides of the 13-km road in the past. Narahari Patra of Kandia village said the



Trees cut down to widen Rajkanika-Kandia road in Kendrapara district

road was a stretch of greenery that provided shade and fresh air to locals. The trees were a part of the memories of many villagers who grew up in the area. However, hundreds of trees, aged more than half a century, are being chopped down to widen the road. It is

also being alleged that many trees are being felled unnecessarily, he said. Sources said earlier, hundreds of trees were cut down for widening the 50-km long Kendrapara-Chandabali road. Though villagers raised objections, their grievances fell on deaf ears.

Sudhanshu Parida, a local environmentalist, said, "While the Forest department is planting saplings under various schemes every year to make villages and roadside greener, little has been done to stop illegal felling of trees. All the money pumped into such afforestation

programmes would go waste if steps are not taken to stop reckless felling of trees on the pretext of road widening work and other development projects." The decision to cut down trees along the Rajkanika-Kandia road would negatively impact the environment of the area, Parida added. Assistant Engineer of Roads and Buildings department, Rajkanika Jyoti Ranjan Behera said, "The trees were felled to widen roads to decongest traffic. To compensate the loss, two times the number of trees being axed would be planted as per the guidelines of the Forest department."

17 high schools in transformation mode in Koraput

(A.O. Bureau) Koraput: Seventeen Government high schools in Koraput will witness a complete overhaul of infrastructure under the high school transformation project of 5T initiative on a mission mode. These schools are located across 13 blocks in the district. Collector Md Abdaal Akhtar visited different schools recently and held meetings with the stakeholders like teachers, PRI members and alumni in this regard. The initiative, Akhtar said, is a long-

term transformation plan. In the first phase, 17 high schools have been identified in the district for revamp. A blueprint has been prepared taking into consideration community participation which is the prime aspect of the programme. The community comprising gram panchayat, school management committee and alumni members would be involved in developing their respective schools. In the later phase, the community will ensure revamp of



Koraput Collector interacting with various stakeholders at a school

the teacher training system and students learning programme. A 5-year vision document of their schools

has also been prepared. The government has decided to operate these schools from October 2. Un-

der the programme, schools will have aesthetically-designed classrooms, furniture, smart boards, staff

rooms, laboratories, libraries and sports facilities. The students of Class IX and X will be given priority for e-learning. The Collector said, the initiative's objective is not to compete with private school infrastructure but provide quality education to rural children. The respective gram panchayats and alumni will provide funding on a long-term basis for infrastructure development like labs with modern facilities, smart classrooms and e-modules to make learning at-

tractive. The State government's 'Mo School Abhijan' would look after the funding aspects of the programme. Besides, the existing PSUs and Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) would provide financial assistance through district mineral fund (DMF) for the aspirational transformation of schools. District education officer Ramachandra Nahak said in view of the recent announcement of the State government about 15 per cent reservation of

seats in engineering and medical colleges for students of government high schools, it is essential to provide quality education to rural children. "The goal will not be achieved overnight rather it will be a continuous process," he said. Akhtar said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and 5T Secretary VK Pandian would interact with the stakeholders through video conferencing on April 19 on the aspirational transformation of schools.

Not worried if my films work or not: Fahadh Faasil



Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 19: Malayalam actor Fahadh Faasil's new film 'Joji' is being appreciated since it dropped recently on a digital platform. The National Award-winning actor says he is never worried about the reactions his films might receive. "I am not worried about my films working or not. When it doesn't work it hurts, but for me it's the process which is exciting, to identify a film and work on it. You like an

idea, you go to the shoot and then you improvise and finish shooting, and your fight is whether you have done justice to what you initially conceived. It is a constant fight," Fahadh tells IANS. The actor, whose work in films such as "Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum", "Bangalore Days", and "Kumbalangi Nights" among others has been appreciated, says he is always thinking about how to make his work be better. "Even when your film works, you think that there are so many things you could have done and there are so many things that you

missed out on. This process is never complete, and I am in love with the process which you are exploring. You are dealing with human emotions, you are trying to understand people better. I like love this aspect of my job and I want to do this as long as I can," he says. So what are the qualities he looks for in a script? "I want it to be as real as looking out of the window. I need that connect and need to believe that it happened somewhere, and to approach it honestly. What I have constantly tried to do is to do real stuff," says the actor, whose film "Joji" released on Amazon Prime Video.

There are no failures in life, only lessons: Ranveer Singh

New Delhi, Apr 19: Bollywood star, youth icon, fashion icon, entrepreneur and actor. It's taken Ranveer Singh just over a decade to tick all those boxes and establish himself as an entertainment super brand who promises a maverick surprise, every time he hits the public gaze, on or off the screen. Ranveer's success as a celebrity lies in his ability to balance two very different aspects of being a new-age Bollywood star. He is equally at home cutting an impromptu eccentric picture -- mostly highlighted by his irreverent sartorial choices for the media glare -- as he is while showcasing well-prepared perfection while living his protagonist in films such as "Bajirao-Mastani", "Padmaavat" and "Gully Boy". Ranveer would tell you it is important for him to draw from life's experiences, in order to take his on-screen roles to the point of authenticity. "For each different character, one has to tap into one's own bank of experiences to make the portrayal truthful, visceral and honest. I deeply empathise with the underdog characters that I have played because I have been through a similar journey in my own life," says the actor. He finds a special connect with Murad, his character in "Gully Boy",

as well as former Indian cricket captain Kapil Dev in the upcoming "83". For Ranveer, playing Kapil, who captained an underdog team to India's first-ever World Cup win in 1983, was about acting out a historic moment of triumph against all odds. "There is a dialogue in 'Gully Boy' that broadly translates from Hindi to, 'I refuse to change my dreams to match my reality, I will change my reality to match my dreams'. I have felt this sentiment deep down in my soul. When these characters have to prove themselves against all odds, I can relate to that struggle at a very profound level. In 'Gully Boy', Murad achieves the impossible. In '83', Kapil's devils achieve the impossible. I can lend truth to these roles because I've been there in my own journey. I feel their disillusionment, I feel their anger, their frustration, I feel their grit, all in a very intense way because I've been through it myself. I've felt it for real," he asserts. Ranveer Singh arrived in Bollywood with the 2010 hit "Band Baaja Baaraat", and by 2013 he had established his credentials as one of Hindi mainstream's most exciting new-gen stars, playing a modemday 'desi' Romeo in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's superhit



romantic tragedy "Goliyon Ki Raseela Ram-Leela" opposite Deepika Padukone. If Ranveer's career has only moved upwards since then, he can afford to look back at his struggling years with a note of contentment. "At different points and in several instances during my struggling years, I felt like there was no hope. Getting one's foot inside the door of a largely exclusive entertainment industry seemed unachievable. But I persisted. You could say I was both hungry and foolish. More than anything, I believed in my abilities and in my potential," he recalls. "Even back then, when I had nothing, the same driven, tenacious and meticulous work ethic was characteristic of my hustle. I was well aware of what a long shot it was. But I was willing to take that leap of faith. When there wasn't a good lead in sight for long periods, the phone wouldn't ring for months,

my faith was challenged, but I debunked the idea that what I was trying to achieve was impossible. I stayed focused in the most testing of times. I almost forced the universe into making it happen for me," says the actor. "My single-mindedness and determination eventually paid off and my dream became my reality. Ever since, every day feels like I am living a dream," he adds. A decade later, having established himself firmly on solid terrain, Ranveer is clear about his biggest learning. "When young actors, especially 'outsiders', come up to me seeking advice on how to navigate their hustle, the first and most important thing I tell them is 'do it for the right reasons'. Do it simply because you love performing. I urge them to not be lured towards performing arts or the entertainment business because success in this field comes with fame and money. Those are transient, they

are frills -- just trappings. So, I say, 'be true to your craft and do it for the love of and for the joy of performing'." says Ranveer. "Another thing I learned along the way, is that authenticity has the most resonance. If you try being something that you are inherently not, you are doing a disservice to yourself. If you stay true to who you are, if you lose the fear of being judged, only then will you vibrate at a high frequency. 'You do you', I tell them. Be original, be your unique self. And another important thing I've learned is to keep taking risks. The bigger the risk, the bigger the reward. You may falter during that process, but I believe that there are no failures in life, there are only lessons," he adds. Ranveer acknowledges the importance of getting the right break, and the fact that it can often become the defining factor for success in an unpredictable industry as showbiz, along with passion and hard work. "One can have the passion and grit and can even prepare endlessly for the moment that one gets to shine. But often, the missing piece of the puzzle is 'opportunity'. My hustle was as difficult as it was because of the sheer lack of opportunities. That's what I wanted to create for fellow dreamers.

Kangana Ranaut? talks of parents' love story on their wedding anniversary

Mumbai, Apr 19: Kangana Ranaut on Monday tweeted about the love story of her parents, on the occasion of their wedding anniversary. Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut on Monday tweeted about the love story of her parents, on the occasion of their wedding anniversary. She shared a black and white photograph of her parents' wedding in the post, too. "When papa sent proposal cos papa didn't have good reputation, Nana had selected a groom with government job for mom, she was his favourite and lovingly called her Guddi, but mom fought all odds and convinced Nana, thanks



for that, happy anniversary," she added. Today is the wedding anniversary of my parents, growing up they lied to us that it was a conventional arranged marriage it's only much later nani told us they had a rag-

ing affair, papa saw mom at a bus stand returning from college, took that bus every day till she noticed him 1/2 pic.twitter.com/ZAImcqcXVQ — Kangana Ranaut (@KanganaTeam)

April 19, 2021 Kangana recently took to social media to wish her fans on the occasion of Gudi Padwa and Navratri. The actress said that if one does not know what to do on Navratri, that person

should worship his/her mother and take her blessings. On the work front, the release of Kangana's upcoming film "Thalavi" has been postponed amid the second wave of Covid in India.

A huge screen can't be erased by something screened on your phone: Boman Irani

Mumbai, Apr 19: Good writing is the need of the hour, feels actor Boman Irani, to sustain audience interest at a time when OTT provides a surfeit of choice. "The OTT platform gives an opportunity not only for writers but also actors and technicians. However, on OTT, there are thousands of choices. It takes 10 to 15 minutes to reject if you cannot engage the audience in their home. This can be avoided with good writing, which also applies for the rest of the show. Writing has become the superstar on

the Covid pandemic. While this spells losses for Bollywood, Irani sees a silver lining. "The pandemic has created a lot of problems. I am hopeful and saying this in a positive tone that once things open up, people will be dying to get back to the theatres and there will be a big surge of footfalls in theatres again," he hopes. Quizzed if the OTT platforms will eventually replace the big screen experience, the actor replied: "When television came, footfalls reduced in single screen cinemas and then again there was

phone." Boman Irani recently celebrated his screenplay writing workshop 'Spiral Bound' completing a year. "It started maybe two years ago when we launched Irani Movietone (his production house). I flew down Alex Dinelaris, the writer of 'Birdman', who came and did a workshop and that set the journey. Before lockdown I had five to six young writer-directors who used to consult me on their scripts. During lockdown, we started coordinating over zoom call. That's

Janhvi Kapoor glows in new pics: 'Kisses from the sun'

Mumbai, Apr 19: The actor was seen in soaking up the sun while posing for the camera. She posed in a forested area, with the sun's rays shining brightly on her face. Sharing them, she simply wrote: "Kisses from the sun." Her fans were very happy to see her and dropped fire, heart eyes and red heart emojis in plenty. Earlier in the day, she shared a dance video where she was seen dancing to Cardi B's Up with trainer Namrata Purohit. Sharing it, she wrote: "Missing the Filmfare stage so the



poolside will have to do for now." Few days back, she had shared another fun dance video with her friends and had written: "I really wish we were

cooler than this but." Since the time she wrapped up her film Good Luck Jerry, Janhvi has been on a vacation mode. Once her film's shoot was done, she

left for the US to spend time with her sister Khushi. They were first in Los Angeles and then they moved to New York. She had shared a number of

stunning pictures from there. After a pit-stop in India, she left for the Maldives. Sharing her first picture from the tropical island, she had written: "Last to get on the Maldives bandwagon but I fully get the hype." Subsequently, she shared a number of numbers with her friends from there. At the time of completion of Good Luck Jerry, Janhvi had written: "I can't believe it's a film wrap. So many things have happened, changed, evolved, been learnt and unlearned during the course of and because of this shoot.



the OTT platform," Irani tells IANS. "If your script is not good, your acting won't come off well, and I say this even for theatrical releases. Why should you have weaker scripts just because it is in the theatrical space?" he adds. Theatrical release of a lot of films, including big-ticket ones, have been postponed amid the ongoing second wave of

a surge. I think the big screen is a completely different experience, there will be movies made for the big screen. I don't think it can be replaced, because it is a family experience which people look forward to especially in India. A huge screen and great sound cannot be permanently erased by something which is screened on your

how it actually started. Now we have a huge amount of people joining in," the actor recalls. Irani is known for effortlessly nailing the characters he plays on screen and especially for his impeccable comic timing. Any words of advice for budding actors? "Find out within the script what is the character searching for, what is its quest.

De Villiers is on a different level, South Africa you need this man: Yohan Blake

New Delhi, Apr 19: A cricket enthusiast, Jamaica's star sprinter Yohan Blake wants AB de Villiers to come out of international retirement and represent the South African national team in its upcoming assignments, including the T20 World Cup. De Villiers himself is keen to play the T20 World Cup in India later this year, and is supposed to discuss the subject with national team head coach Mark Boucher towards the end of the IPL. "Wow de Villiers is on a different level. South Africa come on you need this man," Blake tweeted after the versatile South African's breathtaking innings in the IPL in Chennai on



Sunday. Olympic silver medallist Blake, who is also the youngest 100m world champion, had earlier expressed his desire to play for Royal Challengers Bangalore because of Virat Kohli and de Villiers' presence in the side. "We are lined up to have a chat

sometime during the IPL. But yes, we've been talking about it already," de Villiers, who retired from international cricket in May 2018, said after leading the Royal Challengers Bangalore to victory over the Kolkata Knight Riders. The 37-year-

old added, "If there's no space for me, so be it. If I can slot in there, it will be fantastic if all those things fall in place. Waiting for (the chat with) Bouchy towards the end of the IPL, and we will then plan accordingly." Recently, after South Africa's 3-1

T20I series defeat to Pakistan, Boucher said he had spoken to de Villiers before the IPL on a possible comeback. "I did chat to him before he went to the IPL," Boucher had said. "The conversation is still very much open. AB being the person he is, he wanted to perform very well at the IPL, to prove to himself and everyone else that he is still a very key figure in world cricket and could dominate at that level," Boucher had said. In May 2018, de Villiers had announced his retirement from international cricket. He had played 114 Tests, 228 ODIs and 78 T20Is before announcing his surprise retirement.

Indian hockey team is in good shape going into Olympics, feels Shilanand Lakra

Bengaluru, Apr 19: Shilanand Lakra said the long break due to COVID-19 pandemic helped him and credited chief coach Graham Reid for improving his game. The recent performance against reigning Olympic champions Argentina shows that the Indian team is in good shape going into the Tokyo Games, feels young forward

Great Britain next month." Despite being one of the younger players in the Indian men's hockey team, Shilanand held his own in Argentina, and is happy to have contributed whenever opportunities came his way. "Having made my debut for the senior team three years ago, I'd have expected myself to play more but that is how competitive

analyse my performances, and also prepare for the highs and lows in the months ahead," he said. "I am also constantly in touch with the coaching staff, especially chief coach Graham Reid, who has helped me improve on my game immensely." Shilanand also hailed the contribution of Amit Rohidas and senior pro Birendra Lakra --



Shilanand Lakra. India won both their FIH Pro League fixtures in Argentina and two of the four practice matches, with Shilanand finishing the tour with a goal in the final practice game. "I think we played very good hockey against Olympic Champions Argentina. Our recent performances shows that we are in good shape going into a big event like the Olympics," he said in a release issued by Hockey India on Monday. "Right now, though, our focus is only on the FIH Pro League games against

it is; there are so many amazing players in the core probables group," he said. "My aim has always been to earn a place in the team through consistent performances in domestic tournaments, national camps and whenever I play for India as a starter or a substitute." The 21-year-old said the long break due to COVID-19 pandemic helped him and credited chief coach Graham Reid for improving his game. "To be out of competitive action for so long...it gave me the time to re-think and

the two other players from Odisha -- who are also his teammates in the senior team. "I think both of them have been exceptional and I get so much inspiration when I speak to them. They have always been given me sound advice," he said. "I turned to them whenever my morale was low over the past two years and it helps a young player like me to see two other players from Odisha make it big in Indian hockey." India will play Great Britain in the FIH Pro League on May 8 and 9.

India Open badminton in Delhi postponed due to relentless COVID-19 second wave

Chennai, Apr 19: Taking into account the raging coronavirus second wave and lockdown in Delhi from Monday night, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) has postponed the India Open, an Olympic qualifying event, that was supposed to be held next month. The BWF World Tour Super 500 meet was scheduled to be held from May 11-16. The BAI said that the new dates will be announced later. "It is very unfortunate, but we are forced to postpone the tournament. We had a meeting with BWF. The coronavirus situation in Delhi is very bad



and there is a lockdown until April 26. We have no idea what will happen next. After consulting with all the stakeholders, we feel this is the right move," Ajay Singhania, BAI general secretary, said in a Zoom interaction. The governing body of badminton in the

country was forced to take the decision as Delhi, where the event was scheduled to be conducted, is the worst-hit city with over 20,000 cases in the last twenty four hours. Singhania said that they're taking every precaution to ensure that the camps are held in a safe man-

ner for those who are a good bet to make Tokyo Olympics. "We had worked very hard and we were hoping for a good tournament. The camp has been postponed and only those who have the chance to qualify for the Olympics will be part of the camp,"

Singhania added. The Badminton World Federation (BWF), the world governing body, also confirmed the development. "The decision (postponement) was made in consultation and collaboration with local health authorities in Delhi and the Badminton World Federation," the BWF said in a release. "All attempts were made by organisers to conduct a safe tournament environment for all participants, but the recent spike in COVID-19 cases and gravity of the situation in Delhi left BAI no choice but to postpone the tournament," the release added.

Emilia Romagna Grand Prix: Two people test positive for COVID-19



Imola, Apr 19: Formula 1 and FIA on Monday announced that two people have tested positive for the coronavirus at the Emilia Romagna GP which was held in Imola, Italy on Sunday. 4,523 tests were performed on drivers, teams and personnel between April 12 to April 18 in the second race of the 2021 season. "The FIA and Formula 1 can today confirm that at the 2021 FIA Formula 1 Emilia

Romagna Grand Prix, between Monday 12th April and Sunday 18th April, 4,523 tests for COVID-19 were performed on drivers, teams and personnel," Formula 1 and FIA said in a joint statement. "Of these, 2 people tested positive. The FIA and Formula 1 are providing this aggregated information from each Grand Prix for the purposes of competition integrity and transparency," it added. Red Bull

Racing's Max Verstappen took a superb victory in an action-packed Emilia Romagna Grand Prix that was red-flagged halfway through after a high-speed crash involving Valtteri Bottas and George Russell, which both walked away from unhurt. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton recovered from a spin at Tosa to finish second, while Lando Norris made it from seventh to third with a terrific drive that earned him the Driver of the Day tag. For the 99th time in his F1 career, Hamilton started from pole, but it was Verstappen who jumped from third to first with a masterful second-gear launch.

Archery 'couple' Atanu Das, Deepika Kumari set for new challenge in World Cup Stage 1



Guatemala City, Apr 19: All eyes will be on the newly-wed archery couple of Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari as India will look to make up for the lost time caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the World Cup Stage 1 which begins here on Tuesday. It has been more than 18 months since the last circuit trophies were awarded at the World Cup Final in Moscow. The World Cup Stage 1 will be the first global event since the pandemic forced the cancellation of the international calendar in 2020. For the Indians,

the wait was longer as they last took part in a World Cup back in the stage 4 circuit in Berlin in July 2019. Thus, they would look to shake off the rustiness and get back to rhythm. In the absence of Asian heavyweights Korea, China, Chinese Taipei and Turkey, the Indian archers led by Atanu and Deepika would look to a strong performance in the build-up to the Tokyo Olympics. Known for meticulous planning, archery's leading nation Korea has announced it will not shoot at any of the three stages of the

2021 World Cup, all scheduled before the Olympic Games, due to ongoing travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. Without the big Asian teams, it will be a battle of supremacy between the American and European nations, while the Indians would also hope to make a mark, especially in the mixed and team events. Having already secured the Olympic quota, it would be the first real test for the trio of Atanu, Pravin Jadhav and veteran Tarundeep Rai. In the women's section, India has got

individual Olympic quota through former world number one Deepika who, along with Ankita Bhakat and Komalika Bari, would look to the much-needed exposure ahead of the final qualification in Paris. Reigning under-18 world champion, Komalika has shown a lot of promise in the recent past and she would look to come out of the shadow of longtime leading archer Deepika. Realistically, it's the women's team and the mixed pair team which can win medals in the absence of the

fancied compound team which was withdrawn under unfortunate circumstances. The national federation pulled out the compound team boasting the Asian champions duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha just before their departure after their coach Gaurav Sharma tested "positive" for COVID-19. The coach was isolated at the SAI Sonapat camp while the team left for Delhi airport but the federation disallowed their entry to "ensure safety" of the recurve archers. The next day, it came to light that the coach had a "false positive" report in his second test but by then the damage to the compound team had already been done by. "Absence of the compound team will definitely hurt India's medal chances, who's responsible for this mess," an official said, taking a dig at the Archery Association of India. Around 150 archers from across the globe will vie for top honours in the World Cup first stage.

Youth world boxing: India assured of four medals

New Delhi, Apr 19: Asian champion Vinka and Alfiya Pathan were among the four Indian boxers who progressed to the semifinals of the youth world championships for men and women in Kielce, Poland. Gitika and Poonam are the other two boxers to enter the last-four stage and have secured at least a bronze medal for the country. All the four boxers put up scintillating performances in their re-

spective quarterfinals bouts. Panipat boxer Vinka blanked her Colombian opponent Camilo Camela 5-0 in the 60kg category, while the 2019 Asian junior champion Alfiya (+81) also won by the same margin against Hungarian boxer Reka Hoffmann. Playing in the 57kg category, Poonam notched up an easy 5-0 win against Nazerke Serik of Kazakhstan to progress to the semifinals.

NTPC Talcher Kaniha provides water to villages



(A.O. Bureau) Talcher, Apr 19: NTPC Talcher Kaniha from 16th April 2021 under CSR initiative has undertaken to provide clean drinking water to its 23 peripheral villages fulfilling the requirement of adequate drinking water for the villages around the station in view of the rise in temperature and scarcity of safe drinking water in summer season as water resources dry up. The Station is supplying 3 months of drinking water during summer season through 7 tankers, supplying 2.5-3.0 lakh liters per day. This is given at the request of local administration to ensure the supply of clean drinking water in the peak summer months when shortage of ground water level during summer season

for households can become a concern. Catering to the health and hygiene needs of people in surrounding areas of the Plant is one of the key focus areas for CSR activities of NTPC Talcher Kaniha, the potable water provided by NTPC is fit for consumption and will also lead to a reduction in the risk of any water-borne disease in these areas.

for households can become a concern. Catering to the health and hygiene needs of people in surrounding areas of the Plant is one of the key focus areas for CSR activities of NTPC Talcher Kaniha, the potable water provided by NTPC is fit for consumption and will also lead to a reduction in the risk of any water-borne disease in these areas.

JSPL takes up various initiatives to fight 2nd Wave of COVID-19



(A.O. Bureau) Angul, Apr 19: In line with the Guidelines issued by Central and State Governments, Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL) has taken up multipronged initiatives to curb the spread of the second wave of COVID-19 in its Angul mega steel plant complex as well as in surrounding villages. All the employees coming for work are

Hospital, SUM, SUM Ultimate Medicare & Care Hospital etc. for providing the best health care facilities to its patients during this pandemic". Adding further Mr. Ravi Shankar has said that JSPL has also asked its non-technical workforce to do their office work from their home (Work from Home) and technical departments are also being advised to

JSPL has undertaken a massive vaccination drive of its eligible employees, their family members, contractors workforce and other stakeholders. JSPL has set up a 56 bedded COVID care centre with a dedicated medical team to take care of the patients, in case of emergencies. The Company has also set up its own Testing Laboratory inside its premises for Rapid Antigen and RT-PCR testing of employees, vendors and visitors. JSPL has also accelerated the awareness campaign of



screened at their entry through thermo check. Facemasks for all employees and social distancing at work are ensured at the worksite. Visits to and from the plant premises are restricted and allowed only with a negative test report or double dose vaccination certificate. Elaborating on their preparedness Mr Ravi Shankar, Head HR & ES of Angul unit of JSPL said, "JSPL is not only trying its best to control the spread of Coronavirus but also it has taken several advanced measures like life support ambulances to save the precious lives of its stakeholders at the time of the pandemic. We have signed MoUs with various private reputed hospitals of the state such as Aswini, Aditya Aswini

work with minimum staff to continue the production as the steel industry comes under one of the essential services of the nation. Physical meetings, gathering and functions, etc. inside JSPL's plant premises and township are also restricted to prevent the spread. Employees residing outside the township are undergoing a periodical RT PCR tests to ensure they are COVID free. The staff buses are operating with 50 per cent capacity and are sanitised every day. In addition to these the Human Resource Department has also made it mandatory for each and every employee to keep them isolated in case of having any symptoms of COVID and take five days isolation leave as per medical advice.

the second wave of Corona in its periphery villages. The JSPL Foundation known as the social arm of JSPL is sensitising the villagers through various hoardings, e-messaging, e-learning, etc. to make the villagers understand the seriousness of the corona and keep themselves safe in this pandemic. During the first wave COVID-19 in 2020, JSPL under the umbrella support of JSPL Foundation has distributed more than two lakh hot cooked meals and dry rations to the vulnerable people in Angul District under its Mission Zero Hunger Programme. The company has also provided over 200,000 facemasks and 30,000 litres of sanitizers to the community and workforce.

Mayurbhanj to reactivate Covid-19 hospital

(A.O. Bureau) Baripada, Apr 19: Amid mounting positive cases, the Mayurbhanj administration is gearing up to reactivate the dedicated Covid facilities across the district. Plans are afoot to reopen the Covid hospital at Bankisole in Suliapada block which was closed on March 15 this year. The administration had signed an MoU with Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) for 110-bed Covid hospital last year. The hospital has 80 beds with oxygen support, 20 with ICU facility and 10 High Dependency Units (HDU) for treatment of infected patients. Collector Vineet Bhardwaj said



another MoU was signed with KIMS authorities on Friday and the Covid hospital will be made operational again within three to four days. This apart, four Covid care centres having 100-bed capacity

have started operating in Karanjia, Udala, Baripada and Rairangpur sub-divisions. Temporary medical centres at panchayat level are also being set up for quarantine of migrant workers. The two

isolation centres each having 50 beds have become operational at PRM Medical College and Hospital and KC Pur near Baripada. Panchayat officials and sarpanchs have been directed to keep track

of people coming from outside and ensure necessary steps to check the spread of infection, Bhardwaj added. Meanwhile, the district reported 119 positive cases in the last 24 hours.

NIT-R to use tech to address rural issues



(A.O. Bureau) Rourkela, Apr 19: NIT-R is a participating institute and also the regional coordinating institute in Odisha under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) initiative. The National Institute of Technology-Rourkela (NIT-R) has geared up to develop strategies to help improve the quality of rural life in its neighbourhood and beyond under the new-

found concept of the Universities' Social Responsibility (USR). NIT-R is a participating institute and also the regional coordinating institute in Odisha under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) initiative. The UBA team of NIT-R is actively working in developing strategies for solving problems and mapping resources to improve social and economic conditions of

people in its five adopted villages. With an aim to use technical knowledge, expertise and skills for gainful use of resources for benefits of rural people, it is also extending hand-holding to other participant institutes of the State. NIT-R Director Prof Animesh Biswas said the institute plans to strengthen computer learning in its adopted villages. Besides, the

existing demonstrable organic farming project is set for expansion in collaboration with Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP). The RSP and NIT-R will soon sign an MoU which would allow utilisation of corporate social responsibility fund of RSP for promotion of organic farming among villagers on a large scale. Biswas said under the UBA initiative, NIT-R is also working towards promotion of education and skill development training for creation of livelihood options. Incidentally in January, NIT-R had announced launch of its Poverty Alleviation Research Centre. This inter-disciplinary research project using mathematical modelling and Artificial Intelligence

seeks to understand the causes of continuing poverty in the KBK (Kalahandi, Balangir and Koraput) region, work out eradication measures and also predict the poverty pattern. The Director hoped that the research study would help identify the bottlenecks and address the perennial poverty problems of KBK districts. Addressing the 18th convocation ceremony of NIT-R on March 21, President Ram Nath Kovind had said, "I have been advocating for Universities' Social Responsibility in line with corporate social responsibility. I am happy to note that NIT-Rourkela has adopted five villages as part of 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'."

Fishing Ban Along Odisha Coast For Safe Fish Breeding

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Apr 19: The Odisha government imposed a two-months ban on fishing along in Odisha coast on April 15, 2021 in a bid to protect fish stocks in sea during their breeding period. The ban, viewed as necessary for safe breeding of fish will be in place from April 15 to June 15 every year. During the monsoons, when fish normally breed, the force of trawler's engine and net can disturb the seabed, where fish eggs are buried and throw them up into the water, preventing them from hatching. To avoid the problems caused by trawl fishing during the feeding season, fishermen have been instructed not to

venture into the sea during the ban period. Notably, the monsoon trawling ban was implemented in the year 1998 in Odisha to help the unhindered breeding of fish in the sea during the rains. The summer monsoon is the breeding season of nearly 300 species of fish along the coast of Odisha. During the ban besides other Odisha coast including 630 trawlers of Paradip fishing harbour are not allowed to venture out to sea. However, traditional fishermen are permitted to catch only pelagic fish, sources said. Besides, the ban renders over thousands of fishermen are jobless and they suffer a huge loss like in these COVID-19 pandemic time



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR, ITDA, MALKANGIRI
e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. ITDAMKG-02/2021-22
Memo No. : 1194/VI-79/2021, Dev. Dated : 19.04.2021

The Project Administrator, ITDA, Malkangiri on behalf of governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids through online mode in Double Cover System for the type of works given in the table, from the eligible contractors of Class (Special Class/A Class) or or equivalent range registered with the State Governments and Central governments/ MES/ Railways for execution of Building work. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid. The successful bidder who has not registered under state Government has to register under the state PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing of the agreement. The bid should be submitted only online on the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Name/ Type of Works	1) Upgradation of girls High School at Badapada (Educational Complex) to Higher Secondary School in Ghitrakonda Block. 2) Const. of 200 seated Hostel Buildings at Panasput.
No. of Works	1 No (One)
Amount put to Tender	As laid down in the DTCN
Tender paper cost	As laid down in the DTCN
E.M.D. Amount Required	Bid securing declaration in the prescribed format.
Period of completion	As laid down in the DTCN for each work.
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 10.00 A.M. of 20.04.2021 to 07.05.2021 up to 1.00 P.M.
Last Date/ Time for receipt of bid document in the portal	From 10.00 A.M. of 20.04.2021 to 07.05.2021 up to 1.00 P.M.
last Date/ Time for submission of paper cost & documents	From 07.00 A.M. of 10.05.2021 to 12.05.2021 up to 1.00 P.M. (During office hours in working days)
Date of opening of Tender	13.05.2021 (At 11.00 A.M.)
For details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in	

Sd/- Project Administrator
ITDA, Malkangiri