



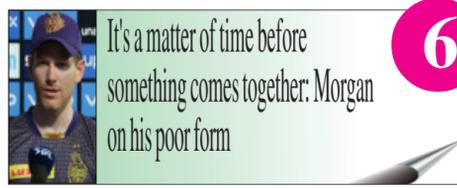
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## PM Modi chairs high-level meet on oxygen supply, availability



New Delhi, Apr 22: Chairing a high-level meeting to review oxygen supply across the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asked top officials to work rapidly on increasing its production, boosting the speed of distribution and using innovative ways to provide oxygen support to health facilities. PM also said that states must act against any hoarding of oxygen and directed officials to ensure that the oxygen supply to various states happens in a

smooth, unhindered manner and called for fixing responsibility with the local administration in cases of obstruction. In the meeting that also discussed ways and means to boost oxygen availability amid demands from many states for an increase in its supply, Modi was told that the supply of life-saving gas to states has been steadily increasing. Against the present demand from 20 states of 6,785 MT/day of liquid medical oxygen, the Centre has from April 21 allocated 6,822 MT/day to

these states, a statement said. It was noted that in the last few days, the availability of liquid medical oxygen has been increased by about 3,300 MT/day with contributions from private and public steel plants, industries, oxygen manufacturers as well as through prohibition of supply of oxygen for non-essential industries. Modi said states should come down heavily on hoarding and stressed the need to ensure faster transportation of oxygen. The statement said railways is being

used for rapid and non-stop long-distance transport of tankers. The first rake has reached from Mumbai to Vizag to transport 105 MT of the liquid medical oxygen. Similarly, empty oxygen tankers are also being air-lifted to oxygen suppliers to reduce one-way journey time in oxygen supply. The prime minister was informed that an elaborate exercise is being done in coordination with states to find their demand for oxygen and ensure adequate supply accordingly, the statement said. Top officials representing various ministries informed Modi that they are working together with the states to operationalize the sanctioned PSA oxygen plants as soon as possible. "PM directed the officials to ensure that oxygen supply to various states happens in a smooth, unhindered manner. He spoke about the need to fix responsibility

with the local administration in cases of obstruction. He also asked ministries to explore various innovative ways to increase production & supply of oxygen," it said. Various measures are being undertaken to rapidly increase the availability of cryogenic tankers through conversion of nitrogen and argon tankers, import and airlifting of tankers as well as manufacturing them, it added. Representatives from the medical community also spoke about the need for judicious use of oxygen and how an audit in some states has decreased oxygen demand without affecting the condition of patients. The meeting was attended by the Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to PM, Home Secretary, Health Secretary and officials from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Road Transport, Pharmaceuticals and NITI Aayog.

## Odisha To Extend All Cooperation In India's Fight Against COVID: Naveen To Modi



Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over telephone for discussing about the COVID-19 situation in the country. Patnaik

said it is a war-like situation in the nation and Odisha will extend all cooperation in the country's fight against COVID-19, including ramping up oxygen production to assist other states in this emergency

situation. Earlier in the day, Patnaik had telephoned his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal and assured complete support to Delhi in facilitating lifting of Delhi's quota of oxygen from the state.

## Pvt Hospitals In Odisha To Reserve At Least 50% Of Beds For Covid Positive Cases

Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: At a time when private healthcare institutions refused to admit Covid-19 positive cases, the Odisha Government today decided to direct all the private hospitals registered under the Odisha Clinical Establishment (Control & Regulation) Act 1990 to reserve at least 50% of the total beds for treatment of the coronavirus-affected patients. Additional



Chief Secretary of Health and Family Welfare, PK Mohapatra in a letter to the District Collectors, Municipal Commissioners,

CDMOs and Public Health Officials directed them to ensure the private hospitals having facility for 30 beds or more reserve minimum

50% of available General Beds and 50% of ICU/HDU beds for treatment of Covid patients. The Additional Chief Secretary further stated if need arises, the private hospitals may reserve 100% beds for treatment of Covid patients. He added, "It is observed that the private hospitals are treating the non-Covid cases, but when they find such patients to be Covid-19 positive dur-

ing the treatment, they immediately request the Government machinery to shift the cases to a Government Covid facility." The private hospitals are also not admitting Covid positive cases citing that they do not have Covid beds. Also, some other private hospitals have designated very few bed for Covid patients and kept the rest for non-Covid patients, the letter read.

## Pipili Bypoll Date Changed Again



Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: The Election Commission again changed the date of forthcoming bypoll to Pipili Assembly Constituency in Odisha. As per the revised date, the bypoll will be held on May 16 instead of May 13. The counting of votes is re-

scheduled to May 19, informed Odisha CEO Sushil Lohani today. The date was rescheduled again in view of holiday for Eid celebration, source said. The byelection to Pipili Assembly seat was scheduled on April 17. However, the date was deferred

to May 13 following demise of Congress candidate Ajit Mangaraj, who succumbed to COVID-19 on April 14. The Pipili Assembly seat is lying vacant since October last year after death of BJD leader Pradeep Maharathy.

## Helpline Numbers Of COVID Hospitals In Bhubaneswar Released

Name of the Lab./Institute	Type of Tests	Contact details
IMS & SJM	RT-PCR/Antigen	KLINDRA SAHOO 9437130305
In DNA	RT-PCR/Antigen	AMIT KUMAR SINGH 9396100593
GENX	RT-PCR/Antigen	ALOK KUMAR MAHARANA 8208236103/961716441
AMRI	TRUENAT	DR. BHASKAR GUPTA 9437891129
SHREE HOSPITAL	Antigen	SANTOSH KUMAR BEHERA 9391184854
CARE	Antigen	SUBHA SHREE 9439489008
HITECH	RT-PCR/Antigen	JYOTIRMAYA PANDA 9308523481
KIMS	RT-PCR/Antigen	DR. DEBPTI 9430232825
APOLLO	RT-PCR	Pankaj Dasgupta 9893040054
RadiLife Life Sciences	RT-PCR	989879583
ZeusLife Diagnostics LLP	RT-PCR/Antigen	M. Subhanwarthi Sekhar Bhowmik 8114819007

the helpline numbers of various dedicated COVID hospitals for convenience of denizens whose family members are hospitalised for Coronavirus. The family members can contact the below numbers to check conditions of their dear ones who are admitted to the COVID hospitals in Bhubaneswar, the BMC said in a tweet. Besides, the civic body updated the list of private COVID-19 testing facilities in Bhubaneswar.

## Odisha reports 6,164 new COVID-19 cases, seven deaths in last 24 hours

Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: In yet another high, Odisha reported 6164 new Covid-19 cases, a jump by nearly 27 percent (pc) from the previous day's count, pushing the active cases to cross 35,000. Seven persons succumbed to the disease during the period. Two deaths each were reported from Ganjam and Rayagada and one each from Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Khurda. Health department sources said, of the fresh cases spread across 30 districts, 3575 were detected among people in quarantine and 2589 were local infections. The state conducted 44,983 tests and the



test positivity rate stood at 13.7 pc. Khurda became the first district in the state to report Covid cases in four digits since the beginning of the pandemic. While the highest 1132 infections were diagnosed in the district, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Sundargarh, Cuttack and Jharsuguda were

among the worst hit with 459, 452, 427, 360 and 355 cases respectively. A significant number of cases reported from other districts included 286 in Puri, 236 in Bargarh, 229 in Sambalpur, 226 in Balangir, 207 in Nabarangpur, 205 in Keonjhar, 154 in Jajpur, 136 each in

Mayurbhanj and Angul, 135 in Ganjam and 105 in Rayagada. While 18 districts accounted for 85 pc of the cases, ten western Odisha districts bordering Chhattisgarh put together 2652 cases contributing 43 pc of the fresh caseload. With more than 1000 cases each, 11 districts, in-

cluding eight border districts, have been categorised as Covid hotspots. Sundargarh, Nuapada, Kalahandi and Khurda are the worst hit with most of the blocks registering more than 100 cases each. Khurda has the highest 5946 active cases, followed by 5055 in Sundargarh, 2116 in Nuapada, 1978 in Cuttack, 1765 in Bargarh, 1763 in Kalahandi, 1707 in Sambalpur and 1591 in Jharsuguda. With this, the total number of confirmed cases soared to 3,88,479 of which 3,51,386 have recovered and 1965 succumbed so far. The active cases stand at 35,075.



## PM Modi cancels visit to Bengal on Friday, to hold review meetings on Covid-19

New Delhi, Apr 22: In the last 24 hours, India registered more than 300,000 new cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), the highest-ever single day spike anywhere in the world, the Union ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) dashboard showed on Thursday morning. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted on Thursday he will not address poll rallies in West Bengal on Friday, and will instead chair high-level meetings in Delhi over the worsening situation of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in the country. "Tomorrow, will be chairing high-level meetings to review the prevailing Covid-19 situation. Due to that, I would not be going to West Bengal," PM



Modi tweeted on Thursday evening. Tomorrow, will be chairing high-level meetings to review the prevailing COVID-19 situation. Due to that, I would not be going to West Bengal. — Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) April 22, 2021. Prime Minister Modi's announce-

ment came on a day the Union ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) said that in the last 24 hours, India registered 314,835 new coronavirus cases, which includes a record 2104 single-day fatalities due to the viral disease. This was the first time the country saw

more than 300,000 fresh infections, the highest single-day rise in cases anywhere in the world since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020. India is currently in the grip of a deadly second wave of the infection, registering record number of new cases everyday, more

than even during the first wave last year. In fact, there have been more than 100,000 daily cases since April 5, which was the first time the said mark was topped. On April 15, more than 200,000 infections were detected in the country for the first time. Due to the surge in Covid-19 cases, political parties in West Bengal, where eight-phased assembly elections are currently underway, have announced steps to ensure social distancing in their respective rallies. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has already announced the suspension of his rallies. On Thursday, the eastern state voted in the sixth round of polling, with the final two rounds scheduled to take place on April 26 and 29.

## Centre to add nearly 800 ICU beds to govt hospitals in Delhi: Satyendar Jain

New Delhi, Apr 22: On Wednesday, the minister had said that preparations were going on to convert Burari ground into a 1,000-bed Covid-19 facility. In some relief for national Capital Delhi, state health minister Satyendar Jain said on Thursday that Central government hospitals will add 800 more intensive care unit beds "soon." There are 4,684 ICU beds in the city, of which only 18 are still vacant as of last evening, according to the government's Delhi Corona app. "Yes, there is a shortage of ICU beds. We have requested the Centre to increase the number of beds in their hospitals to 7,000. Currently, there are 2,000 beds in Cen-

tral government hospitals. The Centre will increase 700 to 800 ICU beds soon," said Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain. He

supply comes from the big plants of other states. But there was a crisis yesterday as some states were stopping the vehicles (car-



added that more beds will be available in the city as soon as the oxygen crisis is sorted out. "There is a shortage of oxygen for the last three days; yesterday the Centre increased Delhi's allocation from 378 MT to 480 MT. There is no oxygen production in Delhi; the

rying oxygen). The situation is not comfortable yet. Once the oxygen crisis ends, we can add a lot of beds," he said. On Wednesday, the minister had said that preparations were going on to convert Burari ground into a 1,000-bed Covid-19 facility.

## Rajnath Singh assures support to trace missing Indonesian submarine

New Delhi, Apr 22: The Indian Navy has already sent a deep submergence rescue vessel (DSRV) to support the Indonesian Navy's effort to trace the submarine that went missing on Wednesday during military exercise around the Bali Strait. "Spoke to the Defence Minister of Indo-

nesia, General Prabowo Subianto over the phone and shared my pain over the news of missing submarine Nanggala and its crew members. India is extending its full support to the ongoing Indonesian rescue efforts," Singh tweeted. Singh said India is always committed to

assist its strategic partners during times of need and that Gen Subianto has acknowledged and appreciated India's support to his country. Earlier, Indian Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said India is among a few countries globally which are capable of undertaking search and rescue of a disabled submarine through a DSRV. He said the Indian Navy's DSRV system can locate any submarine at a depth of 1,000 metres utilising its state of the art side scan sonar (SSS) and remotely operated vehicle (ROV). "After the submarine is successfully located, another sub module of DSRV - the submarine rescue vehicle (SRV) - mates with the submarine to rescue the trapped personnel.

## As Covid-19 cases surge, ITBP to reopen Sardar Patel care centre in Delhi

New Delhi, Apr 22: The ITBP had started the facility in July last year, as an emergency measure when the country, as well as the national capital, was reeling under the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is looking to operationalise its Covid-19 centre in south Delhi's Chhatrapur. The Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre was the world's largest; it was closed down in February. People aware of the development said that the centre is expected to be operational in three days. As many as 11,657 patients were treated by the facility in seven-and-a-half months. On Thursday, the Union



home ministry (MHA) released a letter which said that the Delhi government had requested for reopening of the facility. It also said that a deliberation took place on Thursday evening by ITBP officials with all the stakeholders. The MHA has designated ITBP as the nodal force for operating the facility. "It has been decided to provide an adequate

number of medical officers and para-medical staff to man 500 oxygenated beds to Sardar Patel Covid centre, Chhatrapur in Delhi," the MHA said in the letter. The home ministry also said that it has been decided to provide adequate number of medical officers and para-medical staff to man 500 oxygenated beds at the facility. The ITBP may

draw required medical manpower, if needed, from other central police forces also, the MHA letter further said. "The boarding and lodging arrangements for doctors and paramedical staff, including expenses, thereon will be made by Govt of NCT of Delhi," the MHA letter said. Inaugurated in July 5, 2020, the Sardar Patel centre was serv-

ing as a treatment centre for those who are asymptomatic but cannot afford home isolation. The ITBP had started the facility as an emergency measure when the country, as well as the national capital, was reeling under the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. The world's largest Covid-19 care centre admitted patients referred by 11 hospitals in Delhi, including AIIMS, Safdarjung, Medanta and Max Hospital. The number of patients being treated at the centre during the peak of the infection was 2,000. The Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre is 1,700 feet long, 700 feet wide - roughly the size of 20 football fields - and has 200 enclosures with 50 beds each.

## Pfizer: Will supply Covid-19 vaccine only through government channels

New Delhi, Apr 22: Pfizer has decided to prioritise orders from the government, and supply doses of its Covid-19 vaccine "only through government contracts" in India. This may potentially mean that the American drug giant's vaccine, developed with BioNTech, may not be available through private hospitals in the country — unless the Centre or state governments decide to sell doses to these facilities. The decision by Pfizer comes at a time when India has opened up its immunisation strategy, and allowed companies the option of charging states and private hospitals a potentially higher rate for their vaccines. While expressing the company's commitment to making its vaccine available in India, a Pfizer spokesperson reiterated its decision to

prioritise governments in their immunisation programmes "during this pandemic phase". The company would supply its vaccine "only through government contracts based on agreements with respective government authorities and following regulatory authorisation or approval", the spokesperson said. The statement by Pfizer came in response to queries by The Indian Express on whether the government's decision to allow the sale of 50 per cent supply of a company's Covid-19 vaccine "in the open market" impacted its plans for India. The company was asked how many doses of its vaccine it would be able to supply, and what prices it would charge the central government and in the open market. The company was also asked whether it had

submitted a request for Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) in India, and when it expected to begin supplying the vaccine here. "Pfizer remains committed to continuing our engagement with the Government towards making the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine available for use in the



Government's immunisation programme in the country," the spokesperson said. The multinational pharma company headquartered in New York was the first to approach the Central Drugs Standard Organisation

(CDSCO), India's top drug regulatory body, for restricted use permission of its Covid-19 vaccine. When it submitted its application on December 4, the company had already received EUA in the United Kingdom. While Pfizer had not conducted local trials or bridging studies of its

February 5, the company said it was withdrawing its application after an expert body under the CDSCO raised safety concerns, and asked it to conduct local trials in the country to prove the safety of the vaccine in the Indian population. But with the second surge raging, the government reversed its position earlier this month. It allowed vaccines with EUAs in the US, UK, EU and Japan, as well as those with WHO Emergency Use Listing, to receive restricted use approvals in India before conducting bridging studies. The announcement was made with the hope of attracting more foreign vaccines to the country. Subsequently, the government also changed its position on opening up vaccinations, and made everyone above the age of 18 eligible for the shot.

## Kerala: Saritha Nair held in solar scam case



Thiruvanthapuram, Apr 22: Nair was picked up by the police from her residence here after a court in Kozhikode had issued a warrant against the controversial businesswoman for failing to appear before it in a case filed against her in connection with scam. Saritha Nair, the prime accused in the solar panel scam that rocked Kerala during the previous Congress-led UDF rule, was arrested on Thursday in connection with the case. Nair was picked up by the police from her resi-

dence here after a court in Kozhikode had issued a warrant against the controversial businesswoman for failing to appear before it in a case filed against her in connection with scam. Saritha Nair, the prime accused in the solar panel scam that rocked Kerala during the previous Congress-led UDF rule, was arrested on Thursday in connection with the case. Nair was picked up by the police from her resi-

pany besides installing solar panels in his office and house. But, neither was the contract executed nor the money refunded, the complainant stated. The trial court was to deliver the judgement in February but since the accused did not turn up, the pronouncement had to be postponed. Biju Radhakrishnan and Saritha Nair are the first and second accused respectively in the case, the trial of which began on January 25, 2018.

## KIIT Ranked 201+ Globally in Times Higher Education Impact Rankings



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: Deeds are the best answer to injurious words. That way Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar remains a torch bearer among the fraternity and its achievements don't require a spokesman. KIIT has been placed among the top universities of the world in the

Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings-2021 announced on 21st April 2021. KIIT's commitment to sustenance and Equity gets recognition by THE. On the yardsticks of community-based university and impact of university, every year the Times Higher Education conducts rankings of higher education institutions across the globe. As KIIT has been fulfilling

all criteria of United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, THE has given 201+ rank to KIIT in the overall Impact ranking. The Impact Rankings of the Times Higher Education evaluates the social responsibility of universities across the world. Also, It has been ranked 86th in 'Reduced Inequalities' of SDG. For this, it has ranked within 100 universities of the world at

least in a single parameter. KIIT has got the rank 101+ in 'Partnership for The Goals' and 201+ in 'Quality Education & Peace and Justice & Strong Institutions' each. It is the only university in eastern India to achieve such an impressive rank. In 2020 KIIT was ranked in 501+. KIIT was also the winner of 'Awards Asia 2020' in the category 'Workplace of the Year' by the Times Higher Education. The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A very comprehensive and balanced comparison across four broad areas like research, stew-

ardship, outreach and teaching was done by the Times Higher Education. KIIT has been progressing with impressive ranks in quality teaching, research, publication, etc. What is more noteworthy is that KIIT has been carrying out its social responsibility with sincerity and dedication since its inception. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS said that a few institutions and universities are getting featured in the world rankings, which itself is a matter of pride for the state. "We are happy that KIIT Deemed to be University is among the top in the Impact Rankings of the Times Higher Education (THE), as it has tried to maintain excellence in social responsibility.

## Srimandir entry: Covid reports to be made must for Odisha devotees

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Apr 22: Amid the surge in Covid cases in Puri, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) is likely to issue a revised standard operating procedure (SOP) on Saturday. Chief administrator of SJTA Dr Krishan Kumar on Wednesday said like those from outside Odisha, devotees from the State may be asked to furnish RT-PCR negative report or complete vaccination certificate for entry into Srimandir. The decision will be taken in view of

the beds would have oxygen supply. If any servitor needs ICU or ventilator facilities, he would be shifted to the IDH Covid hospital. The Covid care centre would have adequate number of doctors and paramedical staff as well as an ambulance, Dr Kumar informed. A dedicated vaccination centre for servitors is currently operational. Moreover, immunity-boosting homeopathic drugs have been given to the servitors for the fifth time. Dr Kumar further said, the admin-

nated, he added. Three teams comprising the temple security and police personnel are ensuring strict adherence to the SOP and Covid guidelines by devotees entering Srimandir. Meanwhile, chief carpenters of the three chariots set off for Cuttack with 'ajnamallyas' of the Trinity to start sawing timber logs in a government-run saw mill in Khapurja industrial estate. As per tradition, sawing of timber for construction of the Rath starts on the oc-



## After Delhi, Maharashtra Thanks Odisha CM For Ensuring Oxygen Supply

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: Another worst Covid-19 affected State today thanked Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for steps taken by him in ensuring supply of oxygen. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray today called up Patnaik and thanked him for helping the State get oxygen supply from Odisha. Earlier in the day, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal thanked Patnaik during a telephonic conversation



for helping the Union Territory receive oxygen from Odisha. The

Odisha Chief Minister also spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

over telephone and extended his cooperation in the country's fight

against COVID-19, including ramping up oxygen production to assist other states in this emergency situation. Worth mentioning, Delhi will get 70 MT liquid medical oxygen from Odisha. While Rourkela Steel Plant will provide 40MT oxygen per day to Delhi, Tata Kalinga Nagar will give 30 MT/day to the Union Territory. Currently, AIIMS Bhubaneswar and IGH Rourkela hospitals in Odisha have medical oxygen plants.

the rise in positive cases in both the pilgrim town and the district. Puri reported 223 fresh Covid cases on Wednesday as compared to 193 the previous day. The new cases included 122 detected in Puri town. The SJTA has taken several steps to protect Srimandir servitors who continue to perform daily rituals of the Trinity despite the prevailing Covid situation. The SJTA chief said the administration is gearing up to reopen Covid facilities that were closed after the first coronavirus wave. A 40-bed dedicated Covid hospital has been set up on the Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) campus to treat infected servitors. The temple-run hotel Niladri Bhakta Nivas has also been transformed into a Covid care home. All

administration is keeping a close watch on servitors who returned from Kumbh Mela at Haridwar. Till date, 32 servitors have returned to Puri and their swab samples were tested. Only one was found Covid-19 positive. Health workers are making doorstep visit of every servitor family and collecting their travel and health history. Health teams are also providing treatment to servitors in home isolation. A seven-member body of servitors has been formed to carry out vaccination of all temple priests aged over 18 years from May 1. RT-PCR test of all carpenters, temple employees and servitors, who will be involved in construction of chariots for the annual Rath Yatra, would be conducted. They will also be vacci-

casation of Ramanavami. However this year, hand sawing of the logs by temple carpenters has been stopped due to the current Covid situation. Sources said almost all the timber logs for the three chariots have reached the saw mill. Safety measures in shrine: Devotees from the State may have to furnish RT-PCR negative report or vaccination certificate for Srimandir entry, 32 servitors return to Puri from Kumbh Mela, one tests positive, 7-member team formed to vaccinate servitors aged over 18 years, Chief carpenters of three chariots set off for Cuttack to start Rath construction work, Carpenters, temple employees and servitors involved in construction of chariots to be inoculated.

## Odisha weather update: Yellow warning issued to 7 districts

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: The Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar has issued Yellow warning to seven districts in the state. The warning has been sounded on Balasore, Keonjhar,



Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Ganjam, Gajapati, Koraput within next three hours." said the IMD. People are advised to keep a watch on the weather and accordingly move to safer places to protect from lightning strike.

Lightning and light to moderate rain likely to affect some parts of districts of Balasore, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur,

## World Television Premiere Of 'Charitra' On April 25



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: Odia thriller movie 'Charitra' will have a world television premiere on April 25 at 6 pm on Manjari TV, Odisha's first Free-To-Air 24 hour Odia Entertainment Television. In the movie by Manjari TV in association with P.S. Motion Picture, actors Ananya Mishra, Gargi Mohanty, Hara Ratha, Partha Sarathi Ray and Dipanwita Das Mohapatra will be seen playing pivotal roles. Abhishek Patnayak, a government officer who's recently married, is transferred to Koraput. He shifts with

his wife Madhu to a quarters allotted to him in the town. While unpacking, Madhu finds an old diary that belonged to a woman named Kalpana. Apparently, Kalpana was the wife of Sudhir Panigrahi, the officer who lived in that quarter before Abhishek and his wife moved in. Madhu starts reading the diary and with every turning page, she visualizes what Kalpana had penned about her days in that quarters. As Madhu's curiosity about Kalpana's life grows, she reaches the part of the diary after which, there were just blank pages. Convinced to have known

Kalpana's 'Charitra' and her life from the diary quite closely, Madhu decides to find out what happened next. To find out, watch the world television premiere on 'Charitra' this Sunday evening. Meanwhile, watch the trailer of the movie here: Charitra has been directed by Shishir Kumar Sahoo and Pinaki Singh. Music composition is done by Kasturi Kaushik, Ishan Sharma and Jerry Sylvester Vincent. Music artists Lobhita Lobo, Puja Venkat and Kuldeep Patnayak have sung various songs in the movie.

## SRC Clarifies On Timing Of Weekend Shutdown

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: The Special Relief Commissioner (SRC), Odisha has issued a clarification regarding the timing of weekend shutdown in urban areas of the state in view of the COVID-19 situation. "In response to some media queries, it is hereby clarified that the Friday night curfew continues till 5 AM of Saturday and then weekend shutdown continues from Saturday till Monday morning in all urban areas of the state. No one should interpret in any other way. In effect, restrictions continue from Friday evening till Monday morning 5 AM," the SRC said in a statement. 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 as-

sociated 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/stops, for facilitating movement of passengers by air, rail and road. Marriages and Funerals, with per-

mission 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 & Grocery 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.

## EDITORIAL

## Influencers go blank

In spite of holding sway over millions of followers, many stars ain't promoting anti-virus precautions. The entire country is in the stranglehold of the COVID-19 virus and several of its pesky strains and double and triple mutant variants. The citizenry is unsure of how the future would unravel on various counts — longevity, health, loved ones, business and employment opportunities, economy, curtailed movement, et al. Suddenly, thousands of real and self-proclaimed "doctors" and "experts" have descended upon us to enlighten us with their profound knowledge and wisdom. Then there are crores of others who, without the necessary insight but still resolute to serve humanity in their own humble fashion, feel contented playing the mailman especially with regard to the effusive outflows from the know-all "University of WhatsApp and Twitter". What's a little unsettling to some of us armchair 'look-terati', however, is the calm with which the sultans of the netherworld of social media platforms have greeted the pernicious virus or exhorted their billions of followers to stay composed, follow COVID-appropriate behaviour with sincerity and get vaccinated as soon as their turn comes. What makes their current conduct especially surprising is that most of these celebrities stay on social media as fish in water. You can expect them to write on any subject under the sun, even outside their field of speciality, and one doesn't think that more than a handful of their followers would ever have been disappointed. But in the current all-hands-on-deck situation, where even a minuscule effort makes a huge difference in saving innocent lives, these super stars are ostensibly numb to the life-and-death issue at hand. Since around April 1, from among social media's regular despatchers, the names of only industrialist Anand Mahindra (April 14, April 19) and Priyanka Chopra (April 20) come to mind off the cuff, advising people to follow the health norms. Actors Amitabh Bachchan (April 1) and Salman Khan (March 24) simply informed the world that they have taken their anti-COVID vaccine while cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar confirmed (March 27) that he had tested positive for the virus. Certain other online gladiators, such as Karan Johar, were so busy promoting their web series or other filmography that a negligible development like Corona assuming more virulent strains escaped their attention. A question for you: Are they really worth loving or emulating?

## More trouble

As the number of COVID-19 infections soars, a triple mutant variant has emerged in Bengal. The human-kind is facing an unprecedented crisis as the enemy is mightier than us — it frequently changes form and gets increasingly virulent — and arguably can render all our defences, including medicines and vaccines, ineffective. The Coronavirus is an RNA virus and all viruses have an inherent capacity to mutate. Basically, they mutate to stay on; but not all mutations are worrying for humans, save for the lethal ones. The main concern of the scientific community right now is the efficacy of the extant vaccines against the mutants and possible future variants. There is no way to stop the virus from mutating but the spectrum of vaccine effectiveness can be broadened keeping the possible mutations in mind. But as these changes in genes or protein sequencing cannot be predicted accurately, it's next to impossible to gauge the future form of a current strain and therefore to develop an effective vaccine. Even as India struggles with a double mutant Coronavirus, there are reports that a new strain — a triple mutant variant — has been detected and is circulating predominately in West Bengal, the State where three more phases of Assembly elections are due and which had for long become the favourite hunting ground of politicians of all hues, none of whom cared for COVID-appropriate behaviour either for themselves or the electorate. Is there any end to these mutations, or will these keep haunting us forever? There are worrying reports that even fully inoculated people have contracted the virus. Probably, they either didn't adhere to COVID-appropriate norms during the interval between the doses, their bodies failed to produce antibodies despite getting vaccinated or the vaccine turned out to be ineffective (improper storage might be a cause). But if it is actually due to a new strain against which the existing vaccines are not working, the scientists and pharmaceutical giants need to put their heads together and find a solution. But scientific studies are data-based and not merely assumptive, while India has a huge sample size with a lot of variations. The onus is on the Government to encourage and adequately fund such studies that will help the scientific community in developing new vaccines. Another problem scientists across the world, and particularly in India, might face is if a person infected with a mutant strain shows symptoms similar to those of the precursor variant. In such a scenario, the existing vaccines will be futile and the variant will not be easily detected as only "genome sequencing" can give exact information about the strain afflicting a person. In a poor country like India, genome sequencing — which costs tens of thousands of rupees — is not an option for the majority. With a clutch of life-and-death questions hovering all around us, these future possibilities are needed to be worked upon in a "vision and mission" mode. Till we hit upon the correct answers, there is no option to wearing masks, sanitising hands and waiting in a queue for the jab while observing physical distancing.

## The conundrum gets trickier

The Supreme Court's scathing judgment notwithstanding, Nepal's PM KP Oli has prorogued the House a second time. After the Supreme Court of Nepal on February 23 overturned Prime Minister (PM) KP Oli's decision to dissolve Parliament, he prorogued the House session on Monday afternoon. A two-year power struggle between Oli and his bête noire, revolutionary leader Prachanda, has ended in a climactic anti-climax with Oli providentially keeping his chair. Witness the events in the last six months: Oli dumped the Prachanda-Madhav Nepal group, ditched the Chinese by refusing to step down as the PM, dissolved Parliament, ordered elections and reinstated himself as the PM — not caretaker — of a revived Government, insisting that it was business as usual. Except that the quality of governance had declined further through rule by ordinances, boosted by the party faithful President Bidhya Devi Bhandari. In a shock-and-awe judgment, the Supreme Court deprived the Nepal Communist Party (merged CPN-UML and CPN Maoist Centre) of its label and symbol, reducing it to separate constituents. Prachanda's writ petition for the NCP's revival was rejected. Strangely, the Election Commission withheld its decision on allotting the NCP's 'Sun' symbol and party label to either faction, saying the party had not split. The story of political harakiri was scripted in the NCP despite its overwhelming and unprecedented political stability in Parliament, majority Governments in six of the seven provinces and 80 per cent of posts in the local elections. Landmark dates in the calendar of events are



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February 2018 (Oli elected as the PM with Maoist support); May 17, 2018 (the merger of the NCP factions); July 2, 2020 (Oli prorogues House); December 20, 2020 (Oli dissolves Parliament); February 23, 2021 (the Supreme Court's verdict on revival of the House on March 7); April 19, 2021 (Oli prorogues the House again). While Oli has not resigned on moral grounds, the Maoists have not withdrawn support to him. No single party has the necessary majority of 138 lawmakers in a House of 275. No party or combination of parties has filed a motion of no-confidence according to Article 100 (5) of the Constitution that requires 68 lawmakers. (The new Constitution bars a no-confidence motion in the first two years of any Government.) The political conundrum continues with Oli at the helm. The arithmetic of the revived House is the CPN-UML - 121 (including 38 dissident lawmakers belonging to the Nepal-Khanal faction); Nepali Congress - 63 (fractured among Sher Bahadur Deuba, Ramchandra Poudyel and Koirala

factions); Janata Samajwadi Party - 32 (Upendra Yadav, Baburam Bhattarai, Mahanta Thakur and Rajendra Mahto groups), CPN Maoist Centre - 48 to 53. The Government-formation combinations realistically at play are the CPN-UML plus JSP; NC, Maoists plus JSP; and CPN-UML plus NC. As Oli is tarred by the brush of poor governance and "self before service", the NC is unlikely to support Oli, who has not sought a vote of confidence. Strange are the ways of Nepali politics (imbibing the Belgian model where the country operates seamlessly without a Government), probably due to the hurriedly drafted Constitution of 2015. Nepal has had seven Constitutions (1948, 1951, 1959, 1962, 1990, 2007 and 2015). It is a federal, secular, democratic republic, not completely inclusive though one-third of Parliament's strength is meant to be women. But janjatis and Madhesis are dissatisfied with its provisions. The Madhesis in the JSP are negotiating with Oli to redress their constitutional grievances in lieu of

supporting the Government's formation. It is interesting that in 2008-09, Nepal turned away from a Maoist Government (Maoists won nearly a 2/3rds majority but were relegated to the third position in 2013). In 2021, Nepal has shied away from Communist rule despite China's Herculean efforts to keep the Left flock together. Ambassador Hou Yanqui has not abandoned her efforts to keep the Left parties united and has met both former Prime Ministers Madhav Nepal and Prachanda. But the unity project appears to be beyond reach. The Himalmedia Public Opinion Survey April 2021 has blamed Oli and Prachanda for putting the democracy at risk. India has made an impressive comeback, thanks to the good and quiet work by Ambassador Vinay Kwatra and agencies. The Kathmandu-Raxaul DPR for a broad gauge railway line, 198-km-long and costing \$3.15 bn, has been submitted to Singha Durbar. India has said it will complete the railway five years after the land is obtained. In addition, several legs of the Hulaki Rajmarg connecting the East-West Highway with the Indian border are being completed. The grand China-Nepal Economic Corridor, which includes a road and railway line from Kyrong-Kathmandu-Pokhara-Lumbini, is awaiting the green light and funds. Once completed, Chinese goods will reach the rich markets of the Indo-Gangetic Plain. While Deuba has said there is no chance of a new Government till Maoists withdraw support to Oli, the PM has prorogued the House again even as a no-confidence vote was being planned. The political conundrum seems embedded in the Constitution of Nepal.

## Training to grow learning horizons

The National Education Policy-2020 rightly accords importance to mentoring as it can offer wide-ranging support to learners. I read with considerable interest the Delhi Government's decision to launch "mentoring" of 1,000 girl students by 250 select senior-level students to help them move towards careers in STEM — science, technology, engineering and maths. Obviously, the move is linked to the importance that mentoring finds in the National Education Policy (NEP-2020): "A National Mission shall be established, with a large pool of outstanding/retired faculty — including those with the ability to teach in the Indian languages — that would be willing to provide short-term mentoring/professional support to the university/college teachers." The policy proposal should have far-reaching and much wider implications than those indicated in the initiative mentioned above. Mentoring, articulated comprehensively, can offer tremendous support to institutional functioning, quality enhancement, stress reduction in the learning environment and critical thinking. At present, the inadequacy of professionally equipped manpower is a major bottleneck practically at every stage of education. It is the initial stage of teaching and learning that alone prepares a solid foundation for quality research, innovations and entrepreneurship. If children get necessary personal-level guidance and help at this stage, it would be a huge help in future. Learning is no more confined to classrooms, textbooks and the hallowed premises of schools and institutes of higher learning. In times of swiftly increasing availability of digital learning support systems, educational institutions must broaden their horizons and be prepared to take help



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from outside the formal systems. The times ahead would demand multidisciplinary and holistic education that would prepare the learners for making effective contribution in creating a world of peace. JRD Tata once told youngsters: "Aim for perfection; you will achieve excellence." This is what education and learning are all about. The pursuit of excellence ought to be the goal of every informed and thinking individual. The process of growing up deserves to be dynamically oriented accordingly. Apart from the acquisition of life and productive skills, the systematic process of learning must enable every individual to lead a peaceful, harmonious and sublime life. This is best expressed in the essence of "Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram" (Truth, Beauty and Goodness)! And what good is life if society and its institutions permit growing up without internalisation of these ingredients. It must be accepted that our education systems work under the conditions of deficiency of every kind. Sadly enough, it includes financial resources and availability of competent teachers in the right

proportion. In a world moving towards knowledge economy and knowledge society, no forward-looking nation can afford dilution of quality in education, which India is suffering from at present. One could get a realistic assessment by visiting just a couple of sarkari schools and colleges, or a State-maintained university. Mentoring can be of help to everyone at every stage of life. It contributes most prominently in the initial stages, and it has a lasting impact. It must come from someone wiser, experienced, empathetic, understanding and ready to be a partner in the process of discovery. Everyone learns from someone else: Mostly it would be from parents, friends, an acquaintance or an icon. Formal education/schooling can cater only to a part of growing up, that too if the system is working with full efficacy. Think of Eklavya! He had a virtual mentor, who was his icon. In the current times, every school could identify persons from the community with experience, skills and readiness to support the young ones in their learning needs. This would also re-

quire decentralisation of authority. The head teacher must be authorised to seek such support based on her/his judgment and the availability of right persons. In the 1960s-1970s, teaching in universities never suffered due to academic vacancies as the department heads were authorised to fill up even short vacancies from amongst the research scholars available within the department, or from outside. The senior faculty would help them in every possible manner; an example of perfect mentoring could be seen in practically every university department. On appropriate occasions, help was also sought from the retired faculty. It was always readily forthcoming as they were not busy with coaching or teaching in private institutes, which is now the order of the day. An example: The head of a university department once asked a brilliant young lecturer how he liked the teaching experience. The young man replied: "I am worried. Shall I be repeating the stuff for the next three-four decades?" The senior answered: "Oh! You are teaching only physics? I help my students grow up. In that, there is no repetition!" Life is getting more complex and competitive by the day. The generations ahead shall endure a much faster pace of change; the educational institutions therefore must seek support from suitably equipped persons with a vision for future generations. The mentoring force needs to be confined to retired and willing teachers only as the process requires comprehension of the issues of the young on a much larger span. One expects that the importance accorded to mentoring in the NEP-2020 shall bring about a real positive change in the learning environment at every stage.

## Earth Day Celebrations By Utkalmani Yubak Sangha



(A.O. Bureau) Pattamundai, Apr 22: The Earth Day Celebrations Both Provide An Opportunity To Learn About This And Make An Impact On The Environment. The Utkalmani Yubak Sangha Celebrated Earth Day On April 21,

2020 With Great Enthusiasm. A Special Meeting Was Held By Some Students In Deuli Area Of Badmohanpur Village Panchayat In Pattamundai Block. The Students Gave A Brief Presentation On How The World Is Being Polluted And How

It Can Be Protected From The Effects Of Global Warming. The Event Was Organized By National Youth Volunteer And Utkalmani Yubak Sangha President Goutam Behera And Was Moderated By Sraban Kumar Behera. A Special Day Was Dedicated To Demonstrating A Commitment To Learning More About The Environment And How We Can Help Protect It. The Theme Of This Year's Earth Day Is "Restore Our Earth" Which Focuses On Natural Processes And Emerging Green Technologies That Can Help Restore The World's Ecosystem. All Volunteer Leaders Attended.

## Jharaphula Murder: Police Reveal Reason Behind The Crime



(A.O. Bureau) Jajpur, Apr 22: In a major development in the case of Ramadevi Women's University student Jharaphula Nayak's murder, police today revealed the motive behind the crime. Jajpur SP Rahul PR said the girl was murdered by her male friend Rakesh Swain as she was insisting him to repay over Rs 30,000, which was borrowed by him from the deceased. "Accused Rakesh Swain had borrowed over Rs 30,000 from

Jharaphula for buying a motorcycle. Few weeks before the murder, the girl asked him to return the money. Later on January 24, she went to Bhubaneswar for attending a birthday party. During her visit to the capital city, she insisted Rakesh for repayment of the amount and threatened him to disclose the matter before his family members," the SP said. "On January 26, Rakesh took Jharaphula to a hotel in the city on the pretext of repaying the

money. He forced her to consume liquor inside the room. As she fell unconscious after liquor consumption, he smothered her to death," the police official said. While Rakesh was arrested for murdering the girl, his two associates Shakti Sekhar Swain and Amaresh Rout were apprehended on the charges of conspiring with the prime accused and destroying evidence, the cop said. On January 26, Rakesh and Jharaphula had reached OYO Shiv Sai Guest House at Dharma Vihar in Bhubaneswar and checked into the hotel. They had stayed at room no. 201. On January 27 morning, Rakesh and Shakti Sekhar carried the girl's body on a scooter from Bhubaneswar and dumped it on roadside at Mulapala under Kuakhia police limits in Jajpur district.

## Tamsa main canal demolished flood like situation in lower villages

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 22: The Tamsa main canal has been demolished due to poor workmanship. The Tamsa main canal was demolished near MV-7 in Malkangiri district. As a result, hundreds of acres of farmland, including MPV-2 villages, have been flooded. Rice and almonds have also been destroyed, as well as recent fish ponds. The village of MPV-2 was inundated by floodwaters, and many homes were



flooded. People in the lower villages are still worried as the water

level is still low. Many families in MPV-2 village have fled to safer

places with their furniture. The district administration was not im-

mediately available for comment. The nightmare is on the rise. How reckless works are done by the contractor s and there is many officials engaged to check the quality works It is alleged that the Irrigation Canal department officials were not answering peoples are demanding investigation. Asked by the sub-division magistrate, he said he did not know about the incident. we will investigate it soon.

## IPL betting racket busted in Odisha, two arrested

(A.O. Bureau) Nabarangpur, Apr 22: During the raid, Rs 3,88,000 in case, three gold chains and four mobile phones were recovered. Two persons were arrested on Thursday after the Odisha Police have busted an Indian Premier League (IPL) betting racket that was being run at Bhagabati Sahi, Nabarangpur. Cash of over Rs 3 lakh, and three gold chains were recovered. As per a statement, the raid was carried out by a special team of the District Police with Additional IIC Pramila Bidika and

Sub-Inspector Rakesh Behera based on reliable information about the betting being conducted on IPL matches involving large sum of money. During the raid, Rs 3,88,000 in case, three gold chains and four mobile phones were recovered. Two persons were arrested and four persons managed to flee. A case has been registered in the matter. "Investigation is going on and police trying to arrest 4 persons who managed to flee. 2 arrested persons forwarded to court on Wednesday," the statement added.



## Maoists threatened to kendu leaf traders in Malkangiri



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 22: Beware of Kendu leaf traders! Now it's your turn. The kendu businessmen have received some such threats from the Maoists. The Maoists have placed threatening in red banners on the main road of Nakamamudi area under Malkangiri Korukanda block. In the past, the Maoists have been targeting contractor s and

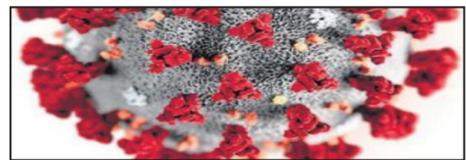
police. But now the Red Army is directly targeting kendu leaf/centipede traders and have received open threats through banners, especially the three-point demand. Are Central payroll should be given proper pay 100 per cent bonus on centipede purchase price immediate payment Central payroll payer's financial assistance in education, health, marriage and death The

banner has openly threatened to repeat the incident of Khairput Central Depot OMV 19 The Korukanda and Chitrukonda divisional Maoist posters also said that if they disobeyed the instructions and order of Maoist the Kendu leaf Ranger, Forrester, Musi and private owners would be punished in the people's court. Locals are now scared after the banner was put up.

## COVID-19 cases spike in Koraput

(A.O. Bureau) Jeypore, Apr 22: Despite strict enforcement of Covid guidelines, positive cases are constantly on rise in Koraput. On Wednesday, the district reported 62 new cases as compared to 31 the previous

day. While police have tightened vigil in urban areas including Jeypore, Koraput, Kotpad and Sunabeda, localities like Laxmipur, Semiliguda, Lamtaput, Nandapur, Borriguma, Narayanpatana, Kunduli and Kundra are witness-



ing violation of Covid norms. These rural areas are inhabited mostly by tribals. Besides, safety

guidelines are being openly flouted at health facilities like private clinics and

patho-labs as people rush to get their Covid tests done and avail other services. Koraput SP Varun Guntupalli said he will instruct officials to ensure strict adherence to Covid guidelines at medical institutions.

## Paradeep Phosphate Ltd to set up oxygen plants in select hospitals of Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Apr 22: The decision was taken in view of the surging daily positive case count of Odisha which has already breached the 4,000 mark since the last couple of days. As the country grapples with acute shortage of oxygen to treat Covid patients, Paradeep Phosphate Ltd (PPL) has decided to install three pressure swing adsorption (PSA) oxygen generation plants in various health facilities across the State. The decision was taken in view of the surging daily positive case count of Odisha which has already breached the 4,000 mark since the last couple of days. The first oxygen plant will come up in



Jagatsinghpur district at a cost of Rs 18 lakh. Head of corporate affairs, PPL Sudhi Ranjan Mishra said, "We have approached Jagatsinghpur Collector to identify the hospital where the plant will be installed. In the first phase, PPL will install three plants in selected hospitals of the State. Later, plants will be set up at other locations taking into consideration the prevailing situation." Besides, the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited

(IFFCO) has decided to set up an oxygen plant in its unit at Paradip. It has planned to provide oxygen free of cost to hospitals treating Covid patients. Sources said it will take at least two-three months for IFFCO to supply oxygen for Covid patients. However, PPL will install the PSA oxygen plants in health facilities on a war-footing. PSA consists of twin-tower adsorber filled with desiccant. These two towers are inter-connected with

valves for automatic change of towers. While one tower is involved in production, the other is in regeneration to provide uninterrupted supply of oxygen gas. This apart, PPL has opened a Covid vaccination centre at its plant site. Earlier, PPL used its CSR funds in boosting immunity of pregnant and lactating women and children to fight against coronavirus. PPL had also launched a 100-day nutrition programme for pregnant, lactating mothers and children aged 0-2 years who were deprived of healthy and nutritious food during the pandemic. Nearly, 637 persons including 65 pregnant women of Kujang block have been benefitted from this programme.

## Harijan Samaj People Demanding to bring back PD Mr. Maheshwar Nayak

(A.O. Bureau) Rayagada, Apr 22: Mr. Maheshwar Nayak has been appointed as Project Director in DRDA, Rayagada District for a very short span of 1 month and two days and has been transferred to another place. Today, dated Thursday, April 22nd, 2021, Harijan Samaj People is demanding the government to bring him back along with the reason for his transfer in this short span. They also have given a written request to the Chief Minister through the District Collector Rayagada. The people took rally for this sudden decision of the government against Mr. Maheshwar Nayak, PD, DRDA and said that if the government doesn't bring him back, they will continue their strikes in future until the proper justice is not received. Besides, there was a strike done in this regard in Tikiri and Kashipur.

## Ganjam closes religious, public places till May 15

(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, Apr 22: Facing another spike in Covid cases, the Ganjam administration on Wednesday closed all religious institutions and public places across the district till May 15. District Collector Vijay Kulange said religious places, parks, beaches, playgrounds and lakes in Ganjam will remain closed in view of the prevailing Covid situation. However, priests will be allowed to perform rituals in temples in absence of devotees. The Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) Commissioner, SDM, tehsildar, BDOs and executive officers of NACs will look after the enforcing of norms in their respective jurisdictions. In the last 24 hours, Ganjam reported 151 new positive cases, the highest single day spike since the second Covid wave gripped the district. Amid



the case surge, five Covid deaths were also reported from MKCG Medical College and Hospital (MCH) here on the day. Though bodies of the victims have been sent to Nilakantheshwar crematorium, the authorities are yet to confirm if the deaths were due to Covid-19 or other ailments. The district, which was in news last year for being the coronavirus hotspot of Odisha, is once again battling with shortage of beds at the dedicated Covid facilities in MKCGMCH, City hospital and Ashwini hospital. Sources said arrival of patients from adjoining

districts has further burdened the health infrastructure of Ganjam. To tide over the bed crisis, the district administration has asked authorities of Hi-Tech MCH to make the Tata Covid hospital at Sitalpali functional. The facility has 158 beds apart from 55 ICU beds. This apart, 112 teams comprising ANMs, anganwadi and ASHA workers have been formed to carry out door-to-door screening of residents. The teams will visit households to conduct thermal screening and check oxygen level of people.

## Baby Hrithik Roshan appears in Pinkie's video to mark 50th wedding anniversary



Rakesh Roshan and Pinkie Roshan are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Thursday. Watch the video shared by her on Instagram to commemorate the milestone. Pinkie Roshan shared precious memories as she celebrated 50 years of being married to filmmaker Rakesh Roshan. She posted a montage of pictures from their

wedding and other special moments from their life, including the birth of their children, actor Hrithik Roshan and Sunaina Roshan. The video features unseen photos of little Hrithik with his family. "Celebrating 50 years. I am not perfect... Neither are you. Yet we created a beautiful imperfect world of our own. Here's to 50 years of

learning, growing, understanding, adapting & loving unconditionally. Thank you for the happiest 50 years of my life. To many more @rakesh\_roshan9," Pinkie captioned the video. Wishes quickly poured in. Pinkie's niece Pashmina Roshan commented, "I'm crying, power couple." Fans also sent the couple love. "Happy 50th An-

niversary Pinkie, this is beautiful. Touché," one wrote. "Wow It's Spectacular Journey Mam," another commented. "Congratulations on your Golden Anniversary, stay blessed," a third wrote. Rakesh reposted the same video on his Instagram page and wrote, "Amazing 50 years. The first 50 years are always the hardest. And we sailed through because of being imperfectly perfect! Love you so much more than any caption can convey..!" Meanwhile, Hrithik's ex-wife, interior designer Sussanne Khan, shared a special wish for her 'mama and papa'. She posted a video of some of their special moments together and wrote on Instagram, "Love is a beautiful blessed feeling.. all

those who have the love of an unconditional family through all the ups and downs of life are truly blessed." "Happy happiest 50 years anniversary Mama and Papa.. wish you the world of love, the biggest smiles, and many 'laugh out louds' and also the best part of life ahead of you... #50yearsofwinning #loveislove #unconditional #happypeopleshinebrighter," she added. On Wednesday, Pinkie posted a picture of herself posing in the pool with Rakesh and wrote, "My partner for life, be proud to call me your wife." He left a sweet comment on the post: "My wifey darling, don't forget that you're with Mr. Charming!" He added a wink emoji at the end.

## Vakeel Saab, Master and Krack: South Indian movies that revived box office business



Bengaluru, Apr 22: While the filmmakers in the north showed little courage in bringing out their new releases in theatres, the filmmakers in the south showed the way by bringing out their big guns. It paid off with hits such as Vakeel Saab, Krack and Master. The Indian film industry is on the backfoot once again as the country battles an aggressive second wave of the coronavirus. It comes at a time when stakeholders in the theatrical business, especially down south were beginning to make some gains after incurring heavy losses for 10 months since last March last year. The filmmakers in the south showed the way by bringing out big guns and their risks paid off as it breathed a lease of new life in the theatre business. Krack: Ravi Teja's cop film came as a much-needed confidence boost to filmmakers down

estimates peg that the film may have collected over Rs 200 crore from its worldwide ticket sales. Sulthan: Starring Karthi in the lead role, the film further aided the box office recovery in Tamil Nadu. It faced stiff competition from major Hollywood tentpole Godzilla Vs Kong. The filmmakers have kept the total collection under the wraps. However, the stakeholders in the value chain appreciate the film for sustaining a strong momentum at the box office windows. Karnan: Dhanush was sort of relentless in bringing this movie to the theatres as he knew that it would add to the recovery of the theatre business. And he was right and how. Written and directed by Mari Selvaraj, the film opened to successful shows and glowing reviews. On the eve of the film's release, the

crore profits for its producers. Uppena: Written and directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film marked the acting debut of Panja Vaishnav Tej and Krithi Shetty. A story about a star-crossed lover and the evils of caste pride, it had Vijay Sethupathi playing the main antagonist. Released during Valentine's week, the film exceeded the expectations in terms of theatrical collection. As per the trade experts, the film's gross collection has touched Rs 100 crore, earning a net profit of about Rs 57 crore for its producers. Vakeel Saab: The film set the cash registers ringing at the box office across the Telugu states. If the second wave hadn't worsened, the film was well on its way to set a new record collection record for a Telugu film that was released in the middle of a pandemic. It raked in about Rs 100 crore in its first week. However, the night curfew in Telangana and the closure of theatres in the state owing to the curbs have massively affected its business. The trade believes that the film will add another Rs 20 crore to its kitty before it ends its theatrical run. The Priest: Malayalam superstar Mammooty's horror-thriller opened in cinemas at a time when the theatre business was gasping for new content to stay afloat in Kerala. The film surprised everyone by drawing the family crowd out of their house. Written and directed by Jofin T. Chacko, the film earned more than Rs 16 crore

## Recipe: Cupcakes with Raspberry Cream will paint Thursday blues, a happy yellow

New Delhi, Apr 22: You deserve to feel completely over-the-top today and that's when this recipe of gluten-free Yellow Cupcakes with Raspberry Cream will come in handy. Let this simple and healthy recipe be your new favourite. The Covid-19 vaccine doses have already started to kick in and while the temporary headaches or pains that come with it are inevitable, you can always paint your blues yellow with happiness courtesy a deep dive into Cupcakes with Raspberry Cream. You deserve to feel completely over-the-top today and that's when this recipe of gluten-free Yellow Cupcakes with Raspberry Cream will come in handy. Let this simple and healthy recipe be your new favourite. Here's how you can

whip up mouth-watering Yellow Cupcakes with Raspberry Cream that are perfect for everyday baking and occasions: Ingredients: 1 very ripe plantain, 2 tablespoons coconut butter (any nut butter will do), 1/2c almond flour (meal works too; slightly different consistency), 1t baking soda, pinch of pink Himalayan salt, 1 tablespoon vanilla extract, 1 tablespoon lemon juice. Method: Preheat the oven to 350°F and lightly grease a mini muffin pan. In a blender, puree plantain, coconut butter and vanilla extract and lemon juice. In a separate bowl sift together your dry ingredients. Pour the contents of your blender into the dry ingredients and combine. Scoop the batter into your mini muffin pan. Bake for



approximately 10 minutes or until nearly done (they'll firm up just a bit more after they're pulled from the oven). When finished, allow them to cool before frosting. For the frosting, you can puree half a cup of cashews with half a cup of raspberries and a few tablespoons of coconut butter and a splash of coconut milk. Then add a little lemon and stevia for sweetness. Benefits: Apart from

easing digestive symptoms, a gluten-free diet helps reduce chronic inflammation, boost energy and promote weight loss. It has health benefits for those suffering from celiac disease or nonceliac gluten sensitivity. As for raspberries, they may positively impact blood sugar, improve arthritis, aid in weight loss and may also combat ageing. Though raspberries are best to eat after pur-

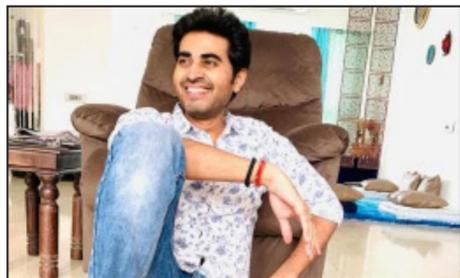
chasing, they can also be frozen and enjoyed at any time of year with same healthy option. They are a very good source of fiber and high in antioxidants that help reduce oxidative stress and may be low in calories but boast many nutrients. Their consumption helps reduce the risk of cancer, diabetes, heart disease and other illnesses due to their antioxidant content.

## Hope new plans and protocols will save all: Yash Sinha

Mumbai, Apr 22: Known for his versatile acting in shows like 'Bhagyavidhata,' 'Afsar Bitiya,' 'Kaajal,' 'Code Red,' and films like 'Badrinath ki Dulhania' and 'Apharan', actor Yash Sinha will be back soon on TV after a gap of five years. Known for

gave me a firm footing and made me a household name. The audience love and recognition came with a huge scale due to the vast reach of television. People still remember my work, especially, in the show 'Code Red' and associate me with the content

what came my way. Then, it was after the launch of my poetic video, this physiological thriller happened so, and I truly enjoyed shooting for it. It went to many international film fests, but due to pandemic, its fest journey was cut short. However, it was a proper for an OTT launch, so it reached larger audience and it's still streaming on two platforms." The versatile actor is currently busy shooting for his TV comeback. "I play a child psychiatrist and it is a role full of heroism and life. I always wanted to get back on TV with a proper heroic character and this role in the show 'Kyun Rishton Mein Katti Batti,' gave me that reason. I'm all happy as the promo is out and we are busy doing a bubble wrap shoot of the show due to ongoing rise in pandemic," he says.



his versatile acting in shows like 'Bhagyavidhata,' 'Afsar Bitiya,' 'Kaajal,' 'Code Red,' and films like 'Badrinath ki Dulhania' and 'Apharan', actor Yash Sinha will be back soon on TV after a gap of five years. "When I started as an actor, TV

till date. That's what came to my mind when this new role on TV was offered to me," says Yash. Last year, Yash had an opportunity to make his OTT debut. Talking about that he says, "The story of the short film 'Boom Boom' was very different from

## Mai Hero Boll Raha Hu first impression: The Parth Samthaan web series is full filmy



New Delhi, Apr 22: 'The time is the 1990s when Mumbai was 'Bambai', and ruthless gangsters ruled the city. Mai Hero Boll Raha Hu transports you to that era. It showcases the same old saga of rivalry between gangs, bloodshed, black-marketing and a city that is all glitzy on the outside but has a dank underbelly that is run by politicians, police and gangsters. But haven't we watched it all already? Haven't most of the Bollywood gangster movies served us a similar plot where a gangster rises from the dirt to rule

the city and a 'mehbooba' becomes his muse? Despite the deja vu, director Siddhartha Luther and writer Suparn S Varma manage to hold attention and delivers a watchable web series. They start off well by giving us the background to the lead character Nawab/Hero's (Parth Samthaan) journey to becoming the 'King of Bambai'. He knows all the rules of the game. His weapons are his intelligence and wit, his enemy is anger and his weakness is pretty women.

south. The film grossed more than Rs 12 crore worldwide on its opening day. Given that it was released on the heels of the Sankranti holiday, it further helped the box office prospects of the movie. And it ended its theatrical run with reportedly over Rs 70 crore, with a net profit of Rs 40 crore to its investors. That was a solid performance given the 50 percent cap on occupancy at the time. Master: It was the biggest release of 2021 as it opened on 900 screens across the country. It was, in fact, a big experiment as stakeholders of the industry believed that the success or failure of the Vijay-starrer would decide the future course of big-budget, big star movies in all the languages. It released on January 13 to a lot of fanfare and celebrations and sort of warmed up the engines of the entertainment industry across the country. The film lifted box office gloom and the theatres, particular in the south, sprang back to life. The producers have not officially shared the total collection of Master. However, the trade

Tamil Nadu government withdrew permission for 100 per cent occupancy. And still, the filmmakers went through with the release as planned. Result: the film reportedly earned an impressive Rs 23 crore on its opening weekend. In its second week, the film's gross is pegged close to Rs 40 crore. While the producers have refrained from sharing the collection figures, they have simply declared the film a "blockbuster." Jathi Ratnalu: Telugu film patrons continued to surprise everyone by thronging the cinema halls week after week. Do you think only big hero films could salvage the box office? Think again. This small-budget film starring a not-so-big star cast, made a dent at the box office. The film grossed a whopping Rs 70 crore, netting Rs 40

from ticket sales worldwide. Robert: Starring Darshan in the lead, this textbook crowd-pleaser revived the box office business in all corners of Karnataka. Despite the growing concerns of Covid-19, the fans gave the film a rousing welcome at the box office. If the reports are to be believed, the film minted Rs 60 crore within the first four days of its release.



## Tokyo Olympics torch relay has first positive COVID-19 case



Tokyo, Apr 22: Tokyo Olympics organizers said Thursday that a policeman tested positive for COVID-19 a day after his assignment last week at the Olympic torch relay. It is the first positive test connected to the relay since it began March 25 from northeastern Fukushima prefecture. Organizers say the 30-year-old policeman was assigned to control traffic on the April 17 leg in southwestern Kagawa prefecture. They said the officer developed symptoms and tested positive the next day. Local health authorities are investigating. Officials say the policeman

was wearing a mask and taking social-distancing precautions and other measures. The report comes as Japan is preparing to declare a third state of emergency in western metropolitan areas around Osaka, and in Tokyo. It is expected on Friday and is being re-instated after current measures failed to slow the latest resurgence fueled by a new, more contagious variant of the virus detected earlier in Britain. Japan had 541,496 cases and 9,710 deaths as of Tuesday. These results are good by global standard but poor in Asia. Without compulsory lockdowns, people in

Japan have become less cooperative with preventive measures. The organizers said all participants and officials are taking the best precautions and that the case will not affect the subsequent legs of the torch events. The torch relay involves 10,000 runners crisscrossing Japan for four months, ending at the arrival at the National Stadium on July 23 to kick off the scheduled opening ceremony. For precautions, legs last week were run in a city park in Osaka and taken off the public streets. Something similar is expected for some legs on May 1-2 on the southern island of Okinawa.

## KKR skipper Morgan fined Rs 12 lakh for maintaining slow over-rate

Mumbai, Apr 22: Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Eoin Morgan has been fined Rs 12 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during his team's IPL match against Chennai Super Kings here. Faf du Plessis' magnificent 95 not out and Deepak Chahar's impressive four-wicket haul powered CSK to an 18-run win over KKR on Wednesday night. In the high-scoring game, CSK posted 220/3 in 20 overs and then managed to bowl out KKR for 202. "Kolkata Knight Riders captain Eoin Morgan has been fined after his team

maintained a slow over rate during their VIVO Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 match against Chennai Super Kings at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on April 21," the IPL said in a statement. "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences, Mr Morgan was fined Rs 12 lakh," it added. As per the IPL guidelines, the captain of the erring team is docked Rs 12 lakh on the first instance of slow over-rate. On the second instance during the season, the fine for



the captain is doubled (24 lakh) while every other member of the playing XI is penalised with a 25 per cent de-

duction from the match fee or Rs 6 lakh -- whichever is lesser. This was Morgan's first offence of the season.

The win lifted CSK to the top of the table with six points from four matches, while KKR slipped to sixth.

## Atletico, Italian, PL clubs withdraw from Super League

Madrid, Apr 22: Atletico Madrid, Inter Milan and AC Milan became the latest clubs to pull out of the European Super League on Wednesday, with the project on the brink of collapse. Only Real Madrid and Barcelona officially remain, after England's 'Big Six' teams were the first to withdraw from the hugely controversial competition. "The Atletico Madrid Board of Directors, meeting this Wednesday morning, has decided to formally communicate to the Super League and the rest of the founding clubs its decision not to finally formalize its adherence to the

project," the Spanish side said in a statement. "Atletico Madrid made the decision last Monday to join this project in response to circumstances that no longer exist today. "For the club, harmony is essential between all the groups that make up the rojiblanco family, especially our fans. Atletico are one of three La Liga outfits involved in the breakaway tournament, with Real Madrid and their president Florentino Perez at the heart of the project. But the new league looks dead in the water after Manchester City,

Chelsea, Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham as well as Inter all pulled out. Italy's AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus on Wednesday followed all six English clubs as well as Atletico Madrid in giving up on the European Super League project while continuing to push for a change in world football. Italian champions Juventus, whose president Andrea Agnelli was one of the driving forces behind the project, said the withdrawal of most of the 12 founding teams made the project unworkable. "(Juventus) believes that at present there are limited

chances that the project be completed in the form originally conceived," the Turin club said. They added that they "convinced of the soundness of the project's sport, commercial and legal premises (and) remains committed to pursuing the creation of long-term value for the Company and the entire football industry." Like Juventus, AC Milan did not formally withdraw but said they were bowing to a backlash from fans around the world. While Chinese-owned Inter Milan confirmed they were "no longer part of the Super League project".

## It's a matter of time before something comes together: Morgan on his poor form

Mumbai, Apr 22: His poor run of scores notwithstanding, Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Eoin Morgan remains unfazed and says it's a "matter of time" before he fires in the ongoing IPL. After their 18-run loss against Chennai Super Kings here on Wednesday, the World Cup-winning captain's sequence of scores this season read 2, 7, 29 and 7. "It's everything's about the process. The way I'm going about things at the moment is extremely positive. I've been here a long time now and I've been practising well and it's a matter of time before something comes together," he said at the post-match press conference. KKR have got a vaunted batting lineup, but it has faltered in three matches so far in the league, even though the team came close against CSK. In the high-scoring game, CSK posted 220/3 in 20 overs and then man-



aged to bowl out KKR for 202, after Morgan's team was reeling at 31 for five inside the powerplay. "We have a very deep batting lineup, and it's one of our strengths and we are very experienced in that middle and lower middle-order, and today we saw that." A fine rally, led by Andre Russell, Pat Cummins and Dinesh Karthik,

helped KKR go past 200 but not the stiff victory target of 221. Morgan said he is proud of the strong comeback by his team. "We have to be proud of getting so close, and actually putting ourselves in a winning position. Particularly, Pat Cummins towards the end played beautiful," Morgan said. "It really did flip things right in our

favour, but obviously, having made those five mistakes earlier did cost us." For KKR, the change of venue did not change their fortunes as their bowlers leaked plenty of runs after Morgan opted to field. Morgan had made two changes in his bowling attack, bringing in rookie pacer Kamalesh Nagarkoti in place of Harbhajan Singh, while

Sunil Narine played his first game of the season replacing Shakib-Al-Hasan. While Narine returned figures of 1/34 from his four overs, Nagarkoti conceded 25 runs from his two overs. But it was their star pacer Cummins who was the most expensive among the lot as the Aussie gave away 58 runs from his four overs, while Russell's two overs went for 27 runs with one wicket at the death. But Morgan said the bowlers did a reasonable job. "I think today, upon reflection after both sides have been batted, they did a reasonable job. When you look at the position that we were in from the powerplay onwards, and only falling 20 runs short. "You don't have to be an optimist to think that we would have been in a good position if we had batted better at the top of the order," he signed off.

## CSK win six-hitting fest

Mumbai, Apr 22: Cummins, Russell's fightback after top-order collapse couldn't help KKR as Faf (95), Deepak (4/29) take Chennai to top of the table with 18 run win. Faf du Plessis' magnificent 95 not out and Deepak Chahar's impressive four-wicket haul outshone dazzling half centuries from Andre Russell and Pat Cummins as Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 18 runs in their IPL match at Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday. Put in to bat, CSK posted a big total of 220 for 3, riding on du Plessis' 60-ball unbeaten 95 and Rituraj Gaikwad's 64. Chasing a stiff target, KKR found themselves in deep trouble as they slumped to 31 for 5 inside five overs after a top-order collapse with Chahar wrecking havoc with figures of 4 for 29 from his four overs. Russell (54 off 22 balls) and Cummins (66 not out off 34 balls) raised hopes of an improbable win for KKR but in the end they were all out for 202 in 19.1 overs. Needing 190 runs from 15 overs, Russell first revived KKR's chase with a blistering 54 (3x4, 6x6) before being cleaned up by Sam Curran. But it was not over for KKR as yet. Bating at No 8, KKR pace spearhead Cummins displayed some sensational powerhitting in his 34-ball 66 not out (4x4, 6x6) but they simply did not have enough batting left to

keep the show going. Cummins smashed Curran for 30 runs with four sixes and one boundary in the 16th over to keep the run-chase alive, even as they kept losing wickets. It was down to 20 runs with one wicket in hand in the last over. But Prasad Krishna was run out in the first over of the final over. The win took CSK to the top of the table with six points from four matches, while KKR slipped to sixth. Chahar, who had wrecked havoc against Punjab Kings the other day, was at his ominous best once again as he swung the match in CSK's favour to leave KKR tottering at 31 for 5 inside the powerplay. Chahar, who grabbed 4/13 against Punjab Kings, made the ball talk with his swing and variation and snapped the talented Shubman Gill for a golden duck and then had the in-form Nitish Rana (9) in the second over. But Chahar's biggest wicket came in the next over in the form of skipper Eoin Morgan (7) when the left-hander nicked an outswinger with M S Dhoni completing a safe catch to become the first wicketkeeper to complete 150 dismissals in IPL. Earlier, looking for a change of fortunes in their first match at the Wankhede, KKR opted to bowl on flat track but du Plessis blazed his way to a masterclass 95 not out after his opening partner Rituraj Gaikwad's impressive 64 as CSK posted 220 for 3.



## Sun rises in Chennai

Chennai, Apr 22: Pacer Khaleel Ahmed led an impressive bowling effort before Jonny Bairstow smashed an unbeaten fifty as Sunrisers Hyderabad snapped their three-match losing streak with a convincing nine-wicket win over Punjab Kings at MA Chidambaram Stadium on Wednesday. Asked to

bowl first, Sunrisers Hyderabad's pace-spin duo of Khaleel (3/21) and Abhishek Sharma (2/24) did bulk of the damage to bundle out Punjab Kings for a below-par 120 in 19.4 overs. Senior pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/16), star Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (1/17) and Siddarth Kaul (1/27)

also picked up a wicket each as Punjab never gained momentum. Chasing the total, SRH openers Jonny Bairstow (63) and David Warner (37) pummelled Punjab into submission, adding 73 runs off 60 balls to set the foundation. Bairstow and Kane Williamson (16) then knocked off the re-

maining runs as SRH romped home with 8 balls to spare. Bairstow and Warner smashed five boundaries and two sixes during their 50-run stand in the powerplay, while Punjab had managed nine fours and two maximums in their entire innings. After Warner's exit, Bairstow found an able

ally in Williamson, who was playing his first match of the season, as they added an unbeaten 48 runs to help SRH log their first win of the season. Earlier, Shahrukh Khan (22) and Mayank Agarwal (22) were the top scorers for Punjab Kings, who came into the match after two losses.

# CUO to carry Impact Assessment Studies of the CSR projects of HAL UAIL Sparks the lives of Women at its Mines



(A.O. Bureau) Koraput, Apr 22: As part of the Industry-Academia Interface, the Central University of Odisha is going to carry out the Impact Assessment of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects undertaken by the Hindustan

Aeronautics Limited, Koraput division towards development of tribal dominated aspirational district i.e. Koraput. On this respect a preliminary meeting was held yesterday in the Central University of Odisha with the Chairmanship of Prof. I.

Ramabrahmam, Vice-Chancellor of CUO. The Vice Chancellor stressed upon greater cooperation between HAL and CUO in various areas in the coming future that can help improve the socio-economic condition of the region. Under the Chairmanship of the

Vice Chancellor, an Advisory Group has been formed to undertake the impact assessment studies of the CSR Projects as per the request from HAL. The members of Advisory Committee consists of the District Collector, Koraput, Faculty members of CUO Dr. Kapila Khemundu, Head I/c Sociology, Dr. Jayant Kumar Nayak, Head I/c Anthropology and Dr. Minati Sahu, Head I/c Economics and Management Dept, with Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean, SBCNR as Member Coordinator from CUO. The impact assessment study will be made on the CSR projects of HAL particularly educational projects meant for imparting education to the poor children in and around Sunabeda, Koraput in HAL run Educational Institutions. In the meeting it was agreed that the CUO will undertake the impact assessment studies of CSR

projects as per the specific term and conditions and as per laid down procedures for CSR Projects by HAL. From HAL the delegation of members in the meeting included Shri Asokan, Dy General Manager, HR; Shri Suryakant Rout, Chief Manager, HR & Coordinator of CRS Projects and Ms. Smita Mahapatra, Manager, CSR and from Central University of Odisha Prof. S. K. Palita, Dean, School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resource and Director, IQAC; Prof. Asit Kumar Das, Registrar, Shri K. Kosala Rao, Finance Officer; Prof. P. Durgaprasad, Visiting Professor, Sociology; and faculty Dr. Kapila Khemundu, Dr. Jayanta Kumar Nayak, Dr. Minati Sahoo, Head I/c. Economics participated in the interaction. Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer was present on the meeting.

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: As a caring corporate, Utkal Alumina International limited (UAIL), the subsidiary of Hindalco Industries limited of Aditya Birla group, has undertaken a plethora of initiatives for the peripheral development of the villages near its Baphlimali mines. Recently it has taken up few other initiatives to establish the harmony and remove the discontentment of the people of Paikakupakhal village which is located very close to the mines. UAIL in partnership with Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD) has started a nursery development project named Suryodaya to provide a sustainable livelihood opportunity for 42 women of the village. All the 42 women will be mobilised and imparted skill building training on nursery development as a part of Mines Reclamation and



plantation program. The team of Community Relations & Sustainability of UAIL, did a need assessment survey of the Paikakupakhal village for two months to understand the ground reality. In this survey, people from many vulnerable sections like PWD (Persons with Disability), old age couple, destitute/widow women, landless families and many others were identified. After the survey was completed, a plan was devised and as an immediate measure, one time financial support to the most vulnerable and needy sections was provided which would help

them in times of any exigency. While deliberating on this Mr Mazhar Baig, the Unit Head of UAIL says, "we are really concerned about the overall development of the women folk of this village. In the first stage we have taken up this nursery development project and very soon we will take up other different projects which will address the women and ensure their all-round development. By this we will really make the women folk of the village self-sufficient and empowered. We will continue to execute long term sustainable development projects in the villages which will be beneficial for them in future too," adds Mr Baig.

## 500 tons of liquid oxygen stock available at JSPL Angul

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: Responding to the national urgency of medical requirement oxygen, leading steelmaker Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL), in a post on twitter, has announced that more than 500 tons of liquid oxygen stock is readily available at its Angul steel making facility. "We are waiting for the users to send their tankers. We can fill up on a first come

first serve basis or as per the priority decided by the Ministry of steel," add the twitter message. A day before JSPL's Chairman Shri Naveen Jindal had announced to supply medical oxy from its Odisha and Chhattisgarh Units. "JSPL has been always standing with the Country and Countrymen during calamities and emergencies and will continue to do so dur-

ing this Pandemic. For us, it is Nation First. I am sure together we shall defeat the Pandemic," Shri Jindal said. The Company will supply the available medical oxygen on a first come first serve basis or as per the priority decided by the Ministry of steel. Last year, JSPL had supplied 725 tons of medical oxygen in Odisha during the times of COVID-19 Pandemic.



## Aditya Aluminium's Project Swabalamb making people self-reliant



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 22: At Sambalpur's Lapanga village, Hindalco's Aditya Aluminium, backed by the Government are helping people to become self-reliant through the Project "Swabalamb". The aim of this project is to hone the skills of the rural youngsters through training them in vocational skills. The end goal is to make them employable. Since its commencement in Oct

2020 through the PPP mode, over 270 youngsters have been trained. These include vocational skills like Ophthalmologist Paramedical services, tailoring, beautician, motor binding, driving etc. which are skills in demand. Furthermore, Aditya Aluminium endeavors to facilitate their placements. Among the trainees, two beneficiaries Sevati (19) & Rajashree (18) of Lapanga village have seen a major transfor-

mation in their lives. Their zest for work is amazing. They were trained in ophthalmologist paramedical services, placed in Trilochan Netralaya and today take home Rs 10000/- every month. Their family now lives a life of dignity. Lauding the initiative, Mr Subrat Roy, the Director of SBI Regional Self Employment Training Institute says that, this is a praiseworthy initiative on the part of Aditya Alu-

minium to come forward to partner with us in imparting training and counselling the rural youth in making them self-sufficient. Mr Kailash Pandey, Unit Head of Aditya Aluminium who fully backs the project, says, "This project is crucial to develop confidence amongst the youth through according them training in different skill building domains and enabling them to earn and look after themselves and their families. Partnering with the Govt. is aboon. We are much encouraged by our iconic Chairperson, Mrs. Rajashree Birla, Chairperson, Aditya Birla Centre for Community Initiatives and Rural Development, who believes that we must Engage, Uplift and Empower our women". Smt Rajashreeji Birla

believes that, "It is our responsibility to have the young realise their potential and engage them productively. Vocational training is one of our key areas, given its manifold impact which extends beyond the family to the nation as well". Dr. Vivekanand Misra, HR Head of Aditya Aluminium says, that our company will accelerate this process of skill development of youth through vocational courses, and ensure the self-sufficiency of the youth of the region. Aditya Birla Group works in 212 villages in the six districts of the state reaching out to more than 5 lac people and touching around 2,15,000 lives annually through its CSR activities in the areas of health, education, infrastructure development, sustainable livelihood and women empowerment.

## 'Timely reminder of grave threat': PM Modi tells Leaders' Summit on Climate

(A.O. Bureau) Bloomberg, Apr 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Leaders' Summit on Climate is a timely reminder that the grave threat posed by climate change has not disappeared even as humanity battles coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic. Speaking at the two-day virtual summit, the prime minister highlighted that climate change is a lived reality for millions around the world, and their lives and livelihoods are already facing adverse consequences. "To combat cli-

mate change, concrete action is needed. We need such action at a high speed on a large scale and with a global scope. We, in India, are doing our part. Our ambitious renewable energy target of 450 gigawatts by 2030 shows our commitment," said PM Modi. The prime minister announced that he and US President Joe Biden are launching the "India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership" to create templates of sustainable development. He said the two countries will help mobilise invest-



ments, demonstrate clean technologies, and enable green collaborations. Highlighting India's lower per capita carbon footprint as compared to the global average, Modi argued that the lifestyle of Indians "rooted in sustainable traditional practices" has helped the cause. He emphasised the importance of

"lifestyle change in climate action". "Despite our development challenges, we have taken many bold steps on clean energy, energy efficiency, afforestation and biodiversity. That's why we are among the few countries whose indices are 2-degree celsius compatible," he added. The summit is being

hosted by the US president who earlier committed to reducing the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 50%-52% below its 2005 emissions levels. Opening the Leaders' Summit on Climate, Biden laid out his vision for a greener economy with a focus on more for the blue-collar workers. "That's where we're headed as a nation, and that's what we can do if we take action to build an economy that's not only more prosperous but healthier, fairer and cleaner for the entire planet," Biden said.

## Emirates to stop flights between Dubai and India for 10 days from April 25

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, Apr 22: Emirates announced on Thursday it will stop all its flights between Dubai and India for 10 days starting from April 25 due to a rise in India's coronavirus disease (Covid-19) caseload. More details will be added soon. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced on Thursday that it will stop all its flights from India for a period of 10 days starting April 25 (Sunday) due to the massive rise in India's caseload of



the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). Sharing a statement, the UAE said arrival passengers from India through other countries are not allowed to enter unless they were staying for 14 days in those countries. However, the departure

and cargo flights between UAE and India will continue to operate. UAE citizens, diplomatic delegations, official delegations and flights of businessmen are the categories which are exempted from this restriction.