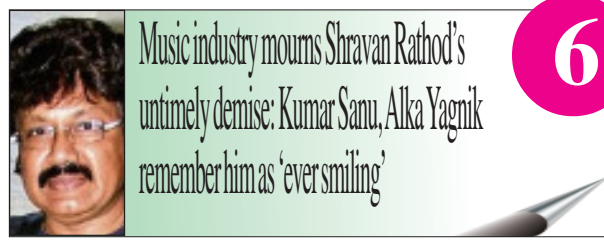


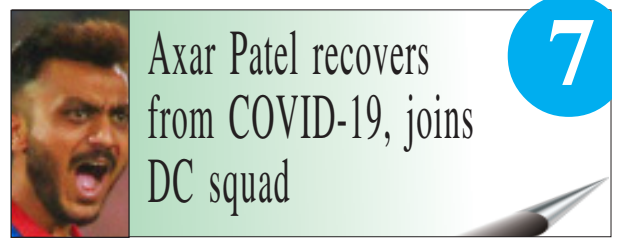
Amit Shah reviews oxygen supply, asks states to create corridors for oxygen vehicles



Congress Announces Candidate For Pipili Bypoll



Music industry mourns Shrawan Rathod's untimely demise: Kumar Sanu, Alka Yagnik remember him as 'ever smiling'



Axar Patel recovers from COVID-19, joins DC squad

CM Naveen Patnaik talks to PM Modi, assures oxygen supply to states



Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: Amid reports of shortage of medical oxygen in different parts of the country, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday extended all support to the Centre in fighting the pandemic at the national level includ-

ing ramping up of oxygen production to assist the needy states. The Chief Minister made this offer to Prime Minister Narendra Modi while discussing the Covid-19 situation over telephone. "It is a war-like situation and Odisha will extend all

cooperation in the fight against Covid at the national level including ramping up oxygen production to assist other states in this emergency," he said. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister's gesture has been praised by his counterparts of Delhi and

Maharashtra. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal praised Patnaik for assuring supply of medical oxygen and entrusting a special officer to the task. "Received a call from Sh Naveen Patnaik ji. He has assured complete support to Delhi in facilitating lifting of Delhi's quota of oxygen from Odisha. He has put a special officer on the job. Thank you so much Sir. Delhi is indeed grateful," Kejriwal tweeted. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray also spoke to Naveen and thanked him for the steps taken for arranging logistics for oxygen transport to Maharashtra. Police have made special arrangements to ensure uninter-

rupted and fast movement of medical oxygen from Odisha to other states. Additional DGP (law and order) is coordinating the issue and the SPs are making special traffic arrangements including police escort and dedicated corridors to ensure swift movement of medical oxygen from the State. Official sources said Odisha has around 70 industries producing industrial oxygen. Rourkela Steel Plant, Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) at Angul and IFFCO Ltd in Paradip are among the major producers. The government is encouraging these industries to produce medical oxygen to maintain supply here and also provide them to other needy states.

Weekend Shutdown Begins Today: Relaxed For One Hour For Morning Walk, Cycling

Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: SRC Pradeep Jena said that at present the night curfew restrictions are in force in all urban areas of the State and restrictions will remain in force till 5 am tomorrow. As the curfew timing ends, the weekend shutdown restrictions will come into effect from tomorrow morning (Saturday). In the backdrop of confusions, the SRC clarified that the weekend shutdown restrictions will come into force from Saturday morning soon after the completion of night curfew restrictions which will begin from tonight (Friday 9 pm). The weekend shutdown restrictions in all urban areas will expire on



Monday 5 am, said Jena. "During the period of night curfew and beginning of weekend shutdown, all the restrictions as announced by the State government earlier will continue. However, such restrictions will not be applicable for those engaged in emergency services and permitted activities will continue as usual," said Jena. However, for the convenience of people,

Jena said, the administration has decided to provide one-hour relaxation before the weekend shutdown restrictions came into effect. "We have decided extend relaxation of one hour from 5 am to 6 am on Saturdays and Sundays (weekend shutdown) for people going out for morning walk, jogging, cycling and other fitness activities," Jena added.

Odisha reports record: seven deaths 6,164 fresh Covid cases



Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: In yet another high, Odisha reported 6,164 new Covid-19 cases, a jump by nearly 27 per cent (pc) from the previous day's count, pushing the active cases over 30,000. Khurda became the first district in the State to report Covid cases in four digits since the beginning of the pandemic. While the highest 1,132 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.

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 districts. Health department sources said of the fresh cases, 3,575 were detected among people in quarantine and 2,589 were local infections. The State conducted 42,983 tests, including 18,013 through RT-PCR and the test positivity rate stood at 14.34 pc. 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, 10 western Odisha districts bordering Chhattisgarh put together 2,652 cases contributing 43 pc of the fresh caseload. With more than 1,000 cases each, 11 districts, including 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 5,748 active cases followed by 4,814 in Sundargarh, 1,919 in Cuttack, and 1,706 in Nuapada.

Centre fails to set up a single oxygen plant in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: Of the seven pressure swing absorption (PSA) oxygen plants proposed six months back, the Centre has failed to set up a single facility in Odisha. Despite oxygen being one of the most vital medical essentials in the fight against Covid-19, the installation process carried out directly by the Centre moved at a snail's pace once the Covid transmission hit a low in November 2020. Odisha government had proposed the seven PSA oxygen plants to be set up at district headquarters hospitals (DHHs) in Sundargarh, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Keonjhar, Kandhamal, Jajpur and Angul in October last year after the Centre sought proposals in this regard. Each plant costs around Rs 1.25 crore. The seven oxygen plants were part of 162 such

units planned by the Centre with funding from the PM-Cares corpus to produce medical oxygen on site. Once set up, oxygen generated at the plants can be directly supplied to hospital beds through a dedicated pipeline minimising the requirement of pressurised liquid oxygen now being used as an alternative. The new oxygen plants would have produced 2,100 litre per minute (LPM) catering to the needs of around 2,000 beds in the hospitals with Jajpur and Keonjhar facilities producing the maximum 400 LPM each. Although there is no scarcity of oxygen in Odisha now, three of the seven districts proposed for the plants are the worst-hit due to their close proximity with Chhattisgarh. Since the plants are fully funded from PM-Cares



corpus, the Centre was to select the vendor and execute the project. The State government's mandate was to provide land and it has already handed over the sites and made all logistic arrangements. However, the installation process slowed down following the decline in number of Covid cases last year. Additional Chief Secretary of Health PK Mohapatra said the vendors chosen for Odisha have already completed site inspection. "We have nothing to do since the project is being executed directly by the Centre. We expect the plants to be set

up in a war-footing so that the hospitals can be equipped with on-site oxygen facility," he added. In addition to that, the State government has recently proposed seven more DHHs as sought by the Centre to establish the PSA oxygen plants in the second phase. The oxygen plants will be set up at Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Bargarh, Puri, Khurda, Sambalpur and Rourkela Government Hospital. Odisha has seven government medical colleges but none of them has an oxygen plant. The hospitals with dedicated oxygen plants are

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar and IGH at Rourkela besides SUM and KIIMS hospitals. The MCHs and DHHs procure oxygen from private manufacturers to meet their requirement. Mohapatra said the government has planned to set up 15 stand-alone oxygen plants, including six at medical college level and rest nine at DHH level. "A new plant has already come up at MKCG MCH in Berhampur which will be commissioned by end of this month. Tender has been floated for the new plants and the work is expected to begin soon," he added. The State government on Thursday reviewed the oxygen availability with the manufacturers and asked the filling agencies to ensure that all hospitals treating Covid patients get uninterrupted supply.

BJP, Congress seek free vaccination in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: As several states have announced free vaccination for all people in their states, the Opposition BJP and Congress on Thursday asked the Odisha government to do so. BJP State general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan told mediapersons that as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced free vaccination before the commencement of first-phase of vaccination in the country, the State government should also



announce the same. "As states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Assam and Sikkim have announced free vaccina-

tion, we hope that the Odisha government will also follow suit and make an announcement within 24 hours," he said. Working president of the Odisha Pradesh

Congress Committee (OPCC) Pradip Majhi said that as 76 per cent of the people of the State are below poverty line, they cannot afford the price fixed by the vaccine manufacturing companies. He said that as the Prime Minister had announced free vaccination for the entire country by considering the pandemic as a national disaster, the Odisha government should also announce so without further delay. BJD vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra,

however, said that the decision on free vaccination will be taken at the appropriate level. "It is my personal opinion that the State government should announce a rebate for the people on the purchase of vaccine," he added. Mishra said that the Prime Minister should hold meetings with vaccine manufacturing to address the issue of vaccine shortage reported from different parts of the country. "The assertion of the Centre that there is no dearth of vaccines is not true," he said.

Odisha Dispatches Over 250 Tonnes Of Oxygen To Other States In 24 Hours

Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: Odisha has extended helping hand to other states amid shortage of oxygen for critical COVID-19 patients across the country by dispatching 15 tankers containing more than 250 tonnes of medical oxygen in 24 hours. The tankers from Rourkela, Jajpur and Angul were sent to Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad, Indore, Pune, Mumbai and Nagpur. A dedicated corridor has been formed by Odisha Police for prompt and un-



hindered movement of oxygen tankers. Based on the directive of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, a Special Cell was formed under Y K Jethwa, ADG (Law & Order) as the Nodal Officer for coordinated action for loading and

transportation of medical oxygen by Odisha to states facing deficit. Later today, 2 tankers from Angul to Visakhapatnam, 2 tankers from Jajpur to Ghaziabad and Visakhapatnam will leave soon.

'Won't be any scarcity of resources if we work as one nation': PM Modi tells CMs at Covid meet

New Delhi, Apr 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday told chief ministers of states and Union territories hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic to ensure there are no hindrances in the transportation of oxygen tankers as several regions across the country reported a shortage in the supply for Covid-19 patients. "He urged the states to check hoarding and black marketing of oxygen and medicines. The PM said that every state should ensure that no oxygen tanker, whether it is meant for any state, is stopped or gets stranded," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement. PM Modi's remarks came at a high-level meeting on the Covid-19 situation with chief ministers of 11 states and Union territories that have reported the maximum number of



cases lately. The crucial meeting, the third with CMs in the last five weeks, comes at a time when many states are reporting a lack of health infrastructure to meet the requirements amid a massive increase in Covid-19 cases. As the states flagged a shortage of oxygen and medicines for Covid-19 patients, PM Modi said that continuous efforts are on to increase the supply. "All the concerned departments and ministries of the govern-

ment are also working together. Industrial oxygen has also been diverted to meet immediate requirements," the Prime Minister said, according to his office. During the meeting, PM Modi urged the states to set up a high-level co-ordination committee to carry oxygen to different hospitals of the state. This committee should ensure that as soon as there is an allotment of oxygen from the Centre, it can deliver oxygen as per requirement in dif-

ferent hospitals of the state immediately. PM Modi also stated that the government is working on all possible options to reduce the travel time and turnaround time of oxygen tankers. "For this, railways has started Oxygen Express. Empty Oxygen tankers are also being transported by the Air Force to reduce one-way travel time," according to PM's office. Prime Minister urged all states to work together to fight the second wave

of the Covid-19 pandemic and assured that if the nation battles as a collective power, there won't be any scarcity of resources. "He said the biggest basis of India's success during the first wave of the pandemic was our united efforts and united strategy and reiterated that we will have to address this challenge in the same way," his office said. PM Modi reiterated the need to scale up testing along with upgrading resources. He also remarked that India's vaccination programme should not slow down in the current situation. On Friday, India registered over 300,000 Covid-19 cases, the world's highest daily tally for the second day in a row, which take the total infection tally to 16,263,695. The toll due to the viral disease is also on the rise with 2263 deaths in the last 24 hours taking the total number of fatalities to 186,920.

Govt to provide free food to 800 million in May, June under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

New Delhi, Apr 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed that it is important that the poor of the country have nutritional support when the country is facing the second wave of coronavirus pandemic. The Centre said on Friday the government will provide 5 kilogram of free food

NFSA, namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Householders (PHH), will be provided with an additional quota of free-of-cost foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) at a scale of 5 Kg per person per month, over and above their regular monthly entitlements under

790,000 crore. The extension of the scheme was announced by the Prime Minister last year when the country was entering the 'unlock' phase from the nationwide lockdown imposed to curtail the spread of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and to support the poor affected



grains to millions of poor covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013, "due to economic disruptions caused by the Covid-19 outbreak in the country" for the months of May and June under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. This will be "over and above NFSA foodgrains for next two months i.e. May and June 2021 on the same pattern as the earlier "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)", it added. "Under this special scheme (PMGKAY), around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries covered under both categories of

NFSA. Government of India will bear all expenditure of over ₹26,000 Crore on account of food subsidy and Central assistance to states/UTs on account of intrastate transportation etc," it added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed that it is important that the poor of the country have nutritional support when the country is facing the second wave of coronavirus pandemic. The free food grains distribution scheme under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana was extended in June for five months till November 2020 with an additional estimated outlay of

by the halt in the economic activities. The scheme has been rolled out again for the next two months as the country's healthcare infrastructure has reached its capacity and several states have taken steps like complete lockdown, night curfew to contain the spread of the disease. The scheme comes as such measures affecting the economic activities of the country and the pandemic will cause a huge burden on the poor of the country. India on Friday reported 332,730 cases of coronavirus disease in the last 24 hours—the highest since the pandemic broke last year—taking the tally to over 16.2 million.

West Bengal New Variant Virus Wrecking Havoc



more contagious than other forms. Information is currently gathering information about it. Triple mutants become

trouble after double mutants! According to reports, the information of this type of virus is only in the name. It is

being said that it contains three mutations of the virus. The triple mutant variant can be called the second lineage of

New Delhi, Apr 23: The 'second wave of the Coronavirus continues to wreak havoc. At the moment, double mutant and variants from other countries including Britain, Brazil, were of concern in the minds of countrymen, but now a new form of Corona, B.1.618 or triple mutants has raised concerns. This variant is being seen on a large scale in West Bengal. Experts suggest that this type of virus may be

SARS-CoV-2, identified in India. It is being called B.1.618 and it is spreading mostly in West Bengal. The exact information of how dangerous this type of coronavirus has not yet been revealed. Experts are being quoted in media reports that it is more contagious than other variants. In an interview with NDTV, Dr. Madhukar Pai had said, "This is a more rapid variant. It is making people sick quickly.

EC Bans Roadshows, Vehicle Rallies In WB; Restricts Public Meets To Max 500 People

New Delhi, Apr 23: Expressing anguish that COVID-related safety protocols were being flouted in West Bengal campaigning, the Election Commission on Thursday placed an immediate ban on road shows, "pad yatras" and vehicle rallies in the state and said public meetings having more than 500 people would not be allowed. Using its constitutional powers, the commission issued an order placing fresh restrictions on physical

campaigning in the state where two more phases of elections are due on April 26 and 29. The orders came into force from 7 pm on Thursday. "The commission has noted with anguish that many political parties/candidates are still not adhering to the prescribed safety norms during the public gatherings..." the order read. "...the commission invoking its powers under Article 324 further orders that with effect from 7 pm of April 22, in the

state of West Bengal no roadshow/padyatra shall be permissible; No cycle/bike/vehicle rally shall be permissible; No public meeting beyond the limit of 500 persons at a place subject to availability of adequate space with social distancing, adhering to COVID-19 safety norms, shall be permissible," the order said. It made clear that permission for road shows, cycle, bike or vehicle rallies, if granted already, stands withdrawn.

IAF puts more aircraft on standby for Covid-19 relief

New Delhi, Apr 23: The IAF on Thursday airlifted three oxygen containers from Hindon to Panagarh in West Bengal where these will be filled up and supplied to different centres for Covid-19 relief. It also moved oxygen containers from Begumpet to Bhubaneswar on Friday. Pitching in to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian Air Force has deployed five types of aircraft to ferry essential items to different parts of the country. The IAF has carried out several sorties to airlift oxygen con-

tainers, cylinders, essential medicines and equipment required for setting up and sustaining Covid hospitals and facilities to deal with the surge in infections, the defence ministry said on Friday. Aircraft have also been kept on standby to cater to additional workload. "The IAF transport aircraft and helicopters have been pressed into service for carrying out these tasks. These include C-17, C-130J, IL-76, An-32 and Avro. Chinook and Mi-17 helicopters are on standby," the ministry



said in a statement, adding that tasks undertaken so far include airlift of doctors and nursing staff from Kochi, Mumbai, Vizag and Bangalore to

Delhi. Transport planes and choppers are on standby for being deployed at short notice, it said. The IAF on Thursday airlifted three oxygen

containers from Hindon to Panagarh in West Bengal where these will be filled up and supplied to different centres for Covid-19 relief.

Amit Shah reviews oxygen supply; asks states to create corridors for oxygen vehicles

New Delhi, Apr 23: The ministry of home affairs (MHA) on Friday asked all states and union territories to provide adequate security to oxygen transporting vehicles and to make provisions for exclusive corridors for such transportation, treating these vehicles like ambulances. A review meeting was taken by home minister Amit Shah during which he directed an expert group to optimize and rationalize the allocation of oxygen to various states

and UTs, keeping in view the active cases and to reduce time for movement of medical oxygen. The ministry had, on Thursday, passed an order under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 directing states to make sure there is no hindrance in the supply of oxygen transporting vehicles. Within hours, the Delhi high court directed to ensure adequate security to the lorries transporting oxygen and its non-obstruction on the way as well as creation of a



special corridor for immediate transportation. In his letter to states/UTs on Friday, Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla pointed out that the Delhi High Court "has further directed that non-compliance of its order

will invite action for contempt of court and also invite criminal and penal action under DMA and under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)". "In view of the sharp rise in Covid-19 cases and resultant increas-

ing demand of medical oxygen across the country, Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah has reviewed the situation and directed various measures to augment the supply of oxygen for medical purposes. Accordingly, an Expert Group is optimizing and rationalising the allocation of oxygen to various States and UTs, keeping in view the active cases and to reduce time for movement of medical oxygen," said a statement by MHA.

Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Passes Away



Lucknow, Apr 23: Ministers and MLAs are also coming into the grip of Corona infection in Uttar Pradesh. Bharatiya Janata Party

MLA Ramesh Diwakar passed away from Auraiya Sadar. He was hit by a corona infection. State Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

has mourned his death. The Chief Minister tweeted and wrote that it is sad. He prayed for the family to recover from grief. According to the information, a few days ago, he was admitted to the Kovid ward of Meerut Medical in critical condition. Meanwhile, his condition remained critical due to infection reaching the lungs. The legislator died late on Thursday.

Awareness programme organised by the Officer's & Staff of RPF



(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Apr 23: Today massive awareness programme organised by the Officer's & Staff of RPF Puri in Railway

Coaching Complex & Colony area to sensitize the private workers, Railway men & their families to follow the Covid related

guidelines & also to use face make, frequent washing of hands etc Anil ku Singh, IIC RPF PURI will present the program.

+2 Students Demand For Online Exams

(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, Apr 23: The year 2020 brought a lot of upheaval in the Education Sector. In 2021 the challenge still remain. The contagion continues to pose health risks triggering fear in the minds of many several students across various college in Khordha are voicing themselves requesting the Education Minister of Odisha to conduct online exams or cancellation the exam's Odisha government



should step in. After gathering in front of the Collector office Khordha, where they raised slogans to

stop off line exam's and demand to conduct online exams. Submitted a memorandum to the Educa-

tion Minister of Odisha through Collector Khordha the agitators said off line exam's will infect

more students and demanding that the CHSE, Odisha allow them to appear online exams for their safety.

So far, 1.73 lakh metric tonnes of medical oxygen has been procured from the steel plant - Dharmendra Pradhan

- The state-owned steel industry has supplied more than 36,000 metric tons of oxygen
- Medical oxygen is supplied to Delhi from the Rourkela Steel Plant in Odisha and the Kalinga Nagar Factory in Tata Steel
- Oxygen trains have been sent to Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh from RINL and Bokaro steel mills in Vizag
- The steel plant is working 24 hours a day to produce medical oxygen



Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: Steel companies across India have so far produced 1.83 million metric tonnes of liquid medical oxygen, of which more than 34,000 metric tonnes are from

state-owned steel companies. Mr Pradhan tweeted that the country, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had come together to fight the Covid-18 epidemic. "The steel sec-

tor is also in the throes of a coup d'état. Steel factories across India

supply medical oxygen. Medical oxygen is being supplied to Delhi

from Odisha's Rourkela Steel Plant and Tata Steel's Kalinga Nagar Factory. "An oxygen train was sent to Maharashtra from Vizagharh National Steel Corporation Limited (RINL) yesterday. Even today, another oxygen train has been sent from Uttar Pradesh to the Bokaro steel plant. "Mr. Pradhan thanked the steel companies for coming together in the current difficult times and working 24 hours a day to produce medical oxygen at the behest of the country.

Pipili by-poll rescheduled to May 16

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: The Election Commission of India has again rescheduled the date for the by-election to Pipili Assembly constituency in view of Eid celebrations. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sushil Kumar Lohani said that the by-poll will now be held on May 16 instead of May 13. Accordingly, the counting of votes will be held on May 19, he said. The CEO said Eid is likely to fall on May 13 and some voters might face inconvenience to come for polling. Therefore, the by-poll has been rescheduled, he added. The by-poll was first slated for April 17 and had to be postponed following the death of Congress candidate Ajit Mangaraj on April 14. The ECI has further instructed that no rallies, public meetings, street plays and nukkad meetings will be al-



lowed on any day during the days of campaign between 7 pm and 10 am. Besides, the silence period for rallies, public meetings, street plays, bike rallies or any gathering for campaigning has been extended to 72 hours, he added. Meanwhile, family members of Mangaraj have refused to contest the by-poll. Working president of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Pradip Majhi said that the party will have to work out its strategy afresh after the development. Congress was keen to field Bandana Mangaraj, wife of deceased candidate Ajit Mangaraj in the by-poll.

Weekend Shutdown: Strict Action To Be Taken Against Violators In Odisha's Twin City

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: Ahead of weekend shutdown scheduled to be enforced from tomorrow across urban areas of the State, the Commissionerate Police today said that strict action will be taken against the violators in Twin City Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. "Strict

said. The police forces will be deployed at 25 points in Cuttack and 43 points in Bhubaneswar to prevent unnecessary movement of vehicles as well as public. Keeping the physical activities and fitness of people in mind, the State Government has made relaxation for one hour allowing people to go on morning walk and cycling.



action will be taken against the persons who will be found breaching the shutdown norms in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack," said Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi. Briefing a presser today, the CP said that the State Government has announced weekend shutdown in all urban areas with effect from April 24 to prevent spread of COVID infections. The restrictions will be imposed from tonight along with the night curfew till April 26 morning. "It is important for Twin City Bhubaneswar and Cuttack to contain transmission of the deadly virus. The CP will enforce the restrictions in a strict manner," Priyadarshi

The CP said that the citizens will be given one hour relaxation to continue their physical activities during shutdown on Saturday and Sunday. However, nobody will be allowed to move on road or streets without any genuine cause after relaxation period, the CP said. As per the notification issued by the SRC, Odisha, movement of vehicles and public except essential services will be restricted. However, no special pass will be issued for movement of persons on emergency duty. The CP appealed to people of Twin City to cooperate with the police to observe the shutdown norms in battle against COVID.

Private hospitals to reserve 50 per cent bed for Covid patients



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: With beds in dedicated Covid hospitals filling up fast, the State government on Thursday directed private hospitals to allot half of their beds for Covid-19 patients. Private hospitals having 30 or more beds in the urban localities, including five mu-

nicipal corporations - Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Berhampur and Rourkela - will keep at least 50 per cent (pc) general beds and ICU/HDU beds reserved for Covid patients. They can go up to 100 pc of such available beds as and when need arises. The Health and Family Welfare de-

partment has, however, made it clear that the private hospitals can not charge more than the prescribed cost of treatment in three different categories of patients. Additional Chief Secretary of Health PK Mohapatra said the hospitals should refrain from referring the patients to other hospitals if they are

detected positive. "On such provision of beds for Covid treatment, they have to intimate the Collector of the district concerned and the State level authorised officer. They have to appoint one authorised medical officer who will coordinate with State authorities," he said. If any hospital is found charging exorbitant fees, Mohapatra warned, action as deemed fit will be taken. As per the prescribed rate, no private hospital can charge more than Rs 2,950, including Rs 1,200 for bed and Rs 1,750 for consumables per day at non-NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers) and Rs

4,750 including Rs 3000 bed charge for general bed in NABH certified facility. For patients in ICU without ventilator support, non-NABH hospitals can charge Rs 10,000 per day and NABH accredited hospital can charge Rs 17,000 per day, which included Rs 8,000 and Rs 12,000 for consumables respectively. For ventilator use, the hospitals can raise bill ranging between Rs 12,000 and Rs 18,000. "Where additional procedures are required for the medical or surgical emergencies during the treatment for Covid-19 patients, the procedural costs as per the BSKY package may be charged," Mohapatra added.

Mo Bus Service To Remain Suspended On Weekends

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) has decided to suspend the Mo Bus service on weekends during the weekend shutdown in view of the COVID-19

situation. To facilitate the movement of incoming passengers, bus service will be provided for Cuttack and Khurda from Railway Station. Shuttle service will be available from Airport to Railway Station, the CRUT said.



Congress Announces Candidate For Pipili Bypoll

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: The Congress today announced the name of its candidate for the bypoll to the Pipili assembly constituency. The party has fielded Bishwokeshan Harichandan Mohapatra as its nominee. The bypoll is scheduled to be held on May 16 while the counting of votes will take place on May 19. Campaigning for the bypoll will end by evening of May 13. The bypoll was originally scheduled to be held on April 17. However, it was countermanded after the demise of Congress candidate Ajit Mangaraj, who succumbed



to COVID-19 on April 14. The Pipili bypoll was necessitated after the death of former Pipili MLA Pradeep Maharathy, who died of COVID-19, last year.

Odisha Govt Exempts Public Distribution System During Weekend Shutdown

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: The Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) today made a partial modification to his earlier order with regard to weekend shutdown in all urban areas of the State. As per the latest notifica-

tion issued by the Office of the Special Relief Commissioner, the State government has made amendments in clause B of its earlier order issued on 19th April, and has allowed public distribution system and related activities during weekend shutdown.

EDITORIAL

Don't choke Mars

It's great that NASA has been able to create oxygen on the Red Planet but don't think of colonising it. For those who have grown up watching sci-fi movies like *Species*, *Total Recall*, *The Martian*, *Marvin the Martian* and so on, the Red Planet holds a lot of fascination. It is not just popular culture that is obsessed with Mars, our scientists, too, are consumed with the possibility of humanity being able to live on it one day. This is because Mars is potentially the most habitable planet so close to us. Many believe that the first manned space flight to Mars is only a matter of time and that it will eventually be followed by its colonisation by humankind. In fact, many countries and private firms are heavily involved in the race to colonise the Red Planet. The US, as usual, is far ahead of the others in the great space race. And, in a landmark development which will have a far-reaching impact on making future manned missions to Mars a reality, Perseverance, NASA's newest six-wheeled robot on the Martian surface, converted some of the planet's thin, carbon dioxide-rich atmosphere into oxygen. A toaster-sized, experimental instrument aboard Perseverance, called the Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilisation Experiment (MOXIE), accomplished the task. The test took place on April 20, the 60th Martian day since the mission landed on February 18. While the technology demonstrated by NASA is still in the nascent stage and MOXIE's oxygen production was a meagre five grams, which is equivalent to about 10 minutes worth of breathable oxygen for an astronaut, it is designed to generate up to 10 grams of oxygen per hour. However, NASA is jubilant as this baby step will pave the way for science fiction to become a science fact. In the future, the US could isolate and store oxygen on Mars for its astronauts to live and work there, besides helping power rockets to lift them off the planet's surface. No doubt it is a giant leap for humanity, but what about our Blue Planet? Instead of planning to get our greedy hands on other celestial bodies to ruin them the way we have done the Earth, the time, effort and money would be better spent on finding solutions to the problems created by us here. While it is good to be ambitious in the interest of science, we must not forget that we owe the planet we live on a great debt as we have all but made it inhospitable. Let us look after the Earth, the only planet we call home.

Faulty figures?

Amid the COVID-19 apocalypse, certain data highlight the efficacy of desi vaccines. People are falling like ninepins to the COVID-19 virus and the situation has exacerbated due to the shortage in oxygen and medicine supply, besides the non-availability of hospital beds. Similarly, crematoriums and graveyards are out of space for the last rites of the dead. The Government's job seems to be limited to just coming out with higher numbers each passing day — of the succumbed, and new and total infections — which, even if much lower than the actual figures as some people are claiming, present a horrifying picture. Amid all this, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) throws up the data that only 0.04 per cent of the 17,37,178 individuals who received the second dose of Covaxin were COVID-19 positive while 0.03 per cent of the 1,57,32,754 people who took the second dose of Covishield were infected. The figures are definitely a shot in the arm for the swadeshi vaccines and instil confidence in people. However, looked at minutely, these figures raise a few uncomfortable questions. First, how many individuals in these sets of 17.37 lakh or 1.57 crore people went for testing after the second dose? There must have been many asymptomatic patients (who show no symptoms but are carriers) who didn't go for the RT-PCR or other COVID detection tests. It's now established that most people don't prefer to get tested in the absence of any symptom but still carry the lethal virus. Then, there must be those who didn't inform the authorities even if they had mild symptoms. Many people prefer to get treated at home rather than in a hospital, especially since there is a massive shortage of beds, oxygen and medicines. The accuracy of these figures, therefore, is suspect. Further, a study in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Vaccine breakthrough infections with SARS-CoV-2 variants, states that in a group of 417 people who had received the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine, two women were identified with the vaccine breakthrough infection, at an approximate rate of 0.50 per cent. Interestingly, the ICMR figures of vaccine efficacy, with the sample size in lakhs and crores, show more promising results than the findings in the top journal — with its limited sample size and accurate testing of all individuals. Well, if the sample size is in lakhs and crores, it is not possible to test all the individuals and, therefore, the results are bound to be far from accurate. However, ICMR chief Balram Bhargava has assured that the “data are not at all worrisome”. But we still have to take it with a pinch of salt. It's time for the Government and its agencies to concentrate more on plugging the loopholes and not just get buoyed by the figures that are far removed from the actual and seem to serve only the end of the vaccine manufacturers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi might be making all-out efforts to save the country from the pandemic but such misleading figures by the ICMR only undermine his sincere endeavours.

Lives, livelihoods still far from safe



Ashish Ahuja

ably the need of the hour in late March 2020 to better prepare the health infrastructure. There can hardly be a debate on this. But what explains the suddenness of it all when hospitals were empty and deaths a fraction of where we are today? What explains the painful and prolonged 68 days of being shut down? The only number the Government seemed to be bothered about then was the infection graph. Victory was declared by showing how our country fared so much better than the rest. If the ‘Great Indian Lockdown’ was about preparing the health system, then shouldn't the nation have been served a graph of additional hospital beds, ventilators, oxygen capacity and the like to keep the citizens informed of the work being done to prepare for the worst? It is hard for normal folk to accept a mistake, and even harder for the Governments to do so. Rather than admitting to an error in judgement, a changed narrative from “let's kill the virus” to “we are preparing the health system” worked as a convenient explana-

tion. I, for one, hoped that the changed stance truly reflected the Government's intent. Sadly, I was wrong. Cut to the present. If the Government presumably acted prudently and helped prepare the health system in those 68 days and the ensuing period of another 200+ days since ‘Unlock 1’, then what explains the current mess? Even for the uninitiated, it simply means that the preparation was grossly inadequate and the forecasting even worse. The time spent in lockdown and the time post-lockdown did little to prepare our health infrastructure for the tsunami facing us today. In such a case, what did the lockdown achieve? Very little. It did not vanquish the virus, it did not adequately prepare our health system but it definitely destroyed the livelihoods of millions. Personally, I have never been an advocate of lockdowns. Each one must evaluate one's own risks and act accordingly by imposing a self-lockdown when required. However, if there is ever a greater reason and logic for a

stringent lockdown, it is now. I have constantly maintained that lockdowns simply reduce the pace of spread of the virus. They never completely eradicate it or stop its spread. Thus, a lockdown is unfortunately necessary only and only when the health system is running at capacity. And it is running to more than capacity now. The time to save lives is now, not when our hospital capacity was chugging along at 30 per cent or so, in April 2020. With the hospitals bursting at seams, the Union Government in its wisdom thinks that lockdowns don't help. Really? Wasn't the ‘Great Indian Lockdown’ presented as the smartest move last year? Confusing to me. If the March 2020 lockdown was not a mistake, it definitely cannot be a mistake in April 2021. However, since it does not seem to be a tool for the Government in the current crisis just yet, isn't that an admission that it erred in March last year? The sad part is that they are erring again. However, this time, by not enforcing one. The happenings over the last year remind me of a game we played as children, called “musical chairs”. The Government seems to be caught on the wrong side of the chair each time the music stops playing. As most of us juggle multiple calls for help from family and friends, television grabs of religious ceremonies and election rallies seem to mock us. Do we deserve this? Who is to blame for our predicament? The virus, the Government's response or us who cast our ballots — the 1.4 billion? Think hard about it. Let's hope and pray that lives as well as livelihoods are saved. Sadly, as it is playing out, it seems neither lives nor livelihoods are safe.

A single price for Covid-19 vaccines will stimulate production, ensure efficient vaccination



Sudipta Sarangi, Harish Damodaran

mists call “under-provision” or “over-provision” (too little or too much) of the good and a situation of “market failure”. That is a key reason why governments treat goods having large positive externalities as “public goods” and provide these while factoring in the full costs and benefits to society. Viewed from this perspective, the latest version of India's vaccine policy is quite significant. It requires vaccine manufacturers to supply 50 per cent of their production to the Centre at controlled prices, while allowing them to sell the remaining half in the open market (including to state governments) at pre-announced “self-set” prices. Standard economic theory suggests that the above policy is susceptible to market failure. One could counter by saying that vaccine delivery by the private sector will be faster than the government. The country would, therefore, be better-off even with some under-provision. But this argument misses an essential point. To start with, the new policy can lead to differential access to the vaccine. Manufacturers are supposed to “transparently declare” their prices in advance for their 50 per cent supply to the open market. But there is no limit per se on the retail price they would charge.

This could lead to a whole range of prices and vaccine inequality, apart from diversion of supplies from the controlled low-price government centres to the open market. So, we may well have scarcity in the “mass” segment co-existing with a glut in the “elite” segment. However, our point isn't about inequality alone. It is also about economic efficiency and the potential for market failure. Imagine there are two sets of people in India. The first consists of those who are better off and can afford to stay back or work from home. This lot is also less likely to cause infection to others. The second set is mostly blue-collar workers, small traders, vendors and agriculturists. The nature of their work — on the shop floor or in the field — makes them naturally prone to infect others. It follows, then, that society gains from first vaccinating the latter, as they have a higher negative externality. The irony is that the section more prone to infecting others would also be low-income people, who cannot ordinarily afford the vaccine. Under these circumstances, when the market is allowed to deliver vaccines, those with higher incomes — and even prepared to pay more than what the manufacturers are currently charging —

will have better access. The market will ignore those with lower purchasing power, despite them having a higher probability of spreading the disease. In fact, the bigger the income difference between the two segments, the greater will be the extent of market failure from simultaneous over-provisioning and under-provisioning. Note this isn't an argument on the ethics of vaccine inequality, but about the possible efficiency loss from the new policy. What can be an efficient solution that addresses market failure? Well, it could be a single price to be paid to vaccine makers for all the doses that they supply. The price should be high enough to stimulate them to rapidly ramp up production. But how can those without sufficient means pay this price? The answer is that they needn't at all. The moment they receive a jab, it is the government that will pay the vaccine maker or the hospital administering the dose. The suggested solution is similar to the fertiliser subsidy, which is now disbursed to companies only after actual sales to farmers. No subsidy is paid on any bag unless the purchase, along with the farmer's biometric authentication and other details, is captured on a point-of-sale machine at the retail outlet linked to a central server. A similar mechanism, where the vaccine producer gets the full market price — it shouldn't matter to him whether the final consumer or government pays — after a person gets the jab, will also ensure no diversion or grey market. Ultimately, it is in our own interest to get not just ourselves, but also others, vaccinated.

Within 4 months GP new boundary wall collapsed

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 23: The boundary wall of the Gram Panchayat warehouse of chalanguda GP, which was built at an estimated cost of three lakhs four months ago, has collapsed due to last some rains. It has been less than four months since the wall was completed. It is

alleged that there is some illegal corruption activities with the Junior engineer Sarpanch and contractor. There is a low quality construction work is done. How a new boundary wall will collapse within four months it was a question for villagers. The local people are demanding a strong investigation for the collapse.



Veer Surendra Sai Workers Union demands fair wages for contract workers working in NLC



(A.O. Bureau) Rengali, Apr 23: Sambalpur District Rengali Block Talabira 2 and 3 Coal Mining Works NLC Company does not give proper wages to the workers working under it and demands a fair remuneration from the Bir Surendra Sai Workers' Union. Association. The NLC does

not employ landlords or displaced persons, and if it does employ some people, it does not work for any contractor and does not pay in accordance with government regulations. "The NLC has been accused of failing to provide adequate wages to its employees and its employees. The work-

ers' union and the union have demanded that the company and its administration be held accountable. But the company does not follow any rules. According to guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Labor and Employment, the payment is due. According to the guidelines of the Union Ministry of Labor and

Employment, on-skill labor is to be paid Rs 906 per day, semi-skilled Rs 941, skilled Rs 975 and high skilled Rs 1010 per day. That is why Babulu Raut, Rudra Pradhan, Naveen Raut, the acting president, led by Kiran Behar, president of the Bir Surendra Sai Workers Union, on Friday. Jayamangal Meher, Tarun Buddhia, Tarun Meher, Prasanna Kumar Panda, project director of the major Adani company, filed the claim. The NLC company has been demanded to pay the dues in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Labor and Employment.

5 WB Grooms Return As Denied Entry Into Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Balasore, Apr 23: Wedding day celebrations turned sour for at least five grooms of West Bengal as they and their family members were denied entry into Odisha as they lacked RT-PCR COVID negative report/vaccination certificate. They grooms were heading towards their respective wedding venues in Balasore, Bhadrak and other nearby districts. They were asked to produce RT-PCR COVID negative report/vaccination certificate at

Laxmannath Check Gate on West Bengal-Odisha border. As they failed to show the documents, the authorities asked them to return. Though they repeatedly requested the authorities to allow them to proceed, but in vain. Worth mentioning, the Odisha Government has made RT-PCR COVID negative report/vaccination certificate mandatory for those coming from West Bengal in view of the detection of triple mutant variant of Covid-19.



One day visit of BSF IG to Maoist area of Malkangiri

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 23: Today BSF IG Madhusudan Sharma visited the Maoist-affected areas along the Malkangiri border with S Sanjay Kumar Singh, DG, Malkangiri Sector, Arjun Singh Rathore, DG (Operations) and Sukumar Sarangi, DG (Intelligence) visited the Maoist-affected areas in Malkangiri district. Odisha Chhattisgarh and Odisha Andhra Pradesh border reviewed. Senior BSF officials visited all areas of Janbai and Dike-3 in the



Swabiman area. Odisha - MV - 79 on the Andhra border border with Bejangibada forest and Odisha - Chhattisgarh border and He visited the gen-

eral area under the BSF camp in Kartanpalli, located at the foot of the Tulsi Reserve forest on the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border. IG Mr Sharma praised the BSF youths

in the district for their outstanding work in suppressing Mao. He visited the entire breakaway region and the Tulsi Hills Reserve Forest area from the air

and discussed the security situation in the area with the district police officer. In the district, deployed BSF Javanese and BSF camps to review the current epidemic and strictly adhere to the Covid Act. Since the BSF deployment in Odisha in 2010, Malkangiri and Koraput have been successfully tackling public safety and Naxal strategy in the interior and remote areas. He praised the state government's concerted efforts to develop the Swabiman area.

Two tragedies and a quarantined family's 20-hour wait for funeral

Sambalpur, Apr 23: Fearing for the virus, none from their neighbourhood came forward to help the family with the last rites till members of two social organisations intervened. With the ferocious second wave, COVID has brought back the fears and indescribable stigma. The family members of an elderly person who lost his life to Covid-19 on

tested positive for Covid-19 on April 16. While Satyananda was put in home isolation, Jugal's condition deteriorated and was rushed to VIMSAR at Burla. Satyananda's paralysed wife and daughter too were quarantined. However, Jugal died at VIMSAR on April 17 and was cremated at the Rajghat in Sambalpur on the same day. A second tragedy befell the

bers of a Bargarh-based social organisation Sankalpa Parivar, following which its members and Paschim Odisha Yuba Mancha went to the village to cremate the body. Bikash Agrawal, a member of Sankalpa Parivar, said, he contacted the Padampur Sub-Collector for a hearse van to take the body from the house for cremation. But since the



Wednesday experienced the pain and trauma as they had to wait for over 20 hours to conduct the final rites in Bargarh district. Fearing for the virus, none from their neighbourhood came forward to help the family with the last rites till members of two social organisations intervened. Satyananda Sahu, a 60-year-old man and his 36-year-old son Jugal Kishore of Ghanamaal village under Padampur block,

family when Satyananda died on Wednesday in his home. His helpless daughter found no way to cremate the body in the absence of a male family member. Though the villagers came to know about the death, none came near the house fearing Covid infection. Although some villagers informed officials of the Health department and BDO for cremation, no one turned up till 6.30 pm on Wednesday. A villager then contacted mem-

Sub-Collector was under quarantine, he asked him to contact the BDO. But the BDO too could not arrange the hearse van. "Later, the CDMO of Bargarh helped by sending a hearse van from Bargarh and the vehicle reached at 1 am. We arranged PPE kits and gloves from the nearby Jamla Hospital and took the body to a desolate place where the mortal remains were cremated in the wee hours of Thursday", Agarwal said

Elderly couple hacked to death at Cashew orchard in Ganjam

(A.O. Bureau) Bhanjanagar, Apr 23: An elderly couple was allegedly hacked to death at a cashew orchard at Sisunda village under Jagannath Prasad police limits in Ganjam district today. The deceased have been identified as



Bhima Pradhan and his wife Sisula Pradhan.

Sources said that the couple was residing in a

hut inside the cashew orchard and were earning their livelihood by selling cashews. Their son and daughter-in-law have visited them recently. On Friday morning locals spotted the bodies of the couple lying near their hut and in-

formed the police subsequently. On being informed the police reached the spot and sent the bodies for post-mortem. However, the actual reason behind their murder is yet to be ascertained. Further investigation is underway.

3-day shutdown in Angul and Talcher municipalities

(A.O. Bureau) Angul, Apr 23: The district administration has declared shutdown in Angul Municipality and Talcher Municipality for three days till 5 am of April 26 to

contain the spread of COVID-19. Besides, it has declared ward no. 13 of Naba Mishra Colony under Talcher Municipality as containment zone. All shops, business establishments, gov-



ernment and private institutions and movement/assembly of people are prohibited during this period, the office order said. Action will be taken against violators.

Odisha-Bengal border sealed by Balasore Admn

(A.O. Bureau) Balasore, Apr 23: In order to contain the spread of the second wave of Corona, Balasore District Administration sealed the Odisha-West Bengal border today. Accordingly, all the inter-state routes connecting West-Bengal and Odisha have been declared closed till further order. Vehicular movements in these routes are totally prohibited. Special enforcement squads are at work to ensure zero entry and



exit through the inter-state passages. Similarly, teams are assigned to keep watch on the porous and rural routes so that no migrant laborers can enter unnoticed. On the other hand, police has intensified vigil in

the water routes so that no one can trespass into the state through waterways. Marine police and Coast Guard are conducting patrolling over the marine drive to check the West-Bengal returnees.

Woman Maoist killed in police encounter

(A.O. Bureau) Bhawanipatna, Apr 23: One female Maoist was killed in a police encounter in Madanpur area on the border of Kandhamal and Kalahandi districts, police said today. Police said that based on reliable intelligence, an operation was launched by Kalahandi Police Teams comprising of SOG and DVF personnel, while conducting search op-



erations in the forest area were confronted by Maoists. "Teams asked to them to surrender arms. However, Maoists resorted to indiscriminate firing and the SOG team had to fire in self defence. During search, one body of female Maoist in uniform has been found at the spot. Further search operations have been intensified in the area," said a police official.

Music industry mourns Shravan Rathod's untimely demise: Kumar Sanu, Alka Yagnik remember him as 'ever smiling'

Mumbai, Apr 23: One half of the music composer duo Nadeem-Shravan, Shravan Rathod died on Thursday due to Covid 19 complications. The industry mourns the loss of the 'ever smiling' hitmaker. 'Saanson ki zaroorat hai jaise...' these words are enough for listeners across generations to guess the song from Aashiqui (1990). Not just that, music composer duo Nadeem-Shravan have delivered countless classics over the years, right from Raja Hindustani (1996), to Dhadkan (2000), Raaz (2002), Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke (1993), and many more. And one half of the duo, Shravan Rathod, died on Thursday due to Covid 19 at the age of 66, leaving behind a musical legacy. Tributes started pouring in on social media soon, and among the first few was Ajay Devgn, whose debut film Phool Aur Kaante's (1991) music was scored by the composers. "Shravan (and Nadeem) walked 30 years alongside me in my career with the evergreen album for Phool Aur Kaante. Very sad,



very unfortunate to hear of his demise last night. Condolences to his family. #Shravan," he tweeted. Akshay Kumar also took to social media to express his emotions at the news of Shravan's death. "Very sad to know about the passing of music composer Shravan. Nadeem-Shravan created magic for many films in 90s and later, including Dhadkan that has remained legendary in my career. Deepest Condolences to his family," wrote the 53-year-old. Among others to pay their tributes to the late composer were singer Shreya Ghoshal, filmmakers Kunal Kohli and Subhash Ghai, who

had worked with them on his film Pardes. The one thing all his frequent collaborators tell us is Shravan would always be smiling, at all times. A B H I J E E T BHATTACHARYA: I had given many chartbusters before, but Nadeem-Shravan made me sing with them very late. It started with Raaz, then Judaai. Shravan ji would always smile. Koi bhi baat kehni ho smile ke saath kehte the, kisi ko bura bhi nahi lagta tha. 99 percent music directors ko yeh nahi maloom ki gaana gavana kaise hai, jo bhi singer gaa deta hai vaah vaah hai. They can't tell the singer how to sing the song,

Nadeem Shravan knew how to do that. That's the best thing for a singer, if the music director knows how to sing even a bit. It was an asset, voh gaa ke bata dete the. UDIT NARAYAN: Shravan ji was a fantastic person. He was like my elder brother, and gave me more love than what even a brother would. Any time I would be in trouble, he would call me and say 'Udit babu, I am there don't worry'. He would come to my house. I can't believe this news it's really shocking. They gave me my best songs, including Raja Hindustani (Aaye Ho

Meri Zindagi Mein, Pardesi Pardesi), Kusoor (Zindagi Ban Gaye Ho Tum). Main toh grateful rahunga, jab tak rahunga iss duniya mein. Everyone would ask him 'how can a person be smiling all the time?' People appreciate someone when they pass away, but I never heard him say bad even for anyone otherwise. I last spoke to him when he was in Kumbh recently. ALKA YAGNIK: This news is devastating. We can't even meet and condole the family. I worked with Nadeem-Shravan in Saajan, Dhadkan and Hum Hain Raahi Pyaar Ke. Shravan ji was a sweet, kind man, ever smiling. What should I say, words are not enough when you have been very closely associated. The grief and shock is inside your heart. I am not being able to speak, it is still too early. KUMAR SANU: Shravan was a gem. A beautiful human being, a terrific composer and a mentor. I have done some of my best work with him. It is a dark day for the music industry.

Rhea Chakraborty opens up DMs to offer help amid second wave of Covid-19

New Delhi, Apr 23: Rhea Chakraborty offered to help in whatever way she can, amid the healthcare crisis that has gripped the country. She said that 'help is help', whether big or small. Rhea Chakraborty has offered to do her bit to help tackle the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. With lakhs of cases every day, the country is facing a massive healthcare crisis -- shortage of hospital beds, oxygen cylinders and life-saving medicines.

way... will try my best... take care, be kind... Love and strength." Rhea has largely kept away from social media after her boyfriend Sushant Singh Rajput's death in June last year. His father KK Singh filed an abetment to suicide case against her. She has also been accused of money laundering, among other charges. She is being interrogated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), and Narcotics Con-

Spotboy/E, Rumi Jaffery, the director of Rhea's upcoming film Chehre, said that time in jail took a huge toll on her. "It has been a traumatic year for her. Of course, the year was bad for everyone. But in her case, it was a trauma on another level. Can you imagine any girl from a well-to-do middle class family spending a month in jail? It has crushed her morale completely," he said. Rhea, incidentally, was missing from the posters of Chehre.



Celebrities and social media influencers have been using their reach to amplify SOS calls of patients. Taking to Instagram Stories, Rhea wrote, "Tough times call for unity, help all those that you can. ... Small help or big help, help is help... Dm me if I can help in any

trol Bureau (NCB). Last year, in September, Rhea was arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for allegedly procuring drugs. She spent nearly a month in Byculla jail before being released on bail. In an interview with

Her name was also not mentioned in the list of cast members. However, she made an appearance in the trailer. The film was scheduled for a theatrical release earlier this month but has been indefinitely stalled due to the surge in Covid-19 cases.

Akshay Kumar's Prithviraj to be based on epic titled Prithviraj Raso



New Delhi, Apr 23: Akshay Kumar's upcoming film Prithviraj, which stars him as king Prithviraj Chauhan, will be based on the epic poem Prithviraj Raso by Chand Bardai. Upcoming historical film Prithviraj, which will star Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as the legendary king Prithviraj Chauhan, will be based on the epic poem Prithviraj Raso by Chand Bardai. The highly anticipated movie's director Dr Chandraprakash Dwivedi, who has a fascination to adapt movies from path-breaking books, recently revealed that the epic Prithviraj Raso is the inspiration behind Prithviraj. Revealing details about the movie, he said, "Prithviraj is also based mainly on medieval literature, an epic called Prithviraj Raso by the great poet Chand Bardai. Apart from a couple of versions of Raso, there are many other literary works on Prithviraj, his life, and times. In addition to these, there are commentaries on Raso." Dwivedi said that for Prithviraj he had to deep dive into exhaustive research on the warrior king. He shared, "I get involved in exhaustive research as I enjoy the process of entering the unknown and unexplored world of great heroes of India and their times. It is like having a dialogue with these great characters in their times. I am sure most of the writers must have experienced this strange phenomenon." Speaking about the research process, he added, "Apart from the story, I love to research art, archaeology, costumes, material culture, and available historical data. In other words, I love to do archaeological exploration and excavation in the pages of a literary work or historical fiction to recreate the era and personalities of its time. This gives me immense pleasure and satisfaction as an artist who loves to paint cinema's canvas

with lights and camera." The filmmaker believes that the stories of great warriors like that of Prithviraj are extremely relevant in today's times where good is constantly locked in a battle with evil. He said, "I do not make characters like Prithviraj to make them relevant for young viewers. I choose them as my subject for cinema as they are relevant for our times and all times to come. They are shining bright stars in the galaxy of great historical characters which will inspire many generations to come." Bankrolled by Yash Raj Films, 'Prithviraj' will be based on the life and heroism of the fearless and mighty King Prithviraj Chauhan. While Akshay will be seen essaying the role of the legendary warrior who fought valiantly against the merciless Muhammad of Ghor, the ethereally gorgeous Manushi Chhillar will make her much-awaited debut opposite Akshay in the role of Prithviraj's wife, Sanyogita.

New Delhi, Apr 23: Water is the most understated nutrient and drinking it in the right quantity has a wide array of health benefits, in fact many have even dubbed it the elixir of life. As we all know, water makes up almost 70% of the human body and acts on every single cell in the body to hydrate, detox, and maintain temperature which in turn helps one to lead a healthy lifestyle. Integrity of Cell Structure: Water is required to maintain the integrity of cells like hair, skin and nails, and to a certain extent it also helps in the production of collagen, which helps from a perspective of anti-ageing. Additionally, with regards to maintaining the integrity of the joints and the spinal cord, drinking water also works as a lubricant, which helps in reducing friction. Maintains Body Temperature: Maintaining fluid balance is key to maintain body temperature. For your enzymes to function properly, it is important that your body temperature is maintained, if not, most bodily functions can seize. Burns Body Fat: A number of studies have linked water intake with the reduction of body fat as consumption of drinking water has been shown

Here's how water helps stay hydrated, improves health, boosts immunity and more

to help drop the pounds and reduce weight. Serves as the Best Way to Stay Hydrated and Rehydrated: Thirst is the last sign of dehydration and hence it is absolutely vital that one drinks

of drinking water, stomach flu, excessive medication use or if you are recovering from a night of drinking. Rehydration is possible by the oral route or by the intravenous administration of fluids. In times of

meal?'. Drinking water at all these three times helps to digest the food better. It facilitates in the production of saliva which contains electrolytes, mucus, and enzymes that help in digesting food and allow for the

ronments, drinking sufficient water throughout the day becomes highly imperative. Drinking less water may lead to constipation/ hard stools and kidney stones. Those who drink less water tend to void saturated urine and hence precipitate stones. One must drink adequate water to keep the urine dilute and also for healthy soft stools. Additionally, one must consume enough water to maintain the consistency of the blood as it helps to transport nutrients to all organs in the body. This not only helps to boost alertness and do away with mental fatigue but also helps to increase the metabolic rate. Research conducted by The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism has shown that 500ml of water helps to boost metabolism by 30%. Some cities are recipients of hard water and in such places, water should be purified and the easiest way to purify water is to have it actively boiling for 10 minutes. In places where boiling water is inconvenient, consumers should know their water and find ways to consume safe drinking water by having it tested for quality on a regular basis. This will help them stay healthy, hydrated, and strengthen their immune system.



the pandemic, where most of us are working from the comfort of our homes, consumption of water rarely becomes a part of our to-do lists. While we juggle between unending virtual meetings, con-calls and assignments and household chores we tend to forget to drink water. In such scenarios, we need a constant reminder to drink water either by keeping a bottle of water by our side or using health apps to remind us. Aids Digestion and Ensures the Upkeep of Oral Health: One of the most common questions asked is 'When is the right time to drink water? Before a meal? After a meal? During a

upkeep of oral health. Digestion of food begins in the mouth and with age the production of saliva also reduces. If you feel your mouth is dry, increase your water intake. Helps in Detoxification: The most important function of water is to detox which in turn helps to build the immune system. Throughout the day, a lot of toxins are built up in the body be it environmental or through food amongst others. Detoxification happens through urine, faeces and sweat. Sweating also helps to maintain body temperature. With the onset of summer and most of us currently spending our time indoors, or in AC envi-

ronments, drinking sufficient water throughout the day becomes highly imperative. Drinking less water may lead to constipation/ hard stools and kidney stones. Those who drink less water tend to void saturated urine and hence precipitate stones. One must drink adequate water to keep the urine dilute and also for healthy soft stools. Additionally, one must consume enough water to maintain the consistency of the blood as it helps to transport nutrients to all organs in the body. This not only helps to boost alertness and do away with mental fatigue but also helps to increase the metabolic rate. Research conducted by The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism has shown that 500ml of water helps to boost metabolism by 30%. Some cities are recipients of hard water and in such places, water should be purified and the easiest way to purify water is to have it actively boiling for 10 minutes. In places where boiling water is inconvenient, consumers should know their water and find ways to consume safe drinking water by having it tested for quality on a regular basis. This will help them stay healthy, hydrated, and strengthen their immune system.

Axar Patel recovers from COVID-19, joins DC squad



Chennai, Apr 23: Delhi Capitals and India all-rounder Axar Patel has rejoined his Indian Premier League side after staying in a medical care facility in Mumbai for nearly three weeks following a positive test result for COVID-19. The 27-year-old had initially checked into the Capitals' team hotel on March 28 in Mumbai. While he had entered the bubble with a negative test report, he had returned positive for the dreaded virus on April 3 and was transferred to BCCI's designated medical facility after it was learnt that he

showed mild symptoms. "Smiles and hugs all around as Babu returned to the DC camp," the Delhi Capitals tweeted a video of the 27-year-old meeting his teammates. "Aadmi dekh ke hi toh mujhe maza aa raha hai (I'm getting sheer joy just by seeing people)," Patel said in the video. Axar was the second IPL player to get infected by the virus after Royal Challengers Bangalore opener Devdutt Padikkal. There have also been a couple of incidents of false positives in the team with Axar's DC teammate

South African pacer Anrich Nortje needing to spend an extended period of time in quarantine due to a false positive result for COVID-19. Nitish Rana had also tested positive after joining the Kolkata Knight Riders camp but his next RT-PCR result turned out to be negative. In Axar's absence, the Capitals had roped in young Mumbai left-arm spinner Shams Mulani as IPL's first short term COVID-19 replacement. The Capitals are slated to take on Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Sunday.

Knee injury rules T Natarajan out of IPL

Chennai, Apr 23: Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer T Natarajan has been ruled out of the ongoing IPL due to a knee injury that he originally picked up during the tour of Australia earlier this year. The 30-year-old Natarajan had played only two out of the four games for Sunrisers Hyderabad this season. It is understood that he had never fully recovered from the knee injury because of heavy workload he endured

on the tour of Australia. "Natarajan never fully recovered from his knee injury," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity on Thursday but did not specify the duration for which he would be unavailable. "He went for rehabilitation at the NCA (National Cricket Academy) but it is now evident that even when he was declared fit to make a return against England, he was not 100 per cent match ready." Now he

could be out for a longer period as he had rushed his comeback without doing proper rehab," the source added referring to the one T20 and one ODI he played during the England series. Natarajan became an overnight sensation with his yorkers at death during the last IPL and subsequently played all three formats for India in Australia. Once he was back in India, the BCCI never made it public that he had sustained a knee injury.



Democratisation of fencing in India

Mumbai, Apr 23: A young fencer trains at the Sports Authority of India's Thalassery centre. Baby Reddy clucks often during the phone conversation, correcting the details. "No. My father is not a farmer. We have a small house, three buffaloes and grow plants in two pots," the 17-year-old specifies, slowly. The fencer, who was at the National Centre of Excellence in Patiala, has been busy correcting a Nationals-score mention against Olympics-bound Bhavani Devi from last month in Rudrapur, Uttarakhand. "It was 4-15. Not 14-15. Anyway



she won," the 17-year-old stresses. It was an error—the press printed it as 14-15 after Bhavani picked the title, when it was 4-15, but it has fired up Baby's ambition. "But you must write about the first time I played her. I got 3 points, she got 5. I fought fearlessly. Now there's fear because she's Olympics level. Still, I

gave her a very good fight," she says, adding earnestly that the press should call her next when she beats her idol. A sport that was the preserve of the aristocracy in Europe and posh clubs across the first world, is unearthing talent from India's remote rural areas. Three of the five fencers who will travel to Tashkent, Uzbekistan,

for the last Olympic qualifying tournament this week, are children of farmers. The group includes sabre's big hope in men, Karan Singh, whose father tills a tiny patch of land on contract in Alwar, Rajasthan. Th Kabita Devi, looking to pounce on the sole qualifying spot in Epee from the continental meet, has a parent in Silchar police. Bicky Thokchom of Bashikhong in Imphal, Manipur, is also the son of a farmer. While Radhika Avati, who also fences foil, comes from a farming family in Sangli. Epee fencer Sunil Kumar's father is an ex-serviceman now

farming in Jhunjhunu, and it is India's silent scouting efforts staking out far-flung areas from 2008-9 that have hand-picked these potential winners. Blades that were once held by princes only for their leisure are now picking targets while wielded by children of peasants and beat police. Bhavani has lit a competitive drive across coaching centres of India. Her own background, she came from a middle class home herself, has meant ambitions are upgraded across the nation to aim at the Olympics, undeterred by the prohibitive costs of the equipment.

Virat Kohli becomes first player to reach 6000 IPL runs



New Delhi, Apr 23: Virat Kohli extended his all-time run-scoring record over other

batsmen in the IPL by getting to 6021 runs in 196 matches. Virat Kohli became the first

player in history to score 6000 runs in the Indian Premier League (IPL) during Royal

Challengers Bangalore's ten-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday. The 32-year-old, who had played his first IPL match against KKR in 2008, extended his all-time run-scoring record over other batsmen in the cash-rich league by getting to 6021 runs in 196 matches. He has five hundreds and 40 fifties. Chasing a target of 178,

Kohli (72* off 47) forged a 181-run opening partnership with Devdutt Padikkal (101* off 52) and helped RCB reclaim the top spot in the points table. So far, they have won all four of their matches. The India captain is also the leading run-scorer in men's T20 internationals, having racked up 3159 runs in 90 matches. He also leads the batting charts among Indian batsmen in overall T20s, with 9870 runs in the format.

Indian women boxers win 7 Golds at youth world's



New Delhi, Apr 23: It was raining Gold for India's women boxers at the youth world championships in Kielce, Poland on Thursday with all seven finalists notching up splendid summit victories, making it the country's best ever performance at the marquee event. Gitika (48kg), Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg), Poonam (57kg), Vinka (60kg), Arundhati Choudhary (69kg), Thokchom Sanamachu Chanu (75kg) and Alfiya Pathan (+81kg) ensured a perfect finish to the campaign for the women's contingent. While Gitika prevailed 5-0 over

Poland's Natalia Kuczevska, Babyrojisana defeated Valeriia Linkova of Russia by a similar margin after a close opening round. Poonam clinched a comfortable 5-0 triumph over France's Sthelyne Grosy. Vinka, on the other hand, out-classed Kazakhstan's Zhuldyz Shayakhmetova, forcing the referee to stop the contest midway through the final round. For Arundhati, local favourite Barbara Marcinkowska hardly posed any challenge as the Indian walked away with a 5-0 triumph in the final. Chanu came

through after an engrossing clash against Kazakhstan's Dana Diday which ended with the Indian prevailing in a split 3-2 verdict. In the last bout of the evening, Alfiya Pathan (+81kg) completed the gold sweep with a 5-0 hammering of Moldova's Daria Kozorez. With this, India's women boxers bettered their best ever haul of five Gold medals that was achieved in the 2017 edition in Guwahati. India can add an eighth Gold to their tally on Friday when the country's lone male finalist — Sachin (56kg) — fights his final bout.

Bengaluru FC's AFC Cup playoff match indefinitely postponed

New Delhi, Apr 23: Bengaluru FC, runners-up in 2016, were drawn to play the winners of the match between six-time Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani and Maldives' Eagles. Bengaluru FC's AFC Cup play-off match, scheduled to be held on April 28, has been indefinitely postponed as the preliminary game to decide their opponents is yet to take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. BFC, runners-up in 2016, were drawn to play the winners of the match between six-time Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani and Maldives' Eagles. Abahani were scheduled to host

Eagles on April 14 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka but the countrywide lockdown due to the pandemic forced the hosts to suspend the match. The match was then scheduled for April 21 in Kathmandu but travel restrictions came in the way. "As of now you can say that BFC's next match stands indefinitely postponed. BFC can't play till the other game is played as they are supposed to meet the winner of that game," a source close to BFC told PTI on Friday. "Their match was rescheduled for April 21 but today is April 23, two days have passed and we don't know the status of that game. So

it's not possible for BFC to play on April 28," he added. BFC's match stands postponed, as per the fixtures in the website of the Asian

the AFC has asked Abahani if they can play their preliminary stage match against Eagles in India. In their last outing, BFC

coach Marco Pezzaiuoli's first competitive game in charge of the Blues, since his appointment as head coach in February.



Football Confederation (AFC). According to leading Bangladesh newspaper Daily Star,

thrashed Nepal's Tribhuvan Army FC 5-0 in Bambolim, Goa. The fixture was new

Bengaluru FC have been in Goa for little over four weeks, living in a bio-secure bubble.

Ibrahimovic to keep playing with AC Milan when he's 40

Milan, Apr 23: Zlatan Ibrahimovic is going to keep playing with AC Milan when he's 40. And he'll likely make his return to the Champions League. Milan announced Thursday that

Ibrahimovic, who turns 40 on October, had signed a one-year contract extension. While financial details were not disclosed, Ibrahimovic is expected to maintain the same salary of

7 million euros (\$8.4 million) per season. Ibrahimovic's return at the start of last year signaled a turnaround for Milan that saw the Rossoneri leading Serie A for much of this season.

EMI Of Car Loan May Increase



(A.O. Bureau)
New Delhi, Apr 23: Most people buy a home loan or a car loan by taking a loan. In such a situation, the interest rate is very important. Based on that, the EMI is fixed which has to be paid every month. Many times if an EMI is missed due to some reason, then a penalty has to be paid while filling the next installment. Now the news is that the interest rate of the loan may increase. Let us know that recently the interest rate of SBI home loan customers has increased by a quar-

ter percent. SBI has already withdrawn its home loan scheme with low-interest rates and in such a situation, the interest rates have come down to the level before this scheme. Due to this, the interest rates have come down to an earlier level. According to Naveen Kukreja, CEO and Co-founder of Paisa Bazaar, the withdrawal of the special scheme of home loan will be a difference of only 25 basis

points in the interest rate, but it will have a wide impact, as other banks can also take such steps. Home loan major HDFC has increased the interest rate on its Fixed Deposit (FD) scheme by 10-25 basis points after 29 months. In such a situation, the cost of his fund has increased, which will also have a direct impact on the interest rate of the loan. This will directly affect the EMI of your loan. When interest rates are increasing, then it is beneficial to take a loan at a fixed rate. According to Bank Market CEO Adil Shetty, interest rates are increasing, so it would be beneficial to take a car, home or other loan at a fixed rate. The reason for this is that your interest rate remains low in this. New customers of home loans do not have much option in this matter, because only a few institutions offer home loans at a fixed rate.

Naveen Jindal Draws Huge Applause for Supply of Medical Oxygen by JSPL

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Apr 23: After supply of 20 tons of medical oxygen from Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL) plant at Angul to Telangana on 22nd April, compliments and appreciation have poured in for JSPL's Naveen Jindal for his timely response to COVID-19 Crisis in the Country. Various people including

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and other senior leaders of the country have appreciated JSPL's prompt response. Shri Naveen Jindal has assured that JSPL will make all effort to supply medical oxygen to various parts of the country. Sri Jindal participated in the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's meet-



ing of the select Industry leaders held today to

discuss the supply of medical oxygen to the

hospitals in India. "Really appreciate Hon'ble Prime Minister @narendramodi calling a meeting of industry leaders that produce Oxygen in order to address the #OxygenShortage in our hospitals. He heard us patiently for an hour, gave his ideas and promised that our suggestions will be acted upon," he said in a twitter message.

COVID-19 awareness programme by Tata Steel at Joda

(A.O. Bureau)
Joda, Apr 23, 2021: With an objective to create awareness among the public on COVID-19 and to promote COVID-19 appropriate behaviour, a two-day awareness campaign on COVID-19 was organised by Tata Steel in Joda that concluded on Friday. As part of the awareness campaign, two foot-operated hand sanitization machines were kept at Vegetable market and Bus Stand for the public to

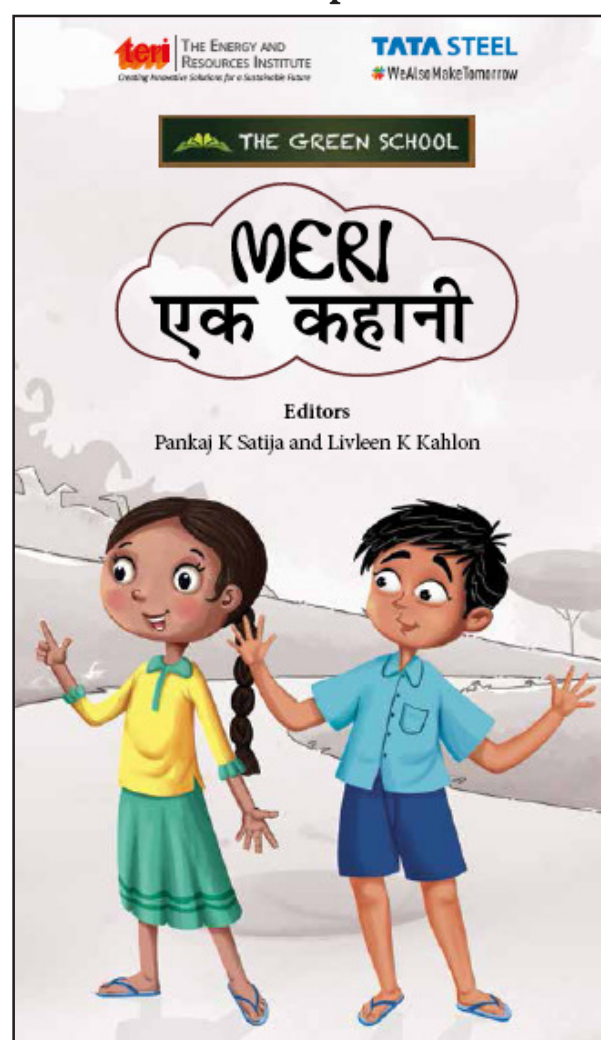


use with an objective to inculcate sanitisation habit. Apart from this, more than 1600 face masks were also distributed to the general public and a public announcement vehicle was also used to propagate COVID appropriate behaviour. During the campaign, the officials also created awareness among the public regarding use of sanitizer, use of face masks, maintaining social distance and vaccination.

Tata Steel and TERI launch a book 'Meri Ek Kahani' as part of The Green School Initiative

(A.O. Bureau)
New Delhi, Apr 22: Tata Steel and TERI are jointly working on The Green School Project since 2017, with the aim of helping students comprehend their relationship with nature and make concerted efforts to conserve it for a 'quality' environment with improved standards of living through effective resource management initiatives at local levels. Currently in its third phase, this year an idea was conceptualised to compile stories contributed by students exhibiting their creativity and sharing their perspectives on the environment and the world around them. With this objective in mind, a story-writing competition was organised wherein students were asked to showcase folk tales around their vicinity. The competition received an overwhelming response manifesting in approximately 500 entries. Thirty best stories were selected from Jharkhand and Odisha and included in the book 'Meri Ek Kahani'. In a virtual event organised today, the book was launched by Shri Sharath Kumar Pallerla, Scientist, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and Dr Vivek Saxena, Country Representative,

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - India. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sharath Kumar Pallerla, said: "I am glad to know the achievements of The Green School Project and especially the development of 'Meri Ek Kahani' this year. It is important to inculcate environmental consciousness among students at this age as they are flagbearers of change and it is through such initiatives that they become better equipped to spread the message of environment protection to the communities around." "Indigenous knowledge is integral to the identity of most local communities. Such knowledge is critical to protecting biodiversity, healthcare, food security, culture, religion, identity, environment, trade and development. I am glad that through 'Meri Ek Kahani', Tata Steel and TERI are helping students and communities revive them," said Dr Vivek Saxena, Country Representative, IUCN. Chanakya Chaudhary, Vice President Corporate Services, Tata Steel, said: "Aptly themed #RestoreOurEarth, this #EarthDay2021 let us focus on restoring the earth's ecosystems and learn from indigenous



people who know the best about environment and biodiversity. Leveraging the medium of stories, Meri Ek Kahani, comprising story contributions by Green School students and essays by eminent personalities, aims to revive the traditions and rich knowledge of the indigenous communities who have lived in harmony with nature for generations together." Speaking on compiling of indigenous stories, Pankaj Satija, Chief Regulatory Affairs, Tata Steel, and Editor of the book, said: "Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 report released last year has once again highlighted the need

to expedite progress on Aichi Target 18 under Strategic Goal E which focusses on respecting and integrating traditional knowledge, participatory planning, and capacity building. Indigenous people in India are the best resources on biodiversity and it is imperative that we leverage innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for a sustainable tomorrow." "Short stories by school children, part of Meri Ek Kahani compilation, is a small step towards learning from indigenous people and nature. Participation of children in projects re-

lated to waste management, energy efficiency and biodiversity will definitely accelerate a transformative change towards sustainability," Pankaj Satija added. Speaking on the objectives of the book, Dr Livleen K Kahlon, Associate Director, TERI, and Co-Editor of the book, said: "The purpose of this book is to support inter-generational bonds, as we want our children to be able to convey the traditional knowledge that they have acquired from their ancestors, through the medium of stories." The book comprises two sections. The first section includes contributions by eminent traditional knowledge experts such as Shri Parmananda Patel, Shri Asoka Kumar Sen, Smt Belmati Champia and Shri Jiren Topno. The write-ups provided by them offer a perfect setting to understand and comprehend various segments of traditional wisdom and are an excellent prelude that helps the reader to understand the second section that comprises stories contributed by students. The Green School Project is printing 7000 copies of the book for wider dissemination and outreach to students and teachers in Jharkhand and Odisha.

Covid 19 awareness rally by district administration



(A.O. Bureau)
Malkangiri, Apr 23: Thirty-one corona cases were identified in the district yesterday. Among the victims, Nine were from Malkangiri Municipal Council area, eight from Kalimela block, three from Korukonda block, four from Malkangiri block, one from Khairput block, five from Mathili block and one from Padia block. On the other hand, students living in dormitories in Bhubaneswar,

Balangir, Sambalpur, Cuttack and other areas due to school and college closures have returned to their villages on wednesday afternoon as the administration has ordered the closure of dormitories. Officials in the district headquarters sub-division have taken to the streets to warn health workers in the area about the dangers of COVID-19 for their health examiners. Sub Divisional Magistrate Rameshwar Pradhan,

Tahsildar Dr. Gunanidhi Nayak, IIC, Ramprasad Nag, municipal executive officer Trishul Mardi, additional tahsildar Saeed Shabir Shah, social activist Duryodhan Patra along with tehsil, police station, municipal council workers marched from the bus stand in the city to the DNK intersection. He encouraged ordinary people as well to take part in solving this great task: stay at home stay safe was the moral.

Thunder lighting strike killed one young man at poteru

(A.O. Bureau)
Malkangiri, Apr 23: Thunderstorms and heavy rains lashed the Kalimela area late last night. A young man was killed by thunder lighting strike The deceased was identified as Manoj Sahu, son of Dhirendra Sahu of Poteru village. According to sources, Manoj Sahu of Poteru village under Kalimela police station went to the almond field near Kutuguda village, 2 km from his house. At night he slept in a hut in the almond field. He was pronounced



dead at the scene by a thunderstorm. The thunderstorm was so severe and terrible that the hut was burnt

and the young man's body was burned. The family was unaware of the incident as Manoj was alone in the case of almond field when their parents did. Frequent phone calls were switched off. This morning, after Manoj's elder brother went to the groundnut field, the younger brother was killed in a lightning strike and his family informed the police. Police arrived at the scene, removed the body, and sent it to Kalimela Hospital for postmortem.